

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

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Bruce C. Labs
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Tara Weatherell
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Deborah Matthews
Director of Special Services

Mary Ellen Simmons
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, Assessment

June 12th, 2020

Dear WRVSU Students, Families, Faculty and Staff,

The recent deaths and unrest within our nation have highlighted the importance of opposing racism and other forms of systemic discrimination. As leaders in the White River Valley Supervisory Union, we believe in Respect, Responsibility, Equity and Safety for all - no exceptions. Racism is not Respectful, not Responsible, not Equitable, and not Safe.

We must and will do more:

- We recognize that social and racial injustice exists in our schools, our communities, our state, and our country. In order to bring about change, we must work together. It is the responsibility of all to help foster the needed change.
- We will teach and model for our students that equity and social justice are the foundation for a vibrant, healthy and democratic society.
- We re-commit ourselves to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to doing the work required to dismantle structural systemic racism and oppression.
- At the school level, along with our faculty and staff, we will actively participate in ongoing training that enables us to recognize, identify, and respond to all bias, both implicit and explicit. This work and learning cannot and will not be a one time event and will remain a priority.
- We commit to working with our boards and staff to examine our own policies, procedures, programming, direct services, and organizational culture to ensure they reflect our commitment to social and racial justice.

To all our families and students and especially to our families and students of color, we are accountable to you. We welcome and need your participation and commitment in our journey to end social and racial injustice.

Respectfully, Responsibly and Safely Yours,

Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology, WRVSU
Mark Blount, Principal, Chelsea Public School
Bonnie Bourne, CoPrincipal, RSUD
Andra Bowen, Principal, Bethel Elementary School

Serving the Schools and Communities of

Bethel - Chelsea - Granville - Hancock - Rochester - Royalton - Sharon - Stockbridge - Strafford - Tunbridge

Owen Bradley, Principal, WRVMS
Chuck Brown, Interim Principal, Tunbridge Central Schools
Janice Crow, Act 166 Pre-K Coordinator, WRVSU
Keenan Haley, Principal, Sharon Elementary School
Jamie Kinnarney, Incoming Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU
Bruce Labs, Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU
Deborah Matthews, Director of Special Education WRVSU
Reed McCracken, Principal, WRVHS
Cynthia Powers, Grant Administrator
Mary Ellen Simmons, Director of Curriculum
Lindy Stetson, CoPrincipal, RSUD
Tracy Thompson, Principal, The Newton School
Aimee Toth, WRVSU Literacy Coach
Charlie Watson, Instructional Coach/Parent Liaison, WRVSU
David Wells, Principal, South Royalton Elementary