

# 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: SU 76 Parents

From: Christian M. Elkington

Re: Time for us all to take a big deep breath and exhale!

Date: 3-28-2020

Over the last week, I, along with many of you, have noticed increased anxiety, frustration and concern in our state, county and communities. As the initial efforts to bring Remote Learning and food support to our students and families has become our everyday reality the sadness about what we are facing grows. As the excitement of facing new challenges fades and as the ongoing pressures of the Coronavirus spreads worry our stress grows and loss of patience increases. This is totally understandable. As these concerns and difficulties grow (with the addition of job insecurity for many), each of us must make adjustments in how we deal with each new day. This too is understandable. However, during this terribly difficult time, *together*, we must keep HOPE alive within each of us and within each of our children!

Let me emphasize that I am proud of and grateful for the efforts of our teachers, support staff and administrators over the last three weeks. I am also grateful for the support they have received from you as we have figured out, together, what works best for our students.

One size doesn't fit all and we know it!! Some families have concerns that academic programming expectations for students are too high and are putting too much pressure on daily family schedules and resources. Some are grateful for every minute of time their children spend with their teachers and support staff. If a parent said to us "we only want you to contact us twice a week", the necessary changes were made. School staff will continue to look at making adjustments to meet the multiple, differing needs of our students and families as best as they can.

The SU76 staff are trying their best to provide the best services to each of our students as possible. For parents who feel their child is on overload -- Let your child’s teacher(s) know! Adjustments will be made. Our staff wants to hear from you so they can better understand your child’s and family’s difficulties and adjust to support you and your child(ren). No one wants to add more difficulty into an already difficult situation. For parents who feel your child is not getting enough work, please let your child’s teacher(s)

know. Our teachers may be able to make adjustments and can suggest added independent work or an independent project for your child to complete. Together we will keep HOPE alive within each of us and within each of our children!

We are all facing a tough new reality on many levels. In educating our students, we cannot make up each seven-hour school day that would have occurred under normal circumstances. What our staff is doing is working incredibly hard to keep student learning moving forward and to keep teacher/staff connections with students in place and probably/hopefully growing stronger. We are trying to make sure that our kids don't lose what they have learned while at the same time finding ways for new learning to occur.

You have my word as your Superintendent, that for each week of the schools' closure, we will continue to look at options to better support our students, parents and staff.

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

*PS: I know that with Remote Learning you are getting more emails and messages etc. than you would like. I am trying to keep the emails I send to a minimum. I will need to send out some updates later this weekend in another memo. ☺*