

February 18, 2021

Dear RCPS Families and Friends:

If you are a fan of basketball, consider this letter a 20-second timeout!

We passed another milestone in our pandemic year by reaching our February vacation. The news this week all around the country is hopeful, with case counts declining nationally and vaccines rolling out. Spring is not far away. And as the experts are advising, if we maintain our discipline, we can envision a return to normal life in the not-to-distant future.

To get there as a united community, we have to continue to maintain the vigilance to which we all committed last March. In light of a recent COVID-19 spike in Rutland County, our local colleagues at the Vermont Department of Health asked us to pass on reminders. Please consider the guidance on masks, hand-washing, distancing, travel, and social gatherings. All of this makes a tremendous difference when we participate together. In so doing, we protect our local economy and most importantly, the health of our community members.

We in the Rutland City Schools want to thank all of our families and our community members for your continued support. We also want to thank our staff and students. We have had an extraordinarily successful year so far, especially when we remember some of the predictions and the fears about school before the school year started. Our immediate short-term goal is to keep our schools open for in-person learning for the rest of the year. A longer term goal that we are planning on now is the consideration of what the summer and the next school year will be like, especially as we work to help any student who may have fallen behind. We arrive at both of those goals with your help and collaboration.

Thank you, and please enjoy the remainder of the school vacation week.

Sincerely,



Bill Olsen, Superintendent