

March 17, 2020

Dear Fletcher Families,

As you know, beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, school will be dismissed for students. At the direction of the Governor, the dismissal of all Vermont schools will last until at least April 6. While we will not have students present in our building during that time, there will continue to be many enriching and engaging ways for your child to continue learning and stay connected to school and their teachers. We are committed to supporting families with this process.

In this time of rapid change and continued uncertainty, maintaining as much continuity as possible for children is our goal. To that end, I am attaching our Fletcher Elementary *Continuity Plan*, in which each classroom teacher and other professionals from F.E.S. have suggested at-home activities in reading, writing and math, for your child to work on for the remainder of this week. In addition, our School Counselor has suggested social-emotional learning activities, our Librarian has suggested literacy activities, our Instructional Coach has suggested math and science activities, and our Speech Therapist has suggested language activities. Don't miss the Principal's Learning Challenge at the very end! I invite you to think of this plan as a "learning menu" for your family to "feast" on together Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and beyond.

Some of these activities may require items that you do not have on hand at home (pencils, writing paper, etc.) In addressing that, we have assembled "Falcon Basics" learning supply kits with these items in them. If you'd like one, email or call me and we'll send it to you. Students in all classes who were in school today are also being sent home with extra paper and pencils. We have established "school supply boxes" at the Fletcher Town Clerk's Office (outside the main door) and the Fletcher General Store (check inside.) Feel free to drop by and pick up any supplies you need, free of charge. We will keep these boxes stocked. There is also a box of supplies on the bench in front of the school.

Today, for students who were present in school, we relaxed our limit on library book check-out and encouraged students to take home an unlimited long-term supply of books. We hope you will enjoy these together. For families who were not in school today, we would be happy to put together some library books for you and deliver them. Let me know if this would be helpful for your family. (cdodge@fwsu.org or 849-6251)

Next week, we will have a more long-term Remote Learning Plan for students. Thank you for your patience as we spend the remainder of this week establishing that. We are sensitive to equity and access challenges. We know, for example, that not all of our students have internet service. Rest assured, our plan will accommodate all learners. We are also working to address items like food distribution, providing special education services, and passing along information about childcare opportunities. Communication on all of those pieces is forthcoming.

We understand that many families' financial circumstances will change in the coming weeks. Please know that applications for free and reduced breakfast and lunch will be accepted by the school at any time. We are enclosing an application with this mailing. If your family already qualifies, there is no need to do anything. For others, if your circumstances change, we encourage you to apply. Here is the electronic link, as well:

<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-nutrition-meal-application-2019-2020.pdf>

We appreciate your patience, compassion and understanding. These are uncharted waters for all of us. How we carry out our work may look different in the coming weeks, but our commitment to children and families is unwavering. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Chris Dodge
Principal