



Colchester School District

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March 17, 2022

CSD Community,

We have a few updates, information, and announcements to share.

Upcoming Dates to Know:

- Now [Kindergarten Registration](#) is open for next year.
- March 18 No School for Students (Professional Development Day for Staff)
- March 22 Virtual Family Night: Exploring the Adolescent Brain
- April 6 Early Release Day

School Calendar Updates

With spring in the air, we are cautiously optimistic that we won't have any more unexpected school closures. If that is the case, families can expect the last day of school to be Monday, June 13. We also wanted to let you know that next year's school calendar will be finalized soon. For planning purposes, we can share that the first day of school will be Wednesday, August 31. For up-to-date calendar information, visit: www.csdvt.org/calendar.

Save the Date: March 22 Virtual Family Night - Your Questions Answered

The next CSD Virtual Family Night's topic is Exploring the Adolescent Brain and will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 22 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist-master Kaitlin Zura will help families increase their understanding of this critical period of development in order to promote connection with the teenagers in your life (or soon-to-be!). She'll share basic information related to growth and development and discuss some of the key skills that develop during adolescence. Additionally, participants will also examine common misconceptions and myths about teenage emotions and behavior. [Keep this Zoom link handy if you'd like to attend.](#)

Registration Open for Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be five before September 1 that will be starting kindergarten in the fall? Registration is now open! For more information and the link to apply, please visit www.csdvt.org/register.

Preschool Lottery

Considering preschool for your 3-5-year-old? Our district's half-day preschool program is now accepting applications for the fall! We anticipate holding an enrollment lottery in early April and

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encourage those interested to submit their applications as soon as possible. For more information on the lottery and the link to apply, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/csdpreschool>.

Vermont Department of Health Changes to Exposure Guidelines

This week, the Vermont Department of Health streamlined their guidance for individuals [who are exposed](#) to COVID-19 and for those [who test positive](#). Colchester Schools are following the guidance of the Department of Health and have updated our exposure notification letter to reflect these changes. Exposure and testing information is also available on the district's [classroom exposure website](#).

COVID Update

We want to acknowledge how respectful and kind our students have been as we transitioned to optional masking over the past two weeks. We've seen countless examples of students supporting each other and accepting that masking is a personal choice. Another way we can all support each other is by staying home when sick. Please be reminded that we expect all staff and students to continue to stay home with any COVID-19 related symptoms.

An update on testing - school nurses will continue to provide COVID antigen home test kits to any students or employees who need them, as long as the State continues to provide them to us. The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) has indicated that school-specific COVID-19 testing distribution will be phased out at some point this school year in favor of students and staff accessing the same testing distribution sites provided to all Vermonters. Until that happens, we have plenty of tests and encourage you to request one from the nurse if needed.

As we move towards the endemic approach, CSD will continue to work with the Vermont Department of Health to monitor any new public health concerns that may require us to change our current COVID-19 management plan. At this point, we are no strangers to swiftly shifting our protocols based on local conditions. We will continue to rely on guidance from the AOE and the Department of Health to keep our schools safe and open for in-person learning while maintaining our community's well-being as a priority. I would like to thank our administrators and school nurses for their support over the past two years. They have done an exceptional job managing the pandemic and supporting our entire community.

CSD Central Office Relocation

As we shared this fall, the CSD Central Office is moving to make room for the Colchester Alternative Program (CAP). CAP has been in a leased space and after the owner placed the building for sale several times, there was a lot of uncertainty if a new owner would allow the program to stay. Because of that risk, it was decided to move CAP to a more permanent home on the CHS campus. The current Central Office Building at 125 Laker Lane is the perfect fit for the program. The space will be renovated from an office environment to a space for learning later this spring and summer and will officially reopen as CAP in the fall. To allow for that renovation to happen, next week, the employees that work in the CSD Central Office building will be moving to an office building located at 59 Rathe Road in Colchester. This includes our finance department, human resources, special education administration, curriculum, communications, data management,

diversity, equity and inclusion, and the superintendent's office. Central Office phone numbers, extensions, and the PO Box 27 mailing address will stay the same; only our physical address is changing. We don't anticipate any disruptions in services but it is possible that there may be some delays in our response as we get settled. Thanks for your understanding and support. We're excited for CAP!

As always thank you for your support, communication, and collaboration to make Colchester Schools an incredible place to learn and work. We hope that you are enjoying the warmer temperatures and later sunsets as it truly is starting to feel like spring! Have a great weekend!

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools