

Benson – Castleton – Fair Haven – Fair Haven Union High – Hubbardton – Orwell – West Haven

## **ADDISON-RUTLAND SUPERVISORY UNION**

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September 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are so excited to see your children filling the halls in our schools once again and personally I am very excited to be serving in the wonderful communities of the Addison-Rutland Supervisory Union again. I have spent the past 2 years as the Assistant Superintendent at Mill River Unified Union School District. Prior to this I was in ARSU as the Curriculum and Staff Development Coordinator. I have always found the communities in ARSU to be supportive and passionate about their schools and the education of their kids. As such, I am tremendously grateful to be back here again.

The year ahead will bring with it many new opportunities. As many of you are aware 2017-2018 is a year of transition as we move forward in the merger process. Part of the transition will mean the gradual fading out of your local school boards with the exception of Orwell. The new Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School Board that was sworn in on August 10th will be taking over responsibilities from the local boards this year and be fully operational on July 1, 2018.

This year the district's theme is a "Unified Focus on Learning". This refers to learning on all levels, students, staff, parents, school board members, etc.. This is an opportunity to learn from each other as to what makes each school special and to expand on the opportunities for students as we become a new entity.

On Opening Day with staff we spent time discussing as a collective group what our vision for the future will be as we move to becoming a new entity. We welcome parent/community feedback as to the vision for the future. What will it look like, sound like and feel like to be part of the Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District/Addison Rutland Supervisory Union 5 years from now. You will be hearing from your schools shortly on how to provide this feedback to us and we encourage you to participate.

During this transition we will be celebrating the individuality in our schools while at the same time creating a culture of coherence throughout our system that places learning at the heart of all decisions. This will lead to efficiency and clear direction that will enhance the wonderful things that are already happening throughout our schools and expand opportunities for all.

As we chart our path forward the ARSU Leadership Team (administrators from all of our schools) have developed Shared Beliefs for our system. These will be the foundation for decision making moving forward and define what we stand for as a system. We are committed to hiring/retention of personnel that can commit to our belief system.

We believe:

- In providing for the social, emotional and academic needs of every child so that they feel connected, safe, and respected in order to ensure student achievement.
- In providing a challenging and engaging atmosphere in which all members of the school community can learn and grow.
- In providing opportunities for inquiry, research, global collaboration, and communication.
- In providing varied, rich and personalized opportunities for learning.
- In providing experiences to develop critical thinking skills that allow students to become engaged participants in their school communities and beyond.

I hope your child has a wonderful year in the Addison Rutland Supervisory Union!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brooke Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

Brooke Farrell