

December 14, 2020

MMS Families,

We are working to improve communication and the information below outlines a lot of the pertinent pieces for you. As was shared by Mr. Gartley yesterday, MMS (only) is going to be fully remote this week. Today, the teachers are preparing themselves as well as doing what they can to prepare students for the shift to remote learning starting tomorrow and running through this Friday, 12/18. The plan is still to have the two teacher workshop days next week (12/21 and 12/22) and resume in-person learning on Monday, January 4th.

Two very important updates for students: We had scheduled a “Spirit Week” this week. Feel free to participate remotely, but we’ll look to replicate that with the same themes for each day the week of January 4th. And, the “door decorating” results are as follows: 1st place – Mrs. Michaud’s Advisory, 2nd place – Mrs. Herrick’s Advisory, and 3rd place – Mr. Rice’s Advisory. The doors all look awesome!

Thank you all once again for your patience as we navigate this interesting school year. Please reach out with questions.

Thanks,

Sam

MMS Remote Learning - Tuesday, 12/15 – Friday, 12/18

While remote, we are following the basic school schedule with only a change in period 4. This change is due to not needing to have separate lunch times and we will not have Eagle Time while we’re remote. Classes will start at the times indicated below. Teachers will end class in time so a break may be had between each class. As you can see, there is a long break in the middle of the day for lunch and also for a “screen break.” All links to class meetings as well as assignments will be posted in Google Classroom. Students will follow their weekly schedule as well (for example, if they have GT on Wednesdays at noon, they will still have that).

Block 1 – 8:15am

Block 2 – 9:05am

Block 3 – 9:55am

Break for lunch/screen break - approx. 10:45am - 12:05pm

Block 4 – 12:05pm

Block 5 – 12:55pm

LGT (chorus, band, and teachers available for “office hours”) – 1:45pm-2:30pm

The only change for our **already fully remote students** is the time change for period 4. Otherwise, they will continue doing what they’ve been doing and will attend their UA’s (they have shifted to their new one) as before.

One thing that makes the timing of this closure less than ideal is that students are set to start new **Unified Arts** this week. They should check their emails for invites to Google Classrooms for these classes. We are in the term “8-4” now, which may help in determining which UA’s the student has.

Lunch will be available for pick up at MMS between the hours of: 10:00am-12:00pm. If this were a longer remote period and the other schools were also closed, we would be able to use the bus routes to deliver meals. Unfortunately, that is not an option this week.

Some skills and drills type work for **basketball** was slated to start this week. Basketball will now begin on Monday, January 4th.

Alexis Glidden and Hannah Jalette are our two **school social workers** who are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have over the next week. Ms. Glidden has Team Atlantic and the 8th grade students and Ms. Jalette has Team Kennebec and the 7th grade students. Please feel free to reach out to them via email at aglidden@rsu18.org and hjalette@rsu18.org or by phone at 207-465-2167 X2507 for Ms. Glidden and X2508 for Ms. Jalette.

For questions specific to academics and/or meeting times and links please reach out directly to teachers. Other inquiries may be directed to Mr. Dunbar (Principal) at sdunbar@rsu18.org or to Mr. Clark (Asst. Principal) at dclark@rsu18.org.

This document answers a lot of questions and outlines expectations quite well -- [RSU 18 Remote Learning Expectations](#)

Some quick tips for remote learning:

1. ***Establish Routines and Expectations***

It is crucial to build routines. Have your remote students wake up, get dressed and get ready to learn. It can be helpful for their morning routines to be similar to what they would be if they were planning to attend school in-person.

2. ***Create a Space for Learning***

It is helpful to have access to a table, a quiet place, with limited distractions, and good internet connection. Cameras should be on and microphones muted when not speaking.

3. ***Communication***

Open lines of communication between the school and families can be highly beneficial in troubleshooting challenges and keeping families and teachers on the same page regarding what they are seeing from the students.

4. ***Check-In Beginning and end of the Day***

Check in with your son/daughter about what work they need to complete and how you may be able to assist them to make things go more smoothly.