April 17, 2020

Dear MSAD #1 Students, Parents, and Staff,

I am writing to provide some clarity to you regarding our plans to educate students for the remainder of the school year. We are in our second phase of remote learning which began on March 30 and will continue through today, April 17. We have a planned week off next week, April Break (April 20-24).

MSAD #1 plans to continue remote instruction through the end of Governor Mills’ State of Emergency declaration which runs through May 15. The district is planning for remote learning and to keep the community safe by following recommendations of the Maine Center for Disease Control and medical experts. If we have indications that we could safely provide face to face instruction, then we want to have the opportunity to bring students and staff back to our schools. At this time, MSAD #1 is not ready to eliminate the possibility of face to face instruction for the 2019-2020 school year.

We will begin our third and final phase of remote learning on Tuesday, April 28. Our plan is to introduce new learning at all grade levels. Teachers are planning to identify the most essential learning outcomes for students as the school year comes to a close. We will continue our focus in English Language Arts and Math in the elementary and middle school grade levels while focusing on course specific content at the high school. The big shift for the district in this phase will be the importance of students completing and submitting work so that teachers can review student work, provide feedback, and review evidence of learning.

Grading and Reporting

Given the unusual circumstances in the third and fourth quarters of this year, the district does not believe that it is appropriate to use the traditional reporting scales for permanent student records and report cards. We will use the following reporting terminology and reporting system for our students for the second half of the 2019-2020 school year:

- Grades for quarter 3 and quarter 4 will be combined for a single reporting of learning that encompasses the second semester.

- We will not be providing report cards from quarter 3 due to the sudden end of classroom learning in mid-March. Parents and students should be receiving progress reports from their teacher(s) soon which updates student progress through April 17.

- The second semester grade will not use traditional, numerical grades unless the course is a dual enrollment course that requires a traditional grade to be reported to a college for transcript purposes.

- The second semester of the 2019-2020 school year will not be included in calculations of GPA or student cohort ranking (i.e., class rank).
• Teachers will review the work completed by students in the second semester and determine whether the student has demonstrated learning in the essential standards for the grade-level or course.

• **Presque Isle Middle School and Presque Isle High School** will use the following reporting terms:
  - Passing with Distinction (Numerical grade of 80 and above)
  - Passing (Numerical grade of 65 and above for PIHS and 60 and above for PIMS)
  - Does not Pass (Numerical grade below 65 for PIHS and below 60 for PIMS)
  - Incomplete (Not enough evidence to pass)

  - The forty-hour requirement of community service for the Class of 2020 has been waived due to the disruption in normal routines and business in our community.

• **K to Grade 5** will use the following reporting terms:
  - Ahead of Pace (Ahead of grade-level expectations)
  - On Pace (Meets grade-level expectations)
  - Developing (Working toward meeting grade-level expectations)
  - Not Assessed (Not enough evidence to assess)
  - Pre-k will receive narrative report cards

  - Additional information will be made available next week regarding the process for picking up learning packets at our elementary schools.

I hope you all are taking care of yourselves during this unprecedented time. We miss our students and look forward to a time when we can safely be together. Please reach out to us at the district office or to school level administrators and individual teachers if you have questions or we can help. Best wishes and good health.

Sincerely,

Ben Greenlaw
Superintendent