



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

At the end of this past week, I was at MHS when a teacher said to me, “For the first time in long time I feel optimistic.” Another person added, “There is definitely a light.” On Wednesday I heard cheers when it was finally announced that educators are now eligible for vaccinations. I can’t wait for all Mainers to have the chance to get this vaccination, but getting my staff vaccinated will be a huge step in helping us to keep our schools safe and open. Based on conversations I have had with staff this weekend; we are making good progress on this front.

The Governor also announced at least some lessening of restrictions. For example, travel between states is now ok without testing or quarantining and soon the allowable indoor and outdoor gathering size will be increasing. The increased vaccinations and some loosening of restrictions will make a big difference in what we can do in our schools and around the state. Progress.

Yes, we unfortunately still had cases this week in our community. In fact, today there are 159 new cases in Maine. But that number is still trending down. Thank you to the parents who helped us this week by keeping children home when they were symptomatic or when they were a close contact. This cooperation has made a huge difference.

Kudos to everyone involved in our winter athletics. It was touching to see our high school administration figure out a way to work within the state guidelines to allow the parents of our seniors the opportunity to see the last home game. Once again working together we have been able to give our students the most normal year we could in this anything but normal year. In our schools, with new guidelines that the state released, our music programs now have more flexibility to sing indoors, this a welcome sight (sound) for all of us.

A little over a week ago an elementary teacher sent me a note letting me know their class was celebrating the 100th day of school. Because of the delayed start in the fall, and some other changes I had to make to the calendar, the 100th day came a little later than usual this year. But that note about a yearly benchmark made my week. Once again, I thank the incredible staff of RSU 18 for making this year work for our students and allowing us to get to 100 days.

Now your local forecast: this week it supposed to be in the upper 50s. I’m going to go ahead and round that up and say it will be 60 this week. I think it is time to get my golf clubs out. Have a great week everyone

Carl Gartley
Superintendent
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