The purpose of the Return to School Committee is to:

- Review Maine DOE and CDC guidelines for returning to school;
- Make recommendations for School Board approval regarding return to school expectations and guidelines.

RSU#3 will:

- Provide a safe environment for students and staff - physically and emotionally
- Ensure all students have equitable access to quality and rigorous instruction through in-person and remote-learning opportunities
- Identify and work to provide extra and co-curricular opportunities for students to engage in their school and community
- Provide healthy and nutritious meals

Return to School Steering Committee Members:
Charles Brown, Superintendent
Dawn Pray, Assistant Superintendent
Jesse Hargrove, School Board Member
Eleanor Hess, School Board Member
Heidi Paul, School Board Member
Tim Downer, Transportation Secretary
Tina Fabian, School Nutrition Director
Carrie Hanagriff, High School Teacher
David Holinger, Middle School Principal
Michele Horne, Director of Pupil Services
Maria King, School Secretary
Carrie Moring, Elementary School Counselor
Kevin “Gus” Petrak, High School Teacher/Association President
Pete Quimby, Director of Operations and Maintenance
Lisa Roux, Elementary School Principal
Laura Stewart, School Nurse
Jordan Tozier, School Resource Officer
Barbara Van Deventer, Business Manager
Charity Vines, Superintendent Administrative Assistant
All communication regarding return to school will go through the Central Office and the Superintendent. Recommendations will be made for all three models, as recommended by the Maine DOE. This plan will be reviewed and approved by the RSU#3 School Board.

Disclaimer

Where the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic are ever changing, RSU#3 reserves the right to change this document at any time. As the CDC and State of Maine provide updated information and recommendations regarding schools, RSU#3 will consider necessary modifications to this plan that will ensure the safety of both students and staff.

Assumption of Risk

Although RSU#3 has followed CDC guidelines for reopening schools, it is essential that the community understands that the COVID-19 outbreak is classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). COVID-19 is considered a highly contagious disease, which means that any activity where people are gathered together (like a classroom setting) presents an inherent risk. As a district, we have implemented measures that lessen student exposure to the virus, but we are unable to guarantee that the risk of transmission has been completely eliminated. Parents/guardians will need to make informed decisions regarding students attending school that best addresses the needs of each family.

The Return to School Steering committee reviewed our needs in the following areas and created subcommittees to focus on the area to bring back thoughts, ideas, plans to the steering committee.

Maine Department of Education Resources

- The RTS Committee used the following resources to make decisions:
  - Framework for Returning Classroom Instruction
- Six Requirement for Safely Opening Schools in the Fall
  - Symptom screening at home before coming to school
  - Physical distancing and facilities
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- Mask/face coverings
- Hand hygiene
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Return to school after illness

RSU#3 will be following the recommendations from the Maine DOE and Maine CDC. In addition to those recommendations, please see the following per area of topic in each model.

Our plan is to proceed with our green/yellow model until we are required to move to a red model. We will review our plans through September for possible changes starting in October/November and/or when the CDC updates their guidelines.

What will school look like?
School will look different in the fall and many safety measures will be put into place as outlined below. Our intent is to have students in school, face to face, as much as possible. With that said, it is also crucial that we meet physical distancing requirements within our school buildings. RSU#3 is currently working on various plans, which may change based on guidelines and other Maine DOE recommendations.

Other changes in which to be aware:
- Staff and students will be required to complete a health screen before coming to school each day.
- Entrance into buildings by parents/guardians and visitors will be limited. Only staff and students will be permitted beyond the school lobby/office area.
- Students and staff will enter the building through assigned entries and exits.
- Student movement throughout the buildings will be greatly reduced; hallways will be appropriately marked for travel patterns.
- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings. Mask breaks will be built in throughout the day. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. The same applies to staff with medical or other health reasons for being unable to wear face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.
- Face masks will be provided for those who need one.
- The social and emotional wellbeing of our students and staff is our first priority.
- Many safety practices will be put into place. Handwashing, readily available sanitizer, physical distancing, face coverings, water filling stations, are just some to name a few.
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- There will be no large assemblies.
- Meetings will be held remotely as much as possible.
- Transportation by parents is highly recommended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREEN/ YELLOW MODEL</th>
<th>RED MODEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Instruction</strong></td>
<td><strong>Instruction</strong> - Distance Learning Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ Monday-Thursday classroom instruction; Friday distance learning day</td>
<td>◦ This model will look different than this past spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ PK-12 students- AM cohort and PM cohort (3 hours/ day)</td>
<td>◦ Monday-Thursday distance learning with scheduled live lessons</td>
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<td>◦ Staff work onsite Monday-Friday</td>
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<td>◦ Return to Instruction Expectations and Guidelines</td>
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<td>◦ Sharing of classroom materials will be reduced; necessary common materials will be sanitized by staff between uses.</td>
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<td>◦ Recess schedules will be developed and will be supervised</td>
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<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ All students will be offered breakfast, lunch and FFVP meals</td>
<td>◦ Meals will be delivered to homes, as was done in the spring</td>
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<td>◦ Depending on the model, students will either be eating at school (6ft apart) or will take a meal home</td>
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<td>◦ Distance learning students will have the ability to get meals</td>
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<td>◦ All meals will be properly packaged and served based on CDC recommendations</td>
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Facilities
● All schools will follow the recommendations from the Maine CDC and Maine DOE
● Bottle filling stations were installed; water fountains will be closed
● Cleaning schedules and procedures were created; staff and students are trained
● Windows will remain open as weather permits to provide ventilation

Transportation
● Students will be transported in AM/ PM shifts
  ○ There will be an overlap with drop off/ pick up.
  ○ Each school will have a specific procedure for pick up/ drop off requirements
● Students must wear masks
● Bus drivers will have plastic shields around the seat area

Social/ Emotional Needs
● Surveys were sent out to gather information regarding the feelings and thoughts from staff and parents
● A screening tool was purchased to gather information from our students regarding social/ emotional needs
● We will continue to monitor our student/staff needs throughout the year

Health Care and Wellness
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- **Final PK-12 School Reopening Public Health Guidance (CDC)**
- Anyone entering the building must wear a mask  
  - Entrance into the buildings will be limited for non-staff members
- Promote healthy hygiene practices (handwashing, sanitizing, face covering, reminded to cough/sneeze into elbow, reminded not to hug, shake hands, etc)
- Students can remove masks at appropriate times (social distanced, outside, while eating, etc)
- Based on self-check by employees and students at their homes prior to school arrival, anyone who is sick should remain home and inform the school
- RSU#3 will develop a plan for if a student/employee gets sick; all schools will have a designated medical isolation room.

**Extra/ Co Curricular**

- Athletics will follow recommendations from the MPA and Central Maine League
- Field trips will not be held for the first trimester (through Thanksgiving break). We will revisit this at a later date.
- Clubs will meet virtually until further notice.
- Academic and attendance requirements will still be in place for eligibility purposes
- There will be no concessions or gate tickets until further notice.

Resources Used:
- Maine DOE Return to Instruction Framework
CDC Recommendations