March 16, 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support in such turbulent and unprecedented times. As you may be aware, school has been cancelled statewide per Governor Baker until at least April 7, 2020. The district leadership team continues to consult the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as well as the Massachusetts Department of Health to make the best decisions with available information. Needless to say, this is a fluid situation and guidance appears to change daily. We will be providing updates as we learn more.

The Commissioner of Education, Jeffrey Riley, has explicitly communicated that no district may substitute online learning for face-to-face instruction. However, educators are currently working on developing resources to engage your child(ren) at home. Please know that these activities will not be graded but should serve as a way to stay connected to the academic community. Second trimester elementary report cards will be available through Aspen on Friday, March 27, 2020.

We ask your partnership to ensure that today and tomorrow are treated as planning days, allowing the district’s leadership team and teachers time to plan, communicate, and disseminate information for continued engagement. You should receive information from your child’s teacher through email and Schoology on Wednesday (3/18) and each Friday thereafter.

At this time, April vacation remains on the school calendar as scheduled. Grades 3-5 ELA MCAS has been postponed.

We understand that some children may have medication housed at the schools. If you are in need of this medication, please email your school’s nurse and we will make arrangements for pickup.

Building administrators will be available by email. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

We feel incredibly fortunate to work within such a supportive community.

Warmest regards,

Eliza Burns, Cole School Principal  
Nate Thorsteinson, Vinal School Principal
Heather Benner, Cole School Asst. Principal  
Tracy Riordan, Vinal School Asst. Principal