TO: MSAD 08 Community

Date: March 18, 2020

From: Tonya Arnold, Superintendent

Dear Families,

Staff of Vinalhaven School in every position came together; working efficiently, learning much quickly with compassion for supporting families. Our hope is to provide as much academic continuity and opportunity to keep students (and parents) socially connected to the school staff (and one another) focused around positive content to help counter the emotional toll the media updates are having on us all in these trying times.

Governor’s new emergency response announcements urged all public schools to end all classroom-based instruction during the period of State of Emergency and cancel public gatherings of 10+.

Here are they key impact of these and other public service announcements for you to be aware:

1. NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS at school is through April 17th.

2. All teachers and ed techs have worked together to create a plan for learning that includes both packets of materials and online resources, lessons, activities and structured social interactions with their teachers and ed techs. Each team and teacher has created and distributed more specifics about this plan. At 11:00 am Thursday packages will leave the school to be delivered to homes. Over the next two days, staff will respond to questions and reach out to families to check in for understanding. Next week the routine of activities and supports will be underway, with everyone adjusting and improving as we all gain more experience with this mode of operation.

3. On our school webpage, Randy will be posting some key resources to help get parents get acquainted with some of the technology tools and systems like infinite campus, google classroom, and others as things progress.

4. The building is open to HEALTHY STAFF ONLY. Specific protocols are in place to check health and track traffic flow to ensure additional sanitation are in place.

5. All community activities and events using the school building and playground are cancelled until April 27th. This is to allow our disinfecting to have the maximum effect.

6. Germs can likely live on the playground equipment for a couple of days depending on the weather. We do not currently have the manpower to sanitize the equipment and cannot assume liability for community use of the playground. **Use of school fields and playground are at your own risk.**

Thank you for all you are doing individually to help with community health. I will continue to send weekly updates, and additional memos if needed. Keep calm, and stay kind and clean.