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Committed to cultivating within all our students the knowledge, skills, and character essential to becoming purposeful, productive and engaged members of their world.

November 2022

Dear CVSU Parents and Community,

It's hard to believe it's November already and we are just 8 weeks away from Christmas break. The first two-months of the school year have been packed with learning and growth. Our students aren't the only ones learning something new this year. Our teachers and staff have participated in a variety of learning opportunities to increase their skills in the classroom, build strong cultures in our schools, and ensure the safety of our students. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to work and live in this community and lead our employees in preparing your children for an exciting future.

Weather Related School Closures

As we prepare for the possibility of weather related school closures, I wanted to remind parents that all notifications regarding school closures and delays will be sent through our automated phone/text/email system, posted on Facebook, and communicated to WCAX.

Safety of our students and employees is the primary factor in determining whether schools will be closed or delayed due to weather conditions. Our decision to close schools is made after reviewing current weather conditions in the region and checking on road conditions with our town road crews. Please remember the decision to close is based on weather conditions across our entire SU boundary. Although the conditions may not look bad where you are, it doesn't mean they are safe across our entire SU. As always, we will do our best to notify you of any changes to the school day as soon as the decision is made. For additional information on winter weather safety, please visit the [NWS Winter Safety Website](#).

ALICE Violent Critical Incident Training

In an effort to provide the safest possible schools for our students and employees, all teachers and staff participated in ALICE violent critical incident training at the beginning of the school year. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.

For many years, the standard protocol for responding to a violent incident on campus was to direct teachers, staff, and students to lockdown in their classroom. The lockdown-only approach has been deemed inefficient by the Department of Education, independent researchers, and law enforcement. Therefore, CVSU identified the need to provide an options-based training for teachers and staff. With the ALICE protocols in place, adults on campus will now make a decision whether to lockdown or evacuate with students after considering the events occurring around them.

This winter, students will be introduced to the ALICE protocols and options for responding to a critical incident on campus. These lessons will be presented differently at each grade level through developmentally appropriate lessons.

Parents who wish to learn more about ALICE and how it will be implemented in our schools are invited to attend an online presentation on Thursday, November 17, from 6-7pm. Superintendent Fedders will introduce parents to the ALICE principals and provide a preview of the age-appropriate lessons that will be implemented across the district. The link to this presentation can be found at www.CVSU.org.

ARP/ESSER Public Plan

The American Rescue Plan/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP/ESSER) is the third round of federal funding provided to public schools to address and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. CVSU has been developing our spending plan and have recently submitted our proposed plan to the state. CVSU's ARP/ESSER spending plan includes investments in the following areas:

- Academic intervention and enrichment
- Social-emotional/mental health support
- Extended learning opportunities
- Professional development
- Heating and ventilation improvements
- Software to increase data analysis, curriculum development, and parent communication
- Special education supports

A summary of the plan, including expenditures that will be funded with this grant, are available at www.CVSU.org under the "Superintendent's Office" tab. CVSU encourages parent and community input on the proposed expenditures. Comments can be made directly to Superintendent Fedders at mfedders@cvsu.org.

National Assessment on Educational Progress (NAEP)

In October, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation's Report Card, released a full report for the first time since 2019. The NAEP assesses reading and math proficiency for students in grades four and eight. This year's report indicated a slight drop in reading scores and a much greater drop in math scores nationwide.

As part of the ESSER Spending Plan, CVSU has made considerable investments in improving math instruction. We have partnered with the All Learners Network, a premier professional development organization in Vermont, to provide training and support for all math and special education teachers in the SU, we are expanding the use of our iReady math curriculum in grades K-2, and we have hired additional math teachers to provide targeted support to students who require additional instruction in math. I am confident our students will make improvements in math with these additional supports in place.

This is also a great time to remind you of the upcoming iReady Parent night scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 from 6-7pm. Please visit www.CVSU.org for more information and to register for this online event.

I look forward to seeing you at one of these upcoming events!



Matthew Fedders, Superintendent