



The Village School of North Bennington
P.O. Box 847
9 School St.
North Bennington, VT 05257
802-442-5955
Info@vsnb.org
www.vsnb.org

Extending Thanksgiving Vacation

October 23, 2020

Dear Families,

After much consideration, I have decided to increase the Thanksgiving Vacation from two and half days to the whole week. **The new vacation dates will run from Monday, November 23, through Friday, November 27 (with classes resuming on Monday, November 30).** I hope this extended break will provide students and staff with a much-needed and well-deserved break. As the pandemic continues to wear on, we are observing signs of more stress, anxiety, and fatigue among both students and staff. No matter how terrific it is for everyone to be back in person, these feelings are to be expected in light of the unprecedented circumstances and what is required of everyone. It's important that we take added time to rest, reboot, and build our reserves for what may prove to be a marathon year.

I am realizing that for the health and wellbeing of staff and students, extra breaks are going to be needed every so often. I will do my best to incorporate these into the schedule, where they make the most sense, such as adding extra time to already scheduled vacations and, occasionally, planning ahead for three-day weekends. These breaks will be communicated with enough advanced notice for families to plan ahead. I hope this extra time off will be as positive for families and students as it will be for the staff. I recognize that for some families it can be a hardship when school is closed, and I would not make this decision if it were not in the best interest of ensuring we can all sustain our effort and momentum for the long haul.

The Village School is an outlier in being open four days a week. In-person instruction is not the norm for most schools throughout the country, and I am incredibly proud of the staff and all the hard work they have done to make this all possible. I am also wonderfully thankful to have the solid support of the community as we continue to push through this challenging time.

Thank you,

Tim Newbold

