

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you read in Superintendent Gartley's letter, schools in RSU #18 will be closed from at least Monday, March 16th through Friday March 27. During these unprecedented times, we are continuing to look at ways to support you and your child through this process. School closures provide unique challenges for IEP Teams to meet, discuss, and plan for special education services. We will continue to look for alternative means of conducting these meetings (virtual meetings, phone conference, etc.). Inevitably, this may inhibit IEP Teams to meet in a timely manner. Please know that if this occurs, your child will continue to have access to the services outlined in their current IEP.

Your child's special education teachers are hard at work preparing for the possibility of remote, or distance learning. We will continue to seek guidance and following recommendations from the Maine Department of Education as well as the Office of Special Education Programs (an office within the U.S. Department of Education) in regard to the provision of special education programming. Our special education staff are preparing packets of work and compiling resources targeted specifically to your child's IEP goals. This will ensure the opportunity for your child to continue to work towards the attainment of the annual goals outlined in their IEP.

Along with the packets being prepared for you and your child, please see the list below of resources that can be accessed to enrich your child's educational experience while schools remain closed:

- <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
- <https://play.prodigygame.com/>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- <https://mysterydoug.com/>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- <https://www.squigglepark.com/>
- <https://www.historyforkids.net/>
- <https://www.raz-kids.com/>
- <https://www.headsprout.com/>
- <https://www.starfall.com/h/>
- <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- <https://www.brainpop.com/>

Please know that there is no requirement to access these resources and they are included in this letter as additional supports that are available while the schools remain closed.

Your child's special education case manager will be in contact with you regarding any upcoming IEP meetings. We will continue to stay in touch with you throughout the next two weeks, and please know we are here to support you and your child. Thank you for your continued support through this process.

Cheryl Mercier
Director of Special Education