

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager
Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services
Mary Ellen Simmons, Director of CIA
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology



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Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

October 28, 2020

Dear WRVSU Community:

I would like to take this time to recognize the significant effort that has been put in by **all of you** in order to ensure a safe school environment for our students, staff, and faculty in each of our buildings.

In large part, due to your continued efforts at wearing masks, distancing, and daily health checks, we continue to be able to keep our schools open. This is truly a situation where "*we are all in this together*" and I thank you for your continued efforts.

Along these lines, as there has been no updated guidance from the AOE, I would like to present a change in our school year calendar to support the need for travel at the holidays. Although there will be no calendar changes during our Thanksgiving break, we have posted an updated calendar [HERE](#) which includes adjustments to support safe holiday travel. Therefore, I urge you to consider changing travel plans/arrangements to the December vacation in order to allow for minimal interruption on teaching/learning.

Specifically, December 21st and 22nd will now be Professional Development days, students will not be in attendance. In addition, the week of January 4th - 8th 2021 will be remote days for all WRVSU students in all of our buildings K-8 as well as WRUD High School. Virtual Learning Academy students K-8 will follow this same schedule (no classes 12/21 or 12/22) but will be remote with their VLA teachers 1/4 -1/8/2021

With this change, families who choose to travel could do so as early as 12/18/20. This calendar change will also allow for a full two weeks of quarantine after a return to Vermont as late as December 28th. For anyone who is not traveling, this schedule will serve to provide an extra margin of safety as the calendar changes to the new year.

Although Vermont has had success to date keeping community spread low and manageable. Around us (as close as Lebanon NH) we see that without adhering to safe and effective practices, the virus continues to spread.

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I would like to also share this [video](#) that outlines contact tracing, and in coordination with and guidance from the VT Department of Health, how this keeps us safe. The CDC has recently updated their [guidance](#) to indicate that 'close contacts' are anyone who has spent fifteen total minutes within six feet of a Covid-19 positive person within a twenty four hour period.

Prior guidance was 15 consecutive minutes, and based on changes in understanding about how the virus spreads, the CDC has now updated this to 15 cumulative minutes within a 24 hour period. As an example, three separate five minute encounters would now count as a close contact.

Separately, as a reminder, tomorrow at 5:30pm is our information night and community forum for our K-8 Virtual Learning Academy, please join us with questions and concerns.

<https://meet.google.com/ave-hmgg-nkn>

402-744-0219

PIN: 622 242 172#

And finally, Monday (11/2, 5:30pm) is our next monthly WRVSU Family Engagement night. For November, RSUD Co-principal Bonnie Bourne will be presenting on Math K-6 "*There is No Such Thing as New Math or Yes, You Can Do Your Fifth Grade Child's Math Homework*"

<https://meet.google.com/pem-nyqd-xik>

202-847-6829

PIN: 542 499 589#

For anyone who is unable to join either event, we will post those recordings on the SU website and Facebook page.

With great appreciation and optimism for the future,

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools
White River Valley Supervisory Union