

WINDSOR SCHOOL

Mt. Ascutney School District

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Windsor School is an inclusive education environment that welcomes all and strives to meet the needs of every individual student. Students entering public education bring with them diverse experiences, perspectives, competencies and access to resources. Our school is committed to developing multi-tiered systems of support that help equalize access and opportunity for every student to help reduce achievement gaps. We believe that all students deserve a highly engaging, rigorous and relevant education experience. This starts by recognizing and honoring each student where they are at in their life story, and supporting their personal learning journey. It requires recognizing that one size does not fit all and embraces collaboration and student autonomy. Student autonomy is at the heart of school practices, including; project based learning; grade level academies; personalized learning plans; and flexible pathways.

Members of the Windsor School community, along with Albert Bridge School, Hartland School and Weathersfield School, have been working with an organization called Battelle for Kids. Their organization is best known for their "*Portrait of a Graduate*" process which involves recognizing 21st century landscape shifts in career and education that requires a different set of competencies for high school graduates. Rather than stand alone traditional content based competencies (social studies, science, literacy, math), evidence shows a greater demand for competencies in the areas of communication, collaboration, problem solving and perseverance. Phase II of the Portrait of a Graduate involves developing a plan for how to put greater emphasis on these shifting competencies, which may involve some restructuring of current systems and practices. The planning phase will take place over the remaining months of the 2019-20 school year.

Evidence shows the significant impact trauma and adverse childhood experiences has on normal development, the brain and learning. An alarming number of students have, or continue to experience toxicity and adversity outside of school. Schools within the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union have been participating in specialized training to assist each of our schools in becoming trauma informed and transformed environments. As a result, Windsor School has increased our continuum of social-emotional supports and services, including readily available access to mental health services, clinical social work and cognitive behavior coaching. We have been slowly, and intentionally, increasing our capacity to support students by contracting with

organizations like We R Hope, and collaborating with organizations like Health Care and Human Resources, Vocational Rehabilitation, Wise and the Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership.

Windsor School is pleased to be one of 3 Vermont High Schools to be selected by the Creative Engagement Lab to participate in a multi year project known as the Vermont Creative Learning Network. The Vermont Creative Learning Network brings schools and community members together to build partnerships that will allow students to engage in community based learning opportunities. We are thankful for the many community stakeholders who have agreed to take part in this endeavor. These partnerships will help strengthen our current flexible pathways offerings that provide our high school students with a multitude of alternate ways to earn credit and demonstrate graduation proficiencies. Under the flexible pathways umbrella, we have had an increase in students enrolling in college level courses and earning college credits from Dartmouth College, Community College of Vermont and River Valley Community College. We are proud to be able to offer several college level courses onsite through RVCC's Running Starts program.

It is with great gratitude that I continue to serve as your school principal. I cannot thank our families and community members enough for your ongoing support. Thank you!

Tiffany Riley

Windsor School Principal