

Regional School Unit 24



March 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

I write this letter with mixed emotions that come with the extraordinary times that we are in at the moment. The introduction of the Coronavirus in our state and the level of fear that surrounds it has created much pause for thought. In the end, there are a number of unknowns that exist that lead me to believe that we should shut down our schools to allow the state and federal government to gather the data necessary to provide the proper guidance to our schools. Barring a directive from the Governor or the Department of Education, this shutdown will begin on Monday, March 16th at 3:00 p.m. All school related activities will cease at that time.

We will have school on Monday, March 16. Our teachers have worked diligently to put together remote learning opportunities for our students. In the best interest of our learners, the Maine Department of Education has afforded us the ability to provide learning opportunities at home and count them as actual school days. These opportunities will be communicated to your child during the day on Monday at school. In addition, my hope in having students attend on Monday is to help allow students to check in with their teachers and to allay some of the fears that our students may have as a result of this decision. Any further communication regarding the specifics of your child's learning opportunities will be provided by the school that your child attends. Questions should be directed to your school's building administrator.

Schools will remain closed until Friday, April 3rd. Before that time, I will consult with the Maine Department of Education, the Maine Center for Disease Control, and other school districts to make an informed decision on how best to proceed. We will make that announcement as soon as possible to keep people informed.

Please know that this decision was not an easy one to make. There are implications, known and unknown, that come with this course of action. However, the safety of our students, our staff, and our community is a priority.

Sincerely,

Michael Eastman, Superintendent