

PRINCIPALS NEWSLETTER

Thursday, December 31, 2020

FULL REMOTE- CYCLE 12

January 4th through January 11th

While we know that the holidays may have been different this year, we are hopeful that our families had a chance to rest, relax, and enjoy the change of pace. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge all of us. The ongoing pandemic will require us to make adjustments over the coming weeks. Our staff continues its excellent work in building high quality, student centered learning experiences during the pandemic. Thank you all for your continued support of GNBVT during these challenging times.

This newsletter will only contain new information related to the school's transition to a fully remote schedule for cycle 12 (January 4-11), changes in regulations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, statewide flu vaccine extension and information on pandemic EBT cards.

Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech will implement its fully remote learning plan for all of cycle 12 (January 4th- January 11th). The academic and CVTE remote schedule, including both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) class sessions, is included in this newsletter.

ALL students must attend ALL three (3) hours of synchronous class periods per day, regardless if they are in their CVTE program or academics.

There are **NO** "Green or Gold" cohorts during the full remote learning plan. **All** students must complete both the synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) components of their shop/academic classes.

Parents and students are kindly asked to review the remote learning classroom expectations established at the beginning of the school year.

FLU VACCINE EXTENSION

The MDPH Immunization Division had set the deadline of December 31, 2020 for students to receive a flu vaccination unless they have obtained a medical or religious exemption. The deadline has been extended through February 28, 2021.



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DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION (DESE) REGULATION CHANGES

Beginning Tuesday, January 19, 2021, the Student Learning Time regulations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will be changed. In November, DESE gathered information on student learning time from all public schools in the Commonwealth. At the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Meeting in December, DESE proposed and the Board of Education approved amendments to the student learning time regulations. These regulatory amendments go into effect on Tuesday, January 19th.

We should note that the GNBVT hybrid learning plan was preliminarily cleared during the initial review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A follow-up request for information will be issued by the Department on student learning time for the period between January 25 and February 5 to monitor implementation of the new regulations.

GNBVT will continue to update our families via our weekly Principals Newsletters on Tuesdays. The schedule provided in the last two principals' newsletters will remain in effect through at least January 15th.



REMOTE LEARNING EXPECTATION HIGHLIGHTS

[Link to District Expectations SY2020-2021](#)

Students are reminded that they **must be in every class**. Students must have their cameras on and participate in each class session with their teachers and classmates. Missing the class period but submitting classwork is not permitted. School Attendance is mandatory and reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, regardless of whether the class is held in-person or remotely. It must accurately reflect student learning experiences.

Unexcused absences for live (synchronous) remote sessions will reflect negatively on students' synchronous learning assignment grades. Beginning in Trimester 2, students who do not attend a synchronous, live class and have their absence noted as unexcused will have their grades for submitted assignments penalized.

Submitted assignments from synchronous class periods where students have unexcused absences will be given a maximum grade of 50. This is to ensure that students attend all remote classes (as if the class was held in-person) OR have a documented absence that would allow them to make up any missing work. Students will not be penalized for making up missed assignments due to excused absences/illnesses. Remote "live" classes are to be treated the same as our in-person class.

Beginning January 4th, any student who received a failing grade in a course for Trimester 1 will be required to attend the asynchronous (independent) learning session for that class period. It is our goal to ensure that all students receive the support that they need to meet with success in each and every academic class to ensure they meet local district requirements at the end of the year. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been clear with school districts that grades are to be issued to all students. If students are not meeting the passing requirements for their courses, we all share a collective responsibility (parents, students, teachers, and administrators) to provide the support needed to ensure their academic success.

PANDEMIC EBT CARDS

[Link to mass.gov complete P-EBT information](#)

Students who are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals in our school will get Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) funds through the 2020-2021 school year. P-EBT funds can be used to help you buy healthy food for your student and family. It's important to stay healthy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Please click on the link above for detailed information on eligibility, getting P-EBT benefits, using P-EBT benefits and how to obtain extra food.**

- Eligible students in a fully remote learning situation will get \$117.20 per month.
- Eligible students in a hybrid learning situation will get \$58.60 per month.
- Students attending school either half-day or fully in person are not eligible for P-EBT.

If you are eligible for P-EBT you are likely eligible for SNAP, ongoing monthly food funds. Check your eligibility and apply at <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/>.

You can also get FREE grab and go school meals at any school.

Find a site near you at <https://www.projectbread.org/get-help>.

