



Friday, April 7, 2023

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

Please note important upcoming events set forth below:



April 10, 2023, LNSU/LNMUUSD Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, GMTCC, [Agenda](#)

April 12, 2023, Cambridge Elementary School, PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm

April 13-14, 2023, Lamoille Union Middle School Presents “The Addams Family”,
7:00 pm

April 14, 2023, Waterville Elementary School, Morning Meeting, 7:50 am

April 15, 2023, Lamoille Union Middle School Presents “The Addams Family”, 2:00 pm

April 15, 2023, Lamoille Union High School, State Chess Tournament, Berlin, VT, 10:00 am

After the events of last week, each of our schools is reviewing all safety protocols and being mindful of the importance of our safety drills. These drills are not intended to increase anxiety in our students and staff, but rather to reassure our school members that we do have a plan in the event of a situation that warrants enactment. I would like to use this opportunity to also highlight the importance of the “See Something, Say Something” culture we work to build within our community. Preventing harm has been, and always will be, the priority. All members of our school community must feel empowered to report concerns and know that we have purposeful, coordinated strategies to address them. We are proud of the work we have done to establish a safe, secure, and inclusive school environment. This work will never be complete as it is multifaceted, ongoing, and requires commitment from all of us. We appreciate all that our families do to support this.



In exciting school news, LUHS Spanish Teacher, Caresse Whyte, was recently recognized as the Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the Vermont Foreign Language Association!

As Bethann Pirie and Pat LaClair write, “It is clear just by taking a glance into her bright and colorful room that Caresse puts a lot of care and energy into creating a positive class environment. Something that is not so visible is that Caresse has been growing and exploring at the forefront of World Language instruction, relying less on rote memorization and more on helping students actually understand what is being said or read in the language. Making this shift is hard work, as it requires constantly adapting to students' needs and creating a lot of original materials for different classes.

Everyone in the department has benefited from Caresse's curiosity in finding new ideas, her willingness to share her approaches, and her readiness to reflect on how things are going. Conversation, movement, reading, creativity, music, writing, drawing, videos and games are all part of what goes on in Caresse's classes. It is a well-deserved recognition!”



Above: LUHS World Language teachers Marvin Ramirez, Scott Tarbox, Caresse Whyte, and Isabelle Chayer at this year's VFLA conference.

In more school news, each year Lamoille Union Middle School hosts various opportunities for families to learn about the middle school and make the transition to 7th grade easier for youth. Click on the link below to see dates when you can visit the middle school and retrieve forms asking for input about your child that you believe is important for the school to have.

[ACTION NEEDED: Information for Incoming 7th Grade Families](#)

On a different note, news from the Vermont legislative session is as follows:

Set forth below is the list of education related bills from both the House (H) and the Senate (S) that made it across the chambers:

[H.165](#) - which makes the universal school meals program a permanent program to be funded from the Education Fund, and also expands the incentive grant for purchasing locally produced foods to include approved independent schools operating a food program and who qualify for the universal meals supplement.

[H.416](#) - Educator Workforce Development bill which creates the Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program to provide forgivable loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a teacher in Vermont public school and who meet specific eligibility requirements with a stated intent to diversify the educator workforce;

1. creates and funds the Emerging Pathways Grant Program to encourage and support the development and retention of Vermont educators;
2. temporarily suspends teacher licensing fees; and
3. seeks to diversify the educator workforce by gathering educator demographics and providing grants to support educator affinity groups.

Note: This bill will be folded into the omnibus workforce development bill.

[H.483](#) which requires approved independent schools to meet specific requirements to be approved as eligible to receive public tuition.

[DR 23-0979](#) which requires the Director of Suicide Prevention, in collaboration with the Agency of Education and stakeholders, to develop and submit a model protocol for all schools regarding suicide prevention, education, and postvention services.

[H.461](#) which makes miscellaneous changes to education law, including suspending the implementation of the shared school district financial system; allowing the National Guard Tuition benefit to be used at non-Vermont approved postsecondary schools; making changes to the home study program; and extending recommendation and reporting requirement deadlines for the Vermont Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group.

[S.18](#) which bans the sale of flavored tobacco products and e-liquids to any person under 21 years of age and prohibits the use of tobacco products, e-liquids, or tobacco substitutes as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001 on public school grounds or at public school sponsored functions.

[S.56](#) which includes a Prekindergarten Education Study Committee to make recommendations on how to improve and expand accessible, affordable and high quality prekindergarten education.

[S.102](#) which expands employment protections related to religious or political matters, permits agricultural and domestic workers to collectively bargain and amends the referendum procedure for collective bargaining representation.

[S.124](#) which establishes the School Construction Aid Task Force to examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid.

[DR 23-0993](#) which establishes the School Construction Aid Task Force to examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid. The bill also pauses testing of the indoor air quality of schools for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) until the report of the School Construction Aid Task Force is submitted to the General Assembly and the General Assembly approves further testing.

[S.133](#) which makes miscellaneous changes to education law, including requiring the Agency of Education to contract with an independent third-party to conduct a curriculum audit of at least four supervisory unions with a high percentage of students who are approved for free and reduced-price meals and creating a proficiency-based learning study committee.

[S.138 \(DR 23-0756\)](#) *which adds new school safety requirements.*

In other news, the Vermont Agency of Education has asked us to send this message to all families. If your family is currently affiliated with a military branch, please fill out this form provided by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE).

<https://datacollection.education.vermont.gov/Collections/Military-Affiliation/Current-Form/>

If your family is not currently affiliated with a military branch, no action is required. The Vermont Agency of Education is required to report to the federal government any student attending a public school that has an affiliation with a branch of the armed services as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code as Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. **The direct and only purpose of this collection is to fulfill Vermont's federal education reporting requirements.**

If you have any questions, please contact AOE.SLDSSupportGroup@vermont.gov



In school and community partner news, we invite you to join us on May 8th, 2023, for the Lamoille Valley Vape Awareness Town Hall. We have received feedback from families requesting education about vaping, vape devices and impacts to health, and are very excited to co-host this evening with our community partner, Healthy Lamoille Valley. The event will take place from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Community Education Center at GMTCC. Food and childcare will be provided.

The Town Hall is an opportunity to hear from health professionals from Healthy Lamoille Valley and school leaders from Lamoille North. The event on May 8th is a chance to learn about the rise of vaping, its health impacts, the ways in which Lamoille North is preventing its use within our student body, and what we can all do to make our communities as safe and healthy as possible.

Registration opens on Monday, April 10th, 2023.



Let's Talk: Take our Lamoille North Communication Survey

We need your input! As we work to dial in our communication efforts across our Supervisory Union, we want to know how and where you turn for information. Please take our short survey [HERE](#) to let us know how we can better communicate our updates and the great learning and opportunities happening across Lamoille North.

Lastly, I continue to be so grateful for our Lamoille North community members and the strong relationships we have built together. We appreciate your support for our work with your children and youth. Thank you again for your collaboration, compassion and dedication to the wellbeing of our students, staff and families. I hope all of you have a wonderful weekend!

My best to you,

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