



# CHAMPLAIN VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2 Church Street, Vergennes, Vermont 05491 ~ Phone: 802-877-3640 ~ Fax: 802-877-1103 ~ E-mail address: [office@cvcsvt.com](mailto:office@cvcsvt.com) ~ Website: [www.cvcsvt.com](http://www.cvcsvt.com)

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**Dear CVCS Family,**

We are getting closer to the beginning of the school year - although not as close as we were before Governor Scott delayed the opening of school until September 8, 2020. After the year we have all had, a few more days to hike, swim, play, and enjoy warm summer days isn't such a bad deal!



## Forms & Paperwork due

If you have not done so already, please review and sign the forms, permission slips, health information, etc. that you received in a large envelope last week and return to CVCS as soon as possible. The office is updating the student files so everything is in place before the students return. Thank you for your promptness.

**Tuesday, September 8**

We look forward to seeing all of our students return after a VERY L-O-N-G absence! Paint is being freshened up, carpets are being cleaned, and teachers have begun setting up their classrooms in preparation for the big day.



**Our theme for 2020-2021 is based on 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

**Engaged, Equipped, Empowered!**



But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



# CHAMPLAIN VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*K-8 Accredited Member of Christian Schools International*

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## Specials Schedule:

### Physical Education

Mon. & Wed.

K-8 sneakers required.

Grades 6-8 will only need to change into PE shirts to begin the year, must bring deodorant, and may arrive at school with the PE shirt already on. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is not required to change this year.

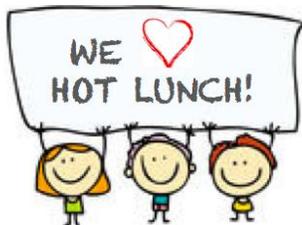
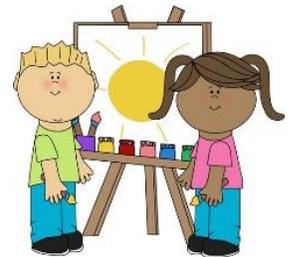
(Ms. Huestis)



### Art & Enrichment

Tues. & Thurs.

(Mrs. Bradford)



### Hot Lunch is on "HOLD"

With the restriction of visitors in the building and requirement to eat lunch in the classrooms, there will be no hot lunch served until further notice.

#### Reminder:

There are no microwaves available for grades K-6. The microwave privilege for grades 7&8 will be re-instated the second week of school.

Please review the health and safety guidelines on the following pages – particularly the new drop-off and pick-up procedures!

(These are the same things that were emailed to you recently.)



Enjoy the rest of your summer, and thank you for being such an important part of our CVCS family!

In His grip & grace,

Linda T. Larocque, Administrator

Parent/Student handbooks will be sent home with your student on the first day of school.



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## Drop off procedure:

- PLEASE arrive between 7:45 - 7:55 so we can begin the school day on time.
- Students in different grade levels will be entering the building through different exterior doors. Kindergarten will enter through Mrs. Woods' room. Grades 1-8 will use the main entrance. (If the main entrance proves to be too crowded, we will adjust this plan.)
- Students should arrive wearing masks. Parents should remain in the car and wait until your child has cleared the health screening and a staff member gives you a thumbs up.
- Students should stay physically-distanced. There will be spots on the cement for children to wait.
- A staff member will ask your child if you completed a health screening for COVID symptoms and exposure to individuals who tested positive. (You will be provided a check-off list to complete at home.)
- A staff member will use a touchless thermometer to take your child's temperature. If it is 100.4 or higher, your child must immediately return to your car and not come to school until s/he has been fever-free without medication for 24 hours.
- Children will use hand sanitizer prior to entering the classroom.
- At this time, parents are unable to enter the building. We realize this may be a difficult situation - mostly for the parents of younger children - but please do your best to stay upbeat, positive, and encouraging for your child. (Childcare programs I have spoken to have mentioned this type of drop-off has actually been less traumatic for children, believe it or not.)

## 2:30 Pick-up procedure: ***Current plan - this may be tweaked later on.***

- Children will be lined up quietly in their classroom for the 2:30 dismissal.
- As cars arrive, a staff member will call for the appropriate group of carpoolers to be dismissed, preventing a mad rush of 44 students being dismissed simultaneously.
- This will be "bumpy" for the first week of school - but we will tweak as we go to keep the flow moving.
- As always, please do not get out of your car to talk to other cars or a teacher - it disrupts the flow dramatically. If you need to speak to someone in another car, please do so in the big parking lot.

## Extended Care pick-up procedure:

- Park in the staff parking lot in front of school or in the large parking lot on the left side of the long driveway. Please do not park in front of the school building as it is a fire lane.
- ONE *masked* parent/guardian/picker-upper should walk to the main entrance to meet the child.



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- Please maintain six-foot social distancing.
- The first door will be unlocked, but the second door will be locked. You must ring the doorbell to alert the extended care worker that you are here. She will dismiss your child to meet you in the entryway. (Please remain in the entryway = don't enter the second door.)
- If the children have moved outside, there will be a note on the door directing you to pick your child and his/her belongings up on the playground.

## **Health & safety practices during the day:**

- We are going outside as much as possible! If students are able to maintain social distancing, masks may be removed.
- No visitors will be allowed in the building. If it is necessary for an adult to enter for maintenance or business purposes, they will be screened for COVID exposure, symptoms, and have their temperature taken.
- Certain classrooms will be grouped as a "pod" for contact tracing purposes.
- Staff will wear cloth masks and/or face shields while with the children.
- Adults who have been exposed to COVID-positive people or are showing any of the symptoms should NOT bring their child to or from school.
- While playing outdoors, if teachers can maintain six-foot distancing, they may remove their masks at limited times.
- Children must wear cloth masks - no "gaiters," as they have been shown to increase the spray of droplets. (The guidelines have changed permission on students wearing face shields - sorry!)
- Children and staff will be taught proper handwashing techniques.
- LOTS and LOTS of handwashing and/or sanitizing. (Handwashing will be the preferred method, but not always feasible on the playground.)
- Our building is equipped with an HVAC system that circulates outside air, but we will also use window fans to help increase the fresh air circulation. (The latter will depend on outside temperature - excessive heat may not be in the children's or staff's best interest.)
- Playground metal and plastic high-touch areas will be disinfected between groups.
- Toys, tables, chairs, bathrooms, and high-touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- Children will have their own writing and art supplies - as much as possible.
- Children will have designated chairs/table seats for table work and eating.
- Children or staff that show any of the symptoms resembling COVID will be sent home immediately.
- The Dept. of Health is working on "algorithms" to determine when symptom-showing children or adults may return to school so they are not absent longer than necessary. (For example - how many symptoms, conditions, situations, etc.) Stay tuned!
- A child who becomes ill during school will be isolated in a room with outside air ventilation and an adult until they can be picked up. (Exception: Allergy symptoms (with no fever) that cause coughing and clear runny nose may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow medical treatment plans. Also, well-controlled asthma.)



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- If a child tests positive for COVID, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the school. The school will work with the Department of Health to begin contact tracing and determine the next steps regarding classroom/school closure.

## **Can the kids play together?**

- ABSOLUTELY! From the "Strong and Healthy Start" safety guidelines from the AOE: "*A robust and growing body of evidence now strongly indicates that children younger than age 10 are far less likely to transmit SARS-Co V-2 to other children or adults. Children of all ages are at lower risk for acquiring infection than adults, and when infected are also at far lower risk for developing severe illness.*"
- I participated in a Zoom meeting with Dr. Breena Holmes - a pediatrician with the Vermont Department of Health - which was VERY encouraging, comforting, and confidence-building in letting our students get back to the "business" of being a kid! Yes, masks and physical distancing are still encouraged, but when we are dealing with children who *should* be playing, interacting, socializing, and sharing, the best we can do is *the best we can do!*

## **Are we going to talk about this "scary" virus and spend a lot of time processing it?**

- Nope! Our staff wants with all our hearts to make your child's time at school as "normal" as possible.
- Obviously, our staff will help a child who may be demonstrating any signs of trauma or struggling with this challenge we are all facing, but we do not intend to make it a focal point of instruction. We have too much learning and playing to do!
- If a child is having a particularly difficult day, a teacher will be in contact with you and communicate the best way to proceed for the remainder of the day if a teacher is unable to help the child reach a point of peace.
- I may be wrong, but my general impression when speaking with most parents is that you want life to be as "normal" as possible. That's our goal, while still doing our absolute best to protect the health and safety of our students and staff!

## **We're an independent/private school! Can't we just ignore all of the guidelines?**

Technically speaking, yes. Demonstrating respect for those in authority over us and as *representatives of Christ*, we should do our best to be above reproach. NONE of us want to risk reverting to remote learning again, so let's work together to make sure our staff, students, and school family stay healthy and IN school! The inconvenience of some of these guidelines is nothing in comparison to remote learning or the embarrassment of being the Christian school that ignored the guidelines and makes the news with a COVID outbreak.



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## **Do you have any good news for us?**

- Of course!
- Your CVCS staff is **EXCITED** to have your children back in the building!
- We are thinking **OUTSIDE THE BOX** to create fun and new ways of learning, which includes getting kids outside more!
- If your kids are in school, you don't have to try to figure out how to work from home and/or teach children simultaneously!
- God is still on His throne and in control of everything amid this earthly chaos!