

VINALHAVEN SCHOOL
RSU 08
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March 18, 2020

Dear families of children with Special Education Programs,

I hope this letter finds you all doing okay during these unprecedented and uncertain times. I am writing to let you know that the Vinalhaven School Special Education staff are working hard at planning and organizing materials and communication systems so we can continue to provide your child (or children) with their special education program and related services.

While we will not be holding classes and services in our school building for a period of time, we will be providing programming remotely through a variety of means, which may include packets of materials delivered to your homes, online learning, video conferencing, telephone calls, emails, and other resources as we continue to develop our remote learning opportunities.

Special education staff will work closely with classroom teachers to provide appropriate curriculum materials for children with different learning needs. Each child with an IEP will be assigned a special education staff person who will be responsible for organizing instructional materials and communicating with their assigned students and families. "Business Hours" will be established and a schedule developed for your assigned staff person to communicate with students and family on a weekly basis. To reduce exposure to COVID 19, we will not be providing face-to-face instruction and services. Given your child's individual needs, specially designed instruction will likely be delivered through video conferencing such as Face Time, ZOOM or other yet to be determined platforms along with phone calls and emails. We are also in touch with our Speech/Language, Augmentative Speech, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist to determine how we will remotely deliver related services.

We will be getting in touch with you soon to collaborate on an agreement for alternative learning and alternative mode of delivery of your child's IEP during this school closure due to COVID 19. Parents may also request a remote IEP meeting if they wish. Given the government and CDC recommendations during the state of emergency, national crisis and global pandemic, IEP supports and services may temporarily be reduced.

Distance or Remote Learning may be a steep learning curve for many of us. We appreciate your suggestions and patience as we get programs up and running. First and foremost, the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and Vinalhaven community are paramount. Jill Oakes is our Special Education Coordinator at Vinalhaven School. Her email is: joakes@vinalhavenschool.org . Please don't hesitate to reach out to Jill or me with your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Take care,

Judy Gove

Judy Gove, Special Education Director (email: jgove@vinalhaveschool.org)