



# Colchester Public Schools

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**Jeffrey E. Burt**  
Superintendent of Schools

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June 5, 2020

Dear Colchester Families,

By all accounts, this has been a challenging week with deeply troubling violence and unrest in the country during already difficult times. Please know that everyone at Colchester Public Schools is here for you and your children. Please see the following for messages of understanding and support:

- Superintendent Burt's [Message to Families](#), sent on June 3rd.
- Commissioner of Education, Miguel Cordona, addressing the need to support children in these difficult times: [Moving Forward Together](#)
- This Saturday, June 6, at 10 a.m. ET, CNN and "Sesame Street" will host a 60-minute special: ["Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism. A CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall for Kids and Families"](#). The show will talk to kids about racism, the recent nationwide protests, embracing diversity and being more empathetic and understanding.

## **2019-2020 Calendar Change**

June 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 15th will be half days.

## **2020-2021 School Update**

The district has created a Reopening Task Force to plan for an anticipated reopening of schools in August. As of today, the State has not provided specific guidelines outlining the requirements or procedures for reopening schools. We are moving forward as best as possible and working on those items that we can plan in advance, such as the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitizer stations for each classroom. As the State provides additional information we will adjust our planning. Our goal is to have the draft plan communicated to staff and families by the end of June. In the next week or so, we will send out information on the members of the Task Force and how to give feedback on our planning, including a survey in the next month or so.

## **Meal Program**

Our meal program will continue through June 30th. The Colchester Food Bank distributes food every week to families in need. If you or someone you know needs food, please call their office at (860) 537-7255 to schedule a pick-up time. The district is actively pursuing the possibility of providing meals through the summer months.

## **Student Chromebook Collection**

Chromebooks and other devices will not be collected until the end of Distance Learning. Please visit these links for details on Chromebook collections and each school's protocol:

- [2020 Student Chromebook Collection - Parent Letter](#)

## **Website Feedback Survey**

We are committed to continuous improvement of the Colchester Public Schools' District website and the upcoming redesign. We value your opinion through this process. Please complete the brief survey here: [Website Feedback Survey](#)

## **WJMS letter from Principal Bennett**

Please see the letter from Principal Bennett regarding end of year activities, including the 8th Grade Promotion ceremony on June 12: [WJMS End of Year Letter to Parents](#).

## **Bacon Academy Graduation**

We originally believed that we would have a plan by this time, but additional information is being provided by the State on a daily basis. Graduation will not take place on June 15th, the last day of school, but as a result of the updates from the State we may have to hold graduation after July 6. .

## **Fall Sports**

Please visit the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) website for important information about Fall sports: [CIAC's Intent to Return to Interscholastic Athletics and Activities Programs](#).

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

The Board of Finance will vote on the Town and BOE budgets on June 15th; prior to that is the opportunity for public comment. There is no referendum this year per the Governor's Executive Order. Please visit the [Town's website](#) for more information on the budget process, important dates, and timeline. All documents related to budget discussions, including proposed reductions, can be found on our [Budget Webpage](#). For public access to virtual BOE meetings, visit the [Board of Education Website](#). Any questions pertaining to agenda items should be directed to [boardquestions@colchesterct.org](mailto:boardquestions@colchesterct.org). Questions must be submitted at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

## **Nurse's Update: Empowering, Protecting, and Living in the time of COVID-19**

Please visit these links for the third in a four-part series **#HealthyatHome** about empowering our community to take control of health to protect against Covid19.

- [Boost Your Immune System](#)
- [Does Exercise Boost Immunity?](#)

## 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.

## CPS Mental Health Contacts

### Colchester Elementary School

- Kathy Wonderly, School Psychologist, [kwonderly@colchesterct.org](mailto:kwonderly@colchesterct.org)
- Amy Rau, Social Worker, [arau@colchesterct.org](mailto:arau@colchesterct.org)

### Jack Jackter Intermediate School

- Amy Leonard, School Psychologist, [aleonard@colchesterct.org](mailto:aleonard@colchesterct.org)
- Meaghan Helmbrecht, Social Worker, [mhelmbrecht@colchesterct.org](mailto:mhelmbrecht@colchesterct.org)
- Carissa Capozzi, Social Worker, [ccapozzi@colchesterct.org](mailto:ccapozzi@colchesterct.org)

### William J. Johnston Middle School

- Dr. Jennifer Korczak, School Psychologist, [jkorczak@colchesterct.org](mailto:jkorczak@colchesterct.org)
- Meg Lewis, School Counselor, [mlewi51@colchesterct.org](mailto:mlewi51@colchesterct.org)
- Michelle Yoder-Gerow, School Counselor, [myode55@colchesterct.org](mailto:myode55@colchesterct.org)
- Susan Silverman, Social Worker, [ssilv52@colchesterct.org](mailto:ssilv52@colchesterct.org)

### Bacon Academy

- Julia Spencer, School Psychologist, [jspencer@colchesterct.org](mailto:jspencer@colchesterct.org)
- Kellie Cirillo, Social Worker, [kcirillo@colchesterct.org](mailto:kcirillo@colchesterct.org)
- Jennifer Kutia, Social Worker, [jkutia@colchesterct.org](mailto:jkutia@colchesterct.org)
- Cynthia Gillette, Social Worker, [cgillette@colchesterct.org](mailto:cgillette@colchesterct.org)
- Melanie Wehrenberg (A-F), School Counselor, [mwehrenberg@colchesterct.org](mailto:mwehrenberg@colchesterct.org)
- Sharon Gagne (G-N), School Counselor, [sgagn509@colchesterct.org](mailto:sgagn509@colchesterct.org)
- Ashley Zaugg, (O-Z), School Counselor, [azaugg@colchesterct.org](mailto:azaugg@colchesterct.org)
- Ronald Sefchik (9th Grade), School Counselor, [rsefchik@colchesterct.org](mailto:rsefchik@colchesterct.org)

## Highlights of the Week

- Thank you to our WJMS Band Director Keith Morrisette for this uplifting video: [JJIS and WJMS Band Students: Virtual Memorial Day Parade.](#)
- Enjoy the Bacon Academy Senior Art Exhibition: [Bacon Academy Senior Art Exhibition 2020](#)

Take good care and stay safe.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Burt  
Superintendent