

Matthew C. Fedders
Superintendent of Schools

Andrea M. Wasson
Co-Director of School Transformation



Michaela B. Martin
Co-Director of School Transformation

Christopher F. Locarno
Director of Finance & Facilities

Committed to cultivating within all our students the knowledge, skills, and character essential to becoming purposeful, productive and engaged members of their world.

November 4, 2021

In this issue:

- COVID-19 Vaccination for Ages 5-11
- COVID-19 Test to Stay Program
- Paine Mountain Transcripts, CAP, GPA
- Winter Weather is Coming

Dear CVSU Community,

This week, the National Weather Service is celebrating Winter Awareness Week by providing a website full of [information on preparing for winter weather](#). This is probably more useful to someone like me who is new to Vermont Winters, but I hope it also provides you with some helpful reminders.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR AGES 5-11

Now that the CDC has authorized the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children ages 5-11, CVSU schools have scheduled vaccination clinics on our elementary school campuses beginning this month. Parents will need to register their children for a [vaccination appointment online](#) and can learn more about registering for vaccine appointments at the Health Department's [website on COVID-19 vaccines for children](#).

Any families without internet access or who would like assistance to make their appointment should contact the Health Department call center at (855) 722-7878, Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat and Sun 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CVSU will hold a its first school based clinic on the following dates, please be sure to select the correct clinic location when registering online:

Northfield Elementary School	Monday, November 22, 2021	9:00-2:00
Williamstown Elementary School	Tuesday, November 23, 2021	9:00-2:00
Orange and Washington Schools	Monday, November 29, 2021	9:00-2:00

In addition to school based clinics, vaccines will be available for children in pharmacies and pediatricians offices.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter is inviting Vermont families to join them for a conversation about COVID-19 vaccines for children from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. via Zoom on the below dates. Check the [AAP website](#) for updates as additional dates are scheduled.

- Monday, November 8th with Leah Costello, M.D. (So. Burlington) - [Nov. 8 Zoom link](#)
- Wednesday, November 10th with Elizabeth Richards, M.D. (Brattleboro) - [Nov. 10 Zoom link](#)
- Tuesday, November 16th with Josh Kantrowitz, M.D. (St. Johnsbury) - [Nov. 16 Zoom link](#)
- Thursday, November 18th with Ashley Miller, M.D. (So. Royalton) - [Nov. 18 Zoom link](#)
- Monday, November 22nd with Colleen Moran, M.D. (Lamoille) - [Nov. 22 Zoom link](#)
- Tuesday, December 2nd with Tracy Tyson, M.D. (St. Albans) - [Dec. 2 Zoom link](#)

COVID-19 TEST TO STAY PROGRAM

CVSU schools are preparing for new COVID-19 testing programs that will be available to schools in the state of Vermont. The Test to Stay program will allow unvaccinated students who are identified as close contacts to continue coming to school each day provided they are asymptomatic and a parent has completed the consent form allowing their child to participate in a rapid COVID test at school each day for seven consecutive days. Parent consent is required for your child to participate. Please follow the link below to complete a COVID-19 Testing Program Consent Form for your child. Parents who do not consent to COVID testing for their child on campus will continue to be quarantined for 14-days if identified as a close contact.

If your child is vaccinated, they are not considered a close contact and therefore will not need to participate in these on-site testing programs.

[COVID-19 Testing Program Consent Form](#)

The links below will give parents an overview of the COVID-19 testing options that will become available to schools in the coming weeks.

[COVID-19 School Testing At-A-Glance](#)

[School COVID-19 Testing Program Overview](#)

PAINE MOUNTAIN TRANSCRIPTS, CAP, & GPA

With the implementation of Act 77 across the state of Vermont, school districts were tasked with the responsibility of implementing proficiency based learning in our schools. At that time, the grading system was modified from a traditional A,B,C,D,F scale to a four point grading scale. This change resulted in the loss of using a standard Grade Point Average (GPA) as a measure of student progress. On Wednesday, November 17, the Paine Mountain School Board will meet to discuss the current grading system and make a decision whether to use a conversion chart to translate our current grading system back into a GPA format for college transcripts. Parents who would like to provide input on these proposed changes are invited to attend the PMSD board meeting on November 17, at 6pm in the Northfield Middle High School Library.

WINTER WEATHER IS COMING

As colder weather is approaching, I thought it would be a good time to share with families the procedures in place for determining if school will be delayed or cancelled due to inclement weather and unsafe roads.

In most cases CVSU administration begins around 4:30 in the morning with a check of school closing/delays compiled by the Vermont Broadcaster's Association and published on WCAX to see if anyone made a decision the night before. Central office staff then reach out to road managers in our towns, our bus company and plant managers at our schools to discuss current road conditions, recent National Weather Service alerts and forecasts. At the same time, we gather information from area superintendents to see what their road crews are reporting.

Our goal is to make a decision by 5:30AM and inform families and staff as soon as possible. With about 180 miles of dirt roads and about a 1200 foot difference in elevation within the supervisory union, the final decision is not always easy but we make the best decisions considering the current conditions and circumstances. Once the decision to delay opening or close schools for the day is made, a message is sent to our families and staff via Blackboard Connect, and local radio and TV stations are notified. The process for early dismissal is similar but also includes making certain students have lunch before being returned home.

Everyone may not agree with the decisions to open, delay or close school, but the decision will always be made with the safety of our students and employees at the forefront. If you ever feel that the decision is in conflict with the condition of the roads where you live and you do not feel it is safe for your student to travel, please call your school and let them know. Students staying home under these circumstances will have an excused absence.

If you have any questions about our snow day procedures, COVID testing or vaccines, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Fedders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'M'.

Matthew Fedders
Superintendent of Schools