

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

*Excellence and Equity For All Children
Equal Opportunity Employer*

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Hello Parents and Families of our MVPS Children and MVPS Staff,

I know that this is a most anxious time for our students and their families. Given the ever-increasing impact of COVID-19, we are working in partnership with Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) to ensure timely and efficient access to supports and resources. They endeavor to determine the best ways to serve and support our children and their families.

MVCS is diligently working to be the lead resource and support to channel our community's needs. I am asking any of our families and children that are in crisis during this anxious time, and who might have basic needs such as food and clothing or behavioral health supports, to please access MV Community Services. They are working as a centralized community resource and communication center through their extensive partnership and collaboration with local organizations and health centers. The link to their site is:
<https://www.mvcommunityservices.org/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>.

It is very important that families and community members in need of supports and resources are directed through the appropriate MVCS channels. Families need efficient access to social supports in this time of crisis and a coordinated effort is our community's best defense.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Any staff working with families in need should access supports through MVCS' COVID-19 site under "Where do I go for Help?" They will be directed to specific extensions related to the type of need sought. However, any staff who has a concern about a particular family that needs numerous supports can reach out to Susan Mercier, Program Director at MVCS' Island Wide Youth Collaborative at 508-693-7900 x401 or SMercier@mvcommunityservices.org.
- Volunteers and organizations looking to contribute time, resources, and financial support should be directed to the "Care for Community" volunteer coordination program through MV Community Services.
- The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools' Superintendent's website has an ongoing and updated set of resources and communication that staff should access when looking for COVID-19 updates. MVCS' COVID-19 and Martha's Vineyard Hospital's COVID-19 links can be accessed here as well. Staff, please direct families to these links and please visit the dropdown menu often.

Thank you,

Matthew T. D'Andrea L.P.D.
Superintendent
Martha's Vineyard Public Schools