



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**CVSU Middle School Online Academy Students Serve As "Lt. Governor For a Day" As Part of Virtual Program in The Vermont State House**

Montpelier, Vt. — On Monday, May 3rd, CVSU Middle School Online Academy visited the Vermont State House virtually as part of Lt. Governor Gray's "Lt. Governor for a Day" program. The Academy serves students in Northfield, Orange and Williamstown. Academy teachers Mr. Daniel Cregan helped moderate the conversation.

Launched in February, the bi-weekly virtual program aims to connect Vermont classrooms and students with State government, the legislative process, and the inner-working of the Lt. Governor's Office and State House. During the program the Lt. Governor also hears from students about issues on their minds.

A student representative of the LGBTQIA Human Rights Club asked about the Lt. Governor's position on trans youth rights and efforts underway to support trans youth in Vermont.

"Across America we see trans youth rights under attack," Gray added, "Vermont trans youth need to be reassured that these attacks have no place in Vermont and that elected leaders stand in support of our trans youth. Trans rights are human rights and our next generation must know hate and bigotry will not be tolerated."

Ultimately, much of the conversation centered on the opportunities and challenges presented by online learning over the course of the pandemic. Some students discussed how they needed to request laptops and wireless hotspots from the school in order to be able to learn remotely on account of poor internet access in the area. Other students shared how online learning has made classes like physical education difficult or non-existent along with the social and emotional development that comes with connecting with friends in person between classes.

"Doing online school this year was pretty stressful," One student noted, "but we all eventually figured it out. A lot of us fell behind, including me, and we were struggling near the start. It was an interesting experience, and I liked the idea of learning at our own paces, it just needed a bit more work."

Some students shared how their experiences with online learning allowed them to excel because they were able to set their own work schedule and the home environment prevented fewer sources of stress and anxiety, noting, "I am comfortable in my surroundings at home. Being at home, I feel as the environment is conducive to my learning style." One of their peers agreed, saying, ""I like that in the online community, we get the support we need in a friendly environment."

"Online Academy is a safe, comfortable place and I'm glad to be a part of it," another student shared.

"Nothing about this last year has been easy for our students and teachers, and especially students and teachers in parts of Vermont where internet access is limited or non-existent." Gray said. "It was clear from today's conversation that the shift over the last year to online learning has impacted every student, school and community differently. As we work to urgently close the broadband gap, and address the educational needs of our students we cannot take a one-size fits all approach."

The "Lt. Governor for a Day" program typically runs every other Wednesday from roughly 12:00 – 2:00pm throughout the Legislative session. To learn more about the "Lt. Governor for a Day" program visit: <https://ltgov.vermont.gov/ltgovernorforaday>.

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