

# WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dr. Terry L. Wood, Superintendent    225 Gardiner Road    Wiscasset, ME 04578    (207) 882-4104

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## Update: March 15, 2020 (please read carefully and completely)

Dear School Community,

We have continued to monitor and evaluate the COVID-19 situation closely this weekend. I have gathered information from many sources, heard from many of you, and paid attention to the updates. It is absolutely clear to me that the only responsible decision I can make to help prevent and slow the spread of the virus is to close our schools. **Students will not have school starting on Monday, March 16, and we will stay closed for two weeks, through March 27.** I know that many of you have been waiting for this decision and I appreciate your patience. It is not an easy one to come to when the Maine CDC is not recommending school closures. It is also not an easy one to come to knowing that the decision comes with its own set of other hardships for people in our community.

All staff will report to work on Monday, March 16. We will discuss the expectations for all staff members during these two weeks. Teachers will be developing distance learning experiences for students. We are hopeful that these plans will maintain a level of instructional enrichment for students, but we realize that there is no substitute for classroom instruction. We will attempt to provide educational opportunities but recognize that there will be limitations. Staff will be available during these two weeks to communicate with students and families via email, class dojo, and Google classroom.

We care very much about the impact of a school closing on our community and want to work together to find creative ways to support the community at large. I know that we as a community can come together and make sure that we all pitch in to help the community as a whole to take care of our collective needs. We are in the process of coordinating a feeding program that will be open for all students-more details will be available soon.

We also ask that your children continue social distancing guidelines. It is counterproductive to a school closure if large groups of students are gathering for play dates or parties. Keep groups small. Continue handwashing. Adhere to travel guidelines. Please, our community depends on you, too.

We understand that students may need to get things from school – something they left in a locker, a band instrument, books, or an ipad. That is fine. Students and/or their parents can come to school anytime during normal hours and get what is needed this week.

Great articles about parenting through this time:  
[Schools are Closing for Coronavirus, Now What](#)  
[How Working Parents Can Prepare for the Coronavirus](#)

Sincerely,



Dr. Terry L. Wood, Superintendent  
Wiscasset School Department