

# 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 Parents  
From: Christian M. Elkington  
Re: Several Important Updates!  
Date: 4-3-2020

I hope that this note finds you making the best of the difficult situation we are all in. Over the last week multiple updates and decrees have come from Governor Mills and Commissioner of Education Makin. With these and other new information, I need to update you on the following:

**Governor has mandated the continued termination of in-person classroom instruction** – Through at least Friday, May 1, 2020. This means that the week after April Break Remote Learning will continue. From my review of multiple CDC updates, I believe that the chances of in-school instruction returning this school year are becoming less and less likely. It appears that for important health reasons, we will be finishing the 19-20 School Year using Remote Learning. We shall watch with HOPE over the next four weeks that this doesn’t come to pass.

**Will kids, families and staff continue with Remote Learning during the April Break?** – This is a School Board decision and I will recommend to them that the break stay in place. Over the last several weeks multiple, unimaginable changes and difficulties have been brought to our doorsteps. Students, families, staff and others within our community have put in outstanding efforts and everyone needs time to focus on their families, themselves and hopefully being outside enjoying fresh air during the April Break!

**Student Remote Learning Schedule Adjustment for Grades K-7** – In order to make sure that we can continue to do the best job possible and to reduce some of the pressure on our parents with younger children and our staff working with younger students we are adjusting our weekly schedule starting, this Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. In grades K-7, there will no longer be Remote Learning on Friday afternoons. Instead, DISES School staff will use the time between 12:00 and 3:00 pm to work with other K-7 educators in SU 76 to plan and discuss ideas. Schedule adjustments for our K-7 children will be explained by their teachers.

**You will have noticed today** – That there were two extra breakfasts for each student who received meals with today’s delivery. We are now able to provide a Super Snack for both Saturday and Sunday to each child with Friday’s delivery as we increase our support for our students. **I want to send a special thank you** to Sheila Nevells, Sam Betts and Roxann Betts for their unwavering commitment and dedication to provide meals to our students, to the bus drivers who have helped distribute the food to remote locations, and to the many other staff members

who are assisting in the distribution to each home! As of this writing, 13 days of meals have been prepared and distributed for a total of almost 9,100 meals. These numbers are incredible!

**In order to continue with meal deliveries** - And to reduce the slightest chance of spreading any virus to our families and staff, we are reducing the number of delivery days from 5 to 3. Starting this coming week, meal delivery will now start at approximately 8:30 am and will use the following plan:

- Mondays' delivery will consist of 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts for each child.
- Wednesdays' delivery will be 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts for each child.
- Fridays' delivery will consist of 1 lunch and 1 breakfast and 2 Super Snacks for each child.

*\*We have been working with both the School Nutrition people at the Maine Dept. of Ed. along with some possible grant providers to determine if we can provide food in a different fashion, such as in bulk instead of separate meals. More changes may be coming in the next few weeks, so stay-tuned.*

**If a staff member is out sick** – There will not be a substitute to continue with their part of Remote Learning for that day. The Teacher or Support Staff Member will let their students and parents know in advance that they will not be available through an email, text etc.

**State & Federal Testing requirements are cancelled for this Spring.** – Maine has received approval from the federal government to waive annual assessment and accountability requirements. As a result, the following assessments will not be administered this spring:

- EmPowerME - grades 3-8
- SAT - 3rd year of high school
- Science - grades 5, 8, 3rd year of high school

**\*In addition, Maine will not publicly report academic assessment and attendance data for the 2019-2020 school year.**

*As always, your patience and understanding is very much appreciated. Thank you for making today the best that you can for our children and yourselves as together we will keep HOPE alive within each of us and within each of our children!*

*Thanks for listening!*