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

March 17, 2020

Dear CVSU Families:

Staff have been working incredibly hard these past two days to prepare for students to maintain their learning progress for the next two weeks. The administrative team met twice yesterday and will meet twice again today as we work out how to best meet your student's needs. Below you will find answers to some questions I anticipate you might have and also answers to some questions you have posed.

**1. What is the plan for student learning?**

- a. **How will students receive information?** This will come online and/or paper, depending on the teacher and the age of the student. Students who have one-to-one devices can expect to participate primarily online.
- b. **What if my student is being asked to do work online but does not have a device to work on?** Schools will be providing these students with devices they can keep at home during the time schools are closed. Each school will have a different plan for distributing the devices.
- c. **What if we don't have Internet capabilities?** If you do not have Internet capabilities and your student is being asked to do things online, please call the school and let the secretary know. She will contact the teacher and adjustments will be made.
- d. **What if the device won't work?** When you receive the device you will be given information on how to get tech assistance if you need it.
- e. **What if the work is primarily on paper?** Principals and their staffs are working on plans to deliver and collect work from students if using paper.

**2. When will it start?** "School" will officially restart on Monday, March 23rd. Teachers will be using the next three days to finalize and test the plans they have made. Individual schools and/or teachers will be in touch with students and families to clarify what to expect.

**3. What about Special Education Services?** Your child's case manager will be in touch with you to talk specifically about the provision of services for your child while they are not in school. Additionally, case managers are preparing to conduct IEP meetings remotely via conference call or Google Hangout Meet to ensure that all IEP team members are represented in decision making. It is understood that in certain circumstances, IEP services may not be provided in the exact way they are currently delivered and some cannot be replicated in an alternative learning environment. Due to this, some teams may need to engage in a discussion of compensatory services upon return to school. The Co-director of School Transformation and Assistant Director

are working closely with the CVSU administrative team, other special education regional partners, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators, and the Agency of Education to develop guidance on continued implementation of services to ensure Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) during these unprecedented times.

4. **Will breakfast and lunch be available to students?** Yes. Schools are developing drop off points using established bus routes, as well as, curbside pickup at their buildings for all students in need of breakfast and lunch. Your schools will be in touch with you about their specific plans.
5. **Will any performances, school clubs, or after school school programming take place?** No. All activities are cancelled until further notice. This includes community events that may have been scheduled at the schools. **What about parent/teacher conferences?** Conferences that are planned annually at this time of year are cancelled. If you would like to speak with teachers about your student, please contact the teacher by email directly (first initial last name@cvsu.org)
6. **Will students need to make these days up at the end of the year?** I don't know. The minimum number of days students are required to attend school each year is in statute and not a local decision. I will keep you posted.
7. **Will students have to make up days over April vacation?** Again, I do not know at this time.
8. **Will Driver's Ed continue through the school dismissal?** No. If you have questions, please contact your school.
9. **Will Spring sports programs be offered?** I don't know. This is a decision made by the Vermont Principals Association and is not a local decision.
10. **Why are staff still being required to be in the school building?** The Governor called for the orderly *dismissal* of all schools no later than March 18th. A school dismissal is different from a closure and allows schools to remain open for staff. Preparing for remote learning takes time and with students in the buildings the past two days it has been difficult at best. We are bringing staff in on Wednesday morning to complete plans and make certain nothing has been forgotten. Depending on staff needs or job responsibilities they may continue to be in the buildings off and on throughout the two weeks. Staff and student safety is our number one concern and we will depend on our technology resources to communicate via the Internet as much as possible.
11. **Will the buildings be cleaned before students are expected to return?** Yes. Beginning on Thursday custodial staffs will be deep cleaning and disinfecting all the school buildings.
12. **What if I have questions?** Please visit the CVSU or your school's website and click on the Google form link to post questions to me.

**I hope you have found this to be helpful and informative. Your schools will be in touch with you today with many of the details I referred to. I am confident in our teachers and their ability to provide quality opportunities for students to maintain their learning. We are truly in uncharted territory and appreciate your patience.**

**Stay well.**

**Sincerely,**

**Susette Bollard**