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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.*

October 8, 2021

Dear CVSU Community,

As we wrap up our fifth week of school I wanted to provide an update on how the school year is going. Despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing shortages within the state of Vermont, we are at a much better place than we were at this time last year. Students and staff have done an excellent job adhering to mask requirements in place in our schools and schools remain open 5-days per week. Teachers and staff have done an exceptional job keeping students engaged and learning each day.

Over the past two-weeks, schools have been administering local assessments of your children in reading and math. This data is already being used to identify students who require targeted and intensive intervention and support. Your child's teacher will review your child's individual progress during parent conferences over the next two weeks. As a reminder, there is no school on Monday, October 11 in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day and Friday, October 15 for parent conferences.

CVSU and schools across the state are currently experiencing a staffing shortage in several areas. Although we are in a better situation than many surrounding districts, we continue to face shortages in substitute teachers, bus drivers, and other critical areas. CVSU is doing our best to keep classrooms staffed with substitutes during absences and keep bus routes running as scheduled. In the event bus routes are disrupted, we will do our best to inform you of any adjustment in routes as soon as possible.

Like many schools across the state, we have seen an increase in children and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 in recent weeks. We are continuing to implement contact tracing and quarantining of students and classrooms as needed. I am appreciative of the support parents are providing to keep their children home when sick and getting their children tested when identified as a close contact.

Our current student case rates are listed below (as of 10/8/2021)

<b>Student Cases in CVSU Schools</b>	<b>Cases in Last 7 days</b>	<b>School Year Total</b>
Washington Village School	6	9
Orange Center School	0	3
Northfield Elementary	0	3
Northfield Middle High School	0	1
Williamstown Elementary	0	3
<u>Williamstown Middle High School</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	6	21

CVSU is currently working with the Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health to implement new procedures for contact tracing and COVID testing within our schools. More information will be provided to families as we bring these programs up to speed. These new procedures will take time to get up and running, however we are confident the changes will ensure asymptomatic students are in class even if identified as a close contact. As always, parent consent will be required to conduct any COVID tests on school campuses.

Thank you again for your support of our teachers and staff as we continue to navigate these challenging issues and provide a quality education to our students. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher, school principal, or myself.

Sincerely,



Matthew Fedders

Superintendent of Schools