

Maine School Administrative District No. 75

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COVID-19 Update #7 Letter

M.S.A.D. No. 75 families and community members:

As we all have recognized, this “new normal” is hard for any of us to navigate. There are new routines for parents, children, families, relationships, work, and home -- pretty much all aspects of our lives. We also worry about keeping our families, friends, colleagues, employees, and communities safe from this virus. The bottom line is we are dealing with a lot of new stress; and as much as possible, we all need to show a lot of kindness, forgiveness, and understanding towards each other.

I am proud of the team in M.S.A.D. No. 75 for doing as much as possible to transition to “remote learning” and our new nutrition program. Every school and department within the District have done their very best to bring services and support to our students and families, while also doing our very best to help one another. I want to publicly thank all of our employees for their hard work in navigating these very challenging times. From nutrition workers to bus drivers, custodians, teachers, ed techs, administrators, administrative assistants, and facilities workers, our staff has worked nights and weekends to meet these new challenges, all while dealing with their own stressors! It has been a team effort!

I also recognize that these are challenging times for our families while supporting their children in new and different ways. While parents are their child’s first teacher, most are not equipped to be their child(ren)’s teacher day in and day out. I understand that many are now working from home and/or worried about keeping or losing their job, and I want to sincerely thank each parent/guardian for doing their very best to support our students!

I have been asked how long we will be out of school many times, and the honest answer is that I do not know. We will seek guidance from the CDC, our governmental leaders, and other medical professionals to make the best decision we can. We are hoping that we can reopen on April 27, 2020, but we are planning in the event that school closure needs to continue past that date.

Our meal program is our first priority to ensure our students are safe and doing as well as possible. Our second priority is to attempt to give some continuity of learning to all of our students. Individual schools, principals, teachers, and other staff are communicating with students and parents as much as possible. If you have questions, please reach out to your teacher(s) and then your principal via email.

Our middle and high school students are continuing to learn through a combination of online supports. Elementary schools have activities that can be viewed on our District website at link75.org and paper copies can

be made available at all levels, if necessary. Our staff is doing their best to continue to offer our students opportunities for learning, but we all recognize that this is a very different time than we are used to. All students have varying levels of support and resources at home, which creates a variety of challenges for our educators. Our teachers, ed techs, and administrators will do their very best to support all of our students. If, as a parent or student, you are feeling stressed about what is being asked, please reach out. We will do our best to support you!

Please remember that our meals will be served on Monday (2 per day), Wednesday, and Thursday (2 per day); and all of our buildings are closed to the public with very limited hours. The best way to contact any employee is through email. Our technology department has worked successfully to ensure our Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and Building Committee can continue to meet remotely. The public is always invited to watch online and share their viewpoints. The meeting schedule and directions for how to access the meetings can be found on the District's website and Facebook page.

This is a challenging period of time for all members of our community, state, and country. I encourage each of us to look out for and help one another. Let's work together! If you see a problem, whether at school or in the community, help find or offer a solution. Follow the CDC's advice, as well as that of our Governor and President, on how each of us can do our part to help out.

Be well!

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Chabot
Superintendent of Schools