



Friday, May 6, 2022

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

I am hoping that you are enjoying our longer days and much warmer weather! Most of our schools are either finished or have almost completed standardized assessments and are entering the next wave of learning, and extracurricular opportunities such as sports, performances of all kinds, graduations and other celebrations!



It's that time of year again when we publicly recognize our school nutrition team members for being the amazing heroes that they are! Today marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National School Lunch Hero Day! It is a partnership between the School Nutrition Association and artist, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, who is the author of the "Lunch Lady" book series. [You can watch his short TED Talk about the inspiration behind his graphic novel series here.](#)

The month of May is also a time to celebrate our teachers and support staff for all the compassion, expertise and dedication they bring to their work each and every day. We thank them for their work with all members of our school communities.

This week we showcase some exciting happenings at our high school! Interim Principal, Bethann Pirie, proudly announces information about four recent commendations awarded to our students and staff to include:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Vermont Chess State Championship;
- Health Teacher of the Year Award;
- School Counselor of the Year Award; and
- A huge win at the Vermont Congressional Art Competition!

Please see the LUHS weekly newsletter [HERE](#) for detailed information about these successes!

In community news, and as mentioned previously, on May 11<sup>th</sup> we are pleased to hold a community conversation, in conjunction with our partners at Healthy Lamoille Valley, on preventing youth cannabis use in our communities. This interactive evening will look at where our youth are exposed to cannabis and other drugs and how parents and community members can make a difference. We invite parents and students to be present.

You may be thinking, "I do not have a student in the Lamoille North District, this event isn't for me." This event is open to the Lamoille Valley community. Our youth cross town lines for the Tech Center, friendships, sports, services, shopping, and more. While this is a county conversation, you potentially interact with Lamoille North Students. We invite you to attend! Middle and high school youth are welcome and encouraged to attend this event.

You can register for this event [HERE](#) or by visiting our district [Facebook page](#). **The date is Wednesday, May 11, 2022, from 6:30-7:30 at GMTCC in the CEC. A light supper will be provided for those who attend and will be available beginning at 6:00 pm.** We look forward to seeing you at this event!

In other news, we have received information about the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Health Disparities Grant from the Morrisville office of the Vermont Department of Health (VTDOH) District Director, Aaron French. He reports:

*The Vermont Department of Health (VTDOH) along with their local district office (Morrisville) were awarded a significant amount of money to address COVID-19 related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state health departments capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and underserved or marginalized populations at higher risk for COVID-19, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural underserved communities. The Lamoille District has been awarded \$150,000 to develop and implement projects to bridge these gaps and reduce or eliminate these inequities.*

*Work at identifying these inequities and gaps in health and human services has just started and we are seeking individuals to participate in the local collaborative, focus groups to assist in sharing those **lived experiences** with this Health Equity Community Collaborative. We fully recognize that attending meetings, whether virtual or in-person, can be challenging for several reasons such as work schedule, lack of Wi-Fi, transportation and fuel costs, etc; therefore, we can offer monetary stipends to assist folks in attending these meetings. It is important to engage community members that can bring that **lived experience** to the table to reduce or eliminate health inequities in the BIPOC and underserved communities. Please join us.*

If you have any questions, please contact [Aaron.French@Vermont.gov](mailto:Aaron.French@Vermont.gov).

And lastly, and as another reminder, there has been an adjustment to our schedule for all LNSU schools. There will be an early release day for all schools on **Friday, May 13, 2022**, to honor the hard work of our students and staff. We want to take this opportunity to thank our LNSU Board Chair, Mark Nielsen, and CES Board Chair, Mark Stebbins, for their support of our students and staff in this endeavor.

As always, thank you for being collaborative, kind and supportive members of our school community. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

My best to you,

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