



Colchester School District

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July 29, 2021

CSD Community,

I hope this letter finds you happy, healthy and enjoying the summer months. District administrators and year-round support staff have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year. With the calendar turning to August this weekend, you can expect more frequent updates, both from the district and your child's school, as we learn more about what the year ahead will look like.

First Day of School & Calendar

We are very much looking forward to welcoming K-12 students back to full-time, five days a week, in-person learning. The first day of school for grades K-12 will be Wednesday, August 25th. Our preschool students will join us for their first day on Tuesday, September 7th. For a full list of conferences dates, early release days, holidays, and vacations visit www.csdvt.org/calendar.

Verify Your Student's Enrollment

All students in the district, whether new or returning, must register/verify their enrollment for the upcoming school year. Parents and guardians have been emailed the link to the form along with a student-specific code to complete their registration. This information is imperative to school operations; it provides family contact information, health history, emergency contacts, release forms, transportation needs, and more. The deadline to verify enrollment is tomorrow, Friday, July 30. Families will continue to get reminder emails until the district has a completed form on file. Thank you for submitting your information on time to help us to be as prepared as possible for the start of the school year!

Masks

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) has not yet released guidance for next school year relating to masks or other COVID-19 precautions. We're aware that the potential requirement for mask-wearing at school has been widely reported by local and national news. Be assured that the district will directly communicate any information about guidance for next year once we determine how it will impact our schools.

Physical Distancing Requirements

As stated above, we are still waiting for official guidance from the AOE to clarify if there will be a need for additional physical distancing in the classroom or at mealtimes. Education Secretary Dan French has previously stated that schools "should plan on returning to school in the fall under a non-emergency/pre-pandemic operational and regulatory framework." Based on that statement, we are

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creating our schedules and classroom spaces to look and feel like a “normal” year. If the AOE’s recommendations ultimately differ from that, we will communicate any changes that are made as a result.

Summer Programming Update

We expanded our summer programming this year and are proud to be offering additional academic support (and fun!) at each of our schools this month. Also new this year, we were able to provide transportation for all summer school students. Thank you to our CSD employees and bus drivers who have made this program successful for our students.

We were pleased to welcome Vermont Education Secretary Dan French to our campus this month as he visited Sue Rosato’s English Learner Summer Program. It was Secretary French’s first visit inside a school since the pandemic. Mrs. Rosato was selected as the 2021 Vermont Teacher of the Year and we are incredibly proud of her accomplishments. It’s clear why he chose to visit Colchester first! (Go Lakers!) During the visit, students had the opportunity to interact with Secretary French and ask him questions about his role, education in Vermont, and the goals that he has for the future.

We Are Hiring!

We are incredibly fortunate to have wonderful schools filled with motivated and talented employees who contribute to the education and well-being of the children in Colchester every day. If you’re looking for per diem, part-time, or full-time work, we have several job opportunities available. We are very much in need of substitute teachers and paraeducators for the start of the school year. Paraeducators support students and teachers working one-to-one and/or with small groups of students with special needs. Responsibilities will vary depending on the assignment, but typically include keeping eyes on supervision during class, transition times, and lunch; offering student redirection as needed; data collection; consulting communications with teachers and case managers; and one-to-one student support and/or small group support.

The full listing of job openings is available at www.csdivt.org/jobs. For more information on the process to sign up as a substitute, including the different pay rates for positions, visit www.csdivt.org/sub.

Our bus company, Mountain Transit is also hiring. They are offering a \$1,500 sign-on bonus and will pay for training and expenses. Call them at 893-1334 or stop by 79 Precast Rd in Milton to learn more about driver schedules, pay rates, and benefits.

CHS Alumni Jazz Concert

The band is getting back together again, literally! Mark your calendars next Friday, August 6, at 6:30 pm to hear some of our incredible CHS alumni make music together again. The concert is happening at Lower Bayside Park and while it’s free, all proceeds will benefit the [Colchester Food Shelf](#).

Be well,
Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools