

To: RCPS Families and Community Members
From: Mary Moran, Superintendent
Date: February 26, 2018
Re: **Returning from Vacation**

Dear Families and Community Members:

Starting our first day back from February vacation was a welcome reminder of the great students we serve and the important work we do with Every Student, Every Day! As the doors opened this morning and the students arrived, we all thought of student safety on some level. I hope that the materials that we sent out last week on school safety and how to speak with your children about the tragic events in Florida were of help to you and your families. Please contact your child's school if you did not receive those materials. With the students returning to school in Parkland, Florida and nearby Fair Haven this week, we are thinking of those communities as well.

We want you to know that we remain focused on the safety of our students and schools. We appreciate the communication and support we have received from many of you on that topic. In each school, we maintain our protocols for crisis situations and follow the guidance found in the Vermont School Crisis Guide (<http://schoolsafety.vermont.gov/planning>). In addition, we welcome Governor Scott's proposal for safety audits and grant funds in an effort to improve what we have in place now (<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4385387/Memo-From-Gov-Phil-Scott-re-Keeping-Vermont-Safe.pdf>).

The best prevention tool at the disposal of all schools and agencies is information. We are supporters of the Sandy Hook "See Something; Say Something" philosophy. Tragic incidents are only prevented when parents, students, and community members voice their concerns regarding another person's wellbeing and intentions. The Rutland City Police Department, our School Resource Officer Chris Greene, and all of our faculty and staff take any and all reports seriously. In the event you ever have a concern, please contact any one at school or in the Police Department.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the students and communities impacted by loss, fear and pain. We will stay in communication with our community as any updates, changes, or events arise. If you have any questions at all, please contact your school's Principal or the RCPS central office at 786-1998.