March 25, 2020

Dear CVSU Families:

Yesterday, Governor Scott issued a “Stay Home. Stay Safe.” order effective today at 5PM. This is forcing the schools to operate a little differently so I’d like to share with you what is changing and what is not.

**Food Access and Delivery:** We will continue to have meals for students, both at the schools and through delivery. How we deliver meals, however, will change. We will no longer be handing out meals at a central location; in some cases we will deliver meals to your homes. Families will be asked to place a cooler or a box outside their homes for the meals to be placed in. To be safe, we are asking that no one come out of your home to greet the person delivering. Just wave from the window. Details on exactly how this will work for you will be coming directly from your schools.

**Childcare for Essential Persons:** We will not be continuing with a plan to provide childcare for essential persons. The “Stay Home. Stay Safe.” order makes it very difficult to operate a daycare. Schools in other districts (Barre and Berlin) who already had these services in place, have been given permission to continue to operate their programs on a voluntary basis based on community need. Representatives from our schools will be calling families who signed up for daycare in order to try and support you in finding care somewhere else.

**Access to the School Buildings:** The school buildings will be closed to parents and students beginning at 5PM today, Wednesday March 25th. Staff, including Principals and administrative assistants, will be working from home. If you have a question or need something you may still call the school. Your call may be forwarded and answered in another location or you will be asked to leave a message and someone will get back to you. You also, of course, may use email (first initial last name@cvsu.org). Your local school will inform you as to how this will work in their school.
Are Students Coming Back on April 6th? I have received guidance from the Agency of Education that asks that the schools prepare to continue educating students remotely. The Agency expects those plans to be in place by April 6th. I have no information on how long after that students will still be learning from home.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you are doing for your children. The disruption COVID-19 has caused has put a lot more responsibility on you. The pressures on adults right now are real and they are hard. I want you to know that though my kids are grown, I recognize you are all working hard to take care of yourselves and your families while wrestling with enormous new expectations that have been placed on you. If you are feeling overwhelmed with what your schools are asking, please be in touch with your teachers, counselors or Coordinators of Student Support, or building principals. We are here to support you, as well as educate your children.

Take care. Be well. Wash your hands.

Warmly,
Susette Bollard