



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

May 29, 2020

Dear Colchester Families,

It has been 10 weeks since we shifted, with little notice, to an entirely different educational experience. During this time, students (as well as staff and families) have demonstrated the skills that we value: real-world problem solving and innovative thinking. We continually seek ways in which we can increase our capacity to respond to student academic, emotional, and social needs through partnerships with caregivers and the community. This holistic approach has never been more important. Here is our weekly update on what to expect during the last couple weeks of school.

2019-2020 Calendar Change

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

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.

Summer School & Extended School Year

As announced on Thursday, May 28th, based on a number of factors, including guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Governor's office, the District will not be holding in-person summer programs. This includes summer school and extended school year (ESY) services. Specific details on summer programs will be sent out in the coming weeks for students with ESY services and those students eligible for summer instruction.

Teaching & Learning

Our teachers are currently working hard to design engaging learning experiences focused on the compacted curriculum standards. Soon, teachers will begin assessing student levels of proficiency. Although it is natural to want to support your student on these assessments, it is important that teachers get an accurate measure of your student's independent performance. Teachers will use student performance levels to determine how

much additional support students need in the next few weeks, over the summer, and/or next year. Colchester Public Schools is dedicated to supporting students who have struggled academically throughout the period of school closure, and is planning to provide additional support over the summer and into the fall for any student in need. Schools are currently developing plans for summer support and will be sharing them before the end of the year.

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](#)

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](#)

2020-2021 Budget Process Update

The Town and Board of Education budgets were presented this week for public comment. The next steps include a two-week comment period and then the Board of Finance will vote on both budgets on June 15th; 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. 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 from Harvard University for the second in a four-part series **#HealthyatHome** about empowering our community to take control of health to protect against Covid19.

- [How to Boost Your Immune System](#)
- [Nutrition and Immunity](#)

School Updates

- [CES and JJIS Virtual Field Days June 1-5](#)

Bacon Academy Graduation

We will have a clear plan by the middle of next week that will be shared with families and we are hoping for an in-person graduation with restrictions. It is unlikely that graduation will take place on June 15th, the last day of school, but it will most likely be held prior to July 1st.

William J. Johnston Middle School Promotion Ceremony

Principal Bennett is planning a drive-through promotion in the WJJMS parking lot on Friday, June 12th at 6 p.m. Details are forthcoming.

Have a question or concern?

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

Finally, please enjoy this performance by WJJMS student Owen Ibey: [Violin Cover of "Thousand Years"](#)

Take good care and stay safe.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Burt
Superintendent