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Dear Two Rivers Supervisory Union Families, Parents, Students, and Staff,

Welcome back!

The new school year is almost here, and we are all very excited to welcome everyone back into our buildings and classrooms. I hope you were all able to rest some over the summer, spend time with family and friends, and are now ready to face the new adventures of the coming year.

The past several years have seen us meet wave after wave of challenges. The hard work of our staff, students and families has carried us successfully through those difficult times. While there will be new and different challenges this coming year, I know we have the skills to rise above them, to find new academic success, make new friendships, and try new activities. We will strive for excellence in all that we do – while continuing to be generous, flexible and kind to each other (and to ourselves).

Our Professional Development time for teachers and paraeducators begins on Wednesday, August 24. We will be working together on a variety of new and continued learning, including improved literacy practices, support for students' personalized learning plans, implementation of classroom interventions, and restorative practices. As always, our focus is on improving the educational experience for all of our students.

You will see many familiar faces as you return as well as some new ones. Please join me in welcoming new faculty members to our buildings:

Cavendish Town Elementary School

Amy Bohren – Principal  
Cathy Herrick - Special Educator  
Melanie Bentley - Grade 2  
Julie Kelley - PE  
Amy McMullen - Library  
Andria Donohue - Nurse  
Jessica Pierce - Clinician (shared with MHS)

Chester Andover Elementary School

Susan Chelton - Special Educator  
Amelia Carson - Nurse  
Darcy Noble - Nurse (shared with Green Mountain)  
Kata Welch - Library  
Alicia Hammond - SLP Assistant (shared with CTES)

Green Mountain Union High School

Ananda Donohue - Assistant Principal  
Gerrit Bollin - HS Math  
Kristi Flack - HS Math  
Abigail Bullen - MS Social Studies  
Justin Osier - Special Educator  
Sam Parker - Speech Language Pathologist(SLP)  
Angela Sabo - MS English

Ludlow Elementary School

Samantha (Sam) Martignetti - Grade 5  
Michelle Ahlcrona - SLP (shared with MHS)

Mount Holly School

Lindsey Panasci - Grade 5 / 6  
Jessica Pierce - Clinician (shared with CTES)

We are fortunate to have all but one of our open positions filled – although it has taken much of the summer to make that happen. If I have missed anyone in the list above, please forgive me. Each principal will also send out a welcome letter informing you of their individual opening procedures (and introducing you to additional new staff members).

This is the first “Welcome Back” letter I have sent as superintendent that was not primarily a list of Covid related practices and procedures. While those messages can be relegated to the end of this letter, we are not yet at a place where I can leave them out altogether. Covid is still with us and remains a health concern even though it is no longer the first and most important thing for us to discuss.

Please remember to take precautions to prevent the spread of all illnesses, including Covid. Wash your hands often. Keep your children home if they are too ill to participate in learning or are running a fever. Our nurses will continue to evaluate students who become ill at school. They will test for Covid only if parents have provided permission to do so.

Anyone who gets Covid should:

- Isolate at home for at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms or the day of testing positive (whichever came first)
- Leave isolation after day 5 if symptoms have improved and there is no fever for 24 hours
- Wear a mask in public when indoors until 10 days after testing positive for Covid (even without symptoms)

Our focus this year is (blissfully) not on health mandates but instead on the education that is happening in our classrooms, on the relationships that our students are building with their teachers and classmates, and with setting and meeting goals for continuous improvement.

Our first day of school for all students will be on Wednesday, August 31. We look forward to beginning this new year of learning and growing together. As always, please let me know if you have questions or need support.

Thank you.

Lauren Fierman, Superintendent