

June 10, 2020

Dear Old Colony Community,

We hope this message finds you and your families healthy & safe. The 2019-2020 school year has been an interesting journey, to say the least. There have been mornings where I'm sure we've opened our eyes with hopes that all that we are experiencing in 2020 is part of a dream, and then paused on our way to coffee and the next Zoom meeting. As we are faced with the challenges before us, we've found strength by coming together. We must walk in the shoes of one another and lift each other up to find our place in a world that demands agility, more than ever before.

There was a time when Blockbuster Video dominated the market, and at the time, a small company called Netflix created a mail-in DVD service. There were people who laughed, and thought, "Who wants to wait two days when they can drive to the store and get what they need within minutes?" Blockbuster is no longer, and Netflix has become a household name. Netflix went so far as to recreate themselves as a production company to adapt to the ever-changing world of media access and distribution, while my Blockbuster card sits dormant in my old wallet.

As we approach the end of the 2019-2020 school year, I would like to commend our staff, our students, our families and our community for becoming more agile than ever before in response to what may be largest interruption to "normal" in the history of the world. As we prepare to reboot for the 2020-2021 school year, there are still a magnitude of unknowns related to budgets and state revenues, guidance relative to re-opening, and the future of education as it once was. There is also a plethora of known information. We know what we want and need to teach, and we know we will find a mechanism for delivery. We are mobilizing a team of stakeholders to establish a plan for our return to school in the fall and will be sharing plans as further guidance from the state becomes available. In the meantime, we would like to share some important information with our Old Colony Community.

Remote Learning Plan Update for June 15th-19th

As we close out the school year, there will be no live sessions on Monday, June 15th or Tuesday June 16th. All grade 9, 10 and 11 students (regardless if they are in shop or academics) will have one collaborative assignment from all of their teachers for the week. This assignment can be found in their History teacher's Google Classroom on Monday morning. It must be completed using Google Docs, and shared with ALL of their academic AND shop teachers by Wednesday June 17th at 8pm.

Book Return and Shop Gear Distribution

We will be holding a book return day as well as "Shop Gear" distribution day on Tuesday June 16th from 9-12. We will be assigning times for dropping off books and any other materials you need to return by shop. We will have you follow the traffic pattern to the right of the building and enter the front circle by taking a left. We will have a table to drop off materials and a table to pick up gear. You will not have to leave your vehicle. Please follow the times below. If the time assigned is not convenient, please email Mr. Parker for a better time.

9:00-10:00

Automotive
Business Tech
Computer Science
CADD
Cosmetology

10:00-11:00

Culinary
Electrical
Electronics
Graphics

11:00-12:00

Health Careers
House and Mill
Machine
Welding

Staff are welcome to attend to say goodbye to their students for the summer.

Mental Health Resources

To feel is human. The pandemic has impacted us all in different ways. The following list of resources have been assembled by our Old Colony Counseling Staff. Please utilize resources as needed. Please reach out if we can be of further assistance.

- <https://oldcolony.us/parents/crisis-counseling/>
- <https://namimass.org>
- <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/March-2020/Coronavirus-Mental-Health-Coping-Strategies>
- <https://www.mentalhealth.org>
- <https://www.tarabrach.com/pandemic/>

Help with P-EBT Cards

Families whose students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch started to receive P-EBT cards in the mail on Friday, May 29, and many are having trouble activating their card. To activate (or PIN) a P-EBT card, families will need the letter that the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) sent them, which contains their child's case number. If families lost the letter or never received one, they can go to DTAConnect.com/pebt to get their child's case number. The tool at that link will pre-populate with the standard first 10 digits of the P-EBT card. Please note that the tool is not available on the DTA Connect mobile app.

Families that have their child's case number can use the following instructions: (The Massachusetts EBT vendor was not able to change the automated prompts callers hear when they call to PIN any EBT card [SNAP, TAFDC, or P-EBT], and unfortunately, some of the automated instructions should be different for P-EBT cards.)

- Call the EBT card phone number on the back of the P-EBT card: 800-997-2555.
- Enter the P-EBT card number (it is an 18-digit number).

- Callers will then be prompted to enter the last four digits of their Social Security number. Do not enter the last 4 digits of a Social Security number. For the P-EBT cards, callers must enter the last four digits of their child's case number that was provided on the DTA letter they received in the mail.
- Then enter the child's date of birth using a two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year (example: 04/06/2005).

For more information, visit: map-ebt.org.

Excellence in Effort Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2020 Excellence in Effort Award winners. Thank you to all of the instructors who took time to record a message and attend the ceremony, and to the incredible team of people who organized and produced the ceremony. A challenge expands our capacity. Willingness and effort are the first steps in meeting any challenge before us. Visit the following link to view our [Excellence in Effort Ceremony](#).

Coffee Talk

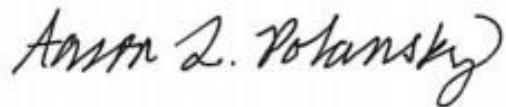
Our last Coffee Talk of the year will take place on Wednesday, June 17th. If you haven't had the opportunity to join, you don't know what you're missing. **We will debut the CoVid-19 tribute song as a way to end the year on a high note at this particular Coffee Talk.** Students, Staff, Families, and Community Members are all welcome. Bring your singing voices if you're brave enough to unmute for the chorus. [Register to attend by clicking on this link](#).

Senior Awards Ceremony and Class of 2020 Graduation

Our Senior Awards Ceremony and Graduation will be held on July 14th and July 19th respectively. Additional information relative to both events will be communicated in the current weeks.

We thank you for your continued support and collaboration and wish you all a wonderful end of the school year.

Sincerely,



Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director