



SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 04.03.20

Dear SA Families,

I hope you are cozy and dry today. It's been a busy week as Burlington School District, with guidance from the Agency of Education, prepares to implement a plan for students to learn at home for the rest of the school year. This plan is set to go into place on April 13, 2020. Please note that until April 13 we are in a "maintenance of learning" phase, which means that we are focused on maintaining the learning students engaged in *before* schools closed in mid-March. During this time, our main priority is to check in with families, learn how we can better support you, and ensure that students are safe. We know that the initial learning materials we provided might be nearing their end, and so the district has created additional learning materials for families. These learning packets will be available online or in paper copy at the food distribution sites beginning on Monday, April 6.

SA staff are meeting on a daily basis in order to prepare for our transition to school at home. By next week we will be able to share a district-wide set of recommendations around how much time students should spend working on core academic areas and guidance around how much time students should spend in front of a screen each day. We are working hard to ensure that we are providing high-quality materials that are accessible through a variety of channels. We recognize that the available time and capacity each family has to support student learning varies from home to home, and are actively working to differentiate learning activities to allow for these differences.

Lastly, I want to address what took place during Wednesday Morning Meeting this week. SA strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for all, and I am disappointed that an individual briefly interrupted this. I am grateful, however, that so many of our community members joined for the restart of the meeting and were able to connect with one another. I can also assure our community that we have added in additional security measures to prevent a future incident, and that the district is working to provide additional guidance on which platforms are safe for use with our students.

For more information and ongoing updates, I encourage you to visit the [BSD Coronavirus Updates Page](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly (noropeza@bsdvt.org).

With gratitude,

Ms. Oropeza

Principal, Sustainability Academy
802.343.6607

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 [@ninaOropeza](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

- **Free meals for all kids - Monday-Friday, 10:30-11:30am next to the SA playground.** Additional food sites and information here: <https://www.burlingtonschoolfoodproject.org/menus/>
- **SA Morning Announcements Monday-Friday @ 8:30am** on [Instagram Live](#), available by 9:00am on [Facebook](#)

<p>Monday, 4/6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chromebook Distribution (grades 3-5), by appointment only <i>If your family is in need of a chromebook (3rd-5th grade families), please email your teacher to let them know. You can find staff emails here.</i> ● SA April PTO Meeting (6:00-7:30 pm) <i>Join us to meet other SA families and stay up-to-date on what's going on at SA and how you can be involved. Agenda and meeting link can be found here.</i>
<p>Tuesday, 4/7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Math Challenge #2 Submissions Due (Optional) ● Principal & Coach Virtual Coffee, 9:00-9:45 am <i>Join Principal Oropeza and Coach Kestrel for a virtual coffee meeting. During this time we will answer questions and check-in on how we can support you.</i> Join Hangouts Meet meet.google.com/iuv-gsyv-mgu
<p>Wednesday, 4/8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wednesday Morning Meeting, 8:30 am <i>Wednesday Morning Meeting lives on, even during physical school closures! We hope many SA families will be able to join us on Wednesday at 8:30am. You can watch Wednesday Morning Meeting on Instagram and Facebook.</i>
<p>Thursday, 4/9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No school-wide events scheduled on this day.
<p>Friday, 4/10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next Family Newsletter will be emailed

UPDATES, REMINDERS, & TO-DO'S

Device and Internet Needs

Some of our families have expressed a need for internet access and/or the need for a chromebook or other device to help with school at home. At this time, BSD is providing chromebooks for students in grades 3-5, based on needs identified in the survey that many of you filled out. SA will distribute chromebooks to families on Monday, April 6. If you completed the survey, you should have received a call from an SA staff member today or yesterday to coordinate a time to pick up the chromebook.

Families identifying more than one elementary student in need of a chromebook will receive one chromebook for students to share. If your student is in K - 2nd grades, he or she will not be receiving a chromebook at this time. This decision is based on both available numbers of chromebooks and current practice related to device usage students in grades K-2. We do have your information and request and will contact you if additional devices are distributed at a later date.

If you need internet access, please call Burlington Telecom at 802-540-0007 to identify your location and need to determine if they can provide service.

If you did not complete the survey but need a chromebook, please reach out to your child's teacher via email. You can find emails in our [Staff Directory](#). Thank you to those of you who have already been in touch.

Coaches Corner

As part of our effort to stay connected with our students and our wider school collaborators, we are partnering with Shelburne Farms to offer short educational videos twice a week. Every Tuesday and Thursday, we will upload a video about a variety of EFS topics onto our Facebook and Instagram feeds. Even though the Farm is closed, the educators are able to teach about a variety of subjects from the places they live. A few folks are still working at the Farm to maintain essential operations such as taking care of the animals. In a recent video, we got a behind-the-scenes look at how the farmyard animals spend their winters. We are so grateful for our partners' support during these uncertain times. Stay tuned for more videos from the Farm staff and hopefully from some of our other partners soon.

- Ms. Kestrel (kplump@bsdvt.org), Education for Sustainability Coach

Counselor's Corner

I would like to start by saying how much I miss seeing your students each day! I miss walking through the halls each morning and greeting them as they were shedding off their snow clothes and getting ready for the day. There is so much that we all miss right now. I wanted to reach out to all of you to let you know that I am here for each one of you. This is a difficult time for everyone. Every person has been impacted in some way. For many of us, this is a real struggle. You are not alone! During this time of physical distancing, I hope that we can all remain connected. My "office hours" remain the same, and I am here to connect with and support anyone who needs it. I have created a website for my counseling services to you and your student, and everyone at SA. You can find the link on our website or directly at: <https://saschoolcounseling.weebly.com/>.

Here you will find resources for both parents and students. Right now, you might be most drawn to the tabs for Parents and for Covid-19, as these tabs both provide a lot of resources for you, as caregivers, during this time of change and uncertainty.

There is one message that I believe a lot of parents need to hear right now, and that is this:

We do value your child's education very much. But even more, we value them and YOU, as people. Of course we care about our students' education, but we care even more about their health and safety. We want our children and



families to be well, both physically and mentally. We care about your stress levels and all that you are dealing with right now. We care about your family's ability to relax and breathe and focus on the things that matter most.

During the past two weeks, I have talked with several families who are really struggling to do everything well. You are now dealing with something that you never signed up for and it may feel very overwhelming. But it is OK if it takes a little while to settle into a new routine. The entire country is having to adjust to a new normal right now, and this doesn't happen overnight. If your kiddos are too stressed to focus on schoolwork right now, let them take a break. If you are too stressed to focus on something right now, do your best to take a break. We are here for you. We miss our students and families and we are all in this together. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need help or would even just like to talk. There is a contact form on my website if you'd like to connect, and I will get back with you right away. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and please do reach out, even if it is just to say hello!

- Susan Dodd (sdodd@bsdvt.org), School Counselor

Nurse's Corner

School is closed, but we're here to help!

In addition to our Teachers, the SA Support Staff is here as a resource for you. If you are struggling or feeling overwhelmed, you're not alone. Please reach out if you need help. We're here for you.

Justina Starr - School Nurse - jstarr@bsdvt.org

Susan Dodd - School Counselor - sdodd@bsdvt.org

David Fitzpatrick - School Psychologist - dfitzpatrick@bsdvt.org

Other Resources:

Vermont 211 - Resource assistance [Vermont 2-1-1 - Find Resources](#)

CVOEO - https://www.cvoeo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=dep_menu&menu_id=5185&dept_id=4

City of Burlington Resource and Recovery Website - [Resource and Recovery Center \(RRC\)](#)


Feeding Chittenden Food Shelf - 228 North Winooski Ave. M-W-F food distribution, 9-4

First Call - Mental health services - [First Call For Chittenden County](#)

Steps to End Domestic Violence - [Steps to End Domestic Violence](#)



On a lighter note, here's a recipe for the ewwy-goey strangely sensory favorite Oobleck. The only ingredients you need are cornstarch and water. When you're done, it just wipes clean (if you don't use food coloring). Is it a liquid or a solid?



Let's Make Oobleck!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 1.5-2 cups cornstarch
- a few drops of food coloring - optional

Instructions:

1. Pour water into a small bowl.
2. Begin adding cornstarch to the water. You can stir with a spoon at first, but you'll need to use your hand soon as the mixture thickens.
3. Once you've added the initial 1.5 cups of cornstarch, add the remaining amount a little at a time. You may not need it all.
4. You are looking for a consistency that is liquid and solid all at the same time.
5. If you find you've added too much cornstarch, add a little more water to thin it out.

- Justina Starr (jstarr@bsdvt.org), School Nurse