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Dear CTECS families and students,

I hope this note finds you happy and having had a successful, fulfilling week. I have been reflecting on the past few weeks, and what continues to come to mind is that when times are tough, the best is often brought out in us. I've witnessed several examples of this over the past few weeks at CTECS, and wanted to comment on a few standout examples.

- We are proud to share that our Manufacturing, and Mechanical Design and Engineering teachers from across CT's technical high schools have volunteered their time to use our schools' 3D printing equipment to manufacture face shields for Connecticut hospitals. Additionally, some students with 3D printing equipment at home have volunteered to do this work. [Here is an article](#) that talks about industry efforts across CT, including at the technical high schools, to manufacture vital personal protective equipment (PPE).
- We have collected all of our schools' goggles, gloves, and respirators for first responders and health care professionals statewide. We are working with the Department of Developmental Services on distribution.
- Emmett O'Brien Tech and Cheney Tech donated 525 pounds of food to Hands on Hartford, an organization serving foods to families in need during the pandemic.
- There is a strong collaborative effort happening in all trade and academic areas. Teachers are coming together to create and share great distance learning lessons. Students have stepped up and volunteered to help their peers that are having difficulty with online learning. The creativity and kindness I am seeing is remarkable!
- To follow along with more of the positive news coming from our schools, follow us on our social media accounts – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#). Have a positive news story you would like to share? Please submit a short write up and photo(s)/video to Kerry.Markey@ct.gov for consideration.

Enjoy the weekend and take care of yourself.

Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools