

Vinalhaven School News, by Superintendent/Principal Tonya Arnold



School Vacation is April 18 to 26: Students and parents will not be expected to adhere to remote learning routines the staff have in place during the week of April vacation. We hope your family can enjoy fun back yard adventures!

Food deliveries: As restrictions on socialization evolve we will be looking for ways to reduce the number of deliveries per week, but maintain the same amount of meals families receive for a week. Please ensure you are home to pick up the food from your doorstep. If a family no longer needs the food deliveries, please email kphilbrook@vinalhavenschool.org

Remote learning extends through end of School Year: Based on the new priority notice from the Commissioner of Education, Vinalhaven School is planning to continue remote learning through the end of this school year. US CDC guidance recommends an 8 to 20 week timeframe for avoiding large group/in-person instruction once there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19.

The SAT is not required for admission, nor will it be required as a screener for any program, at any Maine college or university. In addition, we are hearing that colleges and university across the country are following suit. [NPR reported about this last week.](#)

Grading will continue throughout fourth quarter, and teachers are available to help. Elementary teachers are planning to provide a narrative summary of learning progress at the end of the school. Middle and high school students who are behind should reach out to teachers for help in prioritizing which work to focus on first. These teachers are committed to providing support that will lead to the best chance of meeting credit requirements for graduation.

Widow Island Fund (WIF): A reminder that if you have a program in mind to serve our children, please submit an application to me by April 30. I will convene via zoom the WIF Award Committee appointed by our Board last fall to review the applications and award grants In early May. You can find the application on the school website by going to the RESOURCES tab, then TEACHERS, then scroll to the bottom of FORMS. NOTE: A school level leader (this round Bryan Feezor) must provide a letter of support before you submit it!

Budget Development Continues: Another budget work session via zoom on 4-8-20. A new budget draft was presented on 4-1-20 that reduced the increases based on staff's view of what the ideal resources would be to best meet our students needs that was originally a 16% increase (3-4-20 presentation) to 11.38%. This reduction to 11.38% came from trimming out the idea of returning the HS social studies position, extending of the one year MS special ed position, and increasing technology integration and hardware support. Further analysis and cuts will be presented on 4-8-20 reducing the increase to 9.8%.

Regular Board Meeting: Scheduled for April 15 was originally expected to include a vote on the final budget, followed by district budget meeting on May 12. June 9 was the budget referendum date, but the Governor is considering moving that to July 14th due to the social distancing requirements.