

Along with our principals, we offer a heartfelt “Welcome back” to our students and parents. We’ve all been busy gearing up for another successful school year!

Our organization’s vision statement is alive and well, and one that we strive across our organization to ensure is present daily. It is:

Chittenden Central Supervisory Union, a student-centered learning community, will maximize available resources through unified, collaborative leadership to be consistently recognized as exemplary, as measured by continuous improvement in the areas of achievement, safe and respectful learning environments, and the promotion of equity for all.

The vision statement identifies our priorities, and our work is grounded in the ethics represented within the statement. We encourage you to take a moment and reflect on the statement, and we further invite you to share in the vision for all children.

For the third consecutive year, we have a unified Parent/Student Handbook, designed to make school rules and standards consistent across the supervisory union’s schools. As many families have children in multiple schools, we hope you find this common approach to a single handbook a “family friendly.” Based upon helpful suggestions from families, we have also begun streamlining our approach with forms, so common data entries will not be repeated over and over. Let us know if this is an improvement!

As an organization grounded in principles of continuous improvement, some important initiatives are underway, many of which are nearing completion. Highlights among them include:

- A universal focus continues on student achievement, with ongoing curriculum and instruction efforts across all schools.
- A new board approved “Wellness” policy, which calls upon us to organizationally be increasingly attentive to students’ nutritional needs and activity levels. (A separate communication on nutrition shifts and changes will follow to parents outlining more details on this subject.)
- By the start of school, the revamped district website will be unveiled. While destined to be refined in the months and years ahead, the web-site represents a wonderful and contemporary information source for citizens. Once completed, the web-site will provide access to various resources, including: forms, policies, procedures, job opportunities, homework access, staff directories, and much more. Look for improvements to the site in the months ahead. The web-site can be accessed at www.ccsuvt.org.
- The Property Services Division has managed an enormous amount of work on school facilities during the summer. The ONECAMPUS construction project is on track and will provide incredible educational space for Essex High School and Center for Technology, Essex students, as well as provide improved athletic

facilities and expanded cafeteria space. In addition, drainage concerns have been proactively addressed with major projects at Albert D. Lawton and Summit Street School. Comprehensive floor tile work took place at all Essex Junction schools. There were many other projects in addition to the routine maintenance and cleaning efforts.

- Essex Junction Recreation and Parks welcomed a new interim director, Brad Luck and two new assistant directors, Mark Brislin and Ryan Hegreiness. Summer programs were an enormous success and an exciting fall brochure is on its way. Skate-park efforts are continuing and the goal is to have a facility up and running for the summer of 2008.
- A team of district administrators has further refined our districts' safety plan, pairing efforts to prevent crises and respond if they occur. We would like to remind everyone that a Safe School Hotline (872-5888) is available to report any safety concerns and that all school visitors are requested to sign in at the main office.
- Focused attention and resources are being dedicated to making heightened use at the classroom level with our wonderful technology resources. A realignment of high school resources and the addition of elementary level education technologists are already yielding wonderful outcomes as students return to school.

We look forward to the return of all of our learners, and we also look forward to your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and suggestions to make our schools even that much more special.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Deweese, Superintendent
Judith Prince, Assistant Superintendent