



Colchester School District

Administrative Offices, 125 Laker Lane, PO Box 27, Colchester, Vermont 05446

Phone: (802) 264-5999 • www.csdvt.org • Fax: (802) 863-4774

August 17, 2021

CSD Community,

We are so thrilled to welcome all of our faculty and instructional support staff back on Thursday as we kick off our opening in-service. The days leading up to welcoming our students back are filled with academic planning, professional development, various grade-level and department meetings, and classroom preparations. It will feel so good to have our buildings buzzing again and that anticipation will only build until next week when we get to see our students again!

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 25. Our preschool students will join us for their first day on Monday, August 30. For a full list of conferences dates, early release days, holidays, and vacations visit www.csdvt.org/calendar.

Opt-in to Receive Text Messages

The district and the schools often use text messaging to send reminders, announcements, or alerts that point to an important email (like this one!). If you would like to receive text messages you must opt-in using your cellphone, they are not sent automatically. To sign up for text messages, text "yes" to 67587. Within 24 hours of sending the request, you'll receive an automated confirmation message. You can unenroll from text messages at any time by texting "stop" to 67587.

Bus Routes and Times

We plan to publish bus routes and times sometime tomorrow. Families will receive a separate email with a link to all of the transportation information. There were a number of changes this year, including bus number changes on the CMS/CHS routes and some minor pick-up/drop-off time changes on our elementary routes. Keep an eye out for that email!

Guide to the 2021-2022 School Year

As we did last year, the district is currently creating a comprehensive guide that will house information about our primary COVID-19 mitigation measures including when to stay home, masking wearing, contact tracing, and quarantining. It will also include some of the layered preventive measures that we're using throughout the school such as spacing as much as possible in classrooms and limiting outside visitors. Families can expect to receive a copy of the guide via email by the end of the week.

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction

Vaccine Clinic Tomorrow at CMS

Colchester School District will be hosting three school-based vaccine clinics through the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont National Guard. The first is scheduled for tomorrow Wednesday, August 18. There will also be clinics on Wednesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 29.

All three clinics will take place at Colchester Middle School from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be offering first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine to *anyone* 12 years and older. You can walk-in or visit www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine to make an appointment. You can also call 855-722-7878. If the school-based clinics don't work for your schedule, you can also walk-in at CVS, Hannaford, Walmart, Walgreens, Price Chopper/Market 32, Rite Aid, Shaws, or Costco.

Live Q+A: [What Parents Need to Know About the Delta Variant](#)

Dr. Lewis First, chief of pediatrics at the University of Vermont Children's Hospital and pediatric critical care physician, Dr. Rebecca Bell, who is also president of the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter are hosting a live Q+A focusing on how to keep children and family members healthy as COVID cases rise and back-to-school time approaches. The event is free and will take place on Facebook Live at 2:00 pm tomorrow, Wednesday, August 18 using this link: [Live Q+A: What Parents Need to Know About the Delta Variant](#).

Free Meals and Additional Meal Benefits for Families Who Qualify

We are thrilled to announce that breakfast and lunch will be FREE for ALL students this school year. Menus are available at www.csdmeals.org. Meals will be available for every student, however, they can also choose not to have a meal. Unfortunately, we will not be selling ala carte items to start the year. We hope to be able to add this option in the future. We know not every student will want a meal and to mitigate wasting food, we are going to make our best guess at how many meals to prepare for our buildings. We thank you in advance for being patient with us as we calibrate our numbers during the first couple weeks of school.

Even though meals are free, [we still strongly encourage families to apply for free/reduced meals](#). The number of families qualifying for free/reduced meals impacts federal funding and services allotted to the students in our district. Approval for free/reduced lunch also allows families to receive additional money through Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) cards. These extra funds are given by the government to families who fill out a free and reduced meal application and are approved. They can then use that extra money to purchase food items at grocery stores, convenience stores, online retailers, and farmers' markets.

The application is easily filled out online. You can access the application at <https://www.myschoolapps.com>. The application is available in: English, Spanish (Español), Arabic (العربية), French (Français), Filipino (Tagalog), Vietnamese (tiếng Việt) and Chinese (Mandarin (官話)). The paper application is available in [Nepali](#) (नेपाली).

Child Tax Credit Information from the IRS

The IRS announced two new online tools to help families manage Child Tax Credit payments; one of three tools now available for the upcoming advance payments:

- **New** The [Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant](#) allows families to answer a series of questions to quickly determine whether they qualify for the advance credit.
- **New** The [Child Tax Credit Update Portal](#) allows families to verify their eligibility for the payments and if they choose to, unenroll, or opt out from receiving the monthly payments so they can receive a lump sum when they file their tax return next year.
- The Child Tax Credit Non-filer Sign-up Tool [English](#) | [Spanish \(new\)](#)

We Are Hiring!

If you or someone you know is 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. 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.csdvt.org/jobs. For more information on the process to sign up as a substitute, including the different pay rates for positions, visit www.csdvt.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.

Be well,

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools