

# TAFT EARLY LEARNING CENTER

16 Granite Street · Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569

Phone 508-278-8643



## TAFT UPDATE - 9/12

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### **This week at Taft:**

- Wednesday, September 15th @ 3:15 pm - PTO Meeting - Taft Library
- Friday, September 17th - 4-5:30 - PTO Greet and Treat
- Friday, September 17th - Black and Orange Day

This week look for information regarding the [Taft Student-Parent Handbook](#). A signature page will be sent home with all students that will need to be returned to your child's teacher.

### **Summer Reading Bingo Challenge (Grades 1-3)**

I hope your children enjoyed the summer and all the literacy activities on the Summer Reading Bingo Boards. Please remind your children to return their Bingo Boards to their classroom teacher by Friday September 17th. I will be visiting all classes on that day to distribute raffle tickets and pick winners for free books! - Mrs. Manz

### **Summer Reading Take Home Kits (Grade 2 students)**

I hope your children enjoyed the books this summer and were able to complete the journal or the "Think Sheets" for the books they read. Please remind your children to return the completed "Think Sheets" or Journal to their classroom teacher by Friday September 17th. I will be choosing 1 winner from each classroom to receive a \$10 Barnes and Noble gift card! Remember, those books belong to your child to continue to read and enjoy! Do not return the books to the school. - Mrs. Manz

### **Message from our Counselors (Mrs. Buel and Mrs. Waterhouse)**

Dear Taft Families,

We want your child to be successful in school and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. While excelling in academic classes is important, children also need skills to take on learning challenges, make good decisions, manage strong emotions, and get along with others.

This year we'll begin Second Step Elementary, a research-based social-emotional learning program designed to improve children's social-emotional skills. Second Step skills and concepts are designed to help children both in and out of school. Four units will cover the following:

**Growth Mindset & Goal-Setting:** Children learn how to pay attention and manage distractions, develop a growth mindset, and apply goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives.

**Emotion Management:** Children learn how to identify and label emotions and use emotion-management strategies- including stress management for older students- to calm strong feelings.

**Empathy & Kindness:** Children learn how to recognize kindness and act kindly, have empathy for others' perspectives, and recognize kind acts and empathy as important elements of building and maintaining relationships.

**Problem Solving:** Children learn how to identify and state a problem, recognize if a problem is an accident, and use the STEP problem solving process:

- S:** Say the problem
- T:** Think of solutions
- E:** Explore the outcomes
- P:** Pick a solution

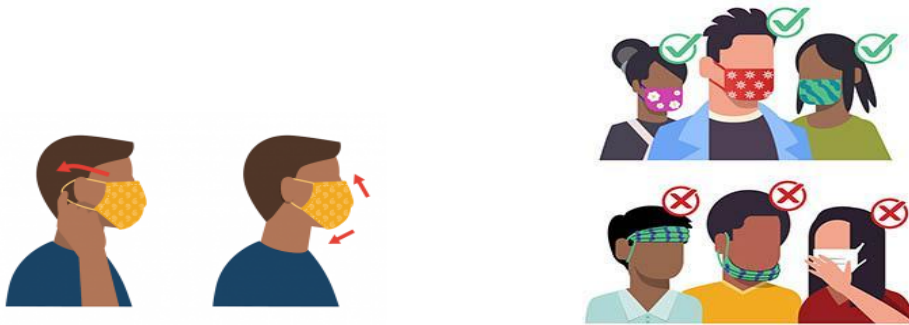
Attached you will find the scope and sequence per grade level which describes the unit themes and weekly lessons that will be taught. If you have any questions about Second Step Elementary program, please do not hesitate to contact Iona Waterhouse at [iwaterhouse@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:iwaterhouse@uxbridge.k12.ma.us) (K-1) or Karli Buel at [kbuel@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:kbuel@uxbridge.k12.ma.us) (2-3). Thank you for your support as we work to build a safe and supportive school community.

#### **MASKS:**

The CDC recommends the following:

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent

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### Wear a Mask to Protect Others

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you're infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms
- Wear a mask in public settings when around people who don't live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart
- Wear a mask correctly for maximum protection
- **Don't** put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead
- **Don't** touch the mask, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect
  
- In some cases, an individual may have health or disability-related circumstances that prevent him or her from safely wearing a mask. These will be decided on an individual basis and in consultation with that individual's medical or educational providers/team and family.

Neck gaiters and bandanas **are discouraged unless they are made of two-ply fabric.**

It is strongly recommended that you send your children to school with surgical or cloth masks and extras in case they are needed. Additional masks will be available at school if a student forgets or dirties his/her mask.

My door is always open and I welcome your input. Please feel free to call or email, [jbelle@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:jbelle@uxbridge.k12.ma.us), to discuss any concerns throughout the year or stop by to say hello. I am looking forward to working with you as a team to help each student at Taft Early Learning Center meet their goals and have a successful school year!

Have a great week!

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Principal Bellville

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