

Larry Malone
Superintendent

Erica Mazzeo
Director of Curriculum

Melissa Roberts
Director of Professional Growth

Regional School Unit 57

86 West Road, Waterboro, Maine 04087
Tel. No. (207) 247-3221
Fax. No. (207) 247-3477

Colin M. Walsh, CPA
Director of Finance & Operations

Timothy O'Connor
Director of Special Education

Nora Lantagne
Asst. Special Education Director

RSU 57 prepares respectful, responsible and creative thinkers for success in the global community.

April 10, 2020

Dear RSU #57 Community (Mustang Nation),

I hope that this message continues to find you and your family in good health. In this update I am letting you know that based on Governor Mills' and Education Commissioner Makin's recommendation for schools to plan remote learning for the remainder of this school year, RSU 57 will continue with remote learning throughout the rest of the school year. Their recommendation is based upon guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that recommends an 8-20 week timeframe for avoiding large group/in-person instruction once there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19. The majority of the area districts in Maine have already announced this, as well as neighboring districts. School districts are doing their part to slow the spread and to keep our communities safe.

We recognize that this announcement brings considerable disappointment to many people in our district; however, the safety of our community must be a priority right now. This situation will continue to bring challenges for our school families with managing the expectations of school while handling childcare, and other personal situations that are occurring in your lives. Please be assured that we are here to help support you.

With this announcement comes the reality that we will not hold some of our valued traditions, including prom, graduation, grade level transitions, field trips, and music and drama performances. Also, the loss of a sports season is disappointing for those who have prepared and anxiously waited for its return (the Maine Principals' Association has officially postponed the Spring Season). Knowing this, we are already working on alternative ways to safely redesign graduation and other important end of the year happenings that will help with closure of the school year, especially for our seniors. More information will be coming in future weeks on these events.

In a few weeks we will be announcing the date for the end of the school year. Now that we are going to school during April break, we will look at ways of reducing the school calendar for students earlier than June 15th. I continue to be very proud and impressed with how everyone in our district – staff, students and families – is doing their best to not only cope with our new learning reality but also to make it as successful as it can be. We all miss your children and the life they bring to our buildings.

Please continue to adhere to the CDC guidelines and be kind and supportive to others. Take care of yourself and your families and do not hesitate to let us know if RSU 57 can support you.

Resources to Help Families during COVID-19

Resources Available to Families can be found at:

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/662942/RESOURCES_AVAILABLE_TO_HELP_FAMILIES_DURING_COVID-19.pdf

District Health Update

Our Partner, LET'S GO! 5-2-1-0 is offering a dose of "Wellness Matters" daily through the month of April! Please visit their FaceBook page to check-out all they have to offer including helpful links and resources.
<https://www.facebook.com/5210LetsGoYorkCounty/>

A new issue of **Nurse News** can be found at: <https://bit.ly/34yLo1C>

Technology Update

Repairs - This week we worked out the details of our new repair process. It all begins with an email from families to remotehelp@rsu57.org to provide a detailed description of the damage. A technician will be in touch to get information and make arrangements to swap the damaged device for a replacement.

Online Safety - Please be aware that from the beginning our current adventure, RSU #57 has worked to employ best practices in the use of Zoom. We all see news reports and social media posts that share horror stories. Last night we heard that Google, the creator of a Zoom competitor, has banned the use of Zoom. There are a number of stories, but the response to the issues reported in the news is to properly set up the meetings with the correct safety settings. This is where we have placed our focus and energy. While we did have one experience this past week with an incidence of Zoom Bombing, it was not with students and it was in our publicly-posted and open Finance Committee meeting. Our classroom sessions have been safe from intrusion because of the focus that teachers and staff have given to safety. We will keep you updated on our ongoing focus on online safety.

Questions? Check the "Continuous Learning Plan" on the rsu57.org website. Many of the answers to questions asked through the remote help are on the site.

Be Safe and Well,

Larry Malone



"MUSTANG NATION"