

# KATAHDIN SCHOOLS RSU #89

## Office of the Superintendent

800 Station Road Stacyville, ME 04777

Voice: 207-365-4272

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Dear Katahdin Staff, Students and Families,

Katahdin Schools, RSU 89, is dedicated to providing a safe learning environment for our staff and students. Health and wellness is a top-priority. Over the past several years, the school board, facilities committee and district administration have worked collaboratively to determine the needs of our schools. We have been diligently addressing the needs through a variety of grant funding sources.

In the spring of 2022 school administration and leadership teams submitted grants to the Gloria C. Mackenzie Foundation and were fortunately awarded \$485,000 in grant funds to attend to more of the needs of our schools. Included below is a screenshot of the October 20, 2022 school board minutes with the details:

### **District**

- Mackenzie Grant Awards:
  - Windows & Doors @ KMHS  
\$ 85,000
  - Cafeteria Lunch Tables @ KMHS  
\$ 30,000
  - Cafeteria Redesign/Tables/Storage @ KES  
\$ 10,000
  - KES Windows & Doors (back side of building) @ KES  
\$110,000
  - Removal of asbestos tile and installation of new tile @ KES  
\$250,000

**Total Mackenzie Grant Funds:**

**\$485,000**

The windows and doors in both buildings and removal of the asbestos tile and installation of new tile at KES was put out to bid in December of 2022. Contractors were awarded bids and we are scheduled to have the work completed this summer.

While the windows and doors are old they are not broken or unsightly. The condition of the tile floor is, however, deteriorating. Throughout the planning of this project district administration

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has been working closely with County Abatement, an asbestos removal company, to ensure that safety protocols are in place.

While the tile that is coming up is not aesthetically pleasing, it does not pose any health risk. Asbestos tiles are categorized as non-fiable material meaning that the actual asbestos is only emitted when the abrasive chemicals and equipment that is used by the licensed companies remove the tiles. It is for this reason that we have scheduled the work to be completed during the summer while school is not in session.

The recommended safety precautions that the district has been following while the floor deteriorates is to remove the broken tiles. We are in the process of replacing the tiles temporarily until the work can be completed as scheduled this summer.

In further support of everyone's safety the state Department of Environmental Protection will be doing a site visit. The guidelines provided by them are being followed and we continue to work closely with professionals to attend to this situation.

Please keep in mind that open communication is welcome and encouraged whenever a question or concern arises.

Our monthly school committee meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5PM in the KES cafeteria. All are welcome!

If there are any additional questions that have not been addressed in this letter please reach out to me at school.

Respectfully,



Marie Robinson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools