



GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut 06340 • 1300 Flanders Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355
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Passive Consent for Participation in Remote Learning Groups

September 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year. We have been working all summer to prepare for a safe start to the new school year including offering parents a choice of two learning models to best meet the needs of all children and families during this unprecedented time. The Hybrid Learning Model and the Fully Remote Learning Model are two options for parents to select for their child's educational program. Both learning models include instruction delivered virtually on Wednesdays in addition to potentially two more days based on whether or not the student qualifies as a "high needs" student and receives four days of in-person schooling.

The District will be making a good faith effort to implement the student's IEP remotely to the greatest extent feasible for the students whose parents have opted into fully remote learning. The district may be delivering your child's special education services, and/or related services in individual, small group, and/or whole class instruction using virtual classrooms, live streaming, and video conferencing platforms that have been selected for specific grade levels.

The instructional delivery methods utilized by your child's teachers may include multiple students participating at the same time with their names and images visible to other participating students. In the course of the provision of group lessons, personally identifiable information of your child may be disclosed to undetermined and/or unknown individuals. Those individuals include the parents of other children receiving group lessons as well as individuals who may be in the space where the child is receiving instruction. To the greatest extent possible, we encourage you to have your child participate in a quiet location that is free from distraction, as other individuals in the home are not permitted to participate in, be visible in, or otherwise observe the lesson, other than reasonable adult supervision of the student. Your child's teacher may determine that your child's participation in a virtual lesson needs to end early if the teacher determines that your child or other individuals in the setting are interfering with the delivery of instruction or causing a disruption to the educational process.

Student confidentiality, of any student other than your own child must be respected at all times when participating in remote learning. Parents are required to maintain the confidentiality of any and all information that is obtained about any student other than your own child. Parents and students are prohibited from video or audio recording any portion of any remote lesson. All individuals will comply with relevant Board of Education policies and distance learning guidelines, including but not limited to those concerning the confidentiality of student records and acceptable use of district computer systems, and Alternative Educational Guidelines, which can be accessed at www.grotonschools.org

If you do not wish for your child to participate in a remote learning group, please provide written notice to your child's case manager as soon as possible. Please include your child's first and last name, grade level, school, and your first and last name in the written notice. The main phone number for each school is listed below in the event you need to contact the school for the name of your child's case manager.

We look forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Denise Doolittle
Director, Pupil Personnel Services

Robert E. Fitch High School, 860-449-7200

Groton Middle School, 860-446-4200

Dr. Charles Barnum Elementary School, 860-449-5640

Claude Chester Elementary School, 860-449-5636

Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School, 860-449-5608

Mary Morrisson Elementary School, 860-449-5655

Northeast Academy, 860-572-5852

S. B. Butler Elementary School, 860-572-5825

Transition Academy and Apex Academy, 860-572-2151