



# Regional School Unit No. 18

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Good evening RSU 18 community and happy Super Bowl Sunday. Full disclosure, I am a Raiders fan, so this game is particularly difficult to watch. But sitting here watching the lengthy pre-game feels like normal life. Very little has been normal this year, but I do hope, and I do believe that having our schools open has brought at least a little normalcy for our students. The importance of taking care of the mental health of our students and staff is not something we can overstate. I know our talented school counselors and social workers have been busy this year. A couple of years ago we increased these services, and I am thankful to our school board for supporting that initiative. If we ever needed their support, it is this year. As we go into the change of seasons it can be a challenging time for people, please keep an eye on each other. Together we are stronger, and we will get through this.

Another week has passed. We had a good week in our schools, but it was not free of COVID-19. In fact, I found out last night about a person who was in our schools this week who has unfortunately tested positive. Through contact tracing we are quite certain we know where the individual came in contact with a person who did test positive. While this contact very likely happened outside of school, once it comes into our schools, we will continue to take serious precautions to do everything we can to keep people safe. Unfortunately, in this case it means that we have had to quarantine a group of students and staff members at Messalonskee Middle School. All of the people affected have been contacted, and the school will be open this week.

One of the favorite parts of my job is getting to witness our talented team of educators unlock new material for our students. I see this at all levels, and believe me, it is awesome. This past week I was fortunate enough to witness a couple of these events. JHB teachers invited me to participate in World Read Aloud Day. I had a blast getting a chance to read to many of the students at their school. Teachers spend a lot of time planning events like this for kids, and every time they do, amazing things happen. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of professionals that even in this difficult year are finding a way to make it happen. The second event I got to witness was more of the result of the great work in our schools. One of our young students from Atwood took time to show me his math assignment. He had gone above and beyond what was asked, and he was so proud. I hope all parents realize the impact that our teachers have every day on the lives of our students. At that minute, watching this young child beam with pride about his work, at least for a short time COVID-19 was defeated.

Students only have four days this week, Friday is a workshop day for staff. Thank you once again to parents for having flexibility in your schedules. Stay safe and stay healthy.

#WeAreRSU18

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Superintendent