

Superintendent

Regional School Unit 83
Maine School Administrative District No. 13
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Moscow Elementary School
Grade Pre-K-4
(207) 672-5572

Valley Jr./Sr. High School
Grades 5-8 & 9-12
672-3300

December 10, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

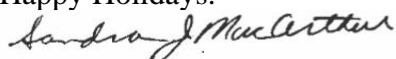
This is a reminder that there is no school for students on Dec 21st and 22nd. Staff will spend these days preparing for returning to school on January 4th. This has been a very challenging and stressful school year for students, staff, parents, and community members. We are hoping that everyone will find time to relax and rest during the winter break. However, we also remind you to take precautions, wear your masks, social distance, and do not attend large gatherings. Your diligence during the Thanksgiving Holiday allowed MSAD 13 to return to in-person learning on Nov 30th and remain in person. We are hoping that Somerset County will return to a green designation allowing our sports teams to begin practicing and students to resume after school activities.

MSAD 13 continues to be committed to providing in-person learning for all students five days per week. The research is showing that in-person schooling continues to be the most effective for student learning. Remote learning has and continues to create stress for students, staff, and parents. We do appreciate your support and understanding. If you choose to keep your child home due to the fear of contracting COVID-19 your child's absence will be recorded as unexcused if you do not provide a medical exemption for your child. After 10 unexcused absences the Maine truancy laws apply, and the district is required to notify DHHS that your child is truant. You will receive truancy notices when this process begins. We respect your right as parents to make the decision to keep your child home but please be aware that the district is bound by state truancy laws. The district began recording unexcused absences on Dec 7th for students that did not return to in person learning on Nov 30th. Please call your child's school or myself if you wish to further discuss this issue.

You need to be aware that many Jr. and Sr High School students did not engage and/or complete school assignments during remote learning. These students are being provided opportunities to complete the work. Jr High School students have been and are being provided the opportunity to complete the work during school time and after school. Sr High School students are being provided the opportunity to complete the work and beginning soon will have the opportunity to participate in an after school academic support program. The district will provide a late bus for Jr. and Sr. high school students that stay after school for academic support. If students do not complete the necessary work they are in danger of failing which could lead to retention or extended time in order to graduate.

Once again, we are asking you to help us keep our schools open for academics and to be able to offer our sports and after school activities for your children. You did a great job over the Thanksgiving Holiday and now we are asking you to do the same during the Christmas Holiday. We need you to wear your masks, social distance and not attend large holiday gatherings. We need Somerset County to move to a green designation in order to begin sports and after school activities. Thank you for all your support and understanding. Our goals remain keeping everyone safe and in school.

Happy Holidays.



Sandra MacArthur