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Debra J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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June 18, 2021

Dear School Staff and Families:

On behalf of SAU # 7 and our member school districts, I hope you are off to a magnificent start to your summer. It has been quite a year! I am honored to serve the schools and communities of Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Pittsburg, and Stewartstown and am delighted to be working with the school board and our dedicated school community.

Your ambition and perseverance were tested over the past 16 months during the COVID - 19 pandemic. Throughout this year there were challenges, trials, and tribulations, but I could not be prouder of how everyone adapted, adjusted, and continued learning. Our teachers have responded with alacrity to the many changes this year has brought before us. Our students have gained experience in virtual schooling, a skill that will serve them well in the future. Our parents supported the new health and safety requirements.

While we have been challenged this year, these challenges have presented opportunities. Over the course of the next few months, we will reflect on the learnings of the past year, take stock in our strengths, and set a course for the future. We have a unique opportunity with time and additional grant resources to use this global crisis and disruption as an opportunity to transform education and education systems. We will recover and foster individual and collective resilience.

Our leadership team will reconvene the 2020 COVID 19 workgroups in August to examine the current guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services and adjust our school operations accordingly. These include 1) Facilities and Health, 2) Finance, Policy, and Communication, 3) Logistics, 4) Social Emotional Learning; 5) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The goal of this work will be to make recommendations for how to best educate our children in the fall. Our plan is to hold school full-time in person.

As we prepare for school to resume in the fall, we will continue to prioritize the safety of our children, staff, and families, consider what the data is telling us, listen to experts, and follow guidelines. Updated guidance from DHHS will continue to advise our process. See the state's website, <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/commissioner/covid-19>. We are working diligently to update our dynamic plan. We encourage our school staff and families to be alert for updates accessed through our website (<http://www.sau7.org>).

Mission Statement

To prepare all SAU 7 students for success in whatever path they choose.

CLARKSVILLE – COLEBROOK – COLUMBIA – PITTSBURG – STEWARTSTOWN

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As specifics become finalized with the help of state guidance, we will communicate all to our families. I have great faith that our school community will continue to come together and do what is best for our children as we plan and collaborate to create a successful learning year for our students in 2021-22. My heartfelt thanks to all, and please enjoy a safe, relaxing, and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent

P.S. We would appreciate your feedback. Please complete the survey available via the QR code or the survey link here: <https://forms.gle/6ebj9SKAShTqgP65A>

