



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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CVTE Coordinator

October 25, 2020

Dear Old Colony Families,

We hope this correspondence finds you in good health and positive spirits. We have been truly blessed during our first three cycles of school. Our students have had the opportunity to enjoy their vocational education in-person and our academic teachers have approached online learning with marked improvements from the spring season. We would like to thank our students for maintaining excellent attitudes, attendance and commitment during both in person and remote learning models, while balancing the need to stay home when potential symptoms associated with CoVid may arise.

As seasons change and weather begins to get a little bit cooler, we would like to remind folks that our vigilance through proactive, preventative action is so important. Our community has been incredible in coming together to put our best foot forward. Students have been mature, cooperative, responsible, and upbeat in their approaches. Please continue in this manner as we enter into the Thanksgiving and holiday season. Please consider the following when making decisions about whether to stay home or attend in-person learning:



Food Security

As we continue to navigate this new normal, we are aware of the fact that each of our Old Colony families is impacted differently by the pandemic. Please know that all school breakfasts and lunches are available to our students at **no cost** throughout the rest of the school year due to federal funding. We would also like to remind families that we have meals available for pick-up at **no cost**, two times per week, for *any child under the age of 21* in your home. These meals must be pre-ordered and can be picked up curbside on our front rotary by the main entrance. For more information on this program, please contact Mrs. Crystal Andrade, School Nutrition Director at candrade@OldColony.us. Thank you to our dedicated cafeteria staff who have been working extra hours to ensure our Old Colony families are nourished, and to our maintenance staff who are working diligently to ensure that our facility is clean and prepared daily to ensure the best possible learning conditions for our students and staff.

Admissions

The admissions process for the Class of 2025 is officially open. In past years, we have had the opportunity to welcome students from our member schools to an Open House and to three different in-person visits with their entire middle school. Due to the pandemic, we will be running our Open House virtually on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Applicants interested in attending can register at <https://oldcolony.go2cte.com>. Our application and the opportunity to sign up for smaller in-person tours are also available at this website. Please share this information in abundance with your friends, family, and colleagues with children in the 8th grade from our sending districts. Word of mouth has always been the most powerful form of promoting our incredible school community. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. We make an effort to provide weekly, and sometimes daily updates about the many happenings in our school community on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OldColonyRVTHS>.

Celebrations

Congratulations to [Bethany Botelho](#), Vocational Coordinator at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School on her recent nomination for the AASA Women In Leadership Award. Under Beth's leadership, Old Colony's Cooperative Employment statistics have skyrocketed to some of the top in the state. Mrs. Botelho has also played an integral part in the admissions process, update of articulation agreements with post-secondary partners, and grant writing efforts that have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is a national recognition. Finalists will be selected in November and a recipient will be announced around the new year.

Congratulations to Mr. Ralph Blackburn, Machine and Tool Instructor and 2020 Outlaw Racing Champion. For those familiar with the racing circuit, Outlaw is the class, 10.5 is the maximum tire width you can run. Real street has an index of 11.50 seconds. In 2016, Mr. Blackburn started this journey of running this class. The first year he only ran a handful of races and got hooked. The following three years he finished as the class runner up. This year he is the Champion. Mr. Parker, Mr. Linehan, Mr. Palmieri and Mr. Bertrand travelled to New Hampshire so see Mr. Blackburn compete this past Sunday where he was crown 2020 Series Champion.



Last year our Old Colony students and instructors finalized our beautiful lobby renovation. This year we unveil the lights on our "Field of Dreams" and would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Cabral in our Electrical Department for his work on the project and to everyone else who made this effort a reality. We look forward to our return to normalcy when we will have the opportunity to showcase our students in this forum!

Congratulations (continued)

It is our pleasure to introduce Ms. Isabelle Darcy, our new Student Representative to the Old Colony District School Committee. Isabelle is a member of the Class of 2021 from Carver in the CADD Program. Isabelle is currently participating in Co-op with Griffith and Vary in Wareham and serves as the Senior Class President. Isabelle brings great poise and maturity to her role and also serves as a member of the National Honor Society, Non-Traditional Club, Student Advisory Board, Varsity Volleyball Team, and SkillsUSA. Isabelle is a dancer and has participated in competition at a national level. Isabelle's brother is a freshman at Old Colony. She comes from a legacy of Old Colony alumni. Congratulations Isabelle.

Thank you

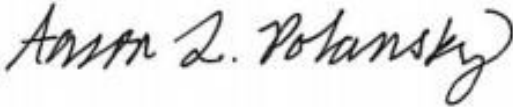
We would be remiss if we did not take the time to recognize the unselfish efforts that have come to the forefront during the past few months. It takes a collaborative effort to perform at high levels in the face of adversity. In circumstances such as this, some folks would simply look to maintain the status quo. We have continued to introduce added opportunities for our students in the form of fishing, archery, intercultural club, and more. Additionally, the number of parents, guardians, and community members who have stepped to the plate to offer assistance in whatever form they are able (donations of time, advisory assistance, Cooperative Employment hosts, and more) has been overwhelming. We take significant pride in the fact that the Old Colony name has taken on meaning beyond our walls and look forward to ongoing collaboration with our many stakeholders and growing network as we focus on the development of the whole student.

UMass Dartmouth: College Information Invitation

The College of Engineering will have its virtual open house on Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. Dean Jean VanderGheynst, faculty and staff, invite our students and parents to join them and learn about the College of Engineering's 8 majors and hear from current students regarding opportunities for undergraduate research, internships, and student organizations. Please encourage your student to attend the open house by registering before Thursday using [the following link](#) (click on Virtual Session at lower left).

We thank you for your continued partnership, insights, and feedback as we journey into late fall. As is always the case, our doors are open and we are all accessible via email, phone, or in-person if there is something we can assist you with. Wishing you a wonderful rest of October and happy and healthy November as we approach the Thanksgiving season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron L. Polansky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director