



April 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In light of these extraordinary circumstances, I sincerely hope that each and every one of you is healthy and taking the time to marvel at your children. I am writing to provide you with an update on what is currently happening at Canaan Schools.

### **Food Service**

As was expected, the need for food during these trying times steadily continues. Our current system for preparation and delivery of meals is working well thanks to our dedicated administrators, staff, volunteers and the fabulous Karen Prehemo, who is preparing these meals for our students. We will continue to give our best effort to get high-quality meals to those in need.

### **Continuation of Learning**

***Emergency remote learning cannot and will not replace in-person schooling.***

However, schools have been directed to formalize the plan for continuation of learning that will begin on April 13th. Based on guidelines of the Agency of Education, administrators and teachers of Canaan Schools are working on revisions to the plan that was previously distributed. Our priorities will remain focused on the mental health of our students, the continuity of high-quality relationships and the development of meaningful learning opportunities for the duration of this closure period.

### **Attendance**

Beginning April 13th, we are required by law to track attendance. The Agency of Education has set forth the expectation that all students in Vermont will participate in remote learning. We will do our best to design an equitable process that will offer flexibility as needed for families and/or educators. This will not be a “one size fits all” approach.

**Averill, Avery's Gore, Bloomfield, Brunswick, Canaan, East Haven, Ferdinand, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby, Lemington, Lewis, Maidstone, Norton, Warner's Grant, Warren's Gore, Victory**  
***“Serving Children in the Communities of Canaan and NEK Choice School Districts”***



Educators will be providing regular feedback to all students; however, what that will look like is still being determined and will likely look different across the wide range of ages.

We have heard from some of our older students that remote learning opportunities are optional. To be clear, beginning April 13th, the District's position, as directed by the Agency of Education, is that remote learning is required for all. We will work with individual students and families to make sure this is possible given the wide breadth of barriers many of us are experiencing. To facilitate the return of completed school work, a drop box has been installed outside the front entrance of the High School.

### **School Calendar**

As of right now, we have been directed to keep our school calendar, for the remainder of the school year, intact. We will be having our scheduled Spring break from April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our educators have been working in overdrive for the past three weeks and need this time to recharge, and I have a hunch many families do as well! We have not yet received direction from the Agency of Education concerning food service during this time, but we will keep you updated.

Please continue to take care of yourselves, stay home and stay safe. Please do not congregate and be sure to maintain social distancing. The sooner we put COVID-19 behind us, the sooner we can return to educating our students in our beautiful schools.

With positive healthy thoughts,

Karen E. Conroy  
Superintendent of Schools