



BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building a Learning Community

March 8, 2009

RE: Sister School Model in Burlington Schools

Dear Families of Burlington Students:

The Burlington school board and the administration have made a commitment to keep class sizes low, with an emphasis on primary class sizes. We meet this challenge because we know that class size is an important ingredient for academic success.

In order to keep this commitment, we have created “sister school” relationships designed to give us some flexibility. Sister schools are two schools who “share” a region of the city and work together to balance class sizes such as Edmunds/Champlain and Smith/Flynn. Each year, we look at enrollment and make adjustments so that we can keep class sizes throughout the district at an optimal level for learning.

When a child of any grade registers at a neighborhood school where the class size in that grade is at its limit, we will ask the child to attend the sister school in order to balance class sizes. This decision is based upon the numbers in the classes in both sister schools, where the child’s siblings attend, what services exist in both schools, and what transportation exists to help with this sister school change.

This year, we have an additional option of applying for one of the two magnet schools: Integrated Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler or the Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes. Please see application information on our website, if this option is of interest to you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. It is our goal to provide every child in Burlington with an excellent education in a welcoming classroom in every school in the city.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Collins, Superintendent

Reference: Policy JE School Boundaries

JEANNÉ COLLINS ~ SUPERINTENDENT

150 COLCHESTER AVE. ~ BURLINGTON VT 05401

PHONE: 802-865-5332 ~ FAX: 802-864-8501 ~ WEBSITE: WWW.BSDVT.ORG

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