August 3, 2020

Dear WES Families:

These are challenging times for us all but please feel assured that teachers and administrators are working hard to make the transition back to school as safe and manageable as possible. We are here to support our families and children in our community and aim to do it following all the guidelines laid out for us by the Supervisory Union, AOE and CDC. Please read Superintendent Bollard’s response to questions for more information around the reopening of school on September 8th.

It is not possible for us to know what the best choice for each child and family will be during the pandemic and the return to school in a safe and effective manner. Some families have to prioritize physical health, others have to prioritize the return to work for financial security and still others of you recognize in your child that their social emotional health demands a return to school or the necessity to remain home. I encourage you to make that decision, when the time comes, based on the needs of your family and the whole child.

I realize that you have not received adequate information to make a completely informed decision. Based on what you know now and what you believe is best for your child and family, please let us know what you are considering at this time. This will help us develop the best plan.

Please complete the following survey to help us plan---- Link to SURVEY

Derek Howard
Principal, Williamstown Elementary School.
**Option A - Return to Williamstown Elementary School In Person Learning**

You may elect to have your PK- 5th grade child return to the school building for in person instruction 4.5 days per week (PK 2 days) following health and safety guidelines. Wednesdays students will be dismissed after lunch. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are full day sessions.

Students will receive instruction in all core learning areas, including Allied Arts and Physical Education. Student assessments will be administered as in the past. IEP teams will convene to make decisions regarding specialized instruction and support necessary for students to make progress on their IEP goals and to access the general education curriculum.

**Option B - CVSU Online Academy**

You have the choice to have your K-5th grade child participate in the Central Vermont Supervisory Union (CVSU) Online Academy, a completely virtual, online learning platform. Class cohorts for the CVSU Online Academy will be determined after the number of student and staff participants has been determined. IEP teams will convene to make decisions regarding specialized instruction and support necessary for students to make progress on their IEP goals and to access the general education curriculum. Students who access the online academy will remain connected to their schools of origin in order to maintain social and emotional support and continuity. Online instruction is not available for PK students at this time.

**Option C - Home Schooling**

Parents and guardians who determine that homeschooling is the best option for their child and family are required to register their child(ren) for homeschooling through the Vermont Agency of Education Homeschool Division. Educational plans are submitted to the AOE for approval from the AOE. The VT AOE Home Study Team strongly encourages families to review the Home Study page on the Vermont Agency of Education’s website for the most recent forms and information.