

10/23/2020

Good Afternoon Parents,

I hope this finds you well. I came to the sudden realization today that we are entering the final week of October! It's usually at this point of the school year where things seem to feel like they're going by faster and faster and this year is no exception. The pace all of us, students and staff alike, have been keeping is rapid and purposeful and it lends itself to time going quickly. We have only a few but important updates for you this week.

HVAC Updates

Our Business Manager, Dr. Frank Rucker, has been working closely with our schools and Efficiency Vermont to review our HVAC systems since the start of the pandemic. These systems control the airflow in each building and, from time to time, require adjusting, maintenance, and/or replacement. The team has identified the needs in select buildings in order to move forward. I must emphasize that all buildings are safe to occupy and meet current industry guidelines. Because we are working with outside contractors, we are subject to their availability as well as access to the materials required for these jobs. As a result, there may be a shorter notification period as many of the schools in Vermont are currently engaged in this work.

The work at BAMS/BUHS/WRCC requires adjusting the duct work in many of the classrooms and will result in contractors moving in and out of the classrooms. This work is set to start the week of November 2. Because of the disruptions to the work space, the BAMS/BUHS/WRCC campus may need to operate in a remote instruction model only. Leadership at BAMS/BUHS/WRCC will notify you early next week as a schedule is developed or if implementation of remote instruction is required.

Academy School and Guilford Central School will be having unit ventilators replaced. Many of these units are at risk of failing in the near future and the pandemic has hastened our progress on this work. We are subject to the same availability of contractors and devices as other school districts but there will be a period of time before the end of December where both Academy and Guilford will be required to operate remotely. This transition should last about a week and is necessary in order for the work to be completed. School leadership will notify families as to when these dates are established.

Transitions to More Days of In Person Learning

After meeting with our teacher and leadership teams, we are still engaged in planning to bring students back into the building for additional days. We are further awaiting a final schedule for the above HVAC projects as well as expecting additional guidance related to health and safety updates from the Vermont Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health. There are a number of variables that are currently under consideration, including the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. As a result, we are not yet ready to announce a date for students to

return for more days of in-person instruction. Once we have identified further plans, we will provide families with additional information.

Travel and Thanksgiving: The collective feedback we have received continues to advise us from becoming complacent in our actions to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please continue to refer to the ACCD website for additional information. The VDH FAQ page is [here](#). There are plenty of helpful reminders on the site.

The following announcement is from the Vermont Department of Health:

Dispose of your unused, unwanted & expired prescription drugs on Take Back Day

This Saturday, October 24, is Prescription Drug Take Back Day — when you can dispose of leftover prescription and over-the-counter drugs safely at a collection site near you.

Grab your unused medications, of course your mask, before heading to a drop-off location. Get more info at healthvermont.gov/doyourpart.

And remember, you don't have to wait for a Take Back Day either — many drug disposal sites in Vermont are permanent. Or you can request a free mail-back envelope through our website.

Get Your Flu Shot – Stay Healthy and Prevent a “Twindemic”

It's especially important for everyone to get their flu shot this year – when flu viruses and the new coronavirus may be spreading at the same time. Help keep flu out of the picture!

We encourage everyone older than 6 months old (with rare exceptions), and especially people in a [high-risk group](#) or who have underlying health conditions to get their flu vaccine.

Go to healthvermont.gov/flu to learn more about the flu, the vaccine and find where to get a flu shot near you.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Andy Skarzynski
Superintendent of Schools
Windham Southeast Supervisory Union