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Mt. Ascutney School District Vision

To honor, encourage, and celebrate the excellence, diversity, and aspirations of each learner through creative and motivating challenges.

August 24, 2021

Dear Windsor Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members,

Welcome back! The start of the new school year is just around the corner, beginning on **Tuesday, September 7**. We hope that you were able to find time over the summer to relax with family and friends. We are very eager to see our students and families. Teacher assignments are currently in Power School. We are not using Unified Classroom this year, **so please do not visit <https://classroom.powerschool.com>**. Instead Email parentaccess@wsesu.net and we will send you new login information".

Our incredible maintenance team has been working countless hours getting the school set up to meet the COVID-19 guidelines that we will be following. We are very thankful for Jim Taft and his team.

The new school year brings much change. This includes some new additions and some internal changes. Please welcome the following new staff members to our Windsor family this year:

New Staff:

Kristin Martaniuk - Administrative Assistant K-6

Victoria Moeller - Kindergarten

Annika Dyhrberg - Grade 3

Andrew Taylor - Special Education 3-4

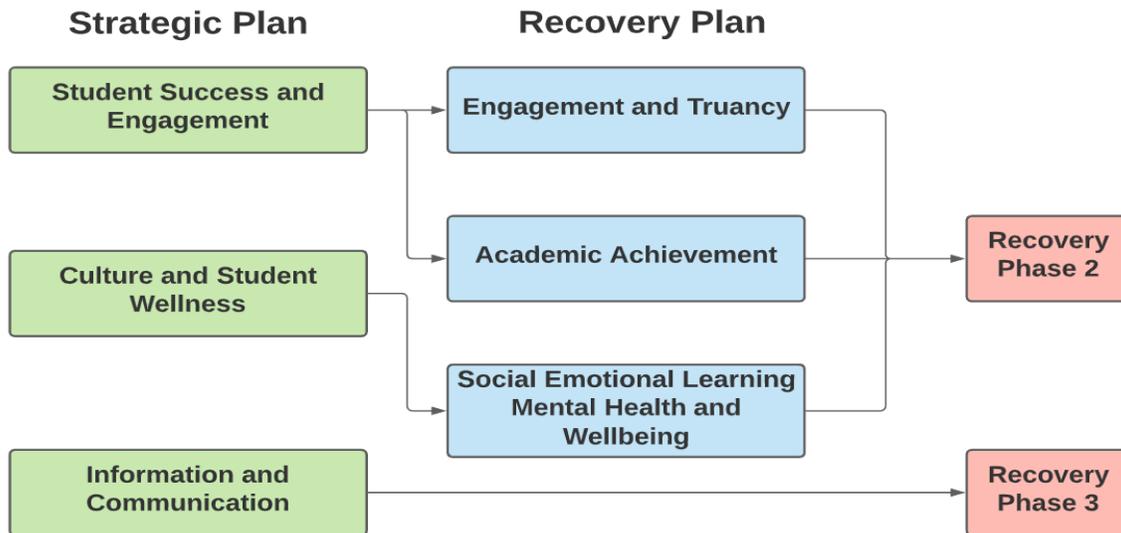
Alena Martes - 4th Grade, Math/Science

Tim Snizek - 5th/6th Science

Jacob Meagher - 7th/8th Social Studies
 Zach Husband - 7th/8th Writing
 Megan Roberts- Middle School and High School Math
 Kelsey Mason - Health Education Teacher
 Ashley Wilcox - Social Emotional Intervention
 Calista Polidor - Special Education Support Staff
 Dennis Fitzgerald - Special Education Support Staff
 John Pietkiewicz- Special Education Support Staff
 Hannah Atti- Special Education Support Staff
 Alissa Hebert - Special Education Support Staff
 Nicole Lacasse - School Psychologist
 Meredith Mouny - Speech Language Pathologist

We are excited to have such talented staff members join our team! We are also happy to announce that our related arts teachers and our interventionists who worked as classroom teachers during the pandemic last year will be returning to their pre-pandemic roles.

As we enter the new school year, our primary goals will focus on the three areas of our Recovery Plan and our Strategic Plan.



Last year, one of our longer range goals was to move to an educational model that provided a more interdisciplinary student centered approach, with a focus on project-based learning, place-based learning, and student voice and choice. Teachers worked hard last year to plan interdisciplinary units of study that contained project-based and placed-based learning opportunities for students. Teachers will continue to move toward this educational model this

year, while also working to integrate our five core competencies: Empathy, Integrity, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Perseverance.

Here are a few other important things to know about:

1. Prior to the pandemic, staff and students were trained in safety and security procedures and protocols based on the 'I Love U Guys Foundation'. We will continue to focus on safety this year using the same protocols.

IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT. DO IT.

LOCKOUT! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

<p>STUDENTS Return inside Business as usual</p>	<p>TEACHER Bring everyone indoors Lock outside doors Increase situational awareness Business as usual Take attendance</p>
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ALICE PROTOCOL! Only in a violent critical incident.

Alert
Enhanced Lockdown
Inform
Counter
Evacuate

<https://www.alicetraining.com/resources/documents/>



EVACUATE! To the announced location.

<p>STUDENTS Leave your stuff behind Follow instructions</p>	<p>TEACHER Lead evacuation to location Take attendance Notify if missing, extra or injured students</p>
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SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

<p>STUDENTS Hazard Tornado Hazmat Earthquake Tsunami</p>	<p>Safety Strategy Evacuate to shelter area Seal the room Drop, cover and hold Get to high ground</p>	<p>TEACHER Lead safety strategy Take attendance</p>
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HOLD! In your classroom. Clear the halls.

<p>STUDENTS Remain in the classroom until the "All Clear" is announced</p>	<p>TEACHER Close and lock classroom door Business as usual Take attendance</p>
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2. Our Food Service Director, Craig Locarno, and our food service team will continue to provide delicious and nutritious meals. Breakfast and lunch will be *free* for all students 18 and under for the 2021-2022 school year. Even though all students may receive free meals this year, we still ask that all families fill out a Free and Reduced Application at: https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/DistrictRedirect/WINDSOR_VT?langid=1 It is very important that all families fill out this application because having an accurate count of potential recipients opens up other opportunities for our school. We receive Federal Funds based on our percentage of Free and Reduced Price School Meals. These

funds are used for teacher training opportunities and professional development for staff, which have a direct impact on student learning. These funds are also used to help fund Title 1 Interventionist positions in our school. Please fill out online or return the hard copy that will be in the first day packet.

3. Our Covid Task Force has been meeting to prepare for the upcoming year. Our number one priority is keeping students and staff safe. Our opening protocols are outlined here - [Covid Opening Protocols](#)

All families are required to complete the 2021-2022 Covid 19 Parent Compact before school begins. Please click on the link to read and sign the compact. [Covid Compact](#)

4. Other forms that need to be completed will be sent home on the first day of school - September 7, 2021
5. Kindergarten will be having a Meet and Greet for parents and students on Friday September 3rd from 10-11am. Families will meet on the playground turf. Students and families will be introduced to their student's teacher, and one family at a time will be able to enter the building to see their student's classroom. No appointments are necessary. Please join us.
6. [Updated Bus Routes](#)
7. If you are interested in BTG after school program, please contact Carrie Harn at 802-281-0206 btglcdirector@gmail.com or Makenzie Witzgall weccdiretor@gmail.com.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop off will be from 7:50am - 8:00am K-8

Drop off is at 7:30-7:45 for 9-12

Pick up will be from 2:15pm - 2:25pm

<p>Station #1 Elementary Students (K-6th)</p> <p>Main Door and playground door</p>	<p>Station #2 (7th & 8th)</p> <p>Cafeteria Doors on Ascutney Street</p>	<p>Station #3 High School Entrance</p> <p>9-12</p>
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We are thankful for all of you; our parents, grandparents, guardians, caregivers, and community members. We appreciate how you are preparing our young people for the new school year. Your commitment to being a part of your child's education is so appreciated. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Together, our strong and proud community and school will make this year safe and successful!

We are attaching helpful links and our 2021-2022 Parent and Student Handbook below. Please look over the handbooks with your child.

[2021-2022 Parent and Student Handbook](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[WSESU Covid-19 Student Parent Compact](#)

Enjoy the rest of the summer break!

Warm regards,

Colleen DeSchamp & Kate Ryan