

ANNA L. WEDDLE, Chair  
*Amsterdam District*

MATTHEW J. EAST  
*Blue Ridge District*

TIM DAVIDICK  
*Valley District*



DANA McCALEB, Vice-Chair  
*Fincastle District*

MICHELLE R. AUSTIN  
*Buchanan District*

Dr. JONATHAN D. RUSS  
*Superintendent*

## Superintendent Update – October 26, 2021

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

I hope this message finds you well! Fall is an exciting time of year as the weather changes and we prepare to enjoy the holiday season.

I would like to invite parents and guardians to have candid conversations with your children about the dangers of bringing airsoft guns and other similar toys to school. Although a student may not intend to do harm, bringing an item that resembles a firearm to school carries severe consequences and will result in disciplinary action. These firearm look-alike toys cause significant alarm, often lead to extensive investigations, disrupt the learning environment, and have no place on any school property.

On a different note, I would also like to reiterate the importance of adhering to the following health-related expectations:

Keep your child at home if they are S.I.C.K.:

- **S: Symptomatic.** If your child is showing signs or symptoms of illness, keep them home. Contact your school nurse for guidance if you are unsure.
- **I: In Quarantine.** If your child is in quarantine, keep them home until the quarantine period is over.
- **C: COVID Positive.** If your child is COVID positive, keep them home and notify the school nurse so that we can begin the contact tracing process.
- **K: Know a Test Result is Pending.** If you are waiting on a COVID test for your child, keep them at home until you know the result.

As always, I thank you for your support and for making Botetourt County Public Schools one of the best school divisions in the state.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.  
Superintendent