

October 28, 2021

Dear Washington Central Community,

This week's community letter is a long one. I have a lot of information to share with you. Thanks in advance for sticking with me!

First, the numbers. This week 667 students and staff members participated in COVID surveillance testing. We had 5 inconclusive results, which are neither negative nor positive. That means there are no close contacts in those cases. Separate from surveillance testing we learned of one positive case that impacted U-32. Close contacts were notified in a timely manner.

We recently received more information from the State about the Test to Stay program, including a link to the consent form. Please see [this letter](#) from Maria Melekos, our COVID-19 Coordinator, for information about TTS and a direct link to the consent form. We will post this letter and the link on our COVID-19 webpage as well. Thanks to those of you who have reached out to us with questions. Maria has included a Frequently Asked Questions section in her letter.

The Vermont Department of Health reached out this week to ask us if we are interested in hosting a vaccine clinic for students ages 5-11 once this population is eligible for the vaccine. We enthusiastically said yes in the hope that hosting a vaccine clinic will increase access for families. Stay tuned for more information in the weeks to come.

The final piece of COVID-related news this week is that the Agency of Education released its winter sports guidance earlier this week. We are still making sense of it and will share more information about our practices and expectations in the coming weeks.

Yesterday I notified the school community of a ransomware attack that we have experienced in our school district. Please refer to that letter for more details and contact information if you have further questions. We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more relevant information.

I had an opportunity this week to learn more about the process for making decisions about snow days, delayed starts, and early releases due to inclement weather. I am developing a checklist that I will keep with me in the months ahead, although I sincerely hope that I rarely have to use it. Please start thinking about your contingency plans in the case of a snow day, delayed start, or early release. Those days will be much smoother for all of us if we all do our respective parts to plan for them proactively.

Speaking of early release days... Next Wednesday, November 3 is a planned early release day from school. Our teachers, paraeducators, and administrators will spend time engaging in professional learning, analyzing data from our fall assessments, and looking at student work. They will incorporate this analysis into their instructional planning and their preparation for upcoming conferences with families.

Another event taking place on November 3 is a school board community forum regarding the upcoming budget process. Please join us and share your thoughts with the board as they establish priorities and parameters grounded in our students' needs and our community's values. The forum begins at 6:00 p.m. The agenda and Zoom link will be posted on our district website, [www.wcsu32.org](http://www.wcsu32.org).

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. My email address is [jmillerarsenault@u32.org](mailto:jmillerarsenault@u32.org) and my phone number is 229-0553.

Warmly,

Jen Miller-Arsenault  
Interim Superintendent