



October 1, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families,

Greetings to you on this chilly first day of October! We are well into our daily routines and adjusting nicely to the school year. We are pleased to report that this week, once again, all COVID-19 surveillance tests were negative and, so far this year, we have had 719 parents/guardians give consent for voluntary testing. Although we are continuing to see cases rise in Vermont, our schools are operating without disruption because of the very few cases we currently have, the safety measures we have in place, and the strong partnerships we have with Lamoille North families.

On another note, we are excited to continue our partnership with Healthy Lamoille Valley with the rollout of a series of free workshops and enrichment activities framed as *Live Your Why: Passport Edition*. These workshops build resilience and community connections for Lamoille County, grades 5-8, which includes our middle school students. Each workshop focuses on one of the following skills:

**Mental Health**  
**Physical Well-Being**  
**Self-Expression**  
**Community Connections**  
**Building Resourcefulness**  
**Volunteering**

We encourage you to explore what our local community has to offer. Youth can earn passport stamps towards prizes for participating in free workshops, activities, and events hosted by a variety of regional organizations. Once a participant has a stamp for each skill area, they can turn in their *Live Your Why Passport* to receive a prize of \$30 value: a Vermont State Park pass, a Power Play Sports gift certificate or an art supply kit. The first 50 complete passports will be guaranteed a prize. Parents, caregivers, and family members are welcome to join for applicable workshops/activities. Go to [www.healthylamoillevalley.org/passport](http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/passport) to find out more information including where to pick up your *Live Your Why Passport*. We will continue to update you as more opportunities become available for students and families!

On a more serious note, schools across the nation are beginning to see more occasions of students participating in something that has become known as the TikTok Challenge. Some of these "challenges", primarily aimed at the secondary level, grades 7-12, involve destruction of school property and inappropriate use of school facilities, as well as suggestions of violence towards others. We encourage families to team with us to talk to their children about respect and what it means to be a contributing member of a school community and beyond.

Our school administrators and staff are speaking directly to grade-level teams about their actions and the potential consequences of those actions, both positive and otherwise, and are bringing in helpful resources from some of our community partners. We are also implementing lunch groups and afterschool student and staff conversations about what it means to be a member of the school community, and to feel safe and to belong. You can expect to hear directly from the middle and high school administration about what they are doing to specifically address serious and unacceptable actions.

On a positive note, as a result of what is occurring around the state and nation, we have seen an outpouring of support from many of our student athletes and others who have willingly volunteered to help clean tables and assist in school community service where needed. They are to be applauded for modeling leadership and respect, and the desire to unconditionally help their peers and staff. We are grateful for our students and families and will be communicating regularly about the culture we are engaged in fostering in our buildings.

Thank you, as always, for partnering with our schools to help our students succeed. Please continue to reach out to school or central office administration with ideas and questions.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Lamoille North Supervisory Union