**Western Foothills**

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Buckfield, Hanover, Hartford, Mexico, Roxbury, Rumford, Sumner

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We are so excited to welcome all of our students back to school for full-time, in-person learning. Staff have been busy preparing the school buildings, adding additional space for additional staff, which we have employed to give our students more attention, both academically and emotionally. Our staff have also been participating in professional development and planning for a productive and exciting year of learning.

September 1st is the first day of school for students in K-7 & 9 in the Nezinscot Region and K-6 & 9 in the Mountain Valley Region.  The rest of our students, with the exception of Pre-K, will begin school on September 2nd. Pre-K begins on Tuesday, Sept. 7th.

If you live in one of our seven towns (Buckfield, Hanover, Hartford, Mexico, Roxbury, Rumford or Sumner) and have a child turning 4 yrs. old by October 15, 2021, please come to enroll your child as soon as possible. You may call our Central Office at 207-369-5560 if you have questions regarding where your child would attend school.

We urge anyone 12+ years of age to get vaccinated against Covid-19 and Rumford Hospital will be offering a vaccination clinic at Buckfield Junior-Senior High School and Mountain Valley High School on September 9th and 30th. Each School has the Consent form available. Additionally, we are planning to do pool testing for the Covid-19 virus, which would allow for students exposed to Covid-19 to remain in school if asymptomatic. This will reduce the need to quarantine. Information and consent forms will be on our website and in our schools as well.

On Monday August 23 I will be presenting the RSU 10 School Board with my recommendation regarding masking in our schools. My decision will take many factors into account and I will have consulted with our school physician, school nurses and many others. I know that regardless of the recommendation I make, many people will not be happy. I just ask that we remain civil to each other and great models for our students.

Sincerely,

