August 28, 2020

From: Bryan Olkowski, Superintendent of Schools
To: Washington Central Unified Union School District

Dear Families, Students, and Staff Members,

What a summer it’s been. Here we are at the end of August, and it seems like just yesterday we were wrapping up one of the craziest years ever recorded. Your principals, teachers and staff have been busy all summer preparing for a safe return to school this fall - whether that happens in person or remote - and I cannot thank them enough for all the time and effort they’ve put in. As I visit the schools, I can see the enormous amount of work that’s been done to ensure your children’s safety, and I feel confident that come September 8, we’ll be ready to welcome everyone back.

Here is my update for the week of 8/28: (And you can stay updated by visiting our back-to-school website: safelearning.u32.org)

1. We welcomed teachers and staff back on Monday of this week. They are busy preparing for reopening on September 8, 2020. We added five additional inservice days this year to ensure that everyone understands the protocols we will be following to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are very appreciative of all the extra time our teachers and staff have put in to prepare.

2. We are finalizing our bus / transportation routes, but even this close to school it is still a moving target since we are still enrolling students (both new to our area and returning students). Transportation information is available in Infinite Campus but please check it for updates as it is changing daily.
3. We are also finalizing the number of students who will be returning to school and / or learning remotely, and this (as well) will have an impact on bus stop times. All of these numbers should be finalized by the middle of next week.

4. The number of families requesting remote learning for their children is slowly beginning to crystalize, and once we have those final numbers we will be able to make final adjustments to our remote learning classroom configurations. Again, this has been a bit of a moving target as some parents have waited for additional information before making the decision about in-person versus remote learning.

5. Finally, I would like to remind everyone to be mindful about their travel plans during the coming couple of weeks, especially now that we’re this close to back-to-school. Please follow all restrictions regarding quarantine and try not to visit a location where you will need to quarantine once you return to Vermont.

That is all for now. I am feeling very good about the plans in place to welcome our students back, and I am incredibly proud - and in awe - of how much time and effort everyone has been willing to put in. I hope you enjoy these few remaining days of summer!

Sincerely

Bryan Olkowski
WCUUSD - Superintendent of Schools