

RSU37/SAD37
1020 Sacarap Road
Harrington, ME 04643

E-mail: rramsay@msad37.org
Tel: 483-2734

Ronald C. Ramsay
Superintendent of Schools

Dawn Fickett
Administrative Assistant

March 17, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

I am sending this communication to provide an update on the evolving COVID-19 situation and your responsibility during our school closures.

All of our regular employees will continue to receive all of their regular pay and benefits.

Our students, our community, our profession, and our families are facing unusual and dynamic challenges during the COVID-19 outbreak. SAD #37 encourages teachers proposing alternative work plans to address our professional responsibilities in ways that maximize effectiveness. Flexibility given and received will carry us forward.

We know that we can't meet student needs remotely nearly as well as we can in person...these efforts to connect with our students are not true student days even though they will be counted as such. We also know that our students and community are well-served if we continue inspiring and engaging students and supporting their social and emotional needs. As you do your planning, please keep Maslow's hierarchy in mind.

A teacher's alternative proposal should sketch out how you'll meet and log professional responsibilities during the time students are not allowed in school. Examples might include: Student age-appropriate outreach, such as via phone and email, live or recorded video. It may include virtual learning coordination through Google Classroom, etc. You may have other great ideas too! Please keep in mind that many of our students won't have access to internet or support, so the things you do are about engagement, support, and enrichment...they aren't true school days and should not be just about grades.

This is also a good time for you to pursue some Professional learning and growth: You know that stack of professional texts, journals that you have been meaning to read? Now's the time! Reading, webinars, online mini courses. You may choose to work on Lesson plans and curriculum development.

Finally, our school and community needs are different now than they were just last week. After you've done what's possible to support your students remotely, please help by pitching in with the other support needs of your school. If you are concerned about your safety or well-being please discuss your situation with your building Principal and they will make sure that your safety needs are being met.

The efforts, ideas shared, and help offered so far have been tremendous. Years from now when we look back at this time in history and tell the stories of how we came together as a team, in our schools, in our community, and across the state let those stories reflect that this was our finest hour. Let's together make this our finest hour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald C. Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' at the beginning.

Superintendent of Schools
MSAD #37