



Regional School Unit 13  
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Dear Families of Our RSU 13 Community:

Our staff have been very busy not only this summer, but particularly these past few days preparing to welcome students. We want to take a moment at the beginning of this letter to express how proud we are of the teamwork that has taken place in order to prepare for greeting our in person students or our Off Site Learners. As we continue to near the start of the school year, we want to provide a few important reminders as well as updates.

### **REMINDERS:**

As outlined in our ReOpening Plan, it is mandatory that all staff and families use this PreScreening tool to screen for symptoms each morning. Going forward, for quick access to the PreScreening Tool, please access the RSU13.org homepage for links. A hard copy will also be provided to students on the first day of school, a OneCall will go out as a reminder 2 days prior to the start of school, and a reminder the morning of the first day of school will also be shared via OneCall.

**ENGLISH      CHINESE      PORTUGUESE      SPANISH**

### **Are there certain types of cloth face-coverings that are suggested?**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT RSU 13 IS PROHIBITING THE USE OF BANDANAS, GAITOR-STYLE FACE COVERINGS, and FACE MASKS WITH ANY VALVES (Updated 8/31/2020).** This is for safety concerns around each of these three styles. Face coverings should cover your nose and mouth, and fit snugly against the sides of your face. Cloth face coverings should have multiple layers of cloth. For additional information about face coverings, review U.S. CDC guidance on [how to make cloth face coverings, wear and remove masks/face coverings, and wash cloth face coverings.](#)

### **If a student or staff member has a medical appointment, visits out of state or drops off a college student, what is the protocol to follow? (Updated 8/21/20)**

*If a student or staff member travels to a non-exempt state for a medical appointment or any other reason, the quarantine or recent negative PCR test result rule applies. You could be tested upon return to Maine and would need to quarantine until you receive negative test results. Current exempt states as of 9/1/20 include New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey.*

### **Can homeschooling students keep the iPad to use? (Updated 8/21/20)**

*We are unable to provide iPads to homeschoolers at this time. The devices belong to the state and are not available for sale at this time. Families can drop off iPads that were provided last spring at our Central Office location at 28 Lincoln Street in Rockland, Maine anytime between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday.*

## **UPDATES:**

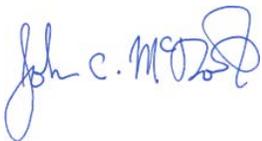
We have updated our **Attendance and Engagement** section in our [ReOpening Plan](#) to include more specific guidelines for our learners and families for when they are not attending in person. It now states the following:

*For this school year, attendance for in-person learning shall mean physical presence in the school, and attendance for partially or wholly at home attendance (Off Site Learning, Hybrid/Virtual Learning, Remote Learning) shall mean regular contact and engagement between teachers and students each school day. RSU 13 will document in-person attendance by traditional measures of daily attendance in Powerschool and at home attendance (Off Site Learning, Hybrid/Virtual Learning, Remote Learning) by use of the [GUIDELINES PROVIDED HERE](#). RSU 13 also recognizes that due to the use of the PreScreening tool in Appendix A, we may see an increase in student absences for those attending in person. Please be sure to continue the process of contacting the school each time your child will not be attending so that we can keep our attendance records up to date as well as document all student illnesses. (UPDATED 9/1/20).*

Additionally, **Transportation Bus Routes** will be posted soon on our RSU 13 Website. We will send out a notice via Facebook and OneCall once this is complete. For returning families, the bus pick up times will be very similar to what they were last year.

Finally, at this time, we have sent a file to Edmentum to upload all of our **Off Site Learning** students and families. It will take about a week for Edmentum to process the student and parent usernames and passwords. Should the company experience any delays due to a large number of schools across the country also going through a similar process, we will notify families via their Learning Liaison. Families should have received a welcome e-mail this morning from their school's Learning Liaison to help them get started on some family guides and trainings as we ease into this new type of learning. If you were signed up as an Off Site Learning Family and did *not* receive an e-mail this morning, please contact Steffany Tribou at [stribou@rsu13.org](mailto:stribou@rsu13.org) or 207-596-6620. If a family needs to switch to Off Site Learning at this point or has not been able to make arrangements this past week to be in contact with the district regarding Off Site Learning, you will also need to contact Steffany Tribou at [stribou@rsu13.org](mailto:stribou@rsu13.org) or 207-596-6620 to discuss your circumstances and next steps. A gentle reminder that we have asked families to make a commitment to a semester for two reasons (1) to have few disruptions to instruction and learning, and (2) due to the logistics involved in making switches at this point, it will not be a quick and easy process to make changes. Know that we will look at needs on a case by case basis, and if a change is necessary, we will need time to accommodate that change, and we very much appreciate your patience, support, and understanding.

With Much Support,



John C. McDonald  
Superintendent of Schools



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