



Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Families and Caregivers,

It has been a very difficult week in our community as we collectively grieve the devastating loss of Jake Chapman and Tyler Graham. We hold the families in our thoughts and hearts. Our crisis intervention teams, comprised of professionals trained to help with the emotional needs of students, parents, and school personnel, have been available in each school. The Groton Police Department graciously brought therapy dogs to Bacon Academy to provide much-needed comfort to students and staff alike. We encourage you, as parents, to speak with your students to support them as they process their grief and sense of loss. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our mental health contacts if your or your student is struggling: [CPS Mental Health Contacts](#). Additional valuable resources can be found at [Mental Health Crisis Intervention Services](#) or by calling 211.

COVID19 Cases

We have seen a general decline in the number of student positive cases that mirrors the general trend across the state. A significant majority of the 27 student cases since the start of school have been in the elementary grades, as have a majority of the close contacts required to quarantine. As a reminder, a student that has been identified as a close contact does not need to be quarantined as long as they are vaccinated and are symptom free.

Masks

There has been no change to the Executive Orders that mandated masks for all students and staff until February 15, 2022.

Warm Regards,

Jeffrey Burt
Superintendent of Schools