



Searsport • Stockton Springs

Office of the Superintendent

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August 5, 2020

Message from Superintendent Chris Downing

Dear RSU #20 Students, Parents/Guardians, and Staff:

As we plan for the start of school, we want to be responsive to your concerns and questions, while being as transparent as possible. Please know safety is our utmost priority. The Steering Committee began June 16 to investigate, along with guidance from the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) and the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC), possible scenarios for school 2020/21.

Our plans must be fluid so that we may make changes quickly. We have been asked by the MDOE to create a plan, based on the MDOE Framework, to include three possible learning models:

- Full Remote schedule
- Hybrid schedule - a combination of Live (in-person) and Remote
- Live (in-person) schedule

Within our “Hybrid” and “Live” schedules, a “Full Remote” schedule will be an option for families who may feel more comfortable with distance learning. More information will follow.

As many of you know, on July 31st, Waldo County was given a green risk status, which means we may proceed with in-person instruction, with restrictions in place. The following restrictions are required by the MDOE for safe opening of schools:

- Symptom screenings before coming to school
- Physical distancing and school facilities modifications
- Masks/face coverings
- Hand Hygiene
- Personal Protective Equipment
- A plan for returning to school after illness

The Steering Committee has recommended that the RSU 20 school year begin with a Hybrid schedule. The Hybrid schedule is based on the social distancing requirements set by the Maine DOE and Maine CDC, the physical size of classrooms, and the current number of enrolled students.

The next school board meeting is scheduled for August 11th at 6:30 pm. The school board will be reviewing the draft Learning Continuity Plan to address the return to school in September. For more details go to www.RSU20.org

Sincerely,

Chris Downing,
Superintendent of Schools