



# SULLIVAN WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

33 Schoolhouse Road, Jeffersonville, New York 12748

**Stephen A. Walker**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

Tel. (845) 482-4610 ext. 3000  
Fax (845) 482-3022

July 29, 2021

Dear Bulldog Community:

As we reach the mid-way point of the summer, I hope that you are enjoying this time with your family. Although we are still several weeks away from the start of the school year for students in September, the School District is busily preparing, and I am writing to share several updates of this work with you. As you will note, the work involves a variety of areas of the operations of our District.

- **Facilities and Operations:** work is occurring in both of our schools, including masonry work on the steps outside of the 1938 section of the Elementary School, and the installation of underground drainage at the softball field at the Middle/High School. Our Buildings and Grounds team is also cleaning and waxing the floors at both schools, in anticipation of seeing all of our students walking on them again in September!
- **Technology:** new fiber connectivity has been installed in the ceilings of the Elementary School, which will increase the speed of Internet access throughout that School. New student and staff laptop devices are being delivered, and our Technology team is working to configure them so that they are ready for use in September. The District will also be switching our email to a cloud-based server, and away from our current physical server environment, in early August. This change will increase the security of our email system, as we have noted that school districts throughout the country have increasingly become targets for online “hackers”.
- **Curriculum Development:** teachers in both of our Schools are collaborating this summer to refine our curriculum as part of our efforts to ensure that all students find success upon their return to daily, full-time in-person instruction in September. This work includes focusing on our literacy practices in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, designed to improve the effectiveness and consistency of the literacy instruction for all of our Bulldogs in those grades. At the Middle School, teachers are working together to design a new experience for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, called Advisory, where all students and staff at the Middle School will meet 1 – 2 times per month to discuss important topics for young adolescents, including perseverance, organization, positive self-image, and more.
- **Health and Safety:** as of this writing, school districts have not yet heard from Governor Cuomo’s Office, the Department of Health or the State Education Department regarding whether there will be any COVID-19 requirements for September (i.e. masks, social distancing). When we receive that information, we will share it with our parent community right away. In the meantime, we continue to plan for all students and staff members to attend school in-person, every day beginning in September.

**“...enriching the lives of all students”**

- New Staff Members: we are continuing our recruitment and hiring processes for some teaching, teaching assistant, and aide positions. Several new staff members have already been appointed by our Board of Education, and our building principals will include information about them in their back-to-school communications next month. Within the District Offices, I ask that you join me in congratulating Mr. Scott Haberli on his appointment as Sullivan West Middle School Principal, and welcoming Ms. Dara Smith, Director of School Food Services, and Ms. Claudia Dietz, Accounting Supervisor, to the Bulldogs!

If you have any questions about the updates above, please feel free to contact me, or your child's building leadership.

We will continue to provide you with further updates and information as we prepare for the start of the 2021-2022 school year for students on September 8, and we look forward to the best year yet in Sullivan West!

With Bulldog Pride,

*Steve*

Stephen A. Walker  
Superintendent of Schools

**“...enriching the lives of all students”**