

August 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! I hope this letter finds you and your family well-rested and ready for another year of learning, growth, and opportunity. We are excited to welcome your children back to our schools and look forward to a successful and enriching year ahead.

Important Reminders for All Families:

Emergency Contact Information

Please be sure to **complete and return the emergency cards** provided. These cards are essential for ensuring that we can reach you promptly in the event of an emergency concerning your child. If your contact information changes at any time during the school year, please inform the school office as soon as possible so we can keep our records up to date.

Free School Lunch & Forms

We're pleased to announce that **school lunch will be free again this year** for all students. However, in order to fully participate in the **Maine School Nutrition Program**, we ask that **every family complete and return a school lunch application**, even if you do not plan to use the lunch program. Only **one application per family** is needed. Please place the completed form in the **attached envelope marked "Confidential"**, seal it, and return it to school. **100% participation is critical** to helping our district access important federal funding that directly supports educational programming.

Weather-Related Delays or Cancellations

In the event of **school cancellations, delays, or early dismissals**, we will use our **Blackboard Connect** communication system to send messages to families. Announcements will also be shared on **WAGM-TV, Facebook**, and our **school website**. Please ensure your contact information is current so you receive timely updates.

Bus Routes & Transportation

We ask for your support in keeping bus routes consistent throughout the school year. Parents are asked to choose a regular pick-up and drop-off location and stick to it. Daily changes disrupt the entire route and impact many families. Your cooperation helps us keep transportation smooth and safe for all students.

Attendance Matters

Please help your child succeed by making regular school attendance a priority. Missing school can create learning gaps that are difficult to close. The state of Maine considers a student to be chronically absent if they miss more than 17 days in a school year. Let's work together to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive through consistent attendance.

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to partnering with you to support your child's education. Thank you for your continued trust and involvement in MSAD #42.

Warm regards,

Heidi Garrison

Superintendent of Schools

MSAD #42