



Colchester School District

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February 12, 2021

Dear CSD Community,

Over the last few weeks, I have been reflecting on the many levels of support and encouragement our school district has received from families, students and the community. As many of us get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day, it seems fitting that we share some love back to you for the outstanding support and teamwork we have witnessed throughout this school year. Through adversity and camaraderie, we find extraordinary strength and support. This Valentine's Day, in the heart of these troubling times, I hope you can find a moment to feel the support that surrounds you from our school community.

School Budget:

Every year we try to highlight the importance of getting out to vote and this year is no different. The vote on the school budget is right around the corner and we've started getting information out to community members in a variety of ways. The school board invited community members to a virtual presentation and Q&A at their last board meeting, the 2021 Annual Report to the Community will be in your mailbox next week and we've published [the first video in our Your Vote Matters series](#). These videos take viewers into our schools and give them an opportunity to see the impact that their educational tax dollars have on the children in our town. The second video will be published next week on our social media platforms and our [website](#).

You can request a ballot be mailed to you through the Colchester Town Clerk's Office or through the state's [My Voter Page](#). You can also vote in person at Colchester High School on Tuesday, March 2 from 7am - 7pm. No matter how you do it, know that your vote matters!

Free Meals for February Break

Just as we did over the holiday break in December, our incredible Food Services Team will be offering a weeks worth of free breakfast and lunch for children in the district. This time around they had additional time to prepare, so you'll find more homemade items like a lasagna roll-up and mac & cheese that are frozen and are ready to reheat at home. Pick up will be in the afternoon/evening on Monday, February 22. Look for an email directly from Food Services early next week with more detailed information.

Calendar Change for CMS & CHS

For hybrid students at CMS and CHS, we are changing the schedule on Thursday, March 4th to ensure that our Monday/Tuesday group of students get an in-person learning day that week we come back from break. Here's what that week now looks like and you can click [here to view the full CSD Calendar](#).

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction

- Monday, March 1: No School
- Tuesday, March 2: No School, Family Conferences
- Wednesday, March 3: Remote Learning Day
- ****Thursday, March 4: CHS Lakers & CMS Blue students are IN PERSON**
- Friday, March 5: CHS Champs & CMS Green students are IN PERSON

Now Enrolling for Preschool at Malletts Bay

Thinking about preschool for the fall? Colchester School District offers FREE preschool for 3 and 4-year-olds, located right in our Malletts Bay School community. Our half-day program runs four days a week and follows the school calendar for holidays and vacations. Children practice language, social communication and play skills. They develop friendships while gaining confidence and school-readiness skills in a literacy-rich environment with experienced educators and support personnel. For questions or enrollment information, call Nancy at (802) 264-5894 or email at nancy.smith@colchestersd.org.

Message from our School Nurses

Colchester's school nurses are smart, caring, and FUN! [This two-minute video](#) was made for students to acknowledge all that they've endured this school year and to encourage them to keep up the good work following COVID-19 safety precautions. We want to salute our families and employees too; everyone plays an important role in keeping our school doors open for in-person learning. It's a universal message for all ages and the video has been posted on our social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#)) if you'd like to share it with your family and friends.

Updated Guidance from the Agency of Education

Last week the Governor's Office announced that they would be moving into the next phase of high school winter sports and today marks the first day that teams are allowed to compete with other districts. All home games at CHS will be live-streamed by [LCATV using this link](#). At today's press conference Education Secretary Dan French announced that they have finalized guidelines that will allow for more music to happen in schools, both instrumental and vocal. As soon as we receive official guidance in writing, we will thoroughly review the document so that we can safely implement them in our schools.

Quarantine and Testing Information

As a reminder, the current order from the Governor states that if you gather with anyone outside of your household (not including childcare), everyone must [quarantine](#) for 14 days, or 7 days followed by a negative test, as long as you do not experience symptoms. Also, if you [travel outside of Vermont, you must follow quarantine requirements](#). Quarantine means staying home and away from others. Do not go to work or school, or out to do errands or recreation. This helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 before a person knows they are sick, or if they are infected with the virus and don't have symptoms. Testing through the Health Department is free and easy to schedule online. Click here to find out a location to [get tested](#).

Be well,

Amy Minor

Superintendent of Schools