
Good Evening Parents/Guardians and Community Members,
Thank you to all who have reached out with kind words, advocacy, and offers to volunteer. As we gear up to close schools Wednesday, March 18 through April 6th in compliance with [Governor Scott's decision to close all schools in Vermont](#) .

The purpose of today's message is to provide you with an update and the plan that the South Burlington School District has developed related to this closure. We are working to roll these plans out as quickly as possible.

ACCESS TO MEALS

South Burlington School District's Nutritional Services Department is committed to continuing to offer healthy, nutritious meals, free of charge to all children 18 years of age and under. No prior approval or application is required to access the meals.

Beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020, bagged breakfast and lunch will be prepared in our production kitchen at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset Street, South Burlington. These meals will be prepared in a safe, sanitary environment by trained, professional staff members.

To maintain social distancing, meal distribution by drive-through pick-up service will be available at your children's school at the times listed below. (If you have children at more than one school, you are able to pick up all meals at a single school.)

Wednesday and Thursday March 18 and 19 Drive-Through Pick-Up Schedule

Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School	9:00 – 11:30
Rick Marcotte Central School	9:00 – 11:30
Chamberlin Elementary School	9:00 – 11:30
Orchard Elementary School	9:00 – 11:30

If you cannot pick up meals for your student(s) on Wednesday or Thursday, please contact Christa Chambers at 802-652-7053 or cchambers@sbschools.net to arrange for delivery.

Meal delivery service options under the USDA meal regulations will be evaluated over the coming days. The delivery schedule will be provided by the end of the day on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

If you have questions, concerns, or special dietary restrictions, please contact Rhonda Ketner, rketner@sbschools.net or 802-652-7160. Updates will be posted on the District website, including additional locations where meals will be offered.

CURRICULUM AND CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

The District has established structures to allow student learning to continue during the school closure. We recognize that remote learning does not provide the same value as in-person learning experiences. For the most part, our schools will not try to replicate direct instruction online and will instead provide learning opportunities that allow students to do schoolwork at their convenience, within certain time limits. This is intended to provide more flexibility to families than online classes scheduled at specific times. During the period of school closure, we encourage families to create strong routines for their students and continue learning in a way that works for each family. As a school community, we are dedicated to meeting the needs of all learners. We have conducted a PreK-12 Family Support Survey to ensure that all of our students have access to the internet, a reliable Chromebook or another device, and daily meals during the period of the school closing. Our Technology, Transportation, and Nutritional Services staff are working in close coordination to meet the needs of all families. While different grade levels will be using different learning platforms, all teachers in the District will be working with the same set of expectations to provide students with

1. daily learning activities & related resources
2. regular feedback on student work in Grades 4-12, and
3. weekly communication and individual support as needed throughout the period of school closure.

To provide learning activities and related resources, we will use the following learning platforms:

- Grades 6-12 teachers will use NEO for learning activities, homework, and assessments.
- Grades 4-5 teachers will be using Google Classroom for learning activities, homework, and feedback on student work.
- PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3 teachers will provide families with Continuity of Learning Plans that detail daily learning activities and related resources. These plans will be available online and as printed copies upon request.

As always, teachers will continue to use email for important school communication and schools will also make printed versions of any and all resources available for families as needed.

Our teachers will continue to work with our Technology Education Specialists to develop creative approaches to instruction and learning during the school closure. Our entire staff is working extremely hard to provide continuity of learning for all of our students; recognizing the challenges posed by an extended school closure. Thank you for communicating your needs to your student's teachers so that our schools can do our utmost to continue to meet your child's learning needs.

Special Education Services

Thank you for your patience and consideration as we work through many details related to the provision of services to eligible students during a school closure. The Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has issued guidance that is informing our work and we are awaiting additional information from the Vermont Agency of Education.

Over the next several days, SBSB administrators will continue to work on developing a framework for continuity of learning for all students. This includes how that framework will be accommodated to meet the needs of learners with special needs. Additionally, we will continue to work on issues related to service provision for students eligible for special education services and Section 504. We look forward to being able to share more information with you soon.

The most common question families have is this:

If there is a school closure, is my child still entitled to the services they normally receive per their plan?

When school is closed for all students and services are not being provided for all students, your children will not immediately receive their IEP services. Per Federal guidance, "If the district is not providing educational services to students during the closure, then there is not a requirement to provide special education services during the same time period." This is akin to a snow/weather day and is the procedure for short-term absences. However, Governor Scott's statement indicated that schools would be developing plans to ensure that the maintenance of learning opportunities exists for all students. As we receive further guidance over the next few days, Special Educators will begin to develop plans to address continued learning for students. They will be in

contact with families to design plans that address the individual needs of children with IEPs and 504s.

Special Educators and Joanne Godek, Director of Educational Support Systems, will contact you as needed. Be sure to contact Joanne via email at jgodek@sbschools.net with any questions.

English Learners

Our English Learner (EL) teachers will continue to provide resources to teachers that are adapted to the specific needs of English learners. Our EL teachers will also continue to support our families with a variety of items including internet access, curriculum resources, and translation of South Burlington School District and school-based messages where appropriate. Our staff will also be calling each of our New American families to communicate about school closure and ascertain needs. We have translated previous messages and will continue to do so moving forward.

Information from our School Nurses

- Please contact your school nurse(s) to pick up medications or supplies your student may need at home during the school closure.
- If you are sick, please call your provider's office BEFORE going to the office, so that staff may help you plan and be prepared for your arrival.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 or you think you may have COVID-19, follow [these steps](#) to help protect other people in your home and community.
- Please visit [our website](#) for links to a growing number of resources. Additional resources are at the links/websites below:

Local Support

- The [United Way 2-1-1](#) is a service provider to call if you are seeking assistance with basic needs (food, shelter, childcare, healthcare, etc). Translator services are also available.
- If you have a mental health emergency or need support, please call [First Call for Chittenden County](#) at 802-488-777. First Call professionals are available 24/7.

Talking with Children About Coronavirus

- [CDC: Talking with Children about Coronavirus.](#)
- [Brainpop Video](#) about Coronavirus.

- [Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#) (NPR comic).
- [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#) (a parent resource).

More Tips for Parents and Guardians: Ideas to help with providing structure at home

- [Preparing for Extended School Closings.](#)
- [Sample Schedules for Kids Home from School for Coronavirus Outbreak.](#)

In closing, I know this is a lot to process. We will get through this together. Please do take us up on our invitation to call with any questions. We are here for all of you and your children and will continue to send updates as we have them.

In the meantime, please keep us posted on how you are doing and know how much we appreciate your support, patience, and understanding. Thank you.

David Young
Superintendent of Schools