



Veazie Community School

1040 School Street Veazie, ME 04401

(207)947-6573 / FAX(207)947-6570

Superintendent of Schools & Principal: Matthew D. Cyr

3/14/20

6:15pm EST

Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members,

I want to thank all of you who have expressed support, asked good questions, and helped to support each other while we worked together to understand the COVID-19/coronavirus pandemic. Keeping everyone's health and safety is at the forefront of all decision making.

In an effort to proactively slow the spread of COVID-19, I am announcing that Veazie Community School will be closed beginning Monday, March 16 through Monday, March 30th. No classes, clubs, or activities will be held, and our school will be closed to the general public. The length of this closure is subject to change as the situation develops and new information becomes available.

This decision is based on input from the Maine CDC and Department of Education, public safety officials, the School Committee Chair, and from the many medical professionals in the community. Our civic duty is to help "flatten the curve" and slow the spread of COVID-19/coronavirus.

I understand that this decision will put some of our families in further difficulty and wish that this would not be the case. It imperative that our community and the rest of the state start to put into effect 'social distancing' strategies (being at least 6 - 8 feet apart). Further communication and information will be forthcoming as we proceed forward and monitor the current situation.

Please know that I do not take this action lightly, but feel it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our students, staff, and community members. All scheduled meetings during this closure are cancelled and will be rescheduled only after we fully understand the magnitude of this situation.

COMMUNICATION: I will continue to use the school website, app, texting, and social media to share information. Given the circumstances, it will be difficult for us to reliably mail home all memos as we have over the past couple of weeks. Parents and students may continue to communicate with teachers with the general understanding that it may take up to 24 "normal" business hours to receive a response.

STUDENTS WORKING FROM HOME: Staff have been working diligently over the past couple of weeks preparing work packets and online resources for students; however we ran out of time and were not able to do

www.veaziecs.org

"Small School, BIG Heart!"



Veazie Community School

1040 School Street Veazie, ME 04401
(207)947-6573 / FAX(207)947-6570

Superintendent of Schools & Principal: Matthew D. Cyr

this with 100% of our students. All staff will be reporting to school on Monday, March 16th to prepare optional student work and learning opportunities during this school closure. Staff will work diligently to complete the organization of work packets and online resources. We will announce a plan for safely distributing student work on Monday. Students that do not have access to technology at home and would like to borrow a school device may do so—teachers may have already communicated with parents on this regard. The plan to safely distribute these devices will also be announced on Monday, March 16th. These learning opportunities are not required, however they are recommended and strongly encouraged to assist your child in maintaining his or her reading, writing, and math skills; and , their passion for learning during this unexpected school closure.

CONTINUITY OF FOOD SERVICE FOR FREE OR REDUCED ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: I will be working with the food service department on Monday to devise a plan for providing access to breakfast and lunch for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. At this point in time, this option will only be available to students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

CONTINUITY OF CENTRAL OFFICE FUNCTIONS: During this official school closure, teachers, administrators, and office staff will still have access to the building but will be expected to practice social distancing. The school building will not be open to the general public. Custodial staff will continue to work conducting extensive cleaning. All business and administrative functions for Veazie Community School will continue, but will look different. We will return phone calls and emails as quickly as possible. Your patience is appreciated.

This situation is unprecedented and I wish to acknowledge this is a difficult time for all, especially our students. Don't hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns. Please continue to monitor the school facebook page and website for official updates and additional information. Thank you for your time and support, please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent & Principal
mcyr@veaziecs.org

www.veaziecs.org

"Small School, BIG Heart!"