

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

Office of the Superintendent

“It Takes a Whole Community to Teach a Child”

Christian M. Elkington
Superintendent
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April 22, 2020

Mary Bridgham
Director of Special Services
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Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Lynne Witham
*Director of Adult Ed., Prof. Dev.
& Certification*
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School Union 76 has been committed to providing your children with a comprehensive educational experience since the beginning of their schooling careers, but now we are more so, because we realize how vulnerable they can be to losing ground academically (and socially) if they are not given the right amount of support, and that support includes you and their families.

Rhonda Eaton
Assistant to the Superintendent
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We recognize that this is a stressful time for everyone and acknowledge this is easier for some than it is others. We want to support ALL of our students, and to this end we have developed Individualized Learning Plans that outline what is in the IEP for your child, and what we are currently offering for services during this pandemic. These plans are being finalized by the special education teachers/case managers for your child and will be sent to you when ready, if they are not already attached to this letter.

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Tiffany Dauk
Special Services Assistant
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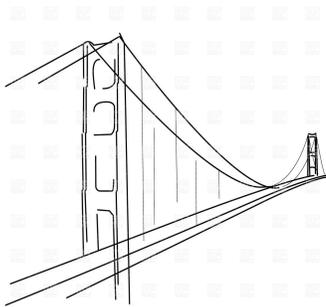
Whitney Brown
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We want to assure you that we have your child's best interests at heart and want to help them be successful, but we can't do this without you. You need to take care of yourselves and your families before you commit to a daily schedule for learning. (Safety and well-being come first.)

Our special education team will do everything in our power to facilitate your child's learning. We are here for you, but need you to help by communicating those needs to us.

I want to reassure you that when we come back to school (physically) we will support your child in their transition. We will take them from where they are and move them forward in a supportive manner.

I would like to lay to rest the idea/rumor that there will be any retention for our special education population based on the effects of COVID19. There is no talk of retention, nor should there be, unless it was in the plans for your child before the CoronaVirus forced us to distance learning. (It is against the law to retain a special education student due to the impact of outside influences (in this case - the Coronavirus).



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We are planning to offer a specialized summer school program that we would like you to take advantage of. This plan will be finalized when we know what the health expectations, such as social distancing, for students and staff will be. This would help your child keep their skills current and be as ready as possible to jump back into schooling in the classroom. In addition to summer school, we may have an opportunity to extend our services in the Fall, if we deem compensatory services are needed on an individual basis.

We are working with you to keep all meetings for IEPs, annual and triennial reviews this spring. These meetings will be conducted via Zoom until we are allowed to be back in physical contact. At these meetings we will discuss what your child's needs are, as we have done in the past, but we will also discuss the impact of the Coronavirus on their learning and how we will counteract those influences in future learning.

We will begin to conduct outstanding evaluations once we have been given approval by the governor of Maine for face to face contact to begin.

In closing, I would like to thank you for trusting your child's education to School Union 76. It is an honor and privilege to serve you and your children. Let's help them be the best that they can be.

Sincerely,

Mary Bridgham
Director of Special Services