

Dear Staff,

What a very difficult time it is! I said it, I believe it, I experience it, I know it! However, that doesn’t make it any better for each of you. I read about how people are even tired of others trying to be “positive”. So, I won’t be (very much). I did however want to acknowledge how hard I know everyone is working. As people have to be out or positions remain unfilled it means staff who are present are working so very hard. Then there are the positions, which because of Covid, have morphed into something else like our School Nurses, for example! Where does this all lead?

There had been thoughts about not having school next Monday and Tuesday. The truth is we either have to have “Robust Remote Learning” (a DOE term) on those days or make them up on June 13 and 14. In addition, we have Rumford Hospital providing vaccine clinics in both of our regions on these days so we need to have students in our schools. So even though we are in school next week I hope you will take a deep breath and plan some fun activities with your students, better yet, let them do some planning! Let them lead the learning. Sometimes less is more.

I did want to explain the week of December 20th. Back in March, my colleagues in the four neighboring districts and CTE schools wanted a ½ day on December 22. I was against it and said Dec. 21st should be the last day of instruction before vacation not Dec. 22. (Actually, I would vote for two weeks over the holidays) Not sure how, but I got my way! The last day for instruction is Dec. 21st. All schools and offices are closed Dec. 23rd and 24th for every employee.

Finally, thank each and every one of you for what you do each day! I am very thankful for you and your dedication to our students. Please enjoy your time away and take care of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Deb Alden