



SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 09.25.20

Dear SA Families,

Happy Friday! As a result of the continued low Covid-19 infection rates we're seeing across Vermont, Governor Scott announced this week that school can begin operating at [Phase 3](#) for in-person instruction beginning on September 26. Burlington School District is planning to bring students back to school for four days a week beginning in late October. You can expect to hear more information from Superintendent Flanagan later today.

Please read through the updates below for important dates and information. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

With gratitude,

Nina Oropeza
Principal, Sustainability Academy



[@sustainabilityacademybsd](#)



[@ninaOropeza](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date:

- **Every Wednesday and Friday** - Meal box distribution - drive-up or walk-up. At SA, distribution will take place from 3:00-4:30pm.
- **September 30, 2-3pm** - Feed Everyone Task Force email Kestrel (kplump@bsdvt.org) for more information
- **October 5, 6-7:30pm** - October PTO Meeting
- **October 12** - No school, Indigenous Peoples Day
- **October 12-18** - Annual [SA Harvest Run](#) sponsored by SA PTO
- **November 2, 6-7:30pm** - November PTO Meeting
- **November 10** - Picture Day for B Day Students (more information coming soon)
- **November 12** - Picture Day for A Day Students (more information coming soon)

UPDATES & REMINDERS

Device Distribution Update (New!)

Chromebooks for students in grades 3-5 were sent home on Thursday (9/24) for A Day Students and Friday (9/25) for B Day students. iPads for students in grades K-2 will be sent home no later than Thursday (10/1) for A Day Students and Friday (10/2) for B Day Students. Our youngest learners (K-2) need some additional time to learn how to safely use iPads as learning tools.

Free Outdoor Remote Day Activities - Hosted by SA PTO (Updated!)

[Free Outdoor Remote Day Activities - Hosted by SA PTO](#)

With support from the PTO, SA students and families will have access to a series of free outdoor activities on remote learning days. Check out the [full schedule of activities for September 28-October 7 here](#), along with additional details. If you have questions, feedback, or ideas for future activities, please contact Allegra Williams at Allegra442@gmail.com. We hope to see some of you next week!

ONE Arts Center (New!)

The ONE Arts Center is offering a free after school art class for new customers as an opportunity to try it out before signing up! We call our after school art classes Start with Art. We pick up students from SA on Mondays and Fridays and walk them 1 block south to the ONE Arts Center. SA students are welcome on other days as well, but would need to be dropped off at 3pm. Upon arrival, we will take temps, wash/sanitize hands, and then enjoy a snack that we provide. We offer ritz crackers and organic peanut butter, organic apples, organic apple sauce, organic seaweed, raisins, fruit & nut granola bars, and Honest organic juice boxes. If your child has a food allergy, we will accommodate. Then we make art together and parents pick up between 5 and 5:15. Classes are \$25 each. If you would like to try a class for free, please email me, Becca, at info@oneartscenter.com and I'll be in touch to exchange details and make arrangements!

We are also providing day time programming for students every weekday. 8am-12pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as well as 8am-3pm or 5:30pm on Wednesdays. Learn more: <http://oneartscenter.com>

Coaches Corner (Updated Each Week!)

We have a few exciting updates to share this week regarding the Education for Sustainability:

- Last Thursday, the city arborist dropped off **36 stumps for our Kindergarten outdoor classroom!** Students use the stumps as writing desks when doing work, as tables for eating lunch outside or sitting in a circle for a lesson. If I may say so myself, I also think they make the space more visually interesting.
- **We have worms!** Over the summer, the Hobbs-Conboy family donated a worm factory to use for composting with worms - thank you! Earlier today, the fabulous Rhonda at Chittenden Solid Waste District dropped off new inhabitants for our vermicomposting bins in our lobby. The red wigglers will both help us compost leftover food and provide a fabulous showcase of decomposition for students to observe. Mr. Gallagher, a fourth grade teacher, also brought in his vermicomposting bin from home to add to the classroom. The 4th graders will be acting as our SA worm stewards throughout the school year.
- Due to Covid-19 safety precautions, food waste in schools has significantly increased. One measure that the SA parent community is going to take to mitigate food waste is to redistribute unused and leftover snack food. The plan is to collect unopened, individually wrapped snack food and for parents to volunteer to drop it at a Little Free Pantry around Burlington.

-Kestrel Plump, Education for Sustainability Coach

Nurse's Corner (Updated Each Week!)

How do I clean my mask?

- Fill a clean sink or bowl with hot water.
- Add a little bit of gentle soap and scrub your mask well for a few minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with hot water. Hang up to dry.
- If you wash at the end of the day your mask might be dry before morning.

You may also be able to put masks in the washing machine and dry in a dryer.



-Justina Starr, School Nurse

Counselor's Corner (Updated Each Week!)

Hello, families! It has been another great week here at SA. I have enjoyed more outdoor time, including some outdoor lunches, with our students. During my 4th/5th grade classroom visits, we are beginning to talk about goal setting and maintaining a positive sense of self as we begin the school year. Be sure to visit my school counseling website at: saschoolcounseling.weebly.com for new resources that are being updated regularly. As always, please know that you can reach out to me by clicking on the CONTACT tab. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

- Ms. Dodd, School Counselor

PTO Corner (Updated Every Other Week!)

Harvest Run for Sustainability

The annual Harvest Run for Sustainability is one of our signature events, held each year in October. Our 9th Annual Harvest Run for Sustainability *is* happening, but will look a little different this year. This year, we invite anyone in our greater community to pick one of our specially planned routes in the Intervale or around the Old North End (1 k, 3k, 5k, and 10k options available!) and walk or run this route anytime during the week of Monday, October 12th-Sunday, October 18th. Learn more and register at www.sa-pto.com/events. One of our major fundraisers, our school community is invited to help raise money for the Sustainability Academy by asking friends and family to support your efforts, whether you participate in the run or not.

Remember: the SA-PTO Listserv is opt-in. If you'd like to be added to this list (which is different from the School-based emails from our Principal, Nina Oropeza), please send an email to sustainabilitypto@gmail.com to be added. Learn more about the PTO at www.sa-pto.com

Burlington School Food Project Meal Distribution

The Burlington School Food Project will be providing drive-thru/walk up meal box distribution **every Wednesday and Friday** at the following times and locations:

- North Avenue Alliance Church: 3:00-4:30
- Sustainability Academy: 3:00-4:30
- Dealer.com parking lot: 3:00-4:30
- B&G Club/Roosevelt Park: 5:00-6:00

The boxes that will contain some ready to eat items and some bulk items. **All families are welcome** with no eligibility requirements.

Superintendent Advisory Group Opportunity

Superintendent Tom Flanagan is looking for families, students and teachers to join superintendent advisory groups. Read more from Tom: "*As part of my 100 day entry plan around engagement, I am forming three advisory groups with whom I wish to meet monthly to give feedback to me and the district around what is happening around the district and what is being planned. I want to engage families, students and staff as true partners in the educational process, to make sure that the needs of a broad range of people are included as decisions are made in the district. All of you play an important and integral role in promoting the social, emotional and academic success of all students, and I want to hear from you.*" The goal is to have representation from families, students and teachers that represent all of our school district. Therefore, each group will have at least 12 members, including at least one representative from each of the schools. If needed, we may add additional members to ensure that the needs of specific groups of students are represented, such as those who are receiving special education or EL services, as well as diversity in terms of race, class/socio-economic background, and sexual and gender identity. More information about each group and the quick application process can be found [here](#).

[Free Programs in the Parks - Sponsored by Burlington Parks and Rec](#)

September 14 through October 16 - Drop-in fun! No Registration Required! We will have a check-in station and do basic health screening. Masks must be worn by participants. For more information, including locations and times, click [here](#).

Powerschool Health Screening

Thank you to the many SA families who completed the health screening in advance of arriving to school this week. **As a reminder, please complete the health screening before 7:30am, if possible** - Before students leave home each day, all families should complete an online screening form through their [PowerSchool account](#). The form takes less than 30 seconds to complete per child. Step-by-step instructions [can be seen here](#) and a tutorial video is available on the [District YouTube page](#). Directions are available in multiple languages for families who speak a language other than English.

Annual Student Update - Please Complete ASAP

Families, it's time for you to complete the online Annual Student Information Update (now listed as Forms in Powerschool) for your student(s). The Annual Student Update asks you to update critical information, such as emergency contact information, medical information, etc. *The update must be completed for all students, even those using the "Full Remote" option this fall.* Please [login to your PowerSchool account to complete this update as soon as possible](#). Step by step instructions can be found below. The process takes about 10 minutes per student. **If you already have an account in Powerschool, [sign in to your Powerschool account](#). After you have signed in:**

1. Look for your student's name as shown on the bar in the upper left-hand corner.
2. Click on the student's name. (If you don't see your student's name, see below.)
3. Next click the Annual Update Form and then start with the form called "A. General Student Information" and complete the information. It will take you through each form.
4. Once you finish with this student, move on to the next student by clicking on their name on the bar in the upper left-hand corner. All students must be updated one at a time.
5. Done!

Additional Community Resources [here](#).

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