



# Regional School Unit No. 18

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RSU 18 Community,

This week I really have just have a few updates for you and a reminder of the schedule change happening in April. I will start with the COVID cases we dealt with this past week in our schools. Early in the week a person who had tested positive was found to have been in the James H. Bean School, and near the end of the week a positive case ended up impacting both Messalonskee Middle School and Williams Elementary School. Even though none of these led to school closures, we did have to quarantine several people in all three schools, including staff and students. I reiterate to parents that we understand how disruptive these quarantines are, but we have successfully followed our guidelines from the start of the year, and it has allowed us to keep everyone safe and our schools open. Thank you again to our nurses our administrators and the rest of our staff for working so carefully and efficiently when these cases do happen so we can complete the contact tracing and speak to everyone involved to make sure our schools remain safe.

A reminder to everyone: On April 13<sup>th</sup> a large number of staff will be receiving their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. I have been communicating this as one of my top priorities since January. Based on recommendations from our nurses and other medical professionals, RSU 18 will be doing fully remote learning district wide for two days, 4/14 and 4/15. April 16<sup>th</sup> was already scheduled to be a no school day. After April vacation our plan is to have schools back open.

In a normal year (remember those), shortly before April vacation I typically would announce the last day of school for the year. This practice will remain the same this year. Understandably, "When will this year be over" has been an extremely popular question. In the next week the end of year schedule will be finalized and made public. Our administrators and their teams are also working hard on making plans for the end of the year celebrations. With guidance from the state changing this week for crowd size we are putting together plans that meet the new requirements. Stay tuned for more on these topics.

Finally, I was asked to again share the link to allow parents, staff, community members to send appreciation notes to the staff. Here it is: <https://forms.gle/fvEBv6gGhZhcdXnP9>

Have a great week.

Carl Gartley  
Superintendent of Schools