

Dr. Charles Barnum Elementary School
March 13, 2020



From the principal:

There is a lot of discussion surrounding COVID-19; please be sure to read the letter sent out by Dr. Mike Graner, Superintendent of Schools. We have attached it to this newsletter for your convenience. There is a lot of information on how our district is being proactive in reducing the effects in our schools.

Within the schools, we are encouraging the use of water bottles instead of using the water fountains. We are also encouraging social-distancing for everyone and requesting that all adults remain out of the building unless we have scheduled a meeting with you. This includes no parents in the buildings for celebrations or lunches. You are even encouraged to attend meetings by phone. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

In the event that schools close due to the virus, we will be working on e-learning (Friday) and will have more information to send home next week. We appreciate your support - feel free to ask if you have questions!

Seth Danner
sdanner@groton.k12.ct.us

**Principal
of the
Day**

Dorean Crews
~ Love ~



Dorean loves pop tarts, green eggs and ham, and soccer. In school he feels he is best at math and PE but would like to be better at reading. Outside of school, Dorean helps to clean the house, enjoys ga-ga ball, playing games and would like to travel to Virginia one day. Dorean said Charles Barnum is his hero because the school helps people learn. Dorean's message for today is "Wash your hands for 30 seconds, teachers and students!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ **Apr. 1-3: Full Days of School**

Conferences are canceled and will be rescheduled.

**Attendance Matters.
You Matter.**



ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR THE WEEK OF 3/9-3/12:

LATE ARRIVALS: 53

EARLY DISMISSALS: 49

ATTENDANCE: 92.6%

Charles Barnum Elementary School

Health Safety Reminders:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- If you are ill, stay home.

While before/after school clubs will still continue, all extra curricular activities have been canceled including Parent/Teacher conferences, Paint Night, and field trips.

Barnum's Super Power for March: **Compassion**

Three Ways to Practice Compassion:

- **Help Yourself** - You are amazing how you are. Be proud of yourself.
- **Just Like Me** - Be kind to others. They have good days and bad days just like you. Everyone wants to have a good day.
- **Give Presence** - When you see a friend who is sad, let them know you care.

PTO NEWS

Thank you for the great participation in the Boon Fundraiser!

March PTO meeting - CANCELED

The PTO is a huge part of the school support system. If you would like to get involved, please reach out. You can send emails to: cbpto@outlook.com

MOVING??



If you will be moving, please give 2-3 weeks notice. You will need to complete withdrawal paperwork in the front office. Thank you for your cooperation.



Our Read Across America Celebration week ended with slime!
Check out some of the fun our staff and students had.





GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut 06340 • 1300 Flanders Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355
PHONE (860) 572-2100 • FAX (860) 572-2107

March 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I wanted to provide a detailed explanation regarding Groton Public Schools response to the Coronavirus concerns. A district task force has developed a series of recommendations in accordance with state, local, national health officials, and Governor Lamont. At this time, Groton Public Schools is taking the following actions:

Immediate Response

- Groton Public Schools is attempting to minimize the chance of transmission by maintaining “social distancing.” We are encouraging adults, including volunteers, to not visit our schools until after April 20, 2020.
- All field trips have been postponed or cancelled until April 20, 2020.
- The State Health Department recommends postponing all gatherings of more than 100 people. As a result, all school sponsored activities, such as plays and concerts, have been postponed.
- The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) has cancelled all of its remaining winter tournament games.
- The elementary and middle schools’ parent/teacher conferences scheduled for April 1, 2, & 3 have been cancelled, and the children will have a full day of school on those days. We plan to provide an opportunity for parent/teacher contact later in the spring.
- Report cards will be issued in late March; if parents have immediate concerns, they may contact their child’s teacher.
- In accordance with CDC recommendations, those who may have been traveling abroad are being closely monitored.

Cleaning

- Custodial and maintenance staff are sanitizing classroom desks and other high touch surfaces.
- School buses will be disinfected after the morning and afternoon runs.
- Technology equipment will be sanitized daily.
- Custodians will use authorized disinfectant cleaning solutions to sanitize classrooms and cafeteria tables.

Healthcare

- Students are being encouraged to routinely wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Coughs and sneezes should be done into a tissue or an elbow.
- Hand washing posters will be displayed in school hallways, bathrooms, and on buses.
- While school attendance is extremely important, we want to encourage students and staff who are ill to remain home during this period.

Possible School Closure

- Our schools are preparing for a possible multi-day closure if needed. Teachers are developing on-line instructional experiences and learning packets in the event our schools may need to close for up to ten days.

We will continue to provide updates from state and local health officials on our website at www.grotonschools.org.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Graner, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent sickness. Germs are everywhere, can stick to hands and surfaces and travel from person to person. When we touch our hands to our mouth, nose or eyes we run the risk of meeting those germs close up! Washing your hands regularly is the easiest thing you can do to protect yourself and your students from becoming ill.

How to wash your hands correctly:

- Wet your hands with warm water and apply soap.
- Rub hands together to make a lather and start to scrub all surfaces of the hands and under the nails.
- Continue rubbing hands for 20 seconds.
- Rinse your hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer and use the paper towel to turn off the faucet.

When are the best times to wash?

- Before and after preparing food.
- Before and after eating.
- After using the toilet.
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet.
- Before and after tending to someone who is sick.
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- After handling and animal or animal waste.
- After handling garbage.
- Before and after treating a cut or wound.
- Before and after putting in contact lenses.