



Colchester Public Schools

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 202
Colchester, CT 06415

Jeffrey E. Burt
Superintendent of Schools

Phone (860) 537-7208
Fax (860) 537-1252
jburt@colchesterct.org

June 11, 2021

Dear Colchester Families,

As we approach the last week of school I would like to thank teachers, staff, parents and the entire Colchester community for their dedicated support of our students throughout this unprecedented school year. The innovation, determination and resilience demonstrated by our school community has truly been inspiring. As we plan for the next school year, we will continue to prioritize the academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being of our students and staff.

Congratulations, Class of 2021! I look forward to celebrating your achievements on June 19th at your Graduation.

Next School Year - At this time we do not have any information on whether or not the mitigation strategies currently in place will be required for next school year. The CT-DPH has indicated that requirements may differ by school depending upon the percentage of students who are vaccinated, but no additional details were provided.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan - As part of the ARPA/ESSER III grant each district must publish a continuity of services plan and allow for public feedback. You can find our plan [here](#) and the feedback survey [here](#). You will notice that many aspects of the plan are contingent upon guidance from the CSDE or CT-DPH that is not yet available, so this document will be updated throughout the summer and resent to families periodically.

Update from Chatham Public Health

The percentage of eligible Colchester residents who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is approximately 60%. To learn how to schedule an appointment, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccination Scheduling Options](#).

Update to Mask Policies in School Buildings

Current mask policy is as follows, based on recent guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

“Specific to outdoor settings, masks are not required, but we recommend continuing mask wearing for students and staff in situations where students and/or staff are outdoors and in close contact while stationary (e.g., sitting/standing together in a group). Where students are actively moving around during recess or physical education activities, masks can be removed. Masks should also be on when going out of the building to recess and back into the building afterward. Good hand hygiene should be emphasized before and after outdoor activities.”

Masks continue to be required for all staff and students inside school buildings for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Masks will be mandatory for any CPS summer programs until we receive further guidance from CT-DPH or CSDE. At this time, public health officials have not released mask recommendations for the fall. Once such recommendations have been announced, we will adjust our procedures accordingly.

Immunizations Update

For more information, visit [CSDE Guidance - Immunizations](#).

Summer Academy

Pending the availability of certified staff, Summer Academy is a 3-week program to be hosted in August that is aimed at supporting students in grades K-11 who have identified lagging skills in reading or math. Parents/caregivers of qualifying Summer Academy students in grades kindergarten through 11 will now be notified of their student's eligibility for Summer Academy via email by June 30.

Summer Promotion/Credit Recovery

Summer Promotion is a 4-week program to be hosted during the month of July that is aimed at supporting students in grades 6-8 who have failed a course(s) during 2020-21, and are ineligible for promotion to the next grade. Summer Credit Recovery is a 4-week program to be hosted during the month of July that is aimed at supporting students in grades 9-11 to earn credit for a failed course during 2020-21. Courses to be offered for Summer Promotion/Credit Recovery is dependent upon the availability of qualified and certified educators. Parents/caregivers of students who are eligible for this program will be notified no later than Friday, June 25.

Summer Communications

This will be our final weekly email of the school year. We will send communications over the summer as we get more direction from the state and have more details on what the next school year will look like.

Upcoming Week: June 14-17

The last day of school is Thursday, June 17th.

Colchester Elementary School/JJIS/WJJMS

- Monday, Tuesday: full in-person learning
- **Wednesday, Thursday: shortened days for students**

Bacon Academy

- Monday: full in-person learning for Cohort 1
- Tuesday: full in-person learning for Cohort 2
- **Wednesday: Cohort 1 in-person/shortened day for students**
- **Thursday: Cohort 2 in-person/shortened day for students**

Have a question or concern?

- **EMAILS**
 - Budget questions: budget@colchesterct.org
- General questions: covid19@colchesterct.org
- Tech questions: techhelp@colchesterct.org
- BOE questions: boardquestions@colchesterct.org

Frequently asked questions: [CPS Parent FAQ](#). For the most current update on COVID-19, please visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Information on the impact of COVID-19 in our community can be found here: [CT COVID-19-Data-Tracker](#).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Burt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Burt, Superintendent