



MARCIA BUKER SCHOOL

28 High Street, Richmond, Maine 04357
207-737-4748 Fax: 207-737-2563

Mary Paine, Principal
Debra Bodge, Administrative Secretary

August 29, 2021

Dear Families,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new principal of Marcia Buker Elementary School and provide you with some information you may need to start the school year.

My first day at Marcia Buker is Monday, August 30th, and we will greet our students on Thursday, September 2nd! It's a quick transition for me and the MBES team, but I assure you that we will do our very best to get school off to a strong start.

Over the course of the year, we will have many opportunities to talk and learn from one another. What's most important right now is that your children are back in school, safe, prepared to learn, happy to be with their classmates, and feeling secure knowing that the adults in their lives are working together for them.

With that in mind, I'm asking all of you to help us to keep your kids in school. I desperately wanted my first communication with you to be free from talk of COVID. Unfortunately, we are returning to school during a major surge in infections and serious illness, even among children. Many of the same safety protocols we followed last year remain in place as we start this year. The major difference is the emphasis on keeping kids in school five days a week. That outcome will depend partly (maybe largely) on our carefully following the [US CDC recommendations](#) per the School Board's vote on August 12, 2021.

Based on these recommendations, the following protocols will be in place for the start of the 2021-22 school year:

1. All individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, will be required to wear properly fitting masks inside the school building and when on a school bus or van.
2. During lunch, students will be distanced to the extent possible, and will not be required to wear a mask.
3. Assigned seating will be in place on busses, in classrooms, and in the cafeteria.
4. All staff and families should continue to complete the symptoms screener before coming to or sending children to school. Any individual with symptoms should stay home and the symptoms reported to the school nurse.
5. All individuals should sanitize or wash hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom, eating, or touching shared items.
6. While inside the school building, students will be socially distanced to the extent possible; however, **we are not keeping students from attending school based on the inability to distance them as we did last year.**

Item 6 is the reason item 1 is so important. With less distance between students and more students in school at one time, masks offer necessary protection, especially for those unable to be vaccinated. Because of the protection masks afford, the new [Standard Operating](#)

[Procedures \(SOP\) for Responding to a Positive Case in Schools](#) state that vaccinated individuals and those properly wearing a mask do not have to quarantine in the event of a close contact in a classroom setting, provided that a universal mask requirement is in place and there has been no close physical contact with the infected individual.

We will give students frequent outdoor mask breaks and use the outdoors for learning whenever feasible and conducive to learning. None of us enjoy wearing masks, and the outdoors is a wonderful place to learn, grow, and socialize. I'm pretty sure that anything important I ever learned I learned in the outdoors!

I hope that by working together we can maximize the positive benefits of following the safety protocols, namely keeping kids in school, and see them as a source of shared frustration rather than a dividing line. I hope that our children do not have to feel the tension we adults are feeling over this. Let's circle our wagons *together* around our kids and make sure they have a great year! Thank you.

Below you will find the Morning drop off location, times, and schedule followed by the [RICHMOND BUS RUNS 2021-2022](#). If there is any other information or help you need as you prepare for a new school year, please contact Mrs. Bodge in the office.

I know back-to-school week is exciting but can be quite hectic for families. I appreciate your time.

In partnership with you,

Mary Paine
Principal

Marcia Buker Elementary School
28 High Street
Richmond, Me 04357
Phone: 207-737-4748

MORNING DROP-OFF and SCHEDULE

- All parent/guardian drop-off before school is at the North Entrance.
- Before school, the Main Entrance is only for students who are walking or riding the bus.
- Doors open at 7:15 a.m.
- The official beginning of the day for students is 7:15. For their safety, please do not drop off students before this time.
- Between 7:15 and 7:30, students may eat breakfast in the cafeteria. At 7:30 all classrooms open up.
- Classes start at 7:45 a.m.

[RICHMOND BUS RUNS 2021-2022](#) ←linked here and copied below.

Bus # 3 Lana Smith

Starting out at 6:35 to first pick up on Beedle Road to Marston Road back to Beedle Road to Weeks Road back to Beedle Road to New Road to Pitts Center Road back to New Road to Lincoln Street back to Grindstone Crank Road to Alexander Reed Road to Marcia Buker School to Richmond Middle/High School.

Bus # 5 Samantha Moore

Starting out at 6:35 picking up on River Road to Gardiner Town Line back to Lincoln Street back to Front Street to Baker Street to Sampson to Pleasant Street to High Street to Main Street picking up to Whispering Willows Day Care back to Parks Road back to Main Street to Richmond Middle/High School to Marcia Buker School.

Bus # 6 Frederica Shorey

Starting out at 6:30 to first pick up on US Route 201 to Toothaker Road to Brown Road to Beedle Road out to US Route 201 to Gardiner Town line back to Lancaster Road to Post Road to Dingley Road back to Post Road to Hornbeck Cross Road to US Route 201 to Main Street picking up until Whispering Willows Day Care.

Bus # 7 Kim Weston

Starting out at 6:45 to Alexander Reed Road to Hamel Ridge back to Plummer Road to Langdon Road to Stable Road back to Alexander Reed Road to Hatch Street to Kimball Street to Main Street to Marcia Buker School to Richmond Middle/High School.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call either the school your child attends or Katie Spear Director of Transportation at 485-3556.