

Principal's Notes

Week of 1/22/19

Dear Families,

I hope that everyone has been able to safely clean up from the storm. In this week's Principal's Notes, I will take the opportunity to remind everyone of our systematic approach to supporting all learners.

At Pond Cove we have established systems of academic, social-emotional, and behavioral supports linked directly to the assessed needs of our students. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) this system is known as Response to Intervention (RTI) and is required for all public schools. The Pond Cove RTI process provides a tiered level of support for all students. This data-driven, multistep process is used to:

- Provide services and interventions to help all students achieve success
- Improve the early identification and support of students with learning, social-emotional, and behavioral needs
- Provide students with timely and targeted interventions based on universal screening tools and ongoing progress monitoring

RTI is built on the belief that all students can achieve success if matched with appropriate instruction. RTI is not a special education initiative, but a fluid process designed to accommodate all learners within regular education. It also helps us effectively identify and support students who are exceeding expectations.

What does RTI currently look like at Pond Cove:

Tier I - All students receive Tier I instruction for reading, writing, math, and behavior in the regular classroom setting. Within Tier I, the classroom teacher differentiates instruction to meet the needs of learners. Each student is formally assessed on reading, writing, and math skills three times each year. Positive behavioral interventions and supports (Peaceful Pond Cove) are utilized to support all students as well. Assessment and observation data are analyzed to determine the next steps for each individual learner.

Tier II - Some students need extra support to complement the Tier I instruction provided to all learners. At Pond Cove, Tier II interventions in reading, writing, and math typically occur 2-3 times per week for 20-30 minutes. Tier II instruction may take place within or outside of the regular classroom setting and can be provided by a classroom teacher, specialist, or a

support staff member. Because students respond differently to intervention, the duration of Tier II interventions depends solely on analysis of assessment and progress monitoring data.

Tier III - Some students require even more intensive intervention in order to make adequate progress. Students at Pond Cove who are identified for Tier III support receive explicit instruction from a highly trained specialist in reading and/or math. This support is most often provided outside of the regular classroom setting 4-5 times each week. Tier III intervention is typically delivered in very small groups or one-on-one. Students with social-emotional or behavioral needs may have a specially designed behavior plan in addition to targeted interventions with highly-trained specialists in this area.

Parent Communication:

Classroom teachers will regularly communicate with parents regarding their child's current level of performance. Since RTI is a data-driven process, all RTI groupings are flexible. Some children may need several weeks or months to make adequate progress toward a skill; other children may need less time. At Pond Cove, we team together to make expert and responsive decisions to meet the needs of every student.

Parents of children who are identified to receive Tier III interventions will be notified by the reading or math specialist who will be providing the intensive support for their child.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. We are available to help you better understand RTI and the process of identifying and providing interventions and supports to students.

Warm regards,

Jason Manjourides
Principal



Please see the [Link: Pond Cove Student & Family Handbook 2018-2019](#) for helpful information.

Wednesday, January 23, is an early release professional development day. Pond Cove students will be dismissed at 1:50.

Dear Parents and Guardians of New Pond Cove Students,

It is Kindergarten Registration time again! If your child turns 5 on or before October 15th of 2019 she/he is eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year.

To help us plan for accurate enrollment projections, please contact us by calling 799-7339 or emailing pcoffice@capeelizabethschools.org. For now we need your child's name and DOB, parents' names, address, phone, and email. Registration forms are available on our website <https://pondcove.cape.k12.me.us/> or at the school office. Please complete and return forms as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact the Pond Cove office should you have any questions: 799-7339 or pcoffice@capeelizabethschools.org.

Please share this information with friends and neighbors! Unless a sibling attends Pond Cove, we do not know or have contact information for families with upcoming kindergartners.

Please note the Staff Professional Development Early Release Wednesdays below.

Pond Cove students will be dismissed at 1:50 p.m. on:

1/23, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, 5/15, 6/5

Important Dates

Parents Have Access to Winter Report Cards Via PowerSchool: February 8

Grade 4 Concert: Monday February 4 6:30 pm PC Cafeteria (Snow Date Feb. 5)

Grade 3 Concert: Wednesday February 6 6:30pm PC Cafeteria (Snow Date Feb. 7)

**Please note the snow date is a Thursday, the same night as the ski bus.*

School Cancellation Day Tracker

Number of School Cancellation Days to Date: **3 Days**

Last Day For Students if No Other Cancellation Days: **June 17 (12:05 Dismissal)**

Office Contact Information

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