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wrvsu.org

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Friday, July 17, 2020

To the Students, Faculty/Staff, and Parents/Guardians of WRVSU:

I want to begin by once again thanking all of the task force members and community resource partners for their efforts in drafting the WRVSU Covid-19 recommendations. The WRVSU Task Force Recommendations have been completed and will be released to faculty/staff on Tuesday, July 21st. They will then be released to the greater community on Thursday, July 23rd. **To be clear, these recommendations are to provide guidance and support to all of the WRVSU schools in order to ensure a safe and effective opening of schools for in person instruction beginning on Friday, August 28th.** The WRVSU revised 2020-21 calendar now includes additional in-service and planning time at the beginning of the school year in order to allow for reflection and modification of our safety and instructional procedures for the start of the school year. We will continuously look throughout the upcoming school year to improve our practices during these unprecedented times. Therefore, you will also find an updated school year calendar attached to this communication. Please note that the same number of student days still exist, but that in-service time is now frontloaded.

I also want to let everyone know that we will be offering a hybrid model of learning throughout the upcoming school year. **This means that parents/guardians can elect to register their students for either in person or virtual learning this school year.** This guidance was recently provided by the VT Agency of Education on Wednesday, July 15th. Therefore, we will move forward with the development of procedures that communicate what is required if a family elects virtual learning. In addition, we will be requesting that students register for virtual learning by no later than Friday, August 14th. **The registration forms and procedures for virtual learning will be made available to all WRVSU families by Friday, July 31st.**

We are also working with our transportation company to make plans to ensure that we are able to safely transport students across the WRVSU. To this end, we will be sharing a transportation registration form to gather information on families that are in absolute need of transportation to and from school. We are working with the transportation company to ensure safe transportation to school, but that will probably

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require a decrease in the number of students that access our busses or a significant reworking of our routes. Therefore, we need to get a sense of who plans to utilize transportation this upcoming school year. I ask that you strongly consider carpooling if it isn't too much of a hardship on your family.

I'm also pleased to announce that Shane Oakes, MTSS Coordinator for WRUD has agreed to serve as the WRVSU Covid-19 Coordinator. Therefore, he will be working closely with our nurses, lead custodians, task force facilitators, and WRVSU administrative team to ensure that a coordinated effort remains in place throughout the supervisory union. We are also working diligently to purchase PPE and needed supplies in bulk, to ensure that we have all the materials and supplies needed to open schools safely.

In closing, I know that there are still more questions than answers. I want you to know that I will continue to provide regular communication, along with holding two Covid-19 related supervisory union informational evenings the weeks of August 10th and 17th. My plan is to hold these virtual meetings in order to address concerns and gather further feedback on our response/approach. These are unprecedented times, but we must come together in order to ensure that we provide all of our students with a safe, nurturing, and effective learning environment.

With great enthusiasm for the work ahead,

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU