



Regional School Unit No. 18

41 Heath Street Oakland, ME 04963 • Telephone: 207-465-7384 • Fax: 207-465-9130

Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools

Keith Morin
Chief Academic Officer

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Students and Parents,
4-10-2020

As our state tries to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, schools across the state continue to struggle with the decisions we are being forced to make. Governor Mills and the Commissioner of Education, Pender Makin, both announced this week that they recommend schools should continue with remote education through the end of the year.

Throughout the last month, every decision our district has made has been based on what I believe would help keep our students and our community safe. I have considered direction from the Center for Disease Control and our state leadership. Based on the new recommendations this week, we will keep our school buildings closed and continue remote learning until further notice. Unfortunately, this may be for the rest of the year as the state has recommended. However, if the recommendations change, and the experts conclude that we could return to school safely, I would consider trying to open our buildings again. All I can do is join you in hoping this is possible.

I commend our staff on how they are handling these unprecedented times. Their dedication and concern for our students has been inspiring. Parents, I commend you as well; I know this is not easy on families. Our teachers and support staff will be prepared to continue remote education for the rest of the year if that is what is needed. Over the next few days, our administrative team will be working with teachers to make some adjustments in our current educational practices. Starting the first week of May, students will shift to learning new curriculum materials and there will be more requirements set by teachers. With our school buildings possibly closed for the rest of the year, we have decided that 4th quarter and semester grades will be pass / fail. Teachers will be focusing on teaching new material, providing feedback and engaging students to keep them learning. We have concluded that providing traditional grades cannot be done in a valid or equitable manner. This will lead to changes at most schools in some of the traditional practices, especially at the high school. All of our principals will be sending out further communication detailing the changes that will be happening in their schools.

We will be continuing our nutrition program for the rest of the school year. This includes during April vacation. Our eight meal sites will remain open every weekday. In addition, if you cannot get to a site to pick up meals, please contact us and we will have food brought to you. We do ask that if we are delivering meals to you, that you have a way for them to be dropped off easily. I want to protect you and our employees. The people



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delivering cannot go to the door to deliver food. Delivery of food will only be available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but we can drop off three days' worth of meals if you need them for any child in the house. During April vacation the meal sites will not be open on Monday, as it is a holiday. Because of this, we will shift our delivery days during April vacation to Tuesday and Friday.

I remind everyone that we are always here for you. If you or anyone you know needs help, please tell someone, anyone. Our counselors are still available to talk, as are our school nurses, our teachers, our support staff and our administrators. You may be social distancing, but you are not alone. #WeAreRSU18

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