

MICHELLE A. CROOK, Chair
Buchanan District

MATTHEW J. EAST
Blue Ridge District

TIM DAVIDICK
Valley District



ANNA L. WEDDLE, Vice-Chair
Amsterdam District

DANA McCALEB
Fincastle District

Dr. JONATHAN D. RUSS
Superintendent

Superintendent's Update (Apology) – October 19, 2020

Dear Botetourt County Students, Staff, Parents, and Community:

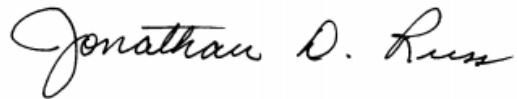
A Superintendent's Update was posted to the division homepage on Friday, October 16. In this update, I listed several employee groups with a brief "thank you" to recognize their contributions during this very difficult school year.

I apologize for failing to recognize several other very important groups of employees:

- **School Nurses:**
You put your safety on the line to provide the safest environment possible for our students, faculty, and staff each day. This is the case every year, but in 2020 you are doing this at a completely different level.
- **Pupil Personnel Services:**
This group of employees includes **school counselors, psychologists, our social worker, and SAP coordinator**. There has been no time in recent history that the social/emotional health of our students and staff has been more important. Your jobs are directly related to this effort, and the work you are doing to address it is extremely important. Thank you for what you do each day!
- **Technology Department:**
During any year your workload is tremendous; however, the amount of extra work your department has put in this year to ensure our staff and parents have received the technology training and support needed to operate Canvas has been enormous. Thank you!
- **School Resource Officers:**
Thank you for your continued efforts to safeguard and protect our students, faculty, and staff each day. In addition to keeping us safe, you build invaluable relationships with students that help enrich the entire Botetourt County community.
- **Substitute Teachers and Bus Drivers:**
Thank you to all substitute teachers and bus drivers that continue to serve Botetourt County Schools in these uncertain times. Without your commitment and support, we would not be able to continue our in-person instruction on many days.

One of the first messages I communicated to staff when I became superintendent was this year would be like no other, we would need to be flexible, and we would make mistakes along the way. The purpose of this Superintendent's Update is to offer my sincerest apology to the employees that I inexcusably omitted in my most recent update. I hope you know your dedication to Botetourt County Schools is valued more than I can express in words.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan D. Russ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.
Superintendent