



April 14, 2020

Dear Old Colony Families and Community,

We hope this correspondence finds you in good health and in a comfortable place as we spend time away from our traditional routines. We continue to put your health and well-being at the forefront of our decision making processes and ask you to reach out if we can be of assistance in any capacity during this extended closure.

To date, the Governor's Office has indicated that our statewide closure will remain in effect until Monday, May 4, 2020. We will be sure to communicate if any further announcements are made relative to the time of closure. As we navigate these uncertain times, a number of resources have been made available for the purpose of supporting student social emotional learning and mental health needs. Additional information relative to these resources is available at <https://matoolsforschools.com/resources/covid-19-sel>.

### **Resources for Family Assistance**

If anyone in your household has filed for unemployment in the last few weeks or if your household has experienced a significant change in financial status, please consider utilizing any of the following resources.

Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline offers free, comprehensive statewide food assistance to all Massachusetts residents. Help is offered in 160 languages and there is a line dedicated to helping those who are hearing impaired. For more information and hours, visit [www.projectbread.org/gethelp](http://www.projectbread.org/gethelp), or call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333.

The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) assists and empowers low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long term economic self-sufficiency. DTA serves one in nine residents of the Commonwealth with direct economic assistance (cash benefits) and food assistance (SNAP benefits), as well as workforce training opportunities. Visit <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/> to learn more DTA benefits and enroll.

**Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am - Coffee Talk with Mr. Parker and Mr. Polansky**

Register to join Mr. Parker and Mr. Polansky for coffee talk. [Click here to register](#). We would love to see your faces, hear your voices, and answer any questions you may have. We have no set agenda, other than to maintain a connection with our school community.

### **Remote Learning Update**

We would like to commend students for committing themselves to the remote learning process as we kick off Trimester 3. Teachers have reported that students are signing into google meet sessions and are engaged. Keep up the good work! We hope that the normalcy of meeting with teacher and classmates during these learning sessions will be beneficial to our students. If students are not signing in or completing assignments, we have asked the teachers to reach out to students and parents to check in. Please remember that Trimester 3 will be graded using a credit / no credit system. Promotion can be impacted by a decision not to participate. Extenuating circumstances must be discussed with Principal Parker in the event a conflict arises. Mr. Parker can be reached at [jparker@oldcolony.info](mailto:jparker@oldcolony.info) or at (508) 763-8011 extension 118.

Please note that behavioral expectations in a virtual learning environment are consistent with our expectations of behavior in your typical school setting. Credit for participation can and will be impacted by conduct in the educational setting. Please make choices to positively support your reputation and character moving forward.

### **Advanced Placement Examination Information**

Mrs. Tuccinardi has been in contact with Advanced Placement (AP) students and families. AP Calculus will test on May 12th at 2pm. AP English Language will test on May 20th at 2pm. AP Computer Science Principles students must have their portfolios submitted to the College Board by May 26th. Please contact Mrs. Tuccinardi at [ctuccinardi@oldcolony.info](mailto:ctuccinardi@oldcolony.info) with any questions or concerns.

### **Special Services Update**

School Adjustment Counselors have been running groups since school closed. Students interested in participating in groups can reach out to Mrs. Vandal or Mrs. Lacroix at [cvandal@oldcolony.info](mailto:cvandal@oldcolony.info) or [slacroix@oldcolony.info](mailto:slacroix@oldcolony.info).

Students that want/need any help with work should contact their Special Education teacher either by email or during their office hours. Special education teachers have built a Google Classroom for students who have Applied Studies.

Speech and Language services will start up shortly. Our speech pathologist is building a Google Classroom and participation permission slips have been mailed to parents. Parents are asked to return permission slips to Krystla Fay, Special Services Coordinator at [kfay@oldcolony.info](mailto:kfay@oldcolony.info) at your earliest convenience.

Consultation is readily available for teachers who need assistance in accommodating and/or modifying individual student work.

### **Athletics Update**

The MIAA Board of Directors met on March 30th to determine that the Spring season will begin no earlier than May 4th and will be completed by June 27th. In response to the postponement of all spring sports, the Mayflower Athletic Conference Athletic Directors has developed an abbreviated league schedule. In addition, the M.V.A.D.A. and M.I.A.A. have agreed to offer post season tournaments. This is all based on a May 4th return to school.

Your commitment and loyalty to OC Athletics has always been appreciated, but never more than now. It is because of you, we have been able to develop a program that is well-equipped to navigate through the current adversity we are faced with. Moving forward, the continued support of our MAC members will be critical as we look to rebound from the effect of COVID-19.

Old Colony Athletics will return. We all will. We will return stronger, and better than ever. We look forward to those days, and we look forward to standing next to you, watching our tremendous student-athletes with their incredible commitment to excellence. We love you all! If you have any athletic questions please contact Athletic Director Matt Trahan at [mtrahan@oldcolony.info](mailto:mtrahan@oldcolony.info).

### **MCAS**

MCAS testing has been cancelled for this year. MA DESE Commissioner Riley successfully secured a waiver from the Federal and State government to waive testing for the remainder of this school year.

### **April Vacation**

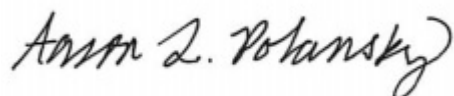
We will honor April Vacation. Students and staff are asked to refrain from work during the week of April 20-24, 2020. Please take time to take care of yourself and focus on something you enjoy. We will return to our remote learning on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Trimester Report Cards**

Report cards for Trimester 2 have been posted online. Hard copies have also been mailed out. Students in danger of failing for the year should contact their instructors immediately to arrange for work in an effort to remediate failing status.

Please reach out if you are in need of anything during our extended closure. We look forward to continued connection to the greatest extent possible. We wish you and your family health and peace of mind as we continue to adjust to this new routine.

Sincerely,



Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director  
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School