

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

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Office of the Superintendent

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“Public Schools not only serve the public, they make the public.”

Superintendent’s Memo

To: Deer Isle-Stonington & Sedgwick Parents and Guardians
From: Christian M. Elkington
Re: Remote Learning Updates
Date: 4-10-2020

I hope you and your family were able to enjoy the weather of the last week, which was certainly a gift prior to our most-recent snowstorm. Maine weather, we love it, don’t we?☺ In this update I will be sharing information about Remote Learning and School Nutrition with you.

Remote Learning Next Steps

Many of you probably have heard about or read the statement Maine Department of Education Commissioner Pender Makin issued this past Tuesday evening. I am told that Facebook was very busy sharing thoughts right after it came out. Commissioner Makin’s Priority Notice recommended that all Maine Schools begin planning to “replace classroom instruction with remote/distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.” As a follow-up Thursday morning, Hancock County Superintendents met with Commissioner Makin and received further clarification on her recommendation. The Commissioner stressed that the recommendation was a “strong” recommendation, supported by Governor Mills, and that schools should remain closed to classroom instruction. That this was based on “the US CDC’s recommended 8 to 20-week timeframe for avoiding large group/in-person instruction once there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19”. The Commissioner also stressed with us that since there are currently no statewide or national benchmarks established to determine when it would be safe to return to large group activities (in states where the spread started much earlier than in Maine), that it is best for students, staff and families for schools to remain closed to instruction. Consistent with Commissioner Makin’s strong recommendation and in collaboration with all other Hancock County public school systems, School Union 76 Schools will remain closed to classroom instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. This means we will continue our Remote Learning Plans until the end of the school year with each school district’s original end of year date:

- CSD 13 June 12th
- Sedgwick June 12th.

As I had written previously, keeping schools closed to instruction for the rest of the 2019-2020 School Year is not unexpected. What this now means is that some of the challenges students, parents and staff have adjusted to previously, will probably continue in some way or form along with possible new ones appearing. You have our word that we will continue to work with you to make necessary adjustments to improve our present student learning experiences and to deal with concerns over the next 8 weeks.

I can't say enough about how your encouragement of your children to remain engaged in their learning and these experiences is crucial. We know this can be hard and can't thank you enough for all you are doing. Remote Learning is a new experience for us all and our students, staff and you our parents and guardians are providing the best learning opportunities and experiences we can because we are working together! Our staff remains committed to working with you to support your children and we appreciate your patience, understanding, and support as we really do learn together.

Please Remember: That there will be no school April 18th – 26th.

Food Support: A special delivery of breakfast and lunch ingredients along with those who requested to be a part of a special dinner delivery for these 9 days will be made on the afternoon of Friday April 17th. More information will be shared shortly about our plan.

Together we will keep HOPE alive within each of us and within each of our children!