

2/19/2021

Good Afternoon Everyone,

As with all weeks, I hope this finds you well. We did it! We have made it to February vacation. The upcoming time off provides everyone - students, staff, and families alike - with an opportunity for rest, relaxation, reflection, and rejuvenation. We are incredibly proud of the work of our students and staff and how they have managed to navigate the new learning environment created by the pandemic. Please be sure to use this vacation for a digital detox and try to shut off the screens. We all need a little break from Zoom, especially as we gear up for a solid block of teaching and learning time after the vacation.

The Agency of Education has updated its [Safety and Health Guidance for Music Education](#). This document provides newly clarified information on vocal and instrumental instruction and performances. I do not anticipate that there will be an immediate implementation of music lessons or classes due to the complexity of the guidance but the good news is that there is a path forward for some form of instrumental or vocal instruction and performance.

The WSESD School Board approved a [2 page flyer](#) regarding the withdrawal vote on the town ballots at its meeting on Tuesday night. This flyer contains some of the background information, tax implications and other factors. That flyer can be found here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bmBaVLzV00j8mcDe1Wc1nG059Za\\_b6c3/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bmBaVLzV00j8mcDe1Wc1nG059Za_b6c3/view). The Board will be deliberating a six page long informational sheet at a warned meeting on Friday, February 19th at 6:00 PM. The withdrawal from or dissolution of a unified union school district is established in statute 16 VSA 724. This information will be shared in a variety of platforms and outlets in the coming days.

**The Vernon Board will be holding a budget information session on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM.**

**The WSESD Board will be holding a budget information session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM.**

### **Snow Days**

At the start of the winter season, I indicated that we would be using the snow days that are built into our calendar. After that, we will transition to remote learning days when it is too dangerous to travel to school. More information about the expectations of those days will be communicated shortly.

### **COVID Updates**

There were no announced positive cases of COVID-19 in schools this week.

**From the Vermont Department of Health**

**COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Open for Vermonters 70 and Older**

**More than 20,600 of the 33,200 Vermonters who are age 70-74 have now made vaccination appointments through the state's registration system, since eligibility was expanded to that age group on Tuesday.**

**People who are age 70 and older can go online to [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) to make an appointment. Vaccination sites through the Health Department or with pharmacy partners are available around the state, and people can choose a nearby location when making their appointment.**

**There are enough appointments available at sites throughout Vermont for everyone who is eligible.**

**Anyone who is unable to make their appointment online, or who needs to speak with someone in a language other than English can call 855-722-7878. The call center is open Monday to Friday 8:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Help curb spread of COVID-19 by getting tested**

**Getting tested for COVID-19 is a critical tool to slowing the spread of the virus. The sooner you know if you have the virus, the sooner you can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community.**

**There are now even more sites available around the state to get tested, with more open daily. Make an appointment for a test by visiting [healthvermont.gov/testing](https://healthvermont.gov/testing). (You will need to create an account first.) Many test sites now allow Vermonters to [take their own samples](#) using a short swab in your nose.**

**If you're a close contact of someone with COVID-19, you can use [this timeline](#) to help guide when to get tested.**

**If you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider so they can refer you for testing. If you don't have a provider, you can call 2-1-1.**

Please have an enjoyable vacation. We'll see you all on March 3rd!

Best,

Andy

Andrew Skarzynski  
Superintendent of Schools  
Windham Southeast Supervisory Union