

Parent Update 4/2/2021

Good Afternoon Everyone,

As with every week, I hope this finds you well. We have reached the point of the school year where our thoughts are balanced between attending to tasks for both this school year and the upcoming one. Our emphasis on what has been termed 'recovery planning' has started and we are examining the structures, procedures, and protocols necessary to address the academic, emotional, attendance, and engagement needs of our students.

Panorama Parent Survey

The WSESU values the voices of all stakeholders in our learning community. Over the next three weeks, parents and guardians of all of our students will have the opportunity to complete The Panorama Family-School Relationships Survey.

This anonymous survey is designed to assess the perceptions of parents/guardians about their children's schools. This year's survey will focus on three aspects of the home-school connection:

1. Your perceptions of your child and your child's interactions with their school
2. Your perceptions of the overall climate at your child's school and
3. Your perceptions related to the safety of your child in their school

In the coming days, you should be hearing from your school about how you can complete these anonymous surveys.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you and our community partners in order to address the needs of our school community.....

Changes in Guidance Coming

Recently, various news outlets have reported that the state will be adopting changes to spacing guidelines as proposed by the CDC. The most significant of these is the use of three feet of space between students instead of six feet. We are awaiting confirmation of these changes as well as new guidance from the Agency of Education in order to examine our practices going forward. We will advise you as soon as any determinations are made.

SBAC

Our schools will be communicating with families in the coming weeks about the schedule for the SBAC as well as plans for remote students. As I have shared in other announcements, the

SBAC provides us with important data points about our students' progress. The SBAC is not the only indicator at which we are looking and it is important to emphasize with all students to try their best. The results we gain from the SBAC will serve as a starting point and they do not constitute any sort of definitive conclusion about a student's performance.

Other Announcements

NAACP BIPOC Vaccination Clinic

Please see the below message from Wichie Artu, Chair of the NAACP Vaccination Implementation Committee:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Windham County Vermont is collaborating with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to provide access to and prioritize the equitable vaccination for COVID-19 of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) folks. Brattleboro is one of the sites in the State dedicated to the BIPOC community.

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On Saturday, April 10 a BIPOC-specific Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine clinic will be held:

**At the School for International Training (SIT)/World Learning campus
In two ranges of time: 9am-11am as well as 4pm-6pm.**

SIT/World Learning is located at 1 Kipling Road in Brattleboro. The clinic will be in the Lowry International Center on campus. Follow the COVID-19 Vaccine signs to get there.

Please schedule your vaccine appointment with Wichie Artu by a contact form <https://forms.gle/Drqxcq5gsBftvHDMA>, by email vicepresident@windhamNAACP.org or by phone (802) 297-7832.

Presently, **any person of color age 18 and over is eligible** to make an appointment. **Household members** (BIPOC or not) are eligible and can also make an appointment to get vaccinated.

Free transportation to/from the clinic is provided by the Department of Health if you register by April 8.

Interpretation services at the appointment can also be provided by the Department of Health if you register by April 8.

In solidarity,

Wichie Artu

Wichie Artu, Chair, NAACP Vaccination Implementation Committee

Tick-borne Diseases

As the weather warms up, children and families will be spending more time outside. The Vermont Department of Health has information on their website on preventing tick bites and reducing the chances of acquiring a tick-borne illness. Please see the following website: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/tickborne-diseases/prevent-tick-bites-tickborne-diseases> for more information.

Have a great weekend,

Andy

Andrew Skarzynski
Superintendent of Schools
Windham Southeast Supervisory Union