

May 26, 2022

Dear Washington Central Community,

The school shooting in Uvalde, TX is foremost on my mind at the moment. It makes what is unfathomable fathomable and, in so doing, brings to the surface my deepest fears as a parent and an educator. I don't believe I am alone in this. As we hold in our hearts the victims and their loved ones, I hope that we can also make space in our hearts for each other. We have been through so much together, we do not always agree with each other, we are tired, and our patience sometimes wears thin. What brings us together, time and time again, is our collective love for the children of this school community. It is powerful and palpable and essential.

Should you need or want resources for talking with our children or youth about tragedies, there are many resources available on the [VT Department of Mental Health website](#). Here is one resource entitled [Tips for Talking With and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event](#). Our principals and school counselors also have resources that they can share with you.

Yesterday I shared an overview of our draft continuous improvement plan (CIP) with the staff. [Here](#) is a link to the 15 minute video. You may need to enter the passcode C3q!j+x4 in order to access it.

Continuous improvement planning is the topic of next week's school board community forum. A hybrid meeting, it will take place in the cafeteria at U-32 and via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1. All are warmly invited. Additionally, if you have questions or feedback regarding the draft CIP, please complete [this feedback form](#) no later than Friday, June 3.

Washington County's CDC community level was updated this evening to medium. That means that wearing masks is optional this week beginning tomorrow.

As we prepare to observe Memorial Day, I want to honor all of our country's military personnel who have died while serving in the US Armed Forces and express my gratitude for those who are currently serving or have served in the past. Thank you.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at [jmillerarsenault@u32.org](mailto:jmillerarsenault@u32.org) or 229-0553.

Warmly,

Jen Miller-Arsenault

Interim Superintendent