

August 14, 2020

Dear families and friends,

I want to update everyone now that we have definitive information from the Pleasant Point School Committee, tribal leadership, the state, Maine's Department of Education (MDOE), as well as Maine's Center for Disease Control (CDC), regarding fall plans for schools. **The Beatrice Rafferty School will start the school year with remote learning. In order to fully prepare for remote learning, we have pushed the student start date to September 8th.** This decision was made with thoughtful consideration from all entities, and we all agree that the health and safety of the community comes first and foremost. With that decision made, we are committed to providing a robust start to our new school year!

Since this spring, we have been reviewing our remote learning procedures to see what needs improvement. We have reviewed input from parents/guardians on the online survey. All of this helps us plan and prepare for this fall. Remote learning this fall will be different than it was in the spring of the year. We have many new and exciting programs that will be implemented. There will be a consistent Google Classroom platform for all students. We will have a consistent schedule for all online learning sessions and attendance will be taken daily.

We understand that beginning the year with remote learning creates significant challenges for families. We want to do whatever we can to provide support. We are creating a Sipayik School Technology Support Website to assist learners with accessing programs. We will also be scheduling times for families to pick up devices and receive in-person instruction on how to access and use our learning programs.

In the next few weeks we will be sending out more information on the start of the school year. The information will include registration packets, policies, and forms for signing out devices. The colored forms will all need to be signed and returned to the school. We are working to set up a lunch delivery schedule during remote learning. In October, we are going to reevaluate the situation locally to see if conditions will allow us to change to the Hybrid method.

Sincerely,

Dan Morang

Principal