



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,

As we start another week with our schools closed, here is an update of how things are going in RSU 18.

Academics:

Teachers have been posting academic resources on our school website for the past two weeks. Starting Monday March 30th, teachers and / or educational technicians will be contacting students and parents to assist with assignments, make sure students are working at their appropriate level and to provide feedback. For now, our teachers will not be collecting the assignments or grading them. However, we do encourage all of our students to do this work. Our goal is for everyone to maintain their academic progress.

For grades PK – 8, there is a grade level folder posted on our website where you will find your work. For MHS students, teachers have individual folders on our website with student work. For families without online access we are creating educational packets that can be picked up at the school or delivered if needed. The state of Maine is investigating the ability to provide WIFI hotspots to families that need them. I will keep you posted with any details we receive on this. In the meantime, our technology team has boosted our wireless signal in all of our schools so that students have the ability to use our WIFI in the parking lots. Students can work there, or download work to your laptop, then complete the work at home.

If you have questions about your academic work, please communicate these concerns to your teacher when they reach out to you this week.

Grading:

At this time, we are still planning and hoping to return to school on April 27th. As we get closer to this date, I will evaluate our plan and determine if we need to extend our closure. We are well aware that grading at the high school has been a major concern for parents and students. When we started our school closure the third quarter was nearly complete. For quarter three classes, our high school teachers are working hard to finalize grades and make sure our students receive the credit they earned for quarter three. As teachers check in with students in the next week, one of the things they will be touching base on is to wrap up any outstanding work. For semester two classes, if we open our schools on April 27th, we believe we will have time to finish the second semester with as much academic integrity as possible.

There are several decisions we are considering but will not have answers until we know more about how year is going to continue. Depending on when we return will we have a quarter 4 or just try to finish the second semester? Should the grades for the second semester be normal grades or will we have to change them to pass fail? Will we have to change the number of credits to graduate? Again, we will keep you posted as details evolve. But rest assured, we are very aware of how difficult this is on our students and we will do everything we can to help.

For dual enrollment courses, teachers will follow the guidelines provided by the institutions of higher learning.



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

Nutrition Program:

We are continuing our breakfast and lunch program, and if you know of anyone who does not have the ability to get to one of our sites to get food please let your building principal know and we will make sure you get meals. We are working to expand this program and will keep you posted.

Seniors:

To the class of 2020, I truly hope we can return to school on April 27th. If we do, the last few weeks of school may still look a little different, but I desperately want you to be able to have some sort of normalcy with the end of year celebrations. Please know, Ms. Callan and her team are putting together contingency plans for every situation we can imagine. Whatever the timeframe is, seniors you are in the forefront of our minds. The timing of these plans, well, not sure yet. But flexibility will be the key, and we are all dedicated to honoring the years of hard work that have brought you to your senior year at MHS.

Communication:

I will continue to put out weekly updates with any new information that I have. I will be posting these on our Facebook page and our School Website. We are not doing weekly mailings as information changes too quickly. If you know of someone without online access, please help each other out and reach out to them and share these updates. If you have questions, I urge you to reach out to your child's building principal.

My office number is 465 – 7384 or email me at cgartley@rsu18.org.

Your Personal Wellness:

Students, through this difficult time you need to take care of yourself. Get plenty of sleep, get outside and get some exercise (but still honor social distancing), try to come up with a routine, have some fun each day, and... Help your parents out. But above all else, if you are struggling please reach out for help. Our counselors, nurses, therapist and our entire staff are ready to help. Do not feel alone, we are here for you. There is someone in our offices every day from 8:00 A.M. to Noon. Or email any of us.

We will get through this. We cannot wait to have you back in school. #WEARERSU18

Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools

March 29, 2020