



# Regional School Unit No. 18

Phone: 207.465.7384

Fax: 207.465.9130

41 Heath St. Oakland, ME 04963

Carl Gartley  
Superintendent

Keith Morin  
Asst. Superintendent

Melannie Keister  
Director of Business / Finance

Staff and Parents of RSU 18,

The last day of 2020, we have so much to be thankful for and to be proud that we accomplished in the last year. But wow I think everyone is glad to turn the page to 2021. As we start a new year, I want to thank everyone for the work and support of our schools and students over the past four months. Our staff, our parents, our students and the entire community: by working together we were able to provide at least some normalcy in our schools. I know how hard everyone worked, and I truly appreciate all of you.

School starts again on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>. I have been asked by a handful of people if we are going to do a couple of weeks of remote only learning to start the new year. At this time that is not our plan. Our plan is to continue offering fully remote learning for those who want it, and to offer in person learning five days a week for the rest of our students. As we did throughout the fall, we will evaluate the conditions in our schools every single day and make decisions about any necessary schedule changes, closures or quarantines.

I have reached out to Maine General with a request to vaccinate any of my staff who want it. As essential workers, hopefully our school staff will be able to get the vaccination soon. Unfortunately, I have not been able to schedule this yet, but I will as soon as possible. Just to keep parents informed, if I have an opportunity to provide a vaccination clinic for my staff, I will take it. If we can do this afterschool we will, but if the best way to accomplish this is a day long clinic, I will close schools for a day to get this done. Whatever it takes. There are no plans at this time, but I will keep everyone informed when I am able to get more information. I know that getting our staff vaccinated so that we can continue to keep schools open is vitally important to everyone in our community.

I remind parents to continue be vigilant about checking symptoms of your children before sending them to school. If anyone did travel out of state over vacation, there is still a mandatory quarantine required or a negative COVID test. If you have question, contact your building principal or me.

This has been a challenging year for all of us. Everyone knows someone who has been impacted by this horrible pandemic. Many of you have shared stories with me about not being able to spend time with people you love over the holidays because you were trying to be safe. But as we start the new year, there is definitely hope on the horizon. I have already heard from several community members and parents who have been vaccinated. This is awesome. I am hearing people make plans for what they are going to do when this is over. Students just want to go to school, they want their clubs and sports, people can't wait to go to one of our plays or



# Regional School Unit No. 18

Phone: 207.465.7384

Fax: 207.465.9130

41 Heath St. Oakland, ME 04963

Carl Gartley  
Superintendent

Keith Morin  
Asst. Superintendent

Melannie Keister  
Director of Business / Finance

music concerts, extended families and friends want to spend more time together, going out to dinner, a movie or to the mall seems like a great day. It is coming.

So here we go with 2021. #WeAreRSU18 and we have hope.

Be Safe and Be Healthy.

Carl Gartley  
Superintendent