

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 04.10.20

Dear SA Families,

Thanks for your patience with our district and school community. We've received valuable feedback from families that is continuing to inform our plan for remote learning. Here are some of the adjustments we've made in the past week based on suggestions from parents:

- **Pre-Recorded Wednesday Morning Meeting** - so families can access at a time that works for them.
- **Art Activity Website** - We've heard from you that you'd like more activities for students to access at home. Ms. Kalisz has launched an art website with suggestions of activities that she will continue to build out. Thank you, Ms. Kalisz!

The District has set the foundation for the remote learning plan and submitted it to the Vermont Agency of Education. Superintendent Obeng and Executive Director of Curriculum and Learning Phillips discussed the plan during a town hall on Thursday. In case you missed it and want to watch, you can access that [here](#). District Instructional Coaches will provide plans for all students in Burlington School District next week (4/13-4/17). These will be shared via email (when they are available) and at food distribution sites next week. The following week, we'll be on spring break.

Beginning on Monday, April 27 (the week after spring break), SA staff will launch campus-specific materials for our students. SA is planning to begin some additional structures for students next week, and I want to preview to you what we're planning, much of which will begin next week:

- **All SA Students will have the opportunity to connect with their classmates socially at least twice a week (beginning on Monday, April 13).**

We recognize how much kids are missing each other right now, and we want to do what we can to keep social bonds strong. We're planning to have weekly classroom meetings on Mondays, as well as weekly lunch bunches for students, by grade level. You can see a draft schedule for each of these below. We will also continue to post daily announcements on instagram and facebook, as well as Wednesday Morning Meeting.

| Classroom Community Meetings | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| K | Mondays @ 9:00am |
| 1 | Mondays @ 9:30am |
| 2 | Mondays @10:00am |
| 3/4 | Mondays @10:30am |
| 5 | Mondays @11:00am |

| Grade Level Lunch Bunches | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| K | Mondays @ 12:00pm |
| 1 | Tuesday @ 12:00pm |
| 2 | Wednesdays @12:00pm |
| 3/4 | Thursdays @ 12:00pm |
| 5 | Friday @12:00pm |



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- **Families and students can access teachers during office hours, two hours a week that are set aside solely for family communication (beginning on Monday, April 13).**

We can't replace the value of students and teachers working in classrooms together each day, but we can provide opportunities for students, parents, and teachers to connect. Beginning next week, classroom teachers will host office hours. Your child's teacher will share more information with you about the schedule and ways to get in touch for their specific office hours. You are always welcome to reach out to teachers, or to me, via email with any questions, comments, or concerns. As a reminder, you can find staff emails [here](#).

- **All SA Students will have daily learning objectives for math, reading, writing, and specials (beginning on Monday, April 27)**

Beginning on Monday, SA families will receive a weekly grid of daily learning activities. Next week (April 13-17), all Burlington schools will continue to use materials provided by the district curriculum office.

- **We will continue to provide both paper and online options for families to access.**

We're working hard to get access to devices and internet for all of our families. We're not there yet. In the meantime and for the foreseeable future, we will provide both online and paper copy resources for all families who are interested. Grades K-2 will be using the app [Seesaw](#), which is uniquely designed for younger students. Grades 3-5 will be using Google Classroom, a Google platform designed to be a virtual classroom.

Lastly, SA staff will be contacting your family via phone today or Monday to share more about our plan for remote learning. We know that having a conversation is often more helpful than reading an email. During the conversation, we'll learn more about if your family would like to receive paper learning materials or if you'd prefer to access materials online.

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



[@sustainabilityacademybsd](#)



[@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](#)



SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY

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| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Monday, 4/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Classroom Community Meetings Begin! <i>Your child's classroom teacher will be in touch with more information about how your family can access classroom community meetings.</i>● K Lunch bunch with Mr. David (School Psychologist), 12:00pm <i>Kindergartners, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Mr. David, SA teachers, and your friends! If you are a kindergarten family and want to sign up, please email Monica Gragg, mgragg@bsdvt.org.</i> |
| Tuesday, 4/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Math Challenge #3 Submissions Due (Optional)● 1st Grade Lunch bunch with Ms. Oropeza (Principal), 12:00pm <i>1st graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Ms. Oropeza, SA teachers, and your friends! If you are a first grade family and want to sign up, please email Monica Gragg, mgragg@bsdvt.org.</i> |
| Wednesday, 4/15 | <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 Facebook.</i>● 2nd Grade Lunch bunch with Ms. Dodd (School Counselor), 12:00pm <i>2nd graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Ms. Dodd, SA teachers, and your friends! If you are a second grade family and want to sign up, please email Monica Gragg, mgragg@bsdvt.org.</i> |
| Thursday, 4/16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3rd/4th Grade Lunch bunch with Nurse Justina and Ms. Lizzie (School-Based Clinician), 12:00pm <i>3rd and 4th graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Nurse Justina, Ms. Lizzie, SA teachers, and your friends! If you are a 3rd/4th grade family and want to sign up, please email Monica Gragg, mgragg@bsdvt.org.</i> |
| Friday, 4/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Virtual Coffee with Nina & Kestrel, 8:30-9:30 am <i>Join Nina (Principal) and Kestrel (Coach) for a virtual coffee meeting. During this time we will answer questions and check-in on how we can support you.</i> <i>Join Hangouts Meet</i> meet.google.com/pmk-ihig-onh <i>Phone Numbers (US)+1 415-604-0653, PIN: 440 303 229#</i>● 5th Grade Lunch bunch with Ms. Kestrel (EFS Coach), 12:00pm <i>5th graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Ms. Kestrel, SA teachers, and your friends! If you are a 5th grade family and want to sign up, please email Monica Gragg, mgragg@bsdvt.org.</i>● Next Family Newsletter will be emailed |



UPDATES, REMINDERS, & TO-DO'S

SA Art Website

I have been wanting to make a website to share all the wonderful art Sustainability Academy students make, and with schools being closed, we got this launched! I have only just begun adding fun and creative resources for students and their families to try. Each week of school closure, I hope to add either a new lesson or resource. This week, Ms. Leah made a video where she showed us how to make a rainbow out of found objects. This project is called "Rainbow Connection" and I added an entire page to my website about rainbows! It has Ms. Leah's video and other videos and songs about color and rainbows! You can access the SA Art website either through the SA school website or directly: <https://joannekalisz.wixsite.com/saart> Don't forget to send me photos of your rainbows!

- Joanne Kalisz (jkalisz@bsdvt.org), Art Teacher

Coaches Corner

- As mentioned last week, we are posting nature note videos from some of our school partners every Tuesday and Friday on our school Facebook and Instagram page. This week, Alice from Shelburne Farms shared a video about [worms](#) and George from Shelburne Farms introduced us to the farm's [newly hatched chicks](#)!
- Looking for more offline learning? Vermont Audubon, an SA community partner, posts mini-activities for outdoor learning every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Find out more here: <https://vt.audubon.org/programs/audubon-from-home>.
- From Ashley Eaton, Watershed and Lake Education Coordinator at UVM Extension: Over the next few weeks the Lake Champlain Sea Grant team will be hosting "Zoom a Scientist," focused on watershed and aquatic science for K-12 students, teachers and community members. This free virtual webinar series features scientists from the University of Vermont Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, SUNY Plattsburgh, the Lake Champlain Research Institute, and our partner organizations. Join us for **What Do Fish Do in the Wintertime?** On Tuesday, April 14th from 1-2pm. Write to watershd@uvm.edu to sign up and get the youtube live link.

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

Nurse's Corner

Dear SA Community,

I'm here to support you even though school is closed. If you have health related questions/concerns or would like some support around accessing community resources to help your family during this time, please reach out to me at jstarr@bsdvt.org. I check emails a few times a day and can get back to you within 24 hours. In cases of emergency, please call 911. - Together we are stronger.

Want a face mask but don't know how to sew? - Here is a Youtube link to learn how to make a mask using only a bandana or piece of 20"x20" cotton fabric and 2 elastics or hair ties. [DIY No Sew Face Mask Easy and Quick for Anyone](#)

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



Additional Community Resources:

Feeding you Family During the Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 Outbreak

Keeping yourself and your whole family as well nourished as possible is one important way to support your health and the health of our whole community. Hunger Free Vermont wants you to know that there are a number of food resources available to help you and your neighbors--we're all in this together!

Has your family lost pay, have you been laid off or have you had your hours reduced?

You may now be eligible for nutrition programs that are designed to help your family and our local economy quickly in unexpected and emergency situations like this one. If you've never used any of these food resources before, please know they are there for you too.

WIC: WIC gives you access to healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, and breastfeeding support. If you're pregnant, a caregiver, or a parent with a child under five, WIC is right for you! To find out more and apply visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/family/wic> or text 'VTWIC' to 855-1

3SquaresVT: Has your household lost pay? Have your childcare expenses increased? 3SquaresVT is here for you and your family to help put food on the table! You could be eligible to receive a 3SquareVT benefit or increase the benefit you already receive. To get help applying visit www.vtfoodbank.org/nurture-people/3squaresvt, call 855-855-6181 or text VFBSNAP to 85511. You can also visit <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/3SquaresVT>

Meal Programs for Older Vermonters: People age 60 and older are especially encouraged to stay at home in order to protect themselves from COVID-19, but staying well nourished is also critical for your health. To help, you may be able to pick up meals to go or have meals delivered to your home. For more information about meals for older adults, please call the Helpline at 1-800-642-5119.

Food assistance through the Vermont Foodbank Network: [Feeding Chittenden](#), located at 228 North Winooski Ave is the primary food shelf for the Burlington area and dedicated to serving our community in times of need. Currently they are open for food distribution M-W-F from 9-4. Breakfast is served in to-go containers from 6:30am - 8:30am Mon - Fri. See their excellent Facebook page for updates and most current schedule.

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 \(RRC\)](#)

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

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

Join Urban Ministry Project (JUMP) - www.jumpvt.org

Skinny Pancake - <https://skinnypancake.com/shiftmeals/>

O.N.E. Good Deed Fund - <https://onegooddeedfund.org/covid-19-relief/>