



# Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Colchester Families,

I sincerely hope this week has allowed for much-needed relaxation for you and your loved ones. The first part of this message is dedicated to the Class of 2020. None of us could have ever anticipated the challenges that 2020 would bring to you at such a momentous time in your lives. I am in awe of your resilience, optimism, and ingenuity, and look forward to celebrating your monumental achievements on July 11th at your Graduation. The incredible efforts of all at Bacon Academy to ensure that you can celebrate properly are greatly appreciated. On behalf of everyone at Colchester Public Schools, I want to wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Congratulations, Class of 2020! Please enjoy this video message to the Class of 2020:

[CongratsfromColchesterSchoolsStaff](#).

Celebrations at all of our schools took on a new meaning this year as collectively we all felt a sense of accomplishment for navigating an unprecedented shift in education. We sorely missed seeing our students in person. Enjoy some highlights from Bacon Academy:

- Bacon Academy's [Spring Concert 2020](#)
- Bacon Academy's [Covid 19 art show 2020](#)

## **2020-2021 School Update**

The District is actively planning for return to school in the Fall. We are committed to maintaining Colchester's priority of health, safety, and academic excellence. We will keep you, your families, and the entire learning community informed about our plans.

We have task forces, focus groups, and committees assembled to help us assess every aspect of the learning environment for your students in the Fall. Currently, we expect directives and mandates from the Governor and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at the beginning of July. We will be working closely with Chatham Health Department and town officials to ensure that decisions are in keeping with our top priorities. Shortly after guidance is released in July, we will send a survey to you so we may include your valued

perspectives in our planning. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a Parent Focus Group as part of the survey.

### **2020-2021 Budget Update**

On June 15th, the Board of Finance voted to approve the Education Budget with a 0.19% increase. I am thankful for the innovative thinking of the entire administrative team in adjusting our budget accordingly to keep the focus where it belongs: on student success and well-being. We will continue to make decisions focused on a learning community design that serves each and every student academically, socially, and emotionally so that they can learn and thrive. The Board of Education voted on the revised budget last night and a final document will be available in the coming days on our website.

### **Summer School Support Programming**

Beginning July 6th, schools will be providing virtual summer support to students who were unable to make grade level progress this year. If your student has met the established criteria, and is eligible for summer support programming, you will receive a letter from the school indicating the focus for and amount of support being offered. Please contact your school administration if you have any questions.

### **Meal Program**

We are excited to announce that our meal program will continue through August 15, 2020. New days and hours will be shared within the next week or so.

### **Have a question or concern?**

- Visit our Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **EMAILS**  
General questions: [covid19@colchesterct.org](mailto:covid19@colchesterct.org)  
Tech questions: [techhelp@colchesterct.org](mailto:techhelp@colchesterct.org)  
BOE questions: [boardquestions@colchesterct.org](mailto:boardquestions@colchesterct.org)
- For questions pertaining to a specific school, please email the teacher, administrator, or office staff of that school directly.

I am honored to be a part of the Colchester Public Schools family and extremely proud of the work our educators, staff, and community do in serving our students. We will continue to send email updates to keep you informed of District decisions regarding school opening in the Fall. I hope you are enjoying your summer.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Burt  
Superintendent