

January 17, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you may be aware, January 28, 2019 is "RedforEd" Day in Richmond. In support of this event, the Alleghany County School Board approved January 28, 2019 as a teacher workday to allow teachers and staff the opportunity to participate; therefore, there will be no school for students on this day.

Why is it important to support the "RedforEd" day in Richmond? Since the recession of 2009, the funding for public education has been reduced significantly. Below are a few facts concerning the lack of funding for public education in Virginia since 2009:

- Teacher salaries currently rank 32<sup>nd</sup> in the country;
- The funding for public education is almost 20% less than it was in 2009 – almost \$1,900 less per student;
- There are 1,242 less staff positions today in Virginia than existed in 2009 and yet the student population has increased by almost 50,000 during the same time period;
- Virginia ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the country on per pupil spending; while
- Virginia is the 8<sup>th</sup> wealthiest state in the country.

What does this mean for the students and residents of Alleghany County? A loss of almost \$3.8 million per year. Virginia has the ability and can do more for its students and teachers by funding education appropriately. The Governor and General Assembly need to hear from us so they will keep their focus on providing more funding for public education.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact me at (540) 863-1800 or [ekotulka@alleghany.k12.va.us](mailto:ekotulka@alleghany.k12.va.us) should you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eugene Kotulka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Eugene P. Kotulka  
Superintendent