



MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 42

Elaine Boulier, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you healthy! As most of you are aware, we have had positive COVID cases in the district that have resulted in many students having to quarantine for ten days. Quarantining is challenging for students, parents, and educators for a multitude of reasons with the greatest being the disruption of in-person learning.

At our school board meeting this week, the MSAD 42 Board of Directors approved a change to the school calendar to help address the challenge of finding intervention and remediation time during the school day. Beginning December 1, 2021, we will have an early release day each Wednesday for the remainder of quarter 2. The following days will be early release days: December 1, 8, 15, 22 (this is already a scheduled early release day on the calendar), and January 5, 12, 19.

As is customary for early release days, the school day will conclude after lunch at 11:30. Some students may be asked to stay with a teacher for additional instruction or to complete missing work. Students in grades 7-12 may also self-elect to stay at school from 11:30 to the end of the school day to get help from a teacher or work in a quiet structured study hall environment.

For parents of students in grades 1-6 who may have daycare or babysitting challenges due to these early release days, your child can stay at school and go home at the usual end-of-the-day time. If the early dismissal creates a hardship for you, please contact Heidi Garrison, Principal. All students who are staying will be able to go home on the afternoon bus runs.

Students in the afternoon PK and K classrooms will be attending school as usual. Their afternoon session will begin and end at the same time during these additional early release days. Please keep in mind that the early release days already built into the schedule for December and January are still valid. This means that on December 22 and January 14, there will be no afternoon PK/K classes as these are early release days for teacher in-service professional development.

Our goal continues to be the growth of our students. We understand the critical role that school plays in developing students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional health. We are hopeful that this extra time will support all students especially those learners who are in need of a more focused intervention strategy and/or more time to work with a teacher. Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, and patience as we navigate through this extraordinary time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Elaine Boulier, C.A.S.