



September 2, 2022

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff:

We have successfully finished our first week of school, and I can't tell you strongly enough just how happy we are to have our students and staff back in school. I've also been able to talk to a number of students and staff this past week who are excited to be present with their friends and colleagues and eager to make new ones. The energy and thirst for learning and connection has been evident in each school. Our elementary schools started the school year celebrating each learner, discussing the importance of partnering with each family, and focusing on learning and "getting to know you" activities. In general, each classroom is working on building a community with a culture that welcomes each student and staff member and gives them a sense of safety and belonging.

Similarly, Lamoille Union Middle and High Schools spent much of the first week building community understandings, learning about attendance and engagement expectations as well as graduation requirements, and introductions to a variety of extracurricular opportunities. At Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC), students across the school are already diving into new learning about industry and career skills in their programs. All in all, we had a wonderful first week!



Per my communication last week, updated guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE) has been provided pursuant to (Evacuation) Fire Drills and other drills. The updated guidance is a departure from the COVID-19 pandemic operational stance and will be a return to the pre-pandemic drill process and schedule. As always, we aim to maintain a culture of physical and emotional safety and belonging for all members of the school community and beyond. While we understand the importance in having buildings and structures and plans in place to ensure physical safety, we recognize that what needs to be most strengthened are our relationships with, and connections to, members of the school community. Schools have received much attention to incidents that have occurred inside their walls, and while absolutely understandable, we need to acknowledge that incidents or acts of violence are community issues, and we all bear responsibility in ensuring that our communities, including, schools, grocery stores, libraries, religious institutions, parks, town offices and more, are safe for all.



On a different note, our busses have established their routes and for most of our families, transportation is going smoothly. We recognize that there are a few who are disappointed that some bus stops have been deemed unsafe and we will work with you to

problem solve. General school personnel do not designate routes. Our licensed school bus drivers and transportation coordinators at Cambridge and Eden, and separately our partners at Lamoille Valley Transportation (LVT) for all other schools, designate routes based on safety first. If you have concerns, please reach out to Josie Prive (LVT) at josie@lvt.org, or Kelly Shortsleeve (CES) at kshortsleeve@cesvt.net, or Deb Newcomb (ECS) at dnewcomb@edenschool.net.

I continue to be grateful for our staff, students, and community, and look forward to our continued partnership throughout the year and beyond. We care deeply about all people in our community. We are thoughtful about every decision we make, and we are committed to working together for the benefit of all of our students and staff. Lastly, I hope that you have a wonderful Labor Day weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

My very best to you,

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