

White River School
102 Pine Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001
802.295.8650
Sheila C. Powers, principal
powerss@hartfordschools.net

August 29, 2017

Dear WRS families,

I wish a warm welcome to all of you; our returning students and families as well as our new students and families. I'm very excited to see all of you and I'm looking forward to collaborating with you this school year to ensure that your child has a very successful year. We at WRS aspire to engage your children in learning academically and socially in a respectful, safe environment and we model, teach and expect our students to be responsible for their learning, actions and words at WRS. These expectations are embedded in all that we do here. Our entire staff has studied Dr. Carol Dweck's research that she published in her book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. This book started the movement on the growth mindset work, something that I began teaching our students last year. Our staff at WRS will utilize what we learned from Dr. Dweck's book and incorporate it into our work as we promote the growth mindset. You can learn more about this work:

https://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve_here and:
<https://www.amazon.com/Mindset-Psychology-Carol-S-Dweck/dp/0345472322> [here \(book summary\)](#).

Our staff will also learn about the Hartford School District's newly adopted Transferable Skills as well as personalized and proficiency based learning. I'll share much more about this in future newsletters!

Here are some important details:

- Tuesday, August 29th - first day of school for grades 1-5 (kindergarten and pre-k start on August 31st)
- School begins at 8:15 and ends at 2:50. Please help your child be on time!
- If dropping off your child by vehicle: It is a "drop and go" car line. Please don't get out of your vehicle in the bus loop. Please park in a spot if you wish to hug your child good-bye. Other parents are on a tight schedule and need to get to work on time.
 - For your child's safety - please have her/him exit on the passenger side closest to the curb. Cars pass on the inside lane of the bus loop (driver's side) and I've witnessed too many close calls when a child gets out on the driver's side.
- Bus routes are published on the Hartford School District website: www.hsdyt.com *If you have specific questions about bussing, please call Butler's Bus Company directly: 802-788-4322.*
- Free/reduced lunch applications: *If you have questions regarding your child's application status please email Nancy Raymond at raymondn@hartfordschools.net or call: 802-295-8600.*
- Creative Lives After School Program: See their website: www.creativelives.org
- To reach WRS staff via email: last name, first initial @hartfordschools.net (for example: powerss@hartfordschools.net)

We've sent home a great deal of information on the first day of school. There will be many forms for you to review, complete and return. *The White River School Student Handbook* was sent home also.. I strongly encourage you to read this and hold onto it. It has important information about our school and how to contact staff as needed. Our website: www.wrsvt.com will be updated this week as our teachers return for inservice days. Mrs. Haynes, our librarian maintains our website for us! Please try to check the website periodically for news and information. **My newsletters will be shared via email. If you need a hard copy instead of email, please call Mrs. Taber, school secretary and request this.**

Here are a few important events that are coming up:

September 14th 5:00-5:45/5:45-6:15 -Open House and Hot Dog Dinner (courtesy of WRS PTA)

September 22: School Picture Day - more information when it becomes available
October 9 - Teacher Professional Development Day - no school for students
October 13: Farm Day @ WRS!
October 15: WRS PTA Fundraiser/Color Run Day at Max Field - more information coming soon
November 2 - Early Release for students at 12:50 for Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 3 - Parent Teacher Conferences- no school for students
November 30 - WRS Winter Concert @ 6:30 p.m.
May 24 - WRS Spring Concert @ 6:30 p.m.

Please be sure to log into Infinite Campus to make necessary changes to your demographic information. Please contact Mrs. Taber to obtain your campus ID# that is required to set up the parent portal. The school office also has a parent laptop for those that cannot access the internet from home. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sheila C. Powers
Principal