



MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 42
Elaine Boulier, Superintendent of Schools
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September 17, 2020

Dear Parents:

As harvest break begins, I wanted to inform you of the changes that will be occurring once school goes back in session as we will not be utilizing the hybrid model of instruction that we have been using these first five weeks of school.

On October 13th, school will go back in full session for all students PK-12. For students in PK and Kindergarten, the school day will run as it has traditionally with a morning session from 8-10:45 and an afternoon session from 11:45-2:20. The students in the afternoon session will be going home on the bus at 2:30.

For students in grades 1-12, the school day will run from 8:00-1:45 pm; dismissal will be at 1:45 with the buses picking up the junior/senior high students first then proceeding to Fort Street. For those of you transporting your child(ren), thank you, and we hope you can continue to do so. We will be utilizing the last period of the day from 1:45-2:30 as an intervention time to work with students who need help, who have fallen behind, or who have not met standards. Teachers will be working with small groups or one-on-one with students on targeted skills/concepts. At 2:30, there will be another bus run to bring home those students who have been required to stay for intervention.

Please be assured that we have taken great care in not impacting the academic time for students. At the junior/senior high level, the regularly scheduled help time (Power Hour) is being taken off the schedule and is being replaced at the end of the day with the targeted intervention time. At the elementary level, specials' classes have been modified to meet required mandates. For example, since students cannot change for gym classes, 15 minutes have been shaved off the gym class times. By shaving a few minutes from each special, a schedule was created that had minimal impact to instructional time.

All students required to stay for intervention time will be working in a small group setting with their teacher(s) until they have met the standard(s), have made sufficient academic gains, or do not require any additional assistance. For that reason, students staying for targeted intervention will be expected to stay until they have met specified targets or standards. Teachers will notify parents well in advance if their child needs to participate in targeted intervention.

Our decision is based on available student data, student health considerations, and our capacity to bridge the achievement gap created when remote learning was mandated by the Department of Education. We were strongly opposed to students staying after school from 2:30-3:30 for intervention as that would have required

students wearing masks for approximately 9 hours a day. We understand the critical role that school plays in developing students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional health. We are hopeful that the plan will support all students especially those learners who are in need of a more focused intervention strategy. This plan is subject to change if there is an increase in COVID-19 cases in our communities; if that occurs, you will be notified as soon as possible of the change.

If the 1:45 dismissal creates a hardship for you, please contact either Heidi Garrison or Kay York to let them know; we will do our best to work with you in finding a solution. We will monitor student progress weekly and will evaluate the plan at Thanksgiving to see if there is a need to continue with it or change to a different model of instruction.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate through these unique challenges. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Boulier".

Elaine Boulier, C.A.S.