



October 8, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families,

I hope you are all doing well and can find time this weekend to be outside to see what might just be the best of our fall foliage!

Earlier this week, we had our first Community Advisory Group meeting and welcomed community members from each of our towns and community partners to give input in the following areas: equity and inclusion in our schools; communication between schools and communities; and community engagement. We discussed ideas for public forums to be held this year and ways for students to receive supports in the areas of appropriate social media use, education around substance use, and more opportunities for classroom activities, clubs or other groups that might help students feel a greater sense of belonging in the school community. We actively are seeking feedback from the greater communities on ideas for the group to consider in the areas identified. You can find the list of our Community Advisory Group members [HERE](#).

We will host our second public forum on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, in the GMTCC/CEC from 5:30-7:30 pm. The agenda will include a speaker from Healthy Lamoille Valley who will discuss resources and opportunities for students and families; information from administration will be shared on parent/caretaker school compacts through Title I along with updates regarding our strategies for program implementation under ESSER in our schools. We will communicate the detailed agenda closer to the date of the forum.

Last week, we communicated about some events that occurred at the secondary level in response to the TikTok challenge. Students and staff participated in reflective conversations in their home base classrooms about what it means to be a member of the school community. Together, they created a poster, set forth below, that reflects the content of their reflections and discussions.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

DIRECTLY FROM HOMEBASE CONVERSATIONS
ON OCTOBER 4TH, 2021



PRACTICE BEING MINDFUL OF OTHERS

TREAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.

PICKUP AFTER YOURSELF.

BE POSITIVE WITH EACH OTHER.

VOICE OPINIONS IN A PRODUCTIVE WAY.

RESPECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.

BEFORE TAKING ACTIONS THINK ABOUT HOW IT WILL AFFECT OTHERS.

TREAT THE SCHOOL HOW YOU WOULD TREAT YOUR OWN HOME.

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.

SHOW LEADERSHIP.

PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO EACH OTHER.

BE KIND.

BE YOUR BEST SELF.

We are pleased to report that we have not seen another incident of destruction of property or any other occurrence that could have been a result of this challenge. We commend all students and educators who have come together to create healthy ways to foster a sense of belonging and safety in our schools!

On another note, we have received some updated information from the Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE) regarding Child Tax Credit Payments as follows:

“Information to Share with Households on 2021 Advance Child Tax Credit Payments

The 2021 Child Tax Credit provides advance payments of up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 and up to \$250 per month for each child ages 6 through 17 for eligible households. Households who have already filed their 2020 tax return should be receiving these monthly payments automatically. However, households who are not required to file federal income tax returns need to register for the payments through the [IRS’s Non-filer Sign-up Tool](#). Many low income families are not required to file federal income tax returns and may not be aware that these funds are available to them. Please help get the word out by sharing [The 2021 Child Tax Credit: Three Steps to Getting Your Advance Payment](#) with households. This publication is also available in [Spanish](#), [Chinese Traditional](#), [Chinese Simplified](#), [Russian](#), [Korean](#), [Vietnamese](#), and [Haitian Creole](#). More resources to share with households, including downloadable posters, social media content, and flyers aimed at households experiencing homelessness can all be found in the [IRS Toolkit for Partners](#).”

We also were asked to share some important updates from Emily Rosenbaum, the Project Director for Lamoille County’s Working Communities Challenge, regarding available resources and supports to Lamoille families. Please click [HERE](#) to access this information.

As always, I encourage any of our families to reach out for clarification of anything in this newsletter or just to have a conversation. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

My best to you,

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