

Dr. Charles Barnum Elementary School

March 19, 2021

From the Assistant Principal:

Thank you for your patience with us as we transition our carpool to include all students in the building. Please be mindful of the time and arrive at 8:40 or later for arrival and at 3:10 or later for dismissal. This will help the traffic to flow smoother rather than backing up. We truly appreciate your help with this.

The take home meals are changing!! Next week, March 22-26, there will be no food sent home with students. This is so the kitchen staff can prepare for all students to be in the building the following week. Beginning the week of March 29th, each Tuesday students will be sent home with 1 breakfast and 1 lunch for their virtual Wednesday.

The Superintendent sent out a letter yesterday evening regarding the Phase-In plan. We have included a portion of it in this newsletter. Be sure to take the time to read the full letter.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the school or myself so we can help.

Christy Post, Assistant Principal, cpost@groton.k12.ct.us



Charles Barnum Phase-In Information

Barnum will begin the phase-in process to 4 days in-person learning next week and will continue to be virtual on Wednesday. Grades, K, 1, and 2 will join us next week starting on the 22nd and grades 3, 4, and 5 will move to 4 days per week starting the 29th. At that time, we will have close to 85% of our students in the school and will cause a shift in how we deliver in-person and virtual instruction. Each grade level and classroom has a different amount of virtual students; this will mean our delivery of virtual instruction may look different between grade levels and students at home will need to be more independent. These changes will be communicated by the grade level teams. Each classroom will spend time reviewing classroom routines, safety protocols, and establish healthy routines for the increase in students. Some students will be placed in small groups across the grade level and we will continue cohorting at recess by grade.

We strongly encourage virtual students to attend zoom sessions as they may not all be recorded. Attendance will be taken daily for in-person students. For students who have selected in-person learning, they will be marked absent if not physically in the building; vacations will follow the district policy and students will be marked absent. Attendance for identified 100% virtual learners will continue to be based on work completion. There is no more option to swap between in-person and virtual learning unless a COVID issue arises; please continue to communicate with the nurse or office if there is a quarantine concern. If at any time you have questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

Highlights from the Superintendent

All families are offered two options at this time: full remote learning or face-to-face in-person learning in the classroom.

Remote and In-Person Learning:

- Teachers will provide mini lessons that can be accessed by remote learners on Zoom (or other live streaming technology). They will receive communications and assignments through the LMS, supported by their teacher, a tutor, an interventionist or a substitute teacher.

Wednesdays:

- Currently on Wednesdays, all students will continue to be provided with remote learning and teacher support during their established office hours and/or Zoom meetings.

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"Be the person that makes others feel special." - Anonymous

Highlights (continued) from the Superintendent

Attendance:

- Students will commit to either full in-person or full remote learning for the rest of the school year.
- Attendance will be monitored daily and by period in accordance to the district attendance policy for in-person learners. If a student is not present at school, they will be marked absent, according to the district policy. They will not be able to switch to remote learning for the day.
- Remote learner attendance will be monitored daily using attendance in Zoom mini lessons, check-ins, and/or completion of required assignments.
- The district's policy for vacations will also be in effect, and students will be marked absent if they are on vacation.
- Quarantined students will be moved to remote learning for the period of quarantine only.

Safe practices for In-Person Learning:

While many strategies will remain the same, here are a few changes:

- Physical distancing of 3 feet when feasible
- Students may work in groups and share materials with safety measures
- Cohorts are expanding

As always, please remember to monitor your symptoms and stay home when you or someone you live with is ill - has a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **Mar. 22: K - 2nd grade begins 4-day week**
- ★ **Mar. 29: 3rd - 5th grade Begins 4-day week**

Family Discussion Starters!

- What does it **feel** like when you see someone else suffering?

Take-Home Meals/Meal Distribution

Take home meals are changing!

No meals will be sent home next week, March 22-26th, so that the kitchen staff can prepare for all students to be in the building. Beginning the week of March 29th - 1-day meal bags will be sent home on Tuesdays only.

Fully distance meal distribution is changing!

Starting next week, March 22nd - a google sign up is required for the food distribution and will only be distributed at the Groton Public Library from 9-10. The google form can be found on the district website on the Food Services Page.

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

Big Ideas to Help Activate Your Compassion:

- To show **compassion** to others, you must first learn to be kind and forgiving to ourselves.
- "Just like me, others have struggles and want to be happy." Remembering this simple truth helps us **break down barriers** to understand and help more people.
- Sometimes the best thing you can do for someone suffering is **just to be there**.
- **Compassion** benefits everyone: the giver, the receiver, and even the people who bear witness to it.

"Be the person that makes others feel special." - Anonymous