

Maine School Administrative District No. 11

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Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools

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Angela Hardy
Director of Curriculum & Instruction



September 8, 2020

Dear Families and Caregivers:

Welcome Back! We are excited to reconnect with your child and all of our students, whether virtually or in the classroom. We value your enthusiasm and commitment to your child's learning, and we are delighted to partner with you in your child's education.

This year, we are embarking on a new experience together. Our staff has the talent and motivation to help your child learn despite our present situation. I am confident that together, we can overcome the obstacles we face.

Below is some important information I wish to bring to your attention.

Child Nutrition Program

I have great news to share with you. MSAD 11 was just approved as a Summer Feeding Site, which means our Child Nutrition Department will once again be able to offer breakfast and lunch to **all students**, including those who are solely accessing our remote academy, ages 0-18 regardless of income. A link will be sent home to families each week to inform us whether your meals are wanted that week. Similar to last spring, families who sign up will receive the bulk meals that are being offered. For those families picking up meals, pick up is at the school your child attends.

The break down for meals is as follows:

1. Cohort A - students will take meals home at the end of the day on Tuesdays - 5 breakfasts and 3 lunches (for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).
2. Cohort B - students will take meals home at the end of the day on Fridays - 5 breakfasts and 3 lunches (for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).
3. Cohort C (100% Remote) - families will pick up 5 breakfasts and 3 lunches on Tuesdays (for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and 2 lunches will be picked up on Fridays (for Monday and Tuesday). The specific time of pick up will be coordinated through each school.
4. Cohort D – students will take 5 breakfasts and 1 lunch (for Wednesdays) home at the end of the day on Tuesdays.

Families are still being encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced paperwork as the District's federal grants are significantly impacted by the number of students receiving Free and Reduced lunch.

Attendance

As a reminder, consistent attendance continues to be a key factor for keeping students on track academically whether they are learning in-school or remotely. When students miss instruction for too many days, whether partial or full days, in school or remotely, they lose learning time. Some absences are unavoidable and require students to stay home. However, our school's current plans often allow students to engage in learning remotely when they are not able to be in school.

Missing just 2 days a month impacts your child's learning, whether the absence is excused or unexcused. We notice when students are not connected to their teacher, because we care! School and learning can become increasingly difficult when students don't participate either in the classroom or remotely.

Our partnership with families has always been important but is even more important this year. We know it may take a while for students to adjust and feel comfortable with masks, maintaining physical distance, and experiencing screening procedures. We also know that we may have to move to distance learning to keep all members of our school community safe.

We ask for your patience as we work through the changes in how our school must operate this year. Please let us know how we can work together to best support you and help your child to engage with school every day on time.

We are in this together, and we will strive to work with you to find ways for every child to succeed.

Thank you for all you do to support your child's school success and well-being.

Sincerely,



Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools