

Colchester School District

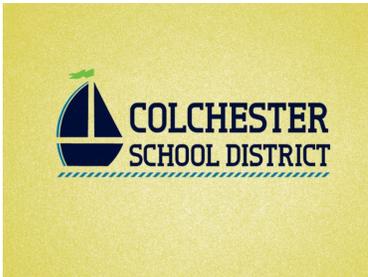
NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



● September 2018 ●

Off to a Great Start!



Just like that, a new school year is officially underway! All of us here at Colchester School District would like to welcome our new and returning families. The district's year-round staff worked hard over the summer getting our buildings, grounds, and equipment updated and refreshed for the new year. Before students filled our halls and classrooms, we kicked off the year with our annual Faculty and Staff Opening Ceremony on August 23rd. Hundreds of employees gathered in the Performing Arts Center to hear about our district-wide goals and initiatives for the year. The kickoff also featured two inspiring keynote student speakers and a musical performance by the district's music teachers and students. We posted a

fun video about the day on our Facebook page. [Check it out here](#) and [like our page](#) to see more videos.

CSD Awarded State Safety Grant

Over the summer, our district administrators continued their collaboration with the Colchester Police Department to assess our emergency preparedness, strengths, areas for improvement, and future needs. Part of that discussion included applying for two state-funded school safety infrastructure grants. We were thrilled to learn that Colchester School District was selected as a recipient. Plans are underway to use part of the money to install a new school-wide notification system at MBS. The proposed notification system will meet current safety standards by ensuring all student classroom are capable of sending and receiving notifications and that all external areas utilized by students and staff are capable of receiving notifications.



Redesign of Blakely Road & Laker Lane Intersection

Traffic congestion in the Bay has been a hot topic this summer but the Town of Colchester already has a plan in the works to hopefully alleviate some of the back-ups that occur at the entrance to the high school. Next summer commuters should start to see construction break ground to create turn lanes from both directions for traffic on Blakely Road turning onto Laker Lane. The project is fully funded with federal dollars and the school district gives our full support towards the town's planned improvements.



There's just one hiccup. A land survey snafu back in the 1970s means the district needs taxpayer permission to give the town an 8-foot section of land to widen the road and create the added lanes. Voters will see this as a question on the November ballot.

The school district is optimistic that our community members will recognize how these improvements will help provide safe and efficient travel for thru-traffic on Blakely Road while also providing safe access to CHS.

School Calendar, Early Release Days, and SNOW!

Fall weather is in the air and with that comes the holidays and family travel. As always, you can find the [district calendar](#) on our website for all your planning purposes. It includes our early release days, scheduled closings, and is updated throughout the winter with snow days. Curious about the process used to call a snow day? Check out [this letter](#) Superintendent Minor wrote a few winters back.

Upcoming Early Release Wednesdays

December 5	February 6	April 10
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