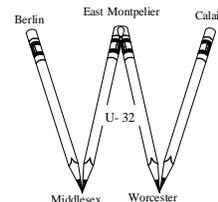


Washington Central Unified Union School District

WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.

1130 Gallison Hill Road
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Phone (802) 229-0553
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August 10, 2021

Dear Washington Central Community,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

The beginning of the school year is right around the corner, and I want to share some important information with you.

Last week the Vermont Agency of Education issued [an advisory document](#) regarding COVID-19 and the opening of our schools this year. Here are some highlights:

MASKS

- Students and staff members in every building will be required to wear masks indoors until further notice. Masks may be removed when students and staff are outside the school building. Masks are required on all school buses.
- The VT Agency of Education and the VT Department of Health have recommended that masks be required until 80% of the vaccine eligible student population in a school has been vaccinated. We are awaiting guidance about how we are expected to calculate the 80% mark of vaccinated students.
- Be sure to wear masks that are multiple layers. Bandanas and neck gaiters are not sufficient.

STAY HOME WHEN SICK

- As with last year, please keep your child home from school when any cold-like symptoms arise. These symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle aches, sudden loss of smell or taste, headache, and fatigue.
- Students and staff must remain at home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.
- Should symptoms begin at school, your child will be sent home immediately. In addition, your child must stay home from school if they have a fever 100.4 F or higher or if they are asked to quarantine due to close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.
- If students are presenting with more than one symptom, please contact your primary care provider for testing guidance.

SURVEILLANCE TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

- Surveillance testing will be offered for both students and staff members.
- Schools will still be participating in contact tracing as necessary.

Maria Melekos is our new COVID-19 Coordinator. Maria is a familiar face to many of you; she has served our school community as the school nurse at both Calais and Doty in recent years. Her email address is mmelekos@u32.org. She welcomes your questions and concerns.

Last year we did an outstanding job taking care of each other. We wore our masks, washed our hands, and followed health and safety protocols to keep our students and staff safe and in school as much as possible. Our students and staff consistently demonstrated empathy, flexibility, and creativity. Although there still remains some uncertainty about the virus and the guidance in general, I am confident that we will continue to work together to make student-centered decisions and keep each other safe and healthy.

What is stated in the advisory memo may change. We will be certain to communicate any changes as soon as we make decisions accordingly.

Please reach out to your principal or me if you or your students have any questions or concerns. We can't wait to welcome your children back to school in just a few weeks!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Miller-Arsenault". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jen Miller-Arsenault.21
Acting Superintendent
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment