



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

Gary Smith
Chief Operations Officer

Parents,

Update: 3/16/2020 5:00 P.M.

Information is changing so fast I am including date and time on messages. I want you to know when this information was drafted.

Thank you again for your cooperation, closing schools was not something I wanted to do but felt it was the only path forward for the well-being of our community.

- Our breakfast and lunch program will be up and running tomorrow. We have 12 sites where food can be picked up for students. Yes, parents can pick up the food for their child. The sites will be open from 9:00 to 11:00 every weekday. When you pick up food you will receive a breakfast and lunch. Any students can get food. There is a flyer also attached to this message with details about the sites. But the sites you can pick up food are: Atwood Primary School, Williams Elementary School, Messalonskee Middle School, Messalonskee High School, China Middle School, China Primary School, Oakland Boat Landing, Rome Community Center, Belgrade Rec Center, Sidney Fire Station on Pond Road.
- Educational Resources: We will be posting later this week (likely Thursday) on our website rsu18.org. On this site parents and students will find educational resources they can access. If we reach a point where this becomes more formalized and we attempt to convert this to remote learning, many more details will follow. Until then we wanted to provide you with material you can use. Teachers are committed to updating this material on a regular basis, thank you to the staff for providing this.
- Cheryl Mercier, our Director of Special Education, posted information on our website rsu18.org and on our Facebook page with information regarding IEP meetings and other concerns.
- Communication: I realize not everyone has Facebook or access to internet service. Please pass on any information in these letters and tell people to contact their child's school if they want information that we can send out in another format. Mailing information is complicated because by the time you receive it, it will likely be out of date. But we will work with parents who request that information be sent in other ways.
- Rumors and information: Understandably this is a stressful time. With this stress comes panic around information. Here is one piece of information that may help. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the CDC has confirmed with us today that they will contact the school nurse and the school administration. In addition, they will do an investigation in attempt to determine where the infected person may have come in contact with the



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virus. Finally, they will advise us on steps we should take around communication and containment. We obviously would not be able to identify the infected people, but we will share what we legally can. Not surprisingly, I have fielded many calls in the last few days from staff and community members who have been told that there is a confirmed case in our schools. As of the time I am writing this letter, I have **not** been contacted by the CDC saying we have a case in our district. To my knowledge we have had people tested, but again, we have no official results indicating an infection. Will it happen, it could. We will try not to panic. I will be posting regular updates and I am trying very hard to respond to all emails as quickly as possible. cgartley@rsu18.org.

Once again thank you to our staff and this amazing community for coming together to help take care of each other. Stay healthy.

Carl