



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 and Students,

This week, the 2019 – 2020 school year will come to an end for all students. Congratulations to our seniors who will be graduating on June 4th. Also, congratulations to our students who will be moving from elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school. These are also important milestones in your education, and we hope the events we have planned will honor the work you have accomplished.

To the parents, grandparents and guardians of our students: thank you once again for taking on so much this spring. I know how much responsibility was put upon you. To our students: we miss you and we cannot wait to have you back in our schools. I wish I could give you the details of how and when this will happen, but as you know things are still changing daily. Making decisions for next fall based on the world today is just not an advisable path. What I can tell you is that we are working on and will continue to work on our plans to open schools. If you follow the directives coming out of Augusta, schools are being asked to plan for a variety of scenarios next year: fully back to school, fully remote, or a mix of the two. What does a mix look like? We are not sure yet, but that is what we are trying to plan for. Over the summer we will be developing these plans, and of course they will evolve as the conditions and guidance changes in our state, hopefully in the direction of allowing us to open our schools.

I am interested in hearing from families. In the next few weeks I will be sending out another survey asking for feedback. I am waiting a few more weeks because as we enter phase II of Governor Mill's reopening plan, people will have much more information to base their opinions. On the survey I will also list opportunities for listening sessions. I want to meet with people. In June and July these meetings are limited to 50 people, but I think we can make this work.

Over the next few weeks, our staff will be attending professional development sessions on better knowing how to use remote teaching tools, and to develop lesson plans for the fall. Whichever option we are using when school opens, having our staff better versed in using these technological tools is a good thing. We have learned a lot this spring: from the importance of schedules even in remote learning, to making sure everyone has the technology they need, to how we grade and hold students responsible for doing their work. I think our staff has done an amazing job this spring, but if we are using remote learning in the fall, things will look different.

Finally, do not forget that our students accomplished great things this year. This pandemic has changed all of our lives, but it does not define us. Have a great summer, be safe and see you soon.

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