



# Mettawee Messenger

August 31, 2022 Principal: Brooke DeBonis 645-9009

## Principal's Corner:

### Welcome Back to the 2022-2023 School Year!

We are celebrating our 24th year of this amazing school! The teachers and staff have been extremely busy getting ready for the school year. The hallways are shiny, the classrooms are bright and organized, our stage has been sanded and refinished, and our school has a new roof! I am looking forward to working with you in educating your child. My door is always open if you have any questions, comments, or concerns!

## Update on All-School Meeting

We will have All-School Meetings every other Wednesday afternoon from 1:50 to 2:25. This is when K-6 grades come together to celebrate birthdays, share announcements, teach each other what we are learning in our classrooms, sing songs, and build the relationships between all members of our community. On September 7th, Ms. Hoyt and the sixth grade will be leading the All-School Meeting. On September 14th, our fifth graders will be leading our All-School Meeting. On September 21st, our 4th and 5th grade class will be leading our All-School Meeting. Our 4th graders will be leading the All-School Meeting on September 28th. Then, we will be rotating who will be leading All-School Meeting every other week. You are welcome to attend ASM!

## Advisories

On October 5th, we will introduce Advisories. During Advisories the students are divided between all the teachers in our school; one or two students

per grade. Small groups of 7-9 students will meet every other week to read books, play games, share stories, make cards, and participate in school events together. Both All-School Meeting and Advisories are part of our master schedule because we value the importance of students building relationships with all the teachers, staff, and students. It is great that the students are able to establish friendships with students across the different grades. We will post the dates for these activities in our messenger so you will be informed.



## PAPER WORK

Please look in your child's backpack for a Big Blue Communication Folder. In it you will find your beginning of the year paperwork, Emergency Cards, Health Forms, Field Trip Permission Slips, soccer sign ups...



PLEASE return this paperwork by Friday, September 2nd. If you are a preschool family you will be receiving your paperwork next week. Please return it ASAP but no later than Monday, September 12th. It is imperative that we have updated information for all students each year. We appreciate your cooperation.



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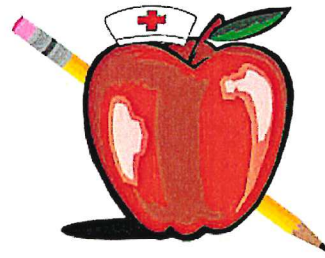
## WEEKLY COMMUNICATION

For those of you who are new to Mettawee, we send out weekly communication on Thursdays in the form of an email called the Mettawee Messenger. This communication goes to parents, students, and staff. Most weeks, a communication folder called our Big Blue Folder will go home on a Thursday in your child's backpack. You should be in the practice of checking your child's backpack every Thursday to be sure we have not sent paper communication home. In an effort to reduce paper we will send home flyers and things of that nature one per family and you will find it in your oldest child's folder. Most often, the folder is only sent home when there is information that needs to be filled out and returned to school. For instance - your child will have a Big Blue Folder this week filled with beginning of school year emergency paperwork. We try to let you know in the electronic Messenger that you should look in their bag for a folder on the weeks that we put one together. It is very important that you READ the weekly communication so that you will know what is going on. Following this electronic newsletter each week will be flyers, community information, forms, and upcoming happenings.



**THIS WEEK:** ALL forms, the lunch menu, health guidance from Mrs. Mayer, and a new bus note pad will be in your Big Blue folder.

**Electronic communication:** Your Mettawee Messenger will be sent in multiple emails since there is so much information going home. This will help you to search the important information if you ever need access to it again. The main Mettawee Messenger email will be the newsletter, a letter from Mrs. DeBonis, flyers and general information. There will also be an email for Food Services with your menu, free and reduced lunch application, and a letter from Food Services. All forms that need to be filled out and returned will be sent in a separate email but also provided in hard copy in your Big Blue folder so you won't need to print any of them. The last email will be the After School Program (MAP) Handbook and registration form.



Please find in your Big Blue folder a letter regarding health and safety from Mrs. Mayer.

Following the letter is a chart explaining protocols for this school year; when to keep your child home, testing for Covid, what to do if you test positive for Covid, exposures to Covid, and face coverings. Most importantly, please do not send your child to school if they are not feeling well. We thank you for your continued support.





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This fall each classroom teacher will be inviting you to a meeting with other parents so you will learn about the classroom's curriculum, daily schedule,

homework, and classroom expectations. These meetings are scheduled for the evening of **Tuesday, September 6th for grades K through 6.** On the evening of September 6th, grades K, 1, & 6 will meet at 5:30 p.m., grades 2 & 3 will meet at 6:00 p.m., and grades 4, 4/5, and 5 will meet at 6:30 p.m. We hope that every parent will be able to attend these meetings. We will provide childcare for your school-age child in our library both evenings.

## Drop-Off, Tardies, Dismissal, & Early Pickups

Our school day begins at 7:40 outside at the flag pole for a community greeting and song.

Drop off will run from 7:30-8:00 each morning.

- We are hoping to keep the drop off procedure safe and smooth for everyone.
- Car drop off will be in the front of the school using the drop off lane.
- All students PK-6 will enter through the main entrance door.
- Please do not drop off your child before 7:30

Your child will be considered **tardy** after 8:00.

- Tardy students will need to be brought to the main entrance of the school. Please ring the doorbell and wait outside until a staff member lets you in. Your child must sign in at the front desk if they arrive tardy.

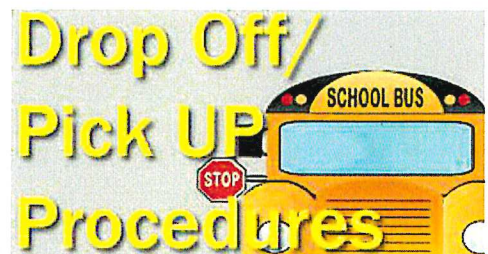
**Dismissal** is at 2:30 each afternoon and parents are required to pick up their students before 2:50.

- There will be no after school childcare the first few days of school. After School Program begins September 6th.
- Parents who **pick their child up early** must ring the doorbell, properly identify themselves, and wait until we have your child ready for you.

Parents who are visiting must be here for a set purpose like volunteering in a classroom or being present for All-School Meeting. Any deliveries of shoes or lunch boxes will be handled by front desk staff.

Please make sure all pickup permissions are updated with the school. If we do not have permission, we cannot dismiss the student to a non-custodial adult.

**If you have a change of dismissal plans for your child, please call the school before 2:00 PM.**





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## After School Program

We are excited to offer an After School Program again this year for our Kindergarten through 6th grade students. You will sometimes hear or see the

After School Program referred to as MAP

(Mettawee After School Program).

In your oldest child's Big Blue folder you will find a Handbook that should answer most of your questions regarding the After School Program. You will also

find a registration form for each of your children -

it is important that each child have their own

registration form. The Mettawee After School

Program will begin on September 6th. This allows our instructor time to organize the paperwork and fully staff the program based on how many families are in need of after school care. If you have any questions about cost or schedules please reach out

to Heidi Hawkins at [hhawkins@brsu.org](mailto:hhawkins@brsu.org).

IMPORTANT: your child can not stay for the After School Program if they do not have a registration form on file.



## Extra Clothing

Please be sure you are packing extra clothing in your child's backpack. We will be going outside as often as possible - sometimes rain or shine - for learning, brain breaks, and exercise. It is important that your child has an extra set of clothing in case they get wet and need to change.



## SOCCER SIGN UPS

**A SOCCER SIGN UP FORM FOR K-6 WILL BE IN YOUR CHILD'S BIG BLUE FOLDER THIS WEEK. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD PLAY SOCCER THIS YEAR PLEASE RETURN THE FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN CREATE ROSTERS AND ARRANGE COACHES.**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR COACHES FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS - IF YOU CAN DONATE SOME TIME PLEASE CONTACT JANNA**



**WEBB AT**

**[JWEBB@BRSU.ORG](mailto:jwebb@brsu.org)**

**IF YOU NEED TO ACCESS THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR CHILD PLAY SOCCER THEN PLEASE FILL OUT THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM AND PUT A NOTE ON THE FORM.**





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## Lunch and Breakfast **FREE**

We are thrilled to announce that a healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch will be free to all students again this year. As always, you can pack a breakfast or lunch from home if you prefer. We encourage ALL families to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch application because we receive funding for things like our free fresh fruit and vegetable snack based on our Free and Reduced numbers.



For updated information and event photos please find us on facebook:  
Mettawee Community School

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We are excited about the potential of a new school year and thank you for trusting us with your children!



September 5th - No School - Labor Day  
September 6th - First Day of Preschool  
September 6th - Parent Night (see times above)  
September 7th - All-School Meeting led by 6th grade  
September 14th - All-School Meeting led by 5th grade  
September 15th - Back to School Picnic 5:30  
September 21st - All-School Mtg. led by our 4/5 class  
September 28th - All-School Meeting led by 4th grade  
October 7th - No School - Prof. Development  
October 10th - No School - Columbus Day  
October 18th - School Picture Day  
October 27th - Evening Student Led Parent Conferences  
October 28th - No School - Student Led Parent Conferences  
October 31st - Halloween Parade at 1:30



When you

August 31, 2022

Enter this

Lively school

Consider yourself

One of the special

Members of a group who

Enjoy learning together!

Dear Families:

Thank you for joining us for our **twenty-fourth** first day of school at Mettawee! It was wonderful to celebrate an exciting new school year with so many of you this morning at our First Day Breakfast and we hope you will join us at school whenever you can to take part in our Mettawee Community School's activities. We will be expecting all guests to wear a visitors pass with a lanyard, which shows all of our staff that you have permission to be in the building. This will help to keep all of our students and staff safe.

Each classroom teacher will be inviting you to a meeting with other parents so you will learn about the classroom's curriculum, daily schedule, homework, and classroom expectations. These meetings are scheduled for the evening of **Tuesday, September 6th for grades K-6**. More detailed information will be sent home in your child's Big Blue Folder. On the evening of September 6th, kindergarten, first grade, and sixth grade will be from 5:30-6:00. Second grade & third grade will meet from 6:00 to 6:30. Fourth grade, the fourth/fifth grade class, and fifth will meet from 6:30-7:00. **We hope that every parent will be able to attend these meetings.** We will provide childcare for your school-age child in our library. We also invite parents and students to our Goal Setting Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. K-6 conferences will be on the evening of Thursday, October 27th and during the day on Friday, October 28th. For our preschoolers, the conferences will be throughout the day on Thursday, October 27th and Friday, October 28th. There will be no school on Thursday, October 27th for preschool. More information will be sent home as the date gets closer. Please save these dates.

We anticipate a successful school year and look forward to a wonderful beginning. As our message states, we welcome you as special members of our group who enjoy working together. We look forward to a promising new year!

Sincerely,



Brooke DeBonis  
Principal



BACK TO SCHOOL

# PARENT NIGHT

Join us to meet our teachers and learn  
about your child's upcoming year.

Tuesday, September 6th

Kindergarten, 1st Grade, & 6th Grade - 5:30-6:00

2nd Grade & 3rd Grade - 6:00-6:30

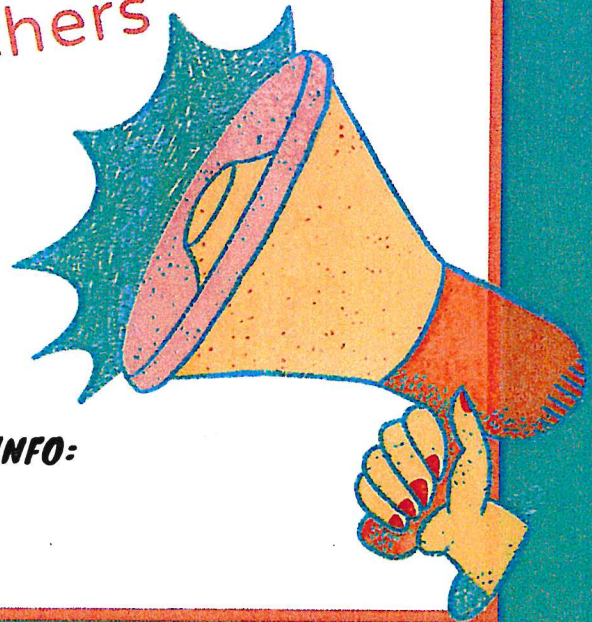
4th, 4/5th, & 5th - 6:30-7:00



Mettawee School Needs You!

# PTO!

- \*Plan Fundraisers
- \*Plan Fun Events
- \*Be A Part Of Decisions
- \*Support Students and Teachers



**CALL OR EMAIL CHERYL FOR MORE INFO:**  
**802-645-9009**  
[cchalmers@brsu.org](mailto:cchalmers@brsu.org)



# Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union

## 2022-2023 School Calendar

*For the schools of:*

*Currier Memorial, The Dorset School, Flood Brook School, Manchester Elementary Middle School,  
Mettawee Community School, and Sunderland Elementary School*

5	August 2022						1
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

8/25-30 - Prof. Dev. #1-4 (no school)  
8/31 - First Day of School

21	September 2022						21
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

9/5 - Labor Day (no school)  
9/6 - PreK first day

20	October 2022						18
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

10/7 - Prof. Dev. #5 (no school)  
10/10 - Indigenous Peoples' Day (no school)  
10/28 - Student Led Conf. (no school)

18	November 2022						18
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

11/11 - Veterans Day (no school)  
11/23-25 Thanksgiving Recess

15	December 2022						15
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

12/21 - Early Release  
12/22-12/30 - Holiday Recess (no school)

20	January 2023						19
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

1/2 - New Years Day Observed (no school)  
1/3 - Prof. Dev. #6 (no school)  
1/16 - MLK, Jr. Day (no school)

15	February 2023						14
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28					

2/17 - Student Led Conf. (no school)  
2/20-2/24 - Winter Recess (no school)

23	March 2023						22
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

3/17 - Prof. Dev. #7 (no school)

15	April 2023						15
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

4/17-4/21 - Spring Recess (no school)

22	May 2023						22
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

5/29 - Memorial Day (no school)

10	June 2023						10
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

6/14 - 175th day of school \* (early release)  
6/21 - Last day (early release) (includes 5 emergency closure days)

Trimester	End Date	Rpt Home
1	11/30/22	12/9/22
2	3/10/23	3/24/23
3	6/9/23	Last Day

emergency closure make up days

\* TENTATIVE - Emergency closure (snow days) could delay the last day of school.

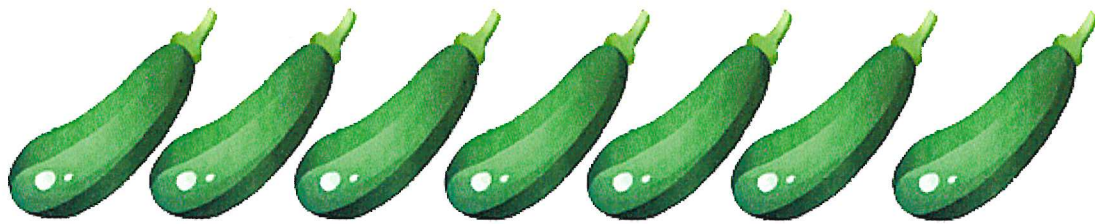
### JISP Days (Jan. - Mar.)

Currier Thursday - Dismissal 11:45  
Dorset Tuesday - Dismissal 12:00  
Flood Brook Tuesday - Dismissal 12:00  
Manchester Thursday - Dismissal 12:15  
Mettawee Friday - Dismissal 11:40  
Sunderland Wednesday - Dismissal 12:00

S	T
175	184

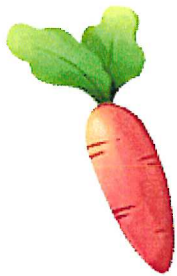


# TOO MANY ZUCCHINI??



come to the

## Vegetable Swap and Giveaway



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**  
9:00 AM TIL VEGGIES ARE GONE



**BRING YOUR EXCESS GARDEN PRODUCE**  
**TAKE WHAT YOU CAN USE**

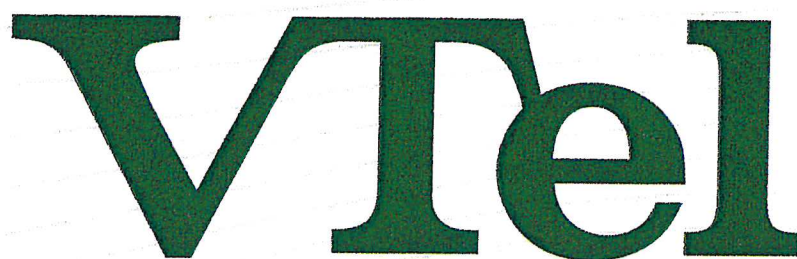
*We'll set up tables!*



*Bring your own boxes.*

**THE SHELDON STORE**  
2824 ROUTE 153. RUPERT. VT





**Ultra-Fast Internet**

**\$0/mo.**

**Your household may be eligible to receive FREE broadband fiber optic Internet & pay no rental fees to use our latest WiFi equipment.**

A new federally-funded program is available to provide eligible households with FREE broadband service for VTel customers, up to 100 Mbps download. VTel's ultra-fast, ultra-dependable fiber optic connection gives children quick eLearning access as well as giving families reliable access to Telehealth. Our low latency network allows for a robust performance for streaming movies, music and gaming. Call today to find out more about the VTel "All-In" plan for \$0/mo. through the ACP program.

**Some of the ways your household may qualify for this program:** If your child participates in the free federal lunch program, or if you qualify for SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, FPHA (Federal Public Housing Assistance) or receive SSI. You may also qualify based on your household income.

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**Sign-up Today: 802-885-9000**

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The VTel "All in" Fully Funded ACP Plan is only available to households which qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) credit. The "All in" plan features data speeds of up to 100 Mbps and includes equipment. The "All in" plan is for landline internet service only. Additional internet plans may be eligible for the ACP credit, including grandfathered internet plans which are no longer available for new customers. Please contact us to review your bill to see how you can benefit from the ACP credit. More information about the ACP program can be found here: [Vermontel.com/ACP](https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us) or by calling 802-885-9000. To file an ACP complaint, consumers may contact the FCC by calling 1-888-225-5322 or by visiting their website at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>