

Maranacook Area Schools/RSU #38

Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day Frequently Asked Questions for Middle School Parents

1. What is a Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?

Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day is a “snow” day during which students will work at home on Remote instruction and assignments provided by their teachers.

2. Why are we implementing these days?

Remote School Days will allow our academic schedule to continue uninterrupted, which is vital to both short-term and long-term learning and success. These days will also enable us to take advantage of our investment in technology and will help students develop skills in independence and time management. We believe that learning can take place anytime and anywhere.

3. Will every snow day be a Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?

No. There will be some traditional snow days. An Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day will not be scheduled when a large-scale power outage may occur.

4. How will I know if it is a Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day or just a No School Day?

The decision will be made by the district if an inclement weather day is a No School Day or a Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day. Parents will be notified through the district’s emergency notification system.

5. How will my child receive instruction or lessons?

At the MS, instruction will be provided by your child’s team and UA/FL teachers. Assignments may focus on the current theme, enrich current learning or review previous skills and Standards. The assignments may be in Google Classroom or on a paper handout. Teachers will be available via email or Google Classroom to answer questions and support students with their work.

6. Do students with special needs also need to be provided with and complete Remote School Day work?

Yes. Most students in this situation will have accommodations in place to allow them to access the regular Remote School Day with support. For students with really severe disabilities, teachers will communicate ahead of time with parents about expectations.

7. What if our family does not have access to the internet on a Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?

Kajeet Mobile Hotspots can be signed out from the Learning Commons to provide internet access or paper copies can be provided or digitally saved to their laptop. Students should request a paper copy from their teachers.

8. Will my child be working on the assignments for the exact number of hours he/she is typically in school?

No. The Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day instruction and assignments are expected to be completed in approximately four hours. Children may take breaks or do other activities during the completion of these assignments.

9. Is completion of the assignments required?

Yes, the Remote Learning assignments are required to be completed. If your child is struggling with the assignment, your child's teacher will be available remotely from 9am -3pm for questions and assistance. If your child does not do the assigned work, your child will be marked as "absent" on the Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day. If your child could not finish the assignment, he or she should speak to their teachers on return to school.

10. When are the assignments due?

Students are expected to submit Remote School Days assignments on or before the next same colored day (i.e. if the Remote School Days falls on a Black Day then the assignments would be due on or before the following Black Day). If students cannot access the online material they need to check in with their teachers by or during the next scheduled class. Your child must communicate this with his or her classroom teacher during their Remote time between the hours of 9am - 3pm on the Remote learning/Blizzard Bag Day.

11. What is my responsibility on an Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?

Older students should be able to complete their assignments with little parental assistance. Parents should ensure that Remote Learning assignments have been submitted or hard copy portions are returned the next school day with your child.

12. What if my child has Unified Arts Classes on the Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?

Unified Arts Classes like Art, PE, Health or World Language will have Remote Learning assignments just like the other classes in your student's schedule.

13. What do I do if I have technology related questions during a Remote School Day day?

If you are having technology related issues, please feel free to contact our Technology Department from 9am – 3pm via email techsupport@maranacook.com. Our tech team will be available to help troubleshoot tech issues.

14. What about meals for students on Free and Reduced Lunch?

We will be offering the option of a bag breakfast and lunch that could be picked up the day *before* a Remote Learning Day. It would be available to anyone who would like one.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about Remote Learning/Blizzard Bag days.