



# Regional School Unit No. 18

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**Carl Gartley**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Keith Morin**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Gary Smith**  
Chief Operations Officer

9/30/2020

Parents,

I am sending you this message today to let you know about a change in the school calendar.

Like everyone in our community this year has been a challenge for our schools, this includes our entire staff and our students. Our School Board has been steadfast in their belief that the safest and best place for our students is in our schools. But giving parents the choice of remote learning has also been important. We are still operating a five day a week schedule and honoring the request of parents to choose remote learning. I believe our district has listened to our community, our staff and our students in making the best decisions we can to educate students and keep everyone safe. I can tell you that our staff is working extremely hard to make this work, they are doing it, and I am proud of them.

From the minute our staff steps onto school grounds in the morning to the minute they leave at the end day, they are working hard. We are spreading students out more, cleaning constantly, providing extra duty coverage to keep students safe, sharing classrooms, offering more sections of classes, etc. As of today, we have been fortunate that we have not had any positive cases of COVID-19 in our district. However, just paying attention to what is happening in our area we know this could change. We spent time last spring learning new tools and getting ready, but as we have learned more about the new tools and teaching strategies we are using, some things have gone well, and others need adjustment. I want us to be ready if we need to make a change to a remote model. In order to be ready our teachers need additional professional development time for preparation to ensure that an "in person" to remote transition, if necessary, goes well and keeps our district moving forward.

The change we are making to the school calendar is to add two workshop days in October. Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> will now be workshop days for staff. Students will not be in session. Staff will be learning new techniques, planning further for remote instruction and building out materials that can be used in person or online. In many of my communications with parents this year I have told you we are in this together. I am hearing loud and clear from my staff, I need to listen to them, they have earned my trust, and they need this time.

Thank you so much,  
Carl Gartley  
Superintendent of Schools  
RSU 18