



# Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 August 2019

## RSU 22 students go back to school September 1; 86% select hybrid schedule; 14% prefer remote

RSU 22 schools will re-open for the Fall 2020 semester on Tuesday, September 1, with students opting for either a hybrid schedule with two days of in-school classes, two days of remote learning, and a "flex" day of primarily remote activities, or 100% remote learning.

Survey data indicates that about 86 percent of RSU 22 students and parents have chosen the hybrid schedule, while 14 percent have chosen remote learning.

The hybrid model of instruction was adopted due to the social distancing requirements, the size of our facilities, and the current student enrollment.

Based on the number of students in RSU 22 programs, the square footage in each classroom, the 3-foot spacing requirement for masked students and the 6-foot requirement for masked adults, RSU 22 could not have 100% of the student population back at the same time.

"When we started putting together mock-up rooms in July following our social distancing guidelines, it became obvious very quickly that we could not operate at maximum



The Hampden Academy dining commons with individual desks instead of tables, with 6-foot spacing.

occupancy," said Nick Raymond, Assistant Principal at Hampden Academy and a member of the Operations Committee. "We did, however, feel comfortable that a 50%-60% occupancy rate in all of our rooms would be attainable."

Even our newest buildings were not designed for social distancing. Hampden Academy, which was completed in 2012, isn't large enough to allow the entire student body to attend classes with  
(Please turn to page 2)



Hampden Academy classroom with 3-foot spacing.

## HA to keep closer eye on freshman students through BARR program

Hampden Academy will be introducing a new program this fall that's designed to keep a closer eye on freshman students and monitor the way they are transitioning into high school.

"The goal is to build positive relationships—student-to-student, student-to-teacher, and teacher-to-teacher," says Bill Tracy, Principal at HA.

The program, called BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks), has been implemented in 17 states and the District of Columbia, including 31 schools in all 16

counties of Maine.

Mr. Tracy says the freshmen will be divided into two 100-student teams, with four teachers—English, science, math, and social studies—assigned to each group.

The BARR teachers will teach only freshmen, and will hold weekly meetings to gather information on student progress.

"Essentially, each teacher will have 25 students that they will be keeping an eye on," Mr. Tracy said.

The BARR teachers will be:

- English: Hillari Morgan (new hire) and Michele Campbell (transfer from Wagner).
- Math: Chris Hink and Alisa Libby.
- Science: Shawn Kimball and Jessica Giorgetti.
- Social Studies: Jason Dorr and Heidi Harris.

The BARR Coordinator will be Kristin Leithiser, who retired in June after a 35-year career teaching English at HA. She  
(Please turn to page 6)



Kristin Leithiser, the new HA BARR coordinator.

## Ben Johnson enlisted by College Board to record videos for AP Latin students

Last spring, when the College Board needed on-line review classes for students preparing for the AP Latin exam, Hampden Academy's Ben Johnson was one of two high school Latin teachers to answer the call.

This summer, as the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to make classroom learning more challenging, Mr. Johnson is again stepping into the breach.

He is one of a half dozen or so high school Latin teachers who are in the process of preparing a series of about 100 10-minute videos that will be available via YouTube or the College Board's on-line learning portal, AP Classroom.

Mr. Johnson says the videos will be on-line at the beginning of the school year—September 1—and available for students to access and watch to supplement or complement the coursework that their teacher provides.

"Some students taking AP Latin are now 100% on



Ben Johnson records a 10-minute video for AP Latin students.

line in other parts of the country," Mr. Johnson says.

Unlike the review lectures, which were live-streamed and about 45 minutes long, the videos will

be pre-recorded and about 10 minutes each.

Mr. Johnson will be doing about 15 of the videos, covering a section of Caesar's *Gallia* War and the section of Vergil's *Aeneid* that includes the story of the Trojan Horse.

The videos will be available to about 6,000 students internationally who take the AP Latin exam.

Two Latin teachers from Texas—one from Austin and one from San Antonio—are helping record the first 30 videos. Later on, several other Latin teachers will wrap up the recording effort.

Mr. Johnson says the videos will deliver a concentrated dose of learning to Latin students.

"One of these videos is equivalent to what I'd normally cover during a 40-minute class period," he says. "I can't go into as much depth as I can in the classroom, but I can explain things in a different way. They're essentially  
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## Back to School 2020

(Continued from page 1)

a 3-foot distancing requirement (with masks) and a 6-foot distancing requirement for adults and for students while eating.

The hybrid schedule that has been adopted by most students divides students in each building into two cohorts—one cohort that attends in-school classes on Mondays and Thursdays and one that attends in-school classes on Tuesdays and Fridays. The remaining days are remote, using a flipped classroom model.

For all students, Wednesday is a Flex Day, primarily remote, with activities such as advisories, specials, mods, study groups, interventions, or some specialized instruction etc.

A full description of the RSU 22 Back to School Plan can be found on pp. 4-5. Information about Back to School Plans at each school can be found elsewhere in *Link-22*.

The September 1 starting day applies to all students in grades PreK-9. Hampden Academy students in grades 10-12 will have their first day of school on Thursday, September 3 (because Wednesday is a Flex Day).

“The transition back to the building after almost six months of being out will include a focus on social and emotional needs,” explained Assistant Superintendent Christine Boone.

“Once we accepted that we would not be able to all return under the current guidelines, we went to work researching and discussing what hybrid model would best serve all of our students.”

Mrs. Boone said the RSU 22 Operations Committee decided to recommend the spaced, flipped classroom model because they felt they could keep students just as safe as other models through cohorting, and the spaced days allowed the staff to better monitor student progress and support any mental health needs.

“Equity was key,” she said. “From grade-to-grade or town-to-town, we will be able to offer rigorous learning options. Teachers will collaborate and communicate weekly across the district. The shared expertise model will improve the practices of us all. Our goal goes well beyond making the most of this challenging situation. We want to come out on the other side functioning at a higher level, and I believe we will.”

### Superintendent’s Message

## Back to School and Childcare Options

By Regan Nickels, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

### At long last, Back to School

We all have been anticipating the day at which our campus doors would reopen.

Finally the time has arrived.

RSU 22 is excited to welcome our students back to our schools. We are humbled by the trust the community has placed in us to keep our students and staff safe and well cared for; it is our first priority.

Our educational mission is new in appearance and longstanding in caliber. We have sought to reflect on the early remote learning days of March. Our Instructional Committee has improved on the aspects we needed to learn from and has retained the features that worked. We hope that you will experience our new hybrid and remote educational models as not just successful in teaching your children but highly effective in doing so.

Speaking of committees, I would like to recognize and thank the many RSU 22 teachers, staff members, administrators, Board members, and community partners who participated along the way in planning for our reopening. It was a productive summer with many voices, perspectives and areas of expertise at our planning tables. They say collaboration divides the task and multiplies the success; RSU 22 has found this to be true.

This week teachers and staff have been back in our buildings preparing for our students’ return. Our custodial teams have been organizing spaces, cleaning our buildings and assisting teachers to make last minute touches to our new set up. Our bus drivers have been learning their new routes and routines. All in all, the start to our school year is expected to be a triumphant return and one we are sure our students are curious to experience!

### Childcare Options

An important service RSU 22 is working to support is the provision of new childcare options within our communities.

We have received information from several new providers. This update shares the list or

organizations that we are aware of which have childcare spots available.

If you are a childcare provider and would like to be added to our district list of childcare options, please email our school district.

**CHAMPIONS** will be offering full day childcare and aftercare at the Newburgh Elementary School five days per week and potentially at another local site. Registration is available online. For more information contact [lolee@discoverchampions.com](mailto:lolee@discoverchampions.com) or by phone at (207) 505-0201.

**Hampden Recreation** will be offering childcare programs by cohort for full day childcare and before and after care. Check them out at [www.hampdenrecreation.com](http://www.hampdenrecreation.com) as all program details are now available and registration is open.

**The Bangor Y** will be offering full day childcare and aftercare in a new School Age Academy at Camp G. Peirce Webber location on Emerson Mill Road in Hampden. To learn more, contact Keegan Wakana, School-Age Programs Manager, at [kwakana@bangorY.org](mailto:kwakana@bangorY.org) or 207-941-2808 ext 339 or email the Bangor Y’s CEO, Diane Dickerson, at [ddickerson@bangorY.org](mailto:ddickerson@bangorY.org).

**Frosty’s Learning Academy** is offering before and after school care by cohort. Additionally they have openings in their classrooms for infants, 1 year olds, and 2 year olds. For more information contact their office at (207) 852-7076 or find them on Facebook.

**Fields4Kids Academy** is offering an Academy Program to help families cope with hybrid learning modules. The program offers 1-5 days per week of virtual learning, tutoring and activities. This is NOT a soccer program. Program is available to 1st graders through 8th graders with 7am - 6pm hours available (and anything in between) for the next 16 weeks beginning September 1st. For more information reach out to [rivercity@gmail.com](mailto:rivercity@gmail.com) or call (207) 991-8940.

**Sluggers Day Academy** is offering a day program for 8-16 year olds with quiet study time, wifi access and group athletic instruction. For more information contact (207) 951-2250 for find Sluggers on Facebook.

## Can music still happen during COVID-19? Music teachers say YES!

By Heidi Corliss

Music Teacher, Hampden Academy  
In this time of COVID, can music still happen?

Yes, indeed!

Things will look a bit different. For instance, singing and playing wind instruments in our inside spaces is not safe at the present time. That means that band and chorus classes will look different.

Many studies are being done on aerosol emissions while speaking, singing, and playing instruments. With certain adjustments, singing and playing can be safe.

In the choral and instrumental music

programs, we are allowed to sing or play outside 14 feet apart and masked - not ideal, but doable when weather permits.

We are investigating “instrument masks” or bell covers for wind instruments and specialized masks with slits in them to insert instruments to the mouth.

On remote learning days, we will have time to do individual and small group lessons/sectionals via Google-meet. The rest of the time will involve interactive online sightreading exercises, rhythm work, some music theory, learning about the vocal mechanism, analyzing choral and instrumental performances on-line,

investigating historical musical eras, having discussions about the cultural context of some choral/instrumental pieces, and making recordings at home for feedback.

We have also been investigating how to put together virtual ensembles compiling the students’ recordings.

Though it is not what we are used to, we can still sing/play a bit, become better musicians, and experience the support of our musical “family.”

\* \* \*

In our general music classrooms, we will be doing a combination of in-class music experiences and remote experiences.

In person, we will listen to some music, learn about musical concepts, talk about composers, ear training, composing, etc.

Remotely, students will experience singing along with the teacher’s recording, recorder lessons for 4th graders, movement, etc.

\* \* \*

This will certainly be a year to remember. The study of music includes life skills that help to build healthy humans.

Our goal is to keep our students moving forward musically while keeping them safe and still having some fun!

\* \* \*

### Middle School Music

Our middle school music programs will also focus on keeping students playing and singing as much as possible. They will make music together virtually using Soundtrap.com and have lessons/sectionals on remote days.

On in-person days, students will explore making music together using various pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments and cover other aspects of music, including theory, composition, ear training, sightreading, and history.

As we start the new school year (even as the situation changes), we will do our best to create instruction that is equitable, adaptable, differentiated, and engaging for all music students.

Our focus at the middle school level will be on the social-emotional aspects of music learning and making sure the students can grow as musicians together and have fun.

We intend to play together as much as possible, as soon as possible when it is safe enough to do so.

Musically yours,  
Dana Ross  
Becky Mallory



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RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort

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**Regan Nickels, Superintendent of Schools**

**David C. Wollstadt, Editor ([www.SchoolNewsletters.net](http://www.SchoolNewsletters.net))**

Maine Regional School Unit No. 22

24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

**207-862-3255**

**[www.rsu22.us](http://www.rsu22.us)**



# Curriculum Office Update

By Mary Giard, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, RSU 22

## RSU 22 report on the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Every school year RSU 22 receives funding as a result of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We apply for this funding through an extensive process through the Maine Department of Education (DOE). In addition, every summer we are required to report to the DOE on our performance outcomes from the previous school year. RSU 22 qualifies for funding through the following four sources under this legislation:

1. Title I: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
2. Title II: Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders
3. Title IV: 21st Century Schools
4. Title V – Rural Schools

Our aim each school year is to apply these dollars in an efficient and effective manner that improves teaching, increases learning, and enhances the climate of our schools. As with every district in the state, we recently completed a comprehensive needs assessment. The findings of that assessment guided our approach for this coming school year, 2020-2021.

### Title I: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

This year's allocation is \$347,774.00 (In order to meet our students' needs, we transferred monies from Title IV to Title I)

Title I funds serve students at Leroy Smith

and Samuel Wagner schools. We will utilize these federal dollars to fund salaries and benefits for 3.5 literacy teachers at the K-5 level (for identified students). Our 6-8 identified students are served by a math tutor. As required by statute, we also set aside some funding for supplies for homeless students.

### Title II: Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders

This year's allocation is \$85,708.61

We will utilize these federal dollars to expand upon our professional development that was offered in 2019-2020.

We support:

- Teachers as they strive to become National Board Certification
  - Teachers with various professional development experiences and opportunities
  - A literacy consultant who works with teachers in their classrooms to improve instruction in grades K-8
  - Technology professional development
  - Increasing Teacher Leadership in academic and social emotional arenas
  - Increasing the Effectiveness of the Teachers in their Content Areas
  - Book studies participation
- Attending conferences and workshops (virtually

if necessary) and visiting other educators to learn more about their craft

- Increasing Recruitment/Retention Efforts and New Teaching
- Increasing cultural competence to better address diversity, equity and inclusion
- Providing training for teachers in diversity
- Equity and inclusion areas



Mary Giard

### Title IV: 21st Century Schools

This year's allocation is \$33,741.38

As allowed by statute, we have transferred this allocation into our Title I funds. This allows us to fund a greater percentage of our K-5 math and literacy teachers with federal dollars.

### Title V: Rural Schools

This is the first year we have had an allocation; it is: \$16,511.87

This projected amount is dedicated to youth engagement in our district's equity work. We continue to work with a consultant who will guide us to understand what our students need for support and will help us create a plan to deliver appropriate support.

## 5 RSU 22 teachers help create learning modules for state DOE's MOOSE project

Five teachers from RSU 22 have joined with the Maine Department of Education to help develop project-based learning modules to provide Maine students at all grade levels with engaging and innovative learning opportunities.

The learning modules are aligned with the Maine Learning Results and will be available at no cost through the state's MOOSE (Maine Opportunity for Online Sustained Education) library starting September 8.

The RSU 22 teachers who have participated in this effort are:

- Amy Hanson, Pre-K, McGraw School
- Samantha Welch, Kindergarten, McGraw School
- Melanie Crowe, Visual Arts, Hampden Academy.
- Hillary Hoyt, 3rd Grade, Smith School.
- Lindsay Davis, 1st Grade,

Smith School.

Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Hanson said they volunteered to be part of the MOOSE project, which allowed them to collaborate with educators across the state as well as early childhood specialists at the Department of Education on a weekly basis.

"We worked together to create an asynchronous interdisciplinary project-based learning module for kindergarten students," they said.

The module, titled "How Can I Play With My Friends Throughout the Year?" is aligned with the Maine Learning Results in ELA and mathematics, as well as the Next Generation Science Standards.

"Our module provides opportunities for students to interact with digital resources, as well as hands on learning experiences," they said. "We are excited for this new resource to become available to stu-

dents, teachers, and families."

Mrs. Hoyt said she was on the 3rd grade team, working with a partner on a module that was focused on having students learn to use their personal voice to better the world around them.

"This was something I was excited to take part in," she said. "I will continue to volunteer to work on other modules through this upcoming year!"

Ms. Davis said she worked with another elementary teacher on the Grade 1 team, which focused on creating modules to help students think about the world around them.

"My partner and I developed a module called: 'What Can I Do If



Hillary Hoyt



Lindsay Davis

I See Another Living Thing Needs Help?" that will help students develop their problem-solving skills, and learn how plants and animals grow and change," she said.

She added that she learned about MOOSE through Mary Giard, the curriculum director, who said Maine educators were needed to create the learning modules.

## HA visual arts teacher prepares MOOSE module on using the arts to inspire positive action

By Melanie Crowe

### Visual Arts Teacher, Hampden Academy

At the beginning of the summer I responded to an open invitation from the Department of Education looking for Maine certified educators to help with the development of remote learning modules. The Department of Education was looking to create content integrated project based learning modules at all grade spans to provide students with quality instruction and learning opportunities through asynchronous educational experiences. I thought this was an amazing opportunity to collaborate with educators from other content areas around the State, so I signed up. We were grouped by grade level and mixed into smaller groups composed of multiple content areas. As smaller groups, we decided upon our specific compelling question that would guide students through their learning exploration through the lens of "How Do I Interact with and Impact My World?"

As a Visual Arts Educator, I was so excited about the multiple possibilities to integrate art with other content areas. The high school team



Screen shot of Melanie Crowe's MOOSE learning module.

I worked with was represented by Social Studies, STEM, English, Health, and Visual Arts; the teachers were as close as Bangor and as far away as Southern Maine. I worked virtually and collaboratively with a Social Studies teacher from Bangor on our Module that focused on "How do I exercise Freedom using the Arts to inspire positive action within my community?" This learning module challenges students to investigate the concept of freedom, exercising one's freedom, how artists

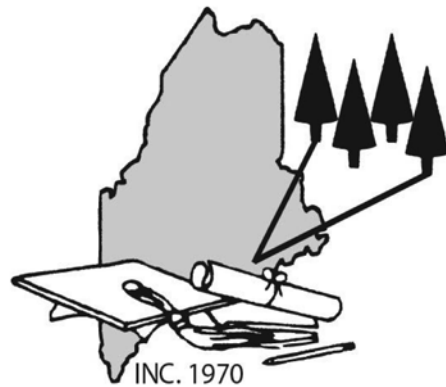
express their concept of freedom, the history of art in their community, and in turn identify an issue or concern within their community, and use their voice through the arts to address this issue.

My colleague and I tirelessly worked on creating a module that would engage students with a history component through their learning about their community as well as creating art in response to their learning and understanding of freedom and community. It was important to me to showcase the importance of how the arts can positively transform and impact a community. In the end, I believe we created a well thought out engaging module that provides students with multiple pathways of choice, reflective response, and ownership of how they can impact their community. I am very proud to have been selected to contribute my learning module to the MOOSE (Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education) project. It has been a rewarding and challenging experience for me professionally and personally. It was an honor to work with such talented educators throughout our great state of Maine.

# RSU 22 Back to School Plan

The school year we are about to begin will be challenging. The continued emphasis on building positive relationships, meeting our students' social and emotional needs and focusing on the overall well-being of the whole child will ensure a safe and excellent learning experience. Our unity this year, as one team, is the primary goal as we support the whole community of RSU 22. Our district reopening plan has been developed with the ideas of safety, equity, flexibility, and excellence in education at its core.

RSU 22 has worked diligently to plan for multiple schooling scenarios as the 2020-2021 school year begins. At the time of this writing, the most recent Maine state health advisory has indicated a status of "green". This indication, when coupled with the six Maine Department of Education requirements for a safe return to school, finds RSU 22 able to open our campuses in a hybrid model of instruction. A hybrid model (Level TWO)



means that students will have certain days of coming to the school building and other days of remote schooling from home or a daycare site. More

information on what this specifically will look like and will require all to do and understand is included in detail below. An option for full remote learning will also be available to families who request it. We will be asking for commitment to the hybrid or remote learning model while also recognizing that there are emergencies that will warrant flexibility.

Our hybrid model will consist of two days of onsite instruction for each student. Students will be assigned to a cohort with approximately 50% of the other RSU 22 student body. The cohort assignments will be made by last name to ensure family members of the same household can attend

school together on the same days of the week. Families members with different last names will be grouped with those in their household. The determination of which alphabetical listing will attend on particular days will be made following receipt of parent survey results next week.

Monday and Thursday attendance at school buildings:

- Monday (35 onsite schools days) + Thursday (37 onsite school days) = 72 in-school days

Tuesday and Friday attendance at school buildings:

- Tuesday (39 onsite schools days) + Friday (33 onsite schools days) = 72 in-school days

**Special Considerations:** Accommodations will be made for at-risk students, including students who have IEP plans, 504 plans, and who have been identified for alternative education programming. Conversely, the School Department will provide accommodations for students who are determined to be medically or socially/emotionally fragile by a professional and so may not be able to attend live instruction when other students are able. The School Department will create ways to provide in-person support to lower risk factors that come with isolation, and ways to flex remote learning for other students throughout the year regardless of the learning model /level being implemented for the general student population.

## RSU 22 Reopening Plan 2020-2021

<b>Symptom Screenings Before Coming to School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students (parents/caregivers) and staff members must conduct daily self-checks for symptoms using the MDOE Self Assessment Tool prior to boarding buses or entering school buildings each day.</li> <li>Schools will provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and absences.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Distancing and School Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults = 6 feet of physical distancing.</li> <li>Students = 3 feet of physical distancing when combined with the other measures</li> <li>Students while eating = Six feet of physical distancing</li> <li>A "medical isolation room" (separate from the nurse's office) is utilized</li> <li>Adequate ventilation is utilized</li> <li>Groups in any one area, room, or classroom will not exceed the Governor's gathering size limits.</li> </ul>
<b>Masks/Face Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults = mask/face covering</li> <li>Students age five and above = mask/face covering</li> <li>Face shields may be an alternative for students and staff who meet prescribed criteria. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.</li> <li>Written medical documentation will need to be provided to the building principal/school nurse if a student or staff member is unable to wear a face mask.</li> </ul>
<b>Hand Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students and staff in a school will receive training in proper hand hygiene. Proper hand hygiene protocols will be utilized.</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Protective Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School nurses and/or any staff supporting students in close proximity = additional PPE.</li> </ul>
<b>Return to School After Illness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID 19 by students or staff in RSU 22 will follow the quarantining and isolating guidance put forth by the Maine CDC.</li> <li>Follow up by health office upon return to school as guided by CDC.</li> </ul>

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVELS		
Level ONE	Level TWO	Level THREE
<b>REMOTE LEARNING</b>	<b>HYBRID: REMOTE AND AT SCHOOL</b>	<b>AT SCHOOL LEARNING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online platform K-2 is SeeSaw</li> <li>Online platform 3-12 is Google Classroom</li> <li>Power standards and core skills are the focus</li> <li>Live synchronous (all students at once) lessons are provided along with asynchronous (students access individually when they are able) instruction.</li> <li>Teachers monitor progress and provide regular/timely feedback</li> <li>Work is submitted electronically</li> <li>Formative assessment is the primary grading source.</li> <li>Staff are allowed in the buildings as needed according to safety protocols.</li> <li>At school or in-person instruction is not a choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are in two cohorts</li> <li>Each cohort has two days at school and three remote</li> <li>Cohort A=Monday and Thursday</li> <li>Cohort B=Tuesday and Friday</li> <li>Wednesday is a Flex Day for all and is primarily remote</li> <li>A Flipped Classroom Model is utilized</li> <li>Content is provided to students in the remote setting (videos, slide shows, reading, recorded mini-lessons, podcasts)</li> <li>Students engage with content in class (discuss, debate, answer questions, solve problems, work in groups)</li> <li>Staff are in buildings every day using safety protocols.</li> <li>Schedules and protocols are adjusted to reduce student movement in buildings</li> <li>There is clear guidance on how students get promoted from current classes and grade levels to the next year's courses and grade levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional classes and scheduling are resumed with students present.</li> <li>Students who wish to remain remote have that option.</li> <li>Staff and students are in buildings every day using all safety protocols.</li> <li>Right now, based on CDC guidelines as defined in MDOE regulations, this model is not available in RSU 22 because we can not meet social distancing requirements with 100% of students present.</li> <li>There is clear guidance on how students get promoted from current classes and grade levels to the next year's courses and grade levels</li> </ul>

### 1. Symptom Screenings Before Coming to School

Students (parents/caregivers) and staff members must conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to boarding buses or entering school buildings each day. Schools will provide information to families in their primary language to support them in conducting this check. Any person showing symptoms must report their symptoms and not be present at school. Schools will provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and absences.

Employees and students/families will be conducting a self assessment for COVID-19 symptoms utilizing the Department of Education's self assessment tool. This tool will be shared prior to the beginning of the school year.

Students and staff should not come to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Feeling unwell
- Cough

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever-like symptoms such as body aches, body chills and/or sweating
- Temperature over 100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Chills or repeated shaking from chills
- Runny nose/congestion
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

In addition to this symptom screening are COVID 19 contact questions.

## 2. Physical distancing and school facilities

Adults will maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the extent possible. Maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements. Six feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating, as students will be unable to wear masks at that time. A “medical isolation room” (separate from the nurse’s office) will be designated for students/staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Adequate ventilation is required for classrooms, with schools having flexibility in implementation such as using properly working ventilation systems or outdoor air exchange using fans in open windows or doors. Groups in any one area, room, or classroom will not exceed the Governor’s gathering size limits.

- Adults will strive to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing from students and other adults.
- Students will maintain physical distancing of 3 feet between each other and 6 feet from adults.
- Physical distancing is used in combination with other mitigation strategies such face coverings and hand hygiene. Physical distancing does not replace those strategies.

## 3. Masks/Face Coverings

Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering. Students age five and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. (Updated 7/31/20) Masks are recommended for children ages two to four, when developmentally appropriate. (Updated 7/31/20).

Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on the bus. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. The same applies to staff with medical or other health reasons for being unable to wear face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.

Written medical clearance will need to be provided to the building principal/school nurse if a student or staff member is unable to wear a face mask.

## 4. Hand Hygiene

All students and staff in a school must receive training in proper hand hygiene. All students and staff must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after



The HA all-purpose room set up for lunch with individual desks set at 6-foot spacing.

donning or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment, and upon entering and exiting a school bus.

All students and staff will receive training in proper hand hygiene. All students and staff must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after donning or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment, and upon entering and exiting a school bus. Hand sanitizer will be used only to supplement hand washing.

Education will be provided for students and staff regarding appropriate hand washing techniques.

## 5. Personal Protective Equipment

Additional safety precautions are required for school nurses and/or any staff supporting students in close proximity, when distance is not possible, or when a student requires physical assistance. These precautions must at a minimum include eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles) and a mask/face covering. Classrooms and/or areas that have been used by an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 must be closed off until thorough cleaning and sanitization takes place.

## 6. Return to School After Illness

If a student or staff member is a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID 19 RSU 22 will follow the quarantining and isolating guidance put forth by the Maine CDC.

On return to school following absence due to an illness or isolation, students must be checked at the Health Office for a post-illness evaluation immediately upon arrival to school, before going to classroom.

Students who arrive with a temperature of 100 F or higher or have taken fever reducing medications will not be given access to the classroom and parents will be notified to pick up their child immediately. When the child returns to school, he/she must be well enough to participate in all activities. Exception to the rule: If there is a restriction from some activity there must be a note from the child’s health care provider explaining for how long.

## Instructional Models:

THESE MODELS MUST BE FLEXIBLE. THEY ARE GUIDED BY MDOE ROAD MAP REQUIREMENTS. SHOULD THOSE REQUIREMENTS CHANGE, THE

MODEL WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED.

**GREEN:** Categorization as “green” suggests that the county has a relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider in-person instruction, as long as they are able to implement the required health and safety measures. Schools in a “green” county may need to use hybrid instruction models if there is insufficient capacity or other factors (facilities, staffing, geography/transportation, etc.) that may prevent full implementation of the health and safety requirements.

As of August 7, 2020, Penobscot and Waldo counties are green thus implementing the Green protocol below.

Based on **current** CDC Guidelines and the MDOE Road Map Requirements, this translates to:

- 50% to 60% of students at a time for RSU #22 buildings.
  - A “hybrid” plan so that **all students** may come to school **some of the time**.
  - Two separate **cohorts** of students for face to face instruction
  - Cohort A on campus Monday and Thursday
  - Cohort B on campus Tuesday and Friday
  - On the days that students are not on campus they participate in a “flipped classroom” model.
- Content is delivered remotely in an engaging and developmentally appropriate manner.
- In person instruction, in the classroom, is reserved for **high yield strategies**, such as:
- discussion of the content they viewed / read at home
  - hands on activities
  - debate / small group intervention, clarification and question and answer periods.
  - Wednesday = **FLEX DAY**
  - All students participate in remote learning
  - Defined differently from school to school or child to child
  - Equitable programming exists



A science lab at Hampden Academy with 3-foot spacing.

between schools

- Includes live remote instruction/check in at least once
- Live interventions from staff, as needed
- To the extent possible, siblings within one building and/or across schools will be placed in the same cohort. Groupings will consider balanced classrooms as well and will be out as soon as possible.
- If there are significant concerns about Group A/B placement, parents will contact the children’s principals to review. While we will try, adjustments in groupings are not guaranteed.

Special circumstances may warrant synchronous remote instruction or live instruction for individuals or small groups.

**YELLOW:** Categorization as “yellow” suggests that the county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider hybrid instructional models as a way to reduce the number of people in schools and classrooms at any one time.

In RSU #22, this means that students come on campus in a hybrid model. Students are grouped into two cohorts attending schools opposite days. Wednesday is entirely remote for all learners.

**RED:** Categorization as “red” suggests that the county has a high risk of COVID-19 spread and that in-person instruction is not advisable.

Red in RSU #22 means 100% remote learning. The majority of the instruction is live, synchronous instruction via google meets. Learning platforms are previously taught during face to face instruction and used in the hybrid model.

- SeeSaw PK-2
- Google Classroom 3-12

Please reference **RSU 22 School Reopening Guidance 2020-2021** for more information on specific logistics, procedures, outlines and plans related to the Maine Department of Education six requirements for safe return and the pillars of DOE Framework for Reopening.

## Managing a Case of COVID-19 in Schools

A nursing assessment will be conducted on any student, staff member or other person in the school who presents with symptoms of COVID 19. If a person, student or employee, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the educational setting, collaboration will occur with the school administration and local health departments. RSU 22 will follow guidance from Maine CDC and the Maine Association of School Nurses (MASN).





**HA CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION**—Graduation ceremonies were held outside, starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 14. Students and parents gathered in the parking lot, and Principal Bill Tracy (left photo) presented graduates with their diplomas, one by one. The ceremony was livestreamed students from Husson University's New England School of Communications and broadcast on WHSN. Many thanks to NESCOM. The graduates walked through the gym, the dining commons, and the foyer, and then across the stage in front of HA to receive their diplomas from Mr. Tracy.

## Changes at HA for the Fall

Dear HA Students and Families,  
We are so excited to have students back in our building in just a few short weeks! It's hard to believe that we have had 5 months without students walking through our halls, working in our classrooms, and utilizing all of our spaces. As you have lived it, you can see the impacts that COVID-19 has had on all aspects of our daily lives. It has changed our planning in every imaginable way. That being said, we have worked hard all summer to come back in the way that meets the CDC and MDOE guidelines and allows you to re-enter the HA campus. We

are looking forward to your return, whether it is in the hybrid model of education or 100% remote. The connections and positive interactions that you are accustomed to when working with the adults at HA will continue to occur no matter what.

Included are some of the changes we need to implement in order to keep you and our staff as safe as possible. We understand that things will be different and we ask for your patience, understanding, and communication as we embark in this new process. We ask that you review these changes and reach out

**Some of these items may be subject to change to adjust to CDC and MDOE Guidelines.**

## BARR program implemented at HA

(Continued from page 1)

will work half-time in her new position.

Mr. Tracy says Mrs. Leithiser will work with the BARR institute and the BARR teachers, supporting them in any way possible.

"To have Kristin—a skilled, veteran teacher—as BARR coordinator is an unbelievable opportunity," said Mr. Tracy.

Will the freshmen notice anything as a result of the BARR program?

Mr. Tracy says BARR will include a series of weekly classroom sessions called "I-time" that will be similar to advisory activities and run for 20-30 minutes.

"The activities will be designed to build strong relationships among students and between students and staff," he says. "They'll be part of the social-emotional curriculum."

They'll also cover things like study skills, leadership, social and emotional learning, and other developmental assets that are part of the BARR program.

Mr. Tracy says the BARR program started in a high school in Minnesota when they saw the numbers of freshmen students who were failing classes, and they realized that the huge impact that these failures would have on a student's career.

"The school devised a way to keep a closer eye on students and gather real-time data so they they could make interventions weekly with students who needed it," he said.

As a result, the school in Minnesota saw a substantial reduction in failures and improvements in other areas of student progress. This, in turn, led other schools to adopt the BARR approach, including several schools in Maine.

Mr. Tracy said his personal experience with the BARR program at Bucksport High School and Mt. View

High School has been very positive.

In 2010, he was teaching social studies in Bucksport, when BHS and three other Maine high schools implemented BARR.

"I was a teacher in the BARR model for five years, and it was the most connected I felt to the students and the staff and to the school," he said. "We made gains with students that we hadn't made before, and we raised the graduation rate from 72% to 92%."

When Mr. Tracy became principal at Mt. View High School in 2014, he implemented BARR, and Mt. View is still using it.

Then, when he returned to Bucksport High School as principal in 2015, BARR had been expanded to all four grades because the teachers wanted it.

Mrs. Leithiser says BARR's core strategy is to pay close attention to students and support them as individuals to the best of our ability, which is already a strongly held value and practice in RSU 22.

The BARR website puts it this way: "BARR is grounded in science-based research. BARR aligns students, teachers, staff, and families with a unified culture of support and success so that, together, we can build stronger schools and communities."

Mrs. Leithiser says BARR teachers try to identify students who are struggling and find ways to provide support for them. They also try to create relationships among students and between students and adults that strengthen community and individual success.

But Mrs. Leithiser points out that BARR is not just about struggling students.

"It's about paying attention to all students and supporting them in their individuality and in their aspirations," she says.

## HAMPDEN ACADEMY

Bill Tracy, Principal  
862-3791



to our Hampden Academy Admin Team Mr. Lower ([flower@rsu22.us](mailto:flower@rsu22.us)), Mr. Raymond ([nraymond@rsu22.us](mailto:nraymond@rsu22.us)), or Mr. Tracy ([btracy@rsu22.us](mailto:btracy@rsu22.us)) with any questions you may have. If there is a medical exemption or adjustment that needs to be made, please include our School Nurse, Mrs. Parent ([bp@rsu22.us](mailto:bp@rsu22.us)).

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you soon!

Sincerely,

C. William Tracy, HA Principal

### Arrival and Morning Routines

Upon entering the building all students and staff will be required to use the hand sanitizer in the entryway and wear an approved mask that covers the mouth and nose.

Students will be given access to the building starting at 7:30 am

## NEW STAFF AT HAMPDEN ACADEMY

### Rudie Robinson, HA Social Worker

Rudie Robinson, LCPC, has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as the school Social Worker, and she looks forward to getting to know students, families and staff at HA.

A native of Auburn, she graduated from Edward Little High School and moved to the Bangor area when she began working on her undergraduate degree at Husson University. She then completed her Master's degree in Education and Mental Health Counseling and the University of Maine

Mrs. Robinson's work experience includes supporting youth and families, supervising section 28 services to help children with developmental needs in gaining social and independent living skills, and providing home based community treatment while in homes of families.

She has worked in various roles in the behavioral health field for the past

and will report directly to their 1st period Class. The school day will begin at 8:00 am.

If students are getting breakfast they will immediately go to the kitchen, grab their food and head to the Multi-Purpose Room. Once finished, students will need to move to their first-period class.

### New Schedule

#### Semester 1:

A / Purple Day, Quarter 1  
B / White Day Quarter 2

#### Semester 2:

A / Purple Day, Quarter 3  
B / White Day, Quarter 4

### Hallway Movement

We will be requesting students to stay to the right-hand side of the hallway, moving single file as they  
(Continued in next column)

ten years, most recently for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Maine.

Mrs. Robinson lives with her husband and three children just outside of Hampden. She enjoys spending time with family outdoors, learning home improvement skills, and canning vegetables.

### Hillari Morgan, English

Hillari Morgan, who has been teaching English language arts at Holbrook Middle School in Holden for the past eight years, will be teaching English at Hampden Academy this fall.

A native of Jackman, ME, Mrs. Morgan grew up in southern Maine and has spent most of her adult life in the Bangor area.

She lives in Hermon with her husband of 15 years, Kevin. They have two daughters, Whitney, 10 who will be entering 5th grade, and Emerson (Emmy), who is 4 and entering preschool.

They also have two dogs and a cat, along with Whitney's two rats.





## Changes at HA for the Fall

*(Continued from preceding page)*

go to their classrooms, maintaining 3ft social distancing, at all times.

### Classrooms

Student desks are arranged to provide 3ft between each desk, all facing forward. Teachers will have a 6 ft designated space to move from their desks to the front of the room and to the doorway. Each room will be equipped with a plexiglas divider so students are able to work one on one with the teacher when necessary.

Desks that are used in one period will be disinfected before a different class comes in.

### Parents and Visitors in the Building

We will no longer allow visitors in the building; this includes parents dropping off items the student may have left at home. Students must have everything they need for the school day when they enter in the morning.

### Parent/Guardian Meetings

All meetings will be held virtually. This may include IEP, 504 and Chapter 104 student meetings.

### Hand Hygiene

While we have many hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, we will be asking that all students practice thorough hand washing in the bathrooms, whenever possible.

## NEW STAFF AT REEDS BROOK

### Ginger Hansen, Grade 6 Social Studies

Ginger Hansen, who moved to Maine in 2018 after her children conducted a nationwide search of high schools and selected Hampden Academy, will be teaching 6th grade social studies at Reeds Brook Middle School this fall.



Ms. Hansen started her educational career in 1996 at Amarillo College in the Early Childhood Education department. She had been a forklift operator for Sam's Club but wanted to pursue her dream of a college degree, so she started off in the nursing program but moved to teaching after she had her daughter.

After two years at Amarillo College working as a teacher in a two-year old classroom, she moved to Denton, Texas with her husband and daughter to attend Texas Woman's University. They had two more children and she graduated with a Bachelor's degree from TWU in 2008 with a minor in Law and Business. She also studied education. She worked her way through TWU as a payroll administrator for a company in Carrollton, TX.

After spending a few years at home with her young children and then working as a long term substitute in the Nurse's office in Little Elm, Texas, Ms. Hansen decided to get her Texas Teaching Certificate in

### Masks

Students will wear a mask at all times. Please refer to the RSU 22 description of an appropriate mask.

Masks will be treated as a dress code item and will need to meet those guidelines in order to be worn. No distracting or inappropriate images will be allowed. If the student refuses to wear a mask, they cannot continue with in-person schooling and will need to become a remote learner.

Each teacher will be providing a "mask break" for students during their class period. This will look different teacher by teacher.

### Lunches

Students are required to practice 6 ft social distancing while eating lunch. We have rearranged the Dining Commons and Multi-Purpose Room to seat 86 students at each lunch. There will be no salad bar and students will have limited a-la-carte choices. Students will pick up their lunch and move to a seat in one of the two locations. Due to the size of our student enrollment, we will need to plan for 4 - 5 lunches.

### End of the School Day

Students not previously scheduled to stay and work with a teacher will be asked to leave the building immediately after the school day. We ask that transportation is prompt after school to maintain the health and safety of all the people in the building and allow the optimal time for disinfecting.

Elementary Math and Science, which she received in 2016. She taught 5th grade math and science for a year, but her family decided to move to a more rural area. After a nationwide search of high schools her two youngest children decided they wanted to go to Hampden Academy. In the summer of 2018 they found a house and completed the move.

"We have never been happier," she says. "We camp, hike, bike, ice fish, ski, snowboard, tube, and do anything outside. We love it."

### Julia Fasano, Grade 6 Spanish

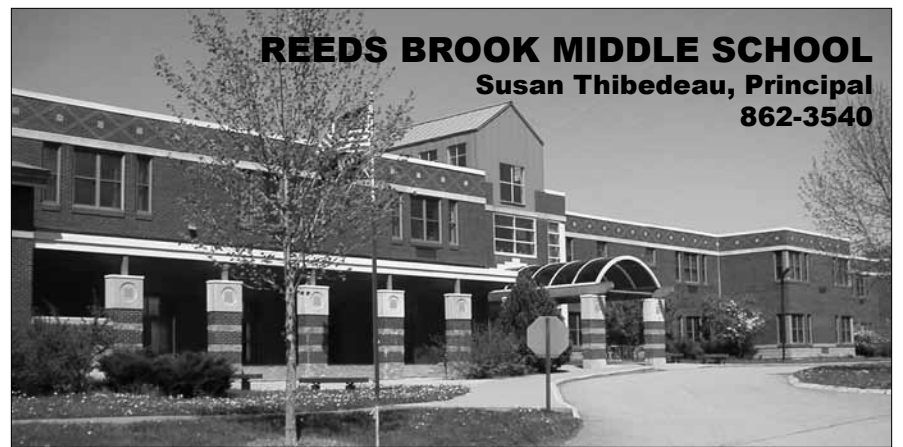
Julia Fasano, a graduate student at University of Maine, will be working half-time at Reeds Brook Middle School this year, teaching Spanish to 6th graders.

Ms. Fasano received her Bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in Education at UMaine. She is currently working on her MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) degree in Spanish.

A native of Jefferson, ME, she graduated from Erskine Academy.

Ms. Fasano said she became interested in teaching Spanish after taking Spanish courses at Erskine Academy.

"I just fell in love with the language," she said. "At that point I was working at a day care center and knew I wanted to work in education



**REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Susan Thibedeau, Principal  
862-3540

## Welcome to All Reeds Brook Families and Students!

By Susan Thibedeau  
Principal, Reeds Brook Middle School

Although this year promises to be different than past years, please know that we are eager and ready to meet our new students and see our returning students again. Our commitment to supporting all students and providing appropriate challenges continues in these new modes of learning.

The first day of school for middle school students is September 1, 2020—cohort B will be in the building and cohort A will begin remote learning. The staff at Reeds Brook is excited to be part of our students' learning and growth for the upcoming academic year. Below are some details about how the hybrid model will look at Reeds Brook. More information will follow, so please look for messages sent through school messenger or the district app.

We also invite families to our virtual Open House on the evening of August 27 with 30 minute video meetings starting for 6th grade at 7:00, 7th grade at 7:30, and 8th grade at 8:00.

### School Arrival

Upon entering the building students will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands and go directly to their assigned classroom. Students who want breakfast will eat in the cafeteria then report to their classroom. Information about drop off and pick up will be forthcoming.

### Schedules

Students will follow their regular schedule with classes from quarter 1. A White/Blue (similar to A/B used last year) schedule will be used with Monday and Tuesday as White days and Thursday and Friday as Blue days.

Students will be in the building with one of two cohorts, Cohort A will be students with last names A-K and will be in the building on Mondays and Thursdays. Cohort B will be students with last names L-Z and will be in the building on Tuesdays and Fridays. As indicated by Superintendent Nickels, students may be moved to a different cohort in order to balance particular class sections. Families will be contacted personally if we need to change their cohort.

Students will stay in one classroom as much as possible, and staff will move room to room for instruction, with the exceptions of music, PE, and lunch.

### Safety

Students will be seated three feet apart and must wear masks at all times when in the building. Masks are required to cover the nose and mouth.

Students will wash hands regularly and will have access to hand sanitizer in every room.

Students will have mask breaks during lunch and at other times when possible throughout the day.

Prior to coming to school each morning, families are asked to have students self-assess for symptoms. Detailed information will come from school nurses.

Due to the close proximity of lockers at Reeds Brook, students will not be assigned lockers this year, but may still bring small backpacks and outdoor wear to school which will be put on the back of their chair in the classroom.

### Supplies

Students will have a storage drawer in which they will keep all supplies needed for learning at school. Basic supplies will be provided. Families may consider supplies needed for remote learning, and more information will come home from teachers about what might be helpful to have at home.

### Thank you

Thank you to our families for all the support and effort they put forth last spring, and we are confident that together we can move forward to have a great year!

in some way. Eventually, I decided to combine those two interests."

After graduating from UMaine, Ms. Fasano spent the summer working as an au pair in France and Spain, teaching Spanish and

English, respectively.

"That just further solidified my desire to teach," she said.

Ms. Fasano currently lives in Bangor. She enjoys embroidery, cooking and baking, and gardening.

# Weatherbee School Offers a Warm Welcome to Students this Fall

Weatherbee staff is gearing up for a powerful return to school on September 1st. Our families have gone above and beyond and we are so grateful for all you have done. Together we will continue to stay strong and persevere in this new normal. Whether you've selected hybrid or remote, we are confident that the in-person and virtual learning options will offer students a vibrant learning environment.



**GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL**  
Jennifer Cyr, Principal  
862-3254

This year, the "Weatherbee Way" will emphasize our unity. First and foremost, we will be protecting each other by practicing the essential good habits of hand hygiene, masks, and taking our temperature daily so we "know before we go". These physical distance practices and routines will be heavily emphasized upon our return to school. Some practices that are new include:

## Breaks

Our schedule has been designed with safety in mind. We know that fresh air is good for the soul, mindset and learning. We will be ensuring students have access to mask free, physically distant breaks throughout the day (snack, lunch, recess, etc..)

## Communication

Teachers will be sharing the weekly learning targets plan on Sundays through Google Classroom. This will allow families to see the full week ahead and plan accordingly. This communication applies to both remote and hybrid students.

## Handwashing

Hand hygiene will be early and often throughout the day. School staff will be reviewing the appropriate way to wash hands during the first few weeks of school. We encourage families to practice as well.

## Individual Supplies

Supplies will be provided for all students in individualized containers to ensure that our workspaces are clean and safe.

## Lunch

Students will be seated at desks, facing forward during lunch time. We've added additional lunch times to ensure we meet safety standards.

## Masks

Back to school shopping includes masks. Which

one will be comfortable? Safe? And ...a little bit cool? Families' support of this critical mitigation tool is deeply appreciated and critical to our success. Cloth face coverings must:

- Cover the nose and below the chin
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change in shape

Families' support of this critical mitigation tool is deeply appreciated and critical to our success.

## Specials

Students will have access to specials in their classrooms (or outdoors). We will not have an A-F rotation given our hybrid schedule.

## Virtual Open House

Families can get more personalized information at our upcoming Virtual Open House on Thursday, August 27th. This will include a meet and greet, presentation and chance for questions and answers. Additionally, we'll review entry and dismissal procedures. We've staggered times so that families with more than one child in a grade level can attend.

- Grade 3..... 5:00-5:30 pm
- Grade 4..... 5:30-6:00 pm
- Grade 5..... 6:00-6:30 pm

If you have have a question, please be sure to check the Community Q and A for information. We are continuing to work with members of the Operations, Instruction, and Resources Committees as well as our subject matter experts within the district to answer your questions.

Together we can do amazing things. We look forward to starting the year off strong.

## NEW STAFF AT WEATHERBEE

### Saralynn Hardy, Grade 4

Saralynn Hardy, who taught at two elementary schools in RSU 19, has joined the staff at George B. Weatherbee School as a 4th grade teacher.



Mrs. Hardy started her career in schools when she became a bus driver at the Etna-Dixmont School at age 21. For the next 16 years, in addition to driving a bus, she was a full-time mom, a substitute teacher, PTF president, and classroom volunteer.

She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maine at Augusta in 2012 with a degree in Mental Health Services and a minor in Early Childhood Services.

In 2014, she took a 1st/2nd grade teaching position at the Hartland Consolidated School in RSU 19. The following year, she transferred to the Etna-Dixmont School, also in RSU 19, where she taught 4th grade and then 2nd grade for three years.

In addition to her Bachelor's degree, Mrs. Hardy assisted professors at UMA in the piloting of teacher certification through the UMA and UMA Bangor campuses, becoming one of the first UMA students to graduate with the credentials required for her Pre-K Maine Teacher Certification.

Due to Mrs. Hardy's passion for education and her students, she not only obtained one certification, but also went on to complete certifications in K-3, and K-8 as well. She also had the opportunity to work as the coordinator of her previous district's intensive summer literacy intervention program, receiving training from nationally recognized literacy educators.

"I bring to my classroom a tremendous passion for learning and unlocking reading and written expression for students," she says.

Mrs. Hardy grew up in the rolling hills of Dixmont and graduated with honors from a private high school in Newport in 1995. She has done post-graduate online coursework through the University of Maine, the University of Southern Maine, and Endicott College in Massachusetts.

She resides in Dixmont with her husband of 25 years. They have two grown children, a son and a daughter.

# School Food Service subs needed

## Apply at the Superintendent's office

### Ben Johnson recording AP Latin videos

(Continued from page 1)

supplementary or complementary—to give students another teacher's impression of the course content."

Christine Boone, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for RSU 22, points out that Mr. Johnson didn't just volunteer to help with the AP Latin video project, he was selected by the College Board to do it.

"They only wanted the best of the best," Ms. Boone said, "and he's it."

### Stephanie Massey School Nurse at Weatherbee, McGraw



Stephanie Massey

Stephanie Massey, who worked as a school nurse in Delaware before moving to Maine, will be the school nurse at Weatherbee and McGraw Schools in Hampden this fall.

Mrs. Massey, a native of Delaware, received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. She is currently working on her Master's degree in Nursing Education at the University of Maine.

She also serves as an adjunct faculty member at UMaine's School of Nursing,

teaching laboratory and clinical skills to nursing students.

She worked as a medical/surgical and emergency room nurse for about 10 years before switching to school nursing.

Mrs. Massey and her husband, Dr. Kyle Massey, live in Veazie. They have two daughters, ages 6 and 4, along with a dog and two cats.

In her leisure time, she enjoys going to the beach, reading, running, hiking, and photography.



# 22 Things You Need to Know About our Return to School in RSU 22

By Christine Boone

Assistant Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

## 1. On what day does school start?

School officially begins on Tuesday, September 1st. PK-8 students assigned to Cohort B (L-Z) and ALL incoming Freshman should plan to attend school on that day (Freshman will still be cohorted at school). PK-12 students assigned to Cohort A will begin school on Thursday, September 3rd. Teachers will be in touch with Cohort A students with remote learning guidelines prior to the start of school. School start times will remain the same as previous years. Students electing 100% remote learning will begin receiving instruction on September 1st. Your child will hear from their remote learning instructors prior to the start of school.

## 2. My child chose remote learning. What will that look like?

Remote learners will participate in live, synchronous, digital instruction. They will have a set schedule for the live classes. These classes are by invitation only and students will join their teacher via Google Meets. Then they will have additional asynchronous instruction where they may watch an instructional video at any time that works for you and your family.

## 3. How will we find out which cohort we are assigned to?

All parents received an email indicating that A-K is Cohort A and L-Z is cohort B. We will make every effort to keep families together by household in case they do not have the same last name. Please contact your child's principal with any clarifying questions.

## 4. If I have specific questions about the upcoming school year that have not been addressed in the district and school communications to date, who should I contact?

Parents should contact their child's school. Office staff will direct you to the person who can help.

## 5. What will arrival/drop off and departure/pick up look like for my child?

Specific drop off and pick up routines will vary by school. Due to the different buildings and grounds layout, these decisions must be made at the building level. Principals are preparing newsletters that will go out prior to school with very detailed information regarding drop off and pick up. You will also find these newsletters on our website prior to school.

## 6. Where does my child go when they arrive at school?

Upon arrival, students should proceed directly to their classroom. At the middle/high school, students should proceed directly to their first period class. Students will not be allowed to congregate outside the building, in vestibules, hallways or the cafeteria. K-5 schools will also be providing details about going directly to classrooms. Students will not be meeting in groups prior to the start of class as they have in previous years. Protocols will include honoring cohorts and social distancing.

## 7. When will students be trained on the new procedures and who will provide the training?

Students will be trained on the safety protocols and new procedures. Every school has scheduled a virtual open house to begin that conversation. Then, the first days of school, direct instruction will be provided. This will be reinforced throughout the first several weeks of school. At the start of every school year teachers introduce procedures for their schools and classrooms. They will do that again this year, but it will include different training about hand hygiene, social distancing, and masking to name a few.

## 8. What does my child need for school supplies? Do we need to include hand sanitizer or wipes?

The school will provide supplies needed for work within the classroom, but we are encouraging parents to purchase supplies that their children may need for the work that they do at home.

Hand sanitizer will be provided by the school; however, students may bring a small (pocket sized) bottle of their own to use at school.

## 9. What does my child need to bring on their first day of school?

Items required on the first day will likely vary by grade. At a minimum, all students should have an appropriate face mask and some means (backpack, folder, etc) of bringing home First Day of School paperwork. PK-5 students will hear from their assigned classroom teacher or principal regarding any other specific items needed for the first day. At the high school, students are encouraged to bring a notebook and writing utensil. Since high school students often carry their supplies all day, they can bring the same supplies and just not share them.

## 10. Can my child bring a water bottle to class with them?

Yes, students may bring their own water bottle to school. Your child will be taught when and how to safely utilize their water bottle. We are working to retrofit drinking fountains to serve as dedicated water bottle filling stations.

## 11. Will I be able to enter the school if my child forgot something at home (laptop, school work, PE or sports gear, etc)?

As a rule, parents/guardians will not be able to enter school buildings. We strongly encourage parents and students to double check backpacks, lunch boxes, athletic gear, and other school materials before leaving home each day.

## 12. What happens if my child forgets their mask? Will the school have extra?

Yes, each school will have a supply of extra (disposable) masks available for students or staff who might need one.

## 13. Are there any specific requirements for masks? Can they have logos? Do they need to be a specific type?

Masks will be considered a dress code component and, therefore, will be subject to all the same rules as other clothing. If you can't wear it on a t-shirt, it shouldn't be on your mask. Face coverings for all must: Cover the nose and below the chin, fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops, include multiple layers of fabric, allow for breathing without restriction, and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change in shape.

## 14. How do I request a computer if my child is 100% remote?

Please contact your child's principal and he/she will assist you.

## 15. How will technology be distributed for students who are not physically attending school on the first day?

Students in grades 10-12 already have devices from last year. Freshmen will all go the first day together and if they bring their required forms, which will be mailed in advance, they will get devices then. K-8 arrangements will be made school by school. However, it may not be necessary to have a device the first remote day. Some teachers are mailing interest surveys and other work to be completed at home without a device and collected on the first face to face day. After younger students have been taught to use the devices and online learning platforms, they can go home. The roll out of remote learning will honor developmental needs and may not start all at once.

## 16. How and when will classrooms and shared spaces be cleaned?

Our custodial staff at each school will remain diligent in their cleaning protocols—both during and after school hours. School buildings will be deep cleaned daily between cohorts. Additionally, teachers and staff will be cleaning classroom and high touch surfaces frequently especially between individual and small groups of students and after high use.

## 17. What will a hybrid model look like for my student? Will my child be expected

to attend live online meetings at a particular time on their "remote" days?

During their remote days, students will access daily assignments via Google Classroom or SeeSaw (depending on their grade level). These assignments may include video instruction, reading, researching or otherwise gaining content knowledge with some opportunity to practice the new or previously learned material. When in the classroom, students will have the opportunity to get clarification on the new material, engage in class discussions or hands-on activities to further enhance their understanding of the topic, and basically USE what they learned in the remote portion of their program. Generally, students will not have to attend live meetings on their remote days. Special circumstances where synchronous, live learning is scheduled will be communicated in advance.

## 18. What will be happening on Wednesdays?

In general, Wednesdays will be just like another remote day where students will have a daily assignment from their teacher(s). Some students, such as high school students enrolled in certain AP classes, may be involved in synchronous instruction on Wednesdays, as needed and as determined by the school and/or instructor. Teachers primarily will be using Wednesday for meetings, team/department collaboration, and to prepare new instructional materials for students to access on their remote days. Wednesdays will be used to differentiate to best meet the individual needs of our students, monitor progress, and offer interventions as appropriate.

## 19. Can we change the learning model we selected after school starts?

For the sake of planning and consistency we ask that the learning model you select hybrid or remote, be honored for the full first quarter. In extreme cases we will work to be flexible around student and family needs. These would be special circumstances and assessed on a case by case basis.

## 20. My child has chronic allergies or asthma and will often exhibit symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. Can they still attend in-person school?

We are hopeful that your child with allergies has a management plan for their symptoms so that they do not get misinterpreted as COVID 19. Students who routinely experience symptoms such as a runny nose or cough due to a chronic condition such as asthma or allergies should provide a doctor's note to the school. This will help the assessing nurse determine if the symptoms are related to a previously diagnosed chronic condition, rather than symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection.

## 21. What are the procedures for picking up my child from school during the school day if I can not go inside?

Please call ahead and your child and their belongings will be dismissed through a door that you establish during your phone call. If you are picking your child up because they are not well, there is a holding room where the nurse assesses the situation. A direct exit route that minimizes any contact with others is already in place in each building and will be utilized. We are hopeful that because of our prescreening expectations, this will be a rare occurrence, but we do have a plan just in case.

## 22. Can my student stay after school until I am able to pick them up?

Not without prior approval. Students may be allowed to stay after school, if deemed necessary by the school or teacher; otherwise, students will need to leave school grounds at the end of the school day. Parents choosing to pick up their student, instead of having them ride the bus, should plan accordingly as students will not be allowed to regularly wait at school for an extended period of time to be picked up.



# MAINE Adult Education

*Learning for Work and Life*

## Riverside Adult Education

**We are here for you!**

Whether services are in-person or remote, our academic services are tailored to your needs and schedule. All academic services are always free of charge to Maine residents.

### Academic Support and High School Completion

Build your foundational math and reading skills to enhance your job performance or achieve an academic life goal. You can work with a tutor one on one or join a class (location can be virtual or may be at a partner site). Earn your high school diploma through class work or by passing the HiSET test (formally the GED). Prepare for higher education career training or college with our experienced and encouraging staff. Whatever your academic goals may be, we are here to help you!

### Maine College and Career Access

Our College Transitions Program is designed to help students successfully prepare for college or the workforce. We help adult learners who are earning their high school diploma or their HiSET certificate successfully transition to college. We also help students who already have a diploma prepare for their college experience. We can even provide support if you're already enrolled in college but need help finding your groove.

Contact Rebecca Cross at [rcross@rsu26.org](mailto:rcross@rsu26.org) if you would like to learn more about our College Transitions services.

### Community Enrichment: Distance Learning Courses Ed2Go ([www.ed2go.com/rsu22](http://www.ed2go.com/rsu22))

This fall, check out nearly 500 interactive personal enrichment online courses through our partnership with Ed2Go. All classes are instructor-led (via email), fit into convenient six-week formats, and are affordably priced. A complete list of all courses can be found at [www.ed2go.com/rsu22](http://www.ed2go.com/rsu22). Popular courses include: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner, Photography Suit, Intro to Guitar, Alternative Medicine, Accounting, Microsoft, Cloud Computing, Security, Languages (Spanish, French, Sign Language) and many more. Browse the site for a full list of courses!

### UGotClass

(<https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/>)

Develop professional skills through certificate classes in an online course with UGotClass. Browse <https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/> for information on certificates and education in Business, Health, Human Resources, Management, Leadership, New Media, and more.

## School Nutrition - 2020-2021

### Free and Reduced Meal Applications

- A new application must be submitted annually
- Last year's application status will remain in place until October or until a new application is filled out. Applications are effective beginning on the date of receipt.
- Paper applications will be distributed with back to school materials.
- Easy to fill out online applications can be completed anytime. These can be found on the RSU 22 website under resources tab select school nutrition. [https://www.rsu22.us/resources/school\\_nutrition](https://www.rsu22.us/resources/school_nutrition)
- A notification of the application status (free, reduced, denied) will be sent to the applicant.
- Applications are confidential. Please return paper applications to the school in an envelope to the attention of the school nutrition department.

### Menus

- Menus will be posted on the RSU 22 website in the school nutrition section under resources. [https://www.rsu22.us/resources/school\\_nutrition](https://www.rsu22.us/resources/school_nutrition)
- Menus will also be available through schools regular communications There will be an in-school menu and a remote-learning-day menu.
- Pre-order of meals may be required. Check the School Nutrition section of the website for details
- Meals will be available on in-person-learning days for students to take home for the remote-learning days. These must be pre-ordered and will be given to the students upon departure from school on In-School learning days.
- Fully remote learners may order meals and will need to follow the pick-up schedule.
- For students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals, parents/guardians must prepay and have money on their account in order to receive the meals.
- A la Carte purchases—Additional items outside of the regular meal are considered a la carte. These would be an additional meal component (extra slice of pizza), snacks, bottled beverages. This option will be available at both middle schools and at Hampden Academy. There is an extra charge for a la carte purchases, and the student must have funds on their account before making the purchase.

### Student Meal Prices 2020-21

- Breakfast - All schools \$1.55
- Lunch - Elementary \$2.70, Middle Schools \$2.90, Hampden Academy \$3.10
- Milk without a meal .55

### Payments

- There are two ways to make deposits. Prepayment is expected in advance for school meals.
- Students may give deposits to their teacher. **Important:** Please be sure to put the students name on the envelope with the payment or on the check. If there are multiple students being paid for with one check, please indicate the name or student ID number along with the amount to deposit into each account.
- Electronic payments can be made at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com)

### School Nutrition Meal Fund Balances

- Your children will begin the year with the balance they had in their accounts at the end of last school year. Help us keep costs down by keeping your students' meal account up to date. Email notifications will be sent home should your students account have a negative balance.
- Please be sure that the school has the most up to date email address.

### Opening of School Menus

- Check Website (RSU 22, Resources, School Nutrition) for more details

Sept. 1-4	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
<b>In Person</b>	<b>Breakfast</b> Breakfast Sandwich Juice, Milk  <b>Lunch</b> Pizza, Fruit, Veg, Chips, Dessert	<i>Remote Learning Day</i>	<b>Breakfast</b> Breakfast Pizza Juice, Milk  <b>Lunch</b> Chicken Nuggets Meal
<b>Remote</b>	<b>Breakfast</b> Cereal, Crackers, Sausage Wrap	<b>Breakfast</b> Turkey Juice, Milk	<b>Breakfast</b> Mini Maple Pan- cakes, Juice, Milk
<b>Take-Home Meals</b> (pre-order)	<b>Lunch</b> Pizza, Fruit, Veg, Chips, Dessert	<b>Lunch</b> Ham & Cheese Sub Meal	<b>Lunch</b> Chicken Cheddar, Ranch Wrap

- Menus Subject to Change, Alternate choices available for in school meals
- Breakfast consists of entree (whole grain), fruit/juice, milk
- Lunch consists of entree, whole grain, fruit, veggies, milk
- Questions about our School Nutrition Program? Contact Kathy Kittridge at 862-3543, or e-mail [kkittridge@rsu22.us](mailto:kkittridge@rsu22.us). School Nutrition information can also be found in the resources of the RSU 22 website.



## **NEW STAFF AT WAGNER**

### **Carol Gourmelon, Grade 7 Social Studies**

Carol Gourmelon has joined the staff at Wagner Middle School as a social studies teacher for grades 7 and 8.

Before coming to Wagner, Mrs. Gourmelon taught social studies at the middle school level in Houston, TX, for three years and spent 2½ years in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where her husband, Jean-Yves, was working as regional technical manager for an energy company (Brazil is a major producer of natural gas).



Previously, she taught in her hometown of Troy, AL, for 12 years and in a suburb of Atlanta, GA, for 12 years.

In Troy, she was the gifted and talented teacher for a small, county-wide district, teaching students in grades 3-12 in six schools. In Atlanta, she taught middle school social studies.

Mrs. Gourmelon received her B.S. degree in Secondary Social Science Education from Auburn University and her Master's degree in Middle Grades Social Studies and Science from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

The Gourmelons live in Orland, where they recently moved into a "great big old house" that was built in the 1700s.

Mrs. Gourmelon has two children, a daughter who lives in Columbus, GA, and a son who attends Missouri State University-West Plains.

Mrs. Gourmelon says she reads constantly.

"I read anything about history," she says. "It's my ultimate passion."

For the past 20 years, her email address has been "historybuff\_1066."

### **Sara Asay, Grade 7 ELA**

Sara Asay, who taught 6th grade English language arts at Ridge View Community School in Dexter for the past three years, will teach 7th grade ELA at Wagner Middle School this fall.

Ms. Asay grew up in Hudson, ME, and graduated from Central High School in East Corinth. She received her Associate's degree in Education from Eastern Maine Community College and her Bachelor's degree in Education with a concentration in English from the University of Maine.



She lives in Hudson with her husband, their two children, and two giant dogs.

## **Principal's Message: Welcome back to Wagner!**

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians:

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year. I hope everyone had a great summer.

The beginning of the school year holds excitement and apprehension for many of us - students and adults. But as we begin this year's journey, I am reminded of an American Poet, Maya Angelou. Maya once recited a poem that she wrote at the inauguration ceremony of one of our former Presidents. In her verse, she said, "Each new hour holds new chances for new beginnings."

Her words remind me that every hour of every day offers us a new beginning. We can choose again and again...hour by hour.

We can choose to seek help if we have a problem. We can choose to be more honest with ourselves and the people around us. We can choose to care about others and be kind. We can choose to work hard at being the best we can be.

As we embark on our new beginnings this year, with all the changes that have taken place and continue to evolve, we here, at the Samuel L. Wagner Middle School will strive to help your child be the best he or she can be by grabbing the "new chances for a new beginning" in these unique times.

The following are some adjustments that have taken place.

### **Movement in the school**

- Upon entering the building students will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands and go directly to their assigned classroom.
- Students will stay in the classroom with their grade cluster as much as possible and staff will go to them to deliver instruction. Exceptions will be music, PE, and lunch.
- Students will be seated 3 feet apart and must wear masks at all times when they are this close. Masks are required to be over the nose and mouth.
- Students may remove their masks during lunch-time and mask breaks. During these times they will be placed 6 feet away from each other.

### **Lunch**

Students will be seated 6 feet apart so they may take their masks off and eat. We will be utilizing not only the cafeteria but the gymnasium as well to accomplish this.

### **On-Site Classes**

Students will be placed in two separate cohorts. One Cohort will be on-site Monday and Thursday, while the other cohort will be on-site Tuesday and Friday. You should have received an email from me indicating which cohort your child is to attend.

### **WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Don Roux, Principal, 223-4309**



### **Off-Site (Remote Days)**

Students are expected to engage in the content. This can be demonstrated by logging into google classroom, corresponding with staff, and/or passing work in. (a more detailed explanation will be given to the students and by a newsletter going home)

- For students who are fully remote, specific expectations for engagement will be sent out in the near future.

### **Computers**

Each student will be given a device and we will work very closely with parents to help ensure that you have internet access for our off-site days.

### **Communication**

Weekly syllabus of assignments will be sent by school messenger on Mondays at 8 a.m. to all families. This is to help families stay informed about what your child is expected to be working on.

### **Health Assessment**

Students and staff should not come to school if they have any of the following symptoms that are unusual for them (an example, if a child has allergies accompanied by a typical runny nose, she can come to school):

- Feeling unwell
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever-like symptoms such as body aches, body chills and/or sweating
- Temperature over 100 degrees F.
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Chills or repeated shaking from chills
- Runny nose/congestion
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me.

— Sincerely,

Don L. Roux, Principal, Wagner Middle School

## **Smith School to open September 1 after a very busy summer**

Welcome Back! We hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful, sunny summer we had! This year will be a bit different, but we are confident we will make it terrific!

We've had a very busy and productive summer. We have beautiful newly tarred areas around the parking lot, beautiful landscaping, new floors in parts of the building, and the list goes on. Many people were busy over the summer, cleaning and beautifying our school. It looks amazing. Thank you to all who worked so hard to keep our school clean and safe.

Smith School will open September 1st, welcoming in-person Cohort B and remotely for Cohort A. We are beyond excited to see our students! Although there will be many changes, the kind, caring community we have built at the Smith School remains intact.

### **Screening**

All families are asked to self-screen students for symptoms each day before coming to school. Please use the questions provided by our school nurses.

### **Busing**

Busing will be staggered so that students can socially distance. Bus drop off will remain at the main doors.

### **'Drive By' Drop Off**

Parent drop off has changed a little. We are going



### **LEROY H. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Dawn Moore, Principal, 223-4282**

to try a "drive by" drop off. Parents are asked to drive through the gate on the playground side of the building, drive up to the drop off spot (marked) and let the children out. All children will enter through the playground side doors and be divided into wings to head to class once inside the building.

### **Snacks and Lunch**

Students will have a designated snack and lunch time in the cafeteria with 6 feet distancing. Breakfast will be served for those who choose to take it.

Please visit our website for more information and/or always feel free to call us with any questions (223-4282).

We are so excited to see the students, both in-person and virtually.

# RSU 22 bus driver: 'It's a noble profession—parents rely on me to take their children to school'

The following appeared in the August 2018 issue of *The Link-22*.  
"If not you, who?"

That's a question that people are asking when they talk about the need for more school bus drivers in RSU 22 and elsewhere in Maine.

"It's a crisis across the nation," says Melanie Michaud, manager of John T. Cyr & Sons' school bus operations next to Weatherbee School in Hampden.

"As we sit here, we're short of bus drivers for the fall," she says. "We're

advertising for drivers and we're providing incentives for our own drivers to help us find people who would like to drive a school bus."

Melanie says she needs help recruiting and finding bus drivers, but says the job itself is awesome.

"You're the first person to greet a child in the morning, and the last person to smile at him in the afternoon," she says. "If you're not the person who's going to do this, then who? Who's going to drive our children to and from school in this district?"

Several RSU 22 drivers agree with Melanie that driving a school bus can be a very rewarding occupation, especially if you like children.

Vinnie Cormier, who has been driving for about 20 years, including the last 13 years in Hampden, goes so far as to say it's a highly respectable occupation.

"When I drive, I always try to remember that parents are trusting me with their children," he says. "It's an awesome responsibility. I think the day I retire, that's when I'll fully realize what a noble profession I've been involved in—because

parents rely on me to take their children to school."

Vinnie says when he tells people he drives a school bus, the most common reaction is that they couldn't imagine driving all those kids to school.

"It's really not that bad," he says. "We're lucky. New people who come into this profession receive training on how we

deal with the kids. I always try to teach the kids on my bus that in order to have respect, you have to give respect. For the most part, that approach has worked really well for me."

Vinnie, who lives in Bangor, says he's gotten to know a lot of people in Hampden during the last 18 years.

"I feel like I'm part of Hampden," he says. "People are really kind to me, especially in the shop. It's a good group of people."

Michael Lowe, a former custodian at Smith and Weatherbee Schools who has been driving school buses since 2004, says he likes the students on his bus.

"They're interesting," he says. "Each and every one of them is different. They make me feel young."

He says one of the most fun parts of the job is when he goes to a store and sees one of his passengers.

"The little kids recognize me, and I become a celebrity," Michael says. "They announce me in the store—that's my bus driver, right there! It makes you feel proud."

Michael says it's important to be consistent in how he deals with students on his bus.

"If you stay consistent, they'll stay consistent," he says.

He says it's also important for bus drivers to maintain a professional attitude towards the chil-



Bus driver Michael Lowe observes a new driver as she backs between a pair of traffic cones.



Bus driver Vinnie Cormier



Bus drivers Madeline Lowe and Lori Hart.

dren, but not to the point where they think you don't like them,

"If you don't care for them, they're going to sense that," he says. "If they can't approach you, they're not going to let you know if they're being bullied. If they can't approach you, they're not going to let you know anything."

Madeline Lowe of Winterport, Michael's mother, started driving in 1993 but didn't plan to become a bus driver.

"My foster son, Leroy Mayhew, got me into driving when all I wanted to do was grow flowers for the flower shop," she said. "Once I started driving I found out that I enjoyed the kids. They became part of me. When you have the children on your bus, they're your children."

Lori Hart of Prospect started driving in 1987 when her son was born with disabilities and she needed a part-time job that would allow her to be home with him during school vacations. Driving a school bus also gave her time between bus runs to schedule doctors appointments, etc.

She also wanted to be able to join her son when he went on field trips. "As a bus driver, I could be there," she said.

In 2003, Lori took some time off and became a phlebotomist, working 12 hours a day in a hospital. After sev-

eral years, however, she realized that her life was better when she drove a school bus, so she gave up phlebotomy and went back to driving a school bus.

"I've been driving ever since," she says.

Lori says she tries to interact with the kids on her bus.

"When I have down time—when we're at Smith School waiting to drop off kids in the morning, I get out of my seat and sit down with various students and chat with them about what they've done during the day or what they're going to do this weekend. One girl gave me a special lucky rock, which I've kept."

How important is the bus driver to RSU 22 students? Very important, says Melanie.

"The bus driver is the first person the kids see when they go to school, and the last person they see when they go home," she says. "The driver is someone who looks out for kids' safety and teaches them the correct way to ride the school bus and generally be safe."

In a way, she says, bus drivers are a father or mother figure on the bus, and most of them recognize that.

"Sometimes you have to use your mommy or daddy voice because things aren't going well, and you have 50 kids sitting behind you, but you can't turn around because you have to look at the road and watch out for other drivers," she says. "Sometimes you have to get a little strict. I wish parents would understand this."

Melanie says recruiting bus drivers has become more difficult in recent years. Bus driver shortages this school year specifically are proving to be a considerable challenge. RSU 22 is currently short eight drivers.

\* \* \*

*Editor's note: Melanie Michaud was the manager for John T. Cyr & Sons in Hampden when this story was written. Dustin Ireland is currently the Cyr Bus manager in Hampden.*

## Bus Drivers Wanted John T. Cyr & Sons Inc.

**We are looking for people who love working with children. This is a great opportunity to earn extra income at a part time job and having a very important responsibility in the community, keeping our children safe as they go back and forth to school.**

**We work with people to get their qualifications to drive a School Bus, and we also accept those who already have their qualifications.**

**If you are interested and have a great driving record, please call**

# 827-2335

**and ask for Melanie**



## Message from RSU 22: you might enjoy substitute teaching

*The following appeared in the Fall 2019 issue of the Link-22.*

Do you have two years of college credits, like kids, and want to control your own work schedule?

You might very well enjoy being a substitute teacher in RSU 22.

Do you like younger kids but not high school or middle school kids, or vice versa? You might still enjoy being a substitute teacher in RSU 22.

“We really need substitute teachers,” says Assistant Superintendent Regan Nickels (who became Superintendent July 1, 2020). “The fact is that you can tell the district which schools and which grade levels you prefer, and if a substitute teaching assignment doesn’t fit your schedule, you may decline.”

The only requirements are that you fill out an RSU 22 substitute teacher application form, have two years of college credits, and obtain a Criminal History Records Check through the state Department of Education.

“It’s a pretty interesting job, and you work at your own will,” Mrs. Nickels says.

One of the best things about subbing is that you can work as much or as little as you want, depending on your circumstances.

\* \* \*

If you’re wondering what it’s like to be a substitute, you can ask any of the RSU 22 building principals. Or you can ask some of the people who are currently working as substitutes—like Margaret Bebb of Hampden, who has been subbing for the past 10 years, and Angela LaRochelle, also of Hampden, who has been subbing for three years.

Both of them say they enjoy subbing—and that it’s a perfect job for someone who wants to control their own schedule.

Margaret says one of the reasons she like subbing is the convenience.

“You can choose when you want to work, and you can work as few or as many days as you’d like,” she says. “You can basically set your own schedule.”

When she started subbing, she was able to make sure that her work schedule didn’t conflict with her children’s needs. Her two sons are now in college—Husson University in Bangor and Wentworth College in Boston—so that’s no longer an issue—but there are still some weeks when she has other things she wants to do.

Angela says she began volunteering as a recess monitor at Weatherbee five years ago. While volunteering, she saw how much substitutes are needed, so three years ago she applied and was accepted.

“I love subbing,” she says. “It’s perfect for me and my family. My oldest attends Reeds Brook Middle School, and my youngest is at Weatherbee. I really like being on the same schedule as my kids—having the same vacation days and being off on their snow days. It’s great.”

Angela says many prospective substitute teachers aren’t aware that when they apply to be a substitute, they can express a preference for which school, which grade level, and what type of course they prefer.

“I was nervous when I started, but I found the schools to be very accommodating,” she said. “I quickly found my footing thanks to the helpful and supportive teachers and staff. They take great care of you.”

Margaret says many people don’t realize that the skills from their previous work careers are transferable to substitute teaching.

“Some people may have fears about working with students,” she says. “They need to remember that problem-solving, focusing on the task at hand, and ensuring that you or your teammates understand and follow directions—those are skills that we all use at work and in our daily activities, and they’re equally valuable in the classroom.”

# Custodians Wanted

**\$15.43-\$20.61 per hour**

Hourly rate based on experience.

Criminal History Records Check required for employment.

## District-Wide

RSU 22 is seeking custodians for temporary positions located throughout our Schools in Hampden and Winterport. These temporary positions will have a heavy emphasis on cleaning.

**Monday thru Friday - Flexible Hours  
(up to 35 hours per week)**

## Leroy H. Smith School

We are seeking one full-time custodian and one part-time custodian with heavy emphasis on cleaning.

**Monday thru Friday**

**12 noon - 7:30 p.m. (35 hours per week)**

**Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
(16 hours per week)**

## Newburgh School

We are seeking a full-time custodian with heavy emphasis on cleaning.

**Monday thru Friday**

**12 noon - 7:30 p.m. (35 hours per week)**

Applicants can submit a single application which will cover all positions. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact

**Marie McCaw**

**RSU 22 Superintendent’s Office  
mmccaw@rsu22.us**

**862-3255**

# Substitute teachers wanted!!!

If you like children and have 2 years of college credits, you might well enjoy substitute teaching. You can control your own schedule, work when you want to (and not when you have other commitments). You can also tell us which schools, grade levels, age levels, and subjects you prefer.

In addition to 2 years of college credits, you need to obtain a Criminal History Records Check through the Department of Education and fill out an RSU 22 substitute teacher application form, which is available at the Superintendent’s office or online at [www.rsu22.us](http://www.rsu22.us). Please call us with any questions you may have.

**Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22  
24 Main Rd. North, Hampden, ME 04444**

**207-862-3255**



*Substitute teacher Angela LaRochelle works with students at George B. Weatherbee School.*

## Health and Wellness during the Pandemic

This spring and summer has been filled with questions, wonders and problem solving. RSU 22 has been working hard to put our puzzle pieces together so we can come back to school in the safest way possible.

All of us have superpowers that will help us stay healthy and in school.

1. Wearing a face covering is proven to help prevent the spread of droplets that can lead to becoming ill. Face coverings must:
  - a. Cover the nose and below the chin.
  - b. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
  - c. Be secured with ties or ear loops.
  - d. Include multiple layers of fabric.
  - e. Allow for breathing without restriction
  - f. Be able to be laundered and machine dried

without damage or change in shape.

2. Washing your hands! Washing your hands with soap and water is a sure way to remove dirt and germs. Soap up and scrub up for 20 seconds! Washing with soap and water is essential when your hands are visibly dirty but if you cannot access soap and water alcohol based hand sanitizer can be used.

3. We are in this together even though we will be far apart. Physical distancing or social distancing is an important component of our prevention plan. We will work to keep spacing between adults and students as this will help decrease the spread of droplets.

4. Finally, if your child is feeling ill please keep them home for the day. It is very important that we keep illness out of the school buildings. Using the self assessment tool will help you make a decision if your child is well enough to attend school.

### At Home Health Screening Tool for Students

Parents/Guardians: Please review this screening tool **before** school **every morning** for each of your school-aged children. This tool is for your reference only, **do not** send it to school.

Is your child experiencing any of the following symptoms?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling unwell  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chills or repeated shaking from chills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough   | <input type="checkbox"/> Runny nose/congestion                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever-like symptoms such as body aches, body chills and/or sweating | <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature over 100 degrees F                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle Pain   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headache  | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea                               |

If your child is experiencing any of the above listed symptoms, keep your child home from school and contact your medical provider for further instructions.

**\*\*If any of the above-listed symptoms are sudden or severe, seek immediate medical attention.\*\***

Please indicate yes or no next to the following statements:	Yes	No
Has your child taken cough/cold medication and/or fever reducers such as Tylenol/ibuprofen today for the above listed symptoms?		
Has your child been tested for COVID-19 in the last 2 weeks?		
Has your child student had close contact* with someone with a <u>confirmed</u> diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?		
Has your child had close contact* with someone with a <u>suspected</u> diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?		
Has your child traveled by air or traveled out of state in the past 14 days? If yes, please contact the school before arriving on campus.		

\*What counts as close contact?

- Your child was within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- Someone in your home is sick with COVID-19
- Your child had direct physical contact with the sick person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Your child shared eating or drinking utensils with the sick person
- The sick person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on your child

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, keep your child home from school. Contact your medical provider for further instructions.

## School Opening Information

All Grade Pre-K-9 district students (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, Frankfort) will begin school on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Students in Grades 10-12 will begin classes on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

Visit our website at [www.rsu22.us](http://www.rsu22.us) for additional information.

## Legislature passes LD167, 'Ensuring Student Access to Meals'

The Maine Legislature recently passed a law, LD 167, *Ensuring Student Access to Meals* (an act to prevent food shaming) with which RSU 22 complies.

The following are guidelines required by the new law. Specifically, it prevents public schools from:

- Denying a reimbursable meal to an otherwise eligible student who requests it.
- Requiring a student to throw away their meal after it has been served to them;
- Requiring a student to perform chores or work as a means of paying for one or more meals or as punishment for not paying for one or more meals;
- Refusing a meal as a form of or as part of a disciplinary action; or
- Openly identifying or otherwise stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a meal or has payments due for a meal.

Communication regarding school meal debt will be made directly with the parents via email or bills sent home.

Outstanding meal balances still need to be paid and RSU 22 will work with families who need assistance filling out the free or reduced meal applications. **When a meal is provided to a student who doesn't have funds on their account, the district is still required to collect payment. A bill will be sent home.**

For middle school and high school students, RSU 22 offers a la carte purchases, which are additional items outside of the standard school meal offerings. For a la carte items, student account funds must be available at the time of purchase. RSU 22 staff is authorized to communicate directly with students regarding the availability of funds on their account for these a la carte purchases.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF HEAD START AND PRE-K STUDENTS IN HAMPDEN - NEWBURGH - WINTERPORT - FRANKFORT

Head Start and Pre-K students will not be let off the bus without an adult present waiting at the bus stop. There will be no exceptions.

## Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The United States Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, P.93-380, as amended by PL 93-568 (FERPA) requires that formal notice be given to the public that individual pupil records containing a variety of information regarding pupils are maintained by RSU 22. It is the policy of RSU 22 to protect the confidential nature of pupil records and no information is released to non-school parties. Certain records are destroyed when no longer needed to provide educational services to a pupil. However, a permanent record of a pupil's name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed shall be maintained by RSU 22 without time limitation.

Parents/guardians of pupils in attendance in RSU 22 schools have the following rights:

1. You may inspect and review any of your child's records.
2. You may receive copies of the records for a minimal duplication charge.
3. You may have someone at your child's school explain or interpret any item in your child's records that you do not understand.
4. You may ask for an amendment of any record on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading or violates privacy rights.
5. You may refuse consent for the disclosure of personally identifiable information related to your child to anyone other than school officials or persons acting in an official capacity for the Maine Department of Education of the US Department of Education.

More detailed information can be obtained on our [website: www.RSU22.us](http://www.RSU22.us).

## SCHOOL HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Hampden Academy</b> 89 Western Ave., Hampden, ME 04444	<b>C. WILLIAM TRACY</b> Principal	Grades 9-12 8:00 a.m.-2:02 p.m.	Main Office Guidance Office Athletic Office	862-3791 862-4111 862-3985
<b>Earl C. McGraw Elementary</b> 20 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444	<b>JENNIFER NICKERSON</b> Principal	Grades Pre-K-2 K-2—8:50 a.m.-3 p.m. Pre-K AM—7:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Pre-K PM—11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	Main Office	862-3830
<b>Newburgh Early Childhood Center</b> 2220 Western Ave., Newburgh, ME 04444	<b>DAWN MOORE</b> Pre-K Administrator	Pre-K 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Main Office	234-2781
<b>Reeds Brook Middle School</b> 28A Main Road South, Hampden, ME 04444	<b>SUSAN THIBEDEAU</b> Principal	Grades 6-8 7:40 a.m.-2 p.m.	Main Office	862-3540
<b>Leroy H. Smith School</b> 319 South Main St., Winterport, ME 04496	<b>DAWN MOORE</b> Principal	Grades Pre-K-4 K-4—7:50 a.m.-2 p.m. Pre-K—7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Main Office	223-4282
<b>Samuel L. Wagner Middle School</b> 19 Williams Way, Winterport, ME 04496	<b>DON ROUX</b> Principal	Grades 5-8 7:35 a.m.-2:08 p.m.	Main Office	223-4309
<b>George B. Weatherbee School</b> 22 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444	<b>JENNIFER CYR</b> Principal	Grades 3-5 8:50 a.m.-3 p.m.	Main Office	862-3254



## Special Education Records

Attention individuals who attended RSU 22 schools and whose birthday is before December 31, 1994: The district is in the process of destroying special education records for students who will turn 26 years old as of the December 31, 2020. If you have any interest in obtaining these records before they are destroyed, please contact the Office of Special Education at 862-2774 before December 31, 2020.

## Notification for Building Occupants

All RSU 22 schools have been inspected for the presence of asbestos-containing materials. A written plan for the management of these materials has been developed. This plan is available for inspection at the Superintendent's Office located at 24 Main Road North, Hampden, during regular office hours. Copies may be made on request at a cost of 20 cents per page.

## YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

### Christine Boone, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

The following information is a requirement to adhere to the school district's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program:

I am writing about subjects that can affect children's health in school and your right to know.

**Pest Control.** Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses alternative approaches to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our schools focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school areas to detect pest problems and prevent pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and—as a last resort—pesticides. This approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

**Pesticide Use.** Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians and staff have a right to know.

**Your Right to Know.** Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the school's Integrated Pest management Policy, and the Pesticides in School regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM coordinator, Christine Boone, at the Superintendent's Office, 862-3255.

If you have any questions, please contact me. For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at [www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm).

## Jennifer Nickerson new Principal at McGraw

(Continued from back page)

Ms. Nickerson graduated from HA in 1995 and received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maine at Farmington in 1999. She received her Master's degree in Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction from the University of Maine in 2011 and her Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from UMaine in 2015.

Ms. Nickerson says she wanted to be an educator since she was in middle school, when she became active in her church's nursery and served as a preschool teacher in the Sunday School program. "Being with kids is what makes me smile," she says.

Ms. Nickerson says her favorite book is *Anne of Green Gables*, her favorite place is by the ocean, and her favorite hobby is exploring Maine.

Ms. Nickerson adds that she is really looking forward to becoming "McGraw Magnificent."

"All of the students, staff, and families make McGraw the special place that it is," she says. "I am excited to be part of your team and I can't wait to meet everyone."

# Child Find Information

The purpose of this notification is to ensure that RSU 22 is in compliance with Chapter 101, Maine Special Education regulations, Section 4.7A.

"Child find responsibilities for private school/ home schooled students - each school administrative unit must locate, identify and evaluate all private school students, including religiously-affiliated school students, and home schooled students who have disabilities residing in the jurisdiction of the unit in accordance with § 4.2, Resident Students."

It is the stated intention of the district to provide any eligible special education student for whom it has a responsibility, a "genuine opportunity for equitable participation" in available special education programs.

If, for whatever reason, you feel that your child may be adversely affected by a specific learning problem, please contact the Office of Special Education. Every effort will be made to respond to the concerns of the parent and to proceed with the development of support for the child. Parents of students who are being home schooled should be aware that the district understands its ongoing responsibility for providing special education services to all children within the district.

If there are questions regarding this notification, please contact the Office of Special Education at 862-2774. The Office of Special Education is open between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday with the exception of federal holidays.

Lynne Wells, Director of Special Services, has been appointed as the homeless liaison for RSU 22. It is the responsibility of RSU 22 to notify the citizens/parents of the district on an annual basis that educational services are available to students classified as homeless. If you need further information to determine the rights available to homeless students in our district, please contact Ms. Wells at 862-2774.

# RSU 22 Telephone Numbers

Superintendent's Office	862-3255
Superintendent Regan Nickels	
Asst. Superintendent Christine Boone	
Curriculum Office - Mary Giard	862-3844
Special Services - Lynne Wells	862-2774
School Food Service-Kathy Kittridge	862-3543
Adult Education Office	862-6422
Technology Systems Coordinator	862-3335
Hampden Academy Main Office	862-3791
Guidance Office	862-4111
Athletic Office	862-3985
Alternative Education	862-6429
Earl C. McGraw School	862-3830
Newburgh Early Childhood Center at Newburgh Elementary School	234-2781
Reeds Brook Middle School	862-3540
Leroy H. Smith School	223-4282
Samuel L. Wagner Middle School	223-4309
George B. Weatherbee School	862-3254
Transportation: John T. Cyr & Sons	862-3984
Dustin Ireland	862-2054 (fax)

# 2020-2021 School Calendar

August					September					October				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
10	11	12	13	14		1 P	2	3	4				1	2
17	18	19	20	21	7 H	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9 I
24 NT	25 NT	26 NT	27 M	28 I	14	15	16	17	18	12 H	13	14	15	16
31 T					21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30 ED
November					December					January				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6		1 T	2	3	4					1 H
9	10	11 H	12	13	7	8	9	10	11 ED	4	5	6	7	8
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15 I
23	24	25 C	26 H	27 V	21	22	23	24	25 H	18 H	19	20	21	22
30					28 V	29 V	30 V	31 V		25	26	27	28	29
February					March					April				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				1	2
8	9	10	11	12 ED	8	9	10	11	12 T	5	6	7	8	9
15 H	16 V	17 V	18 V	19 V	15	16	17	18	19 I	12	13	14	15	16 ED
22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	19 H	20 V	21 V	22 V	23 V
					29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30
May					June					School Year				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	178* Student Days				
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	1 Management Day				
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	1 Teacher Preparation Day				
17	18	19	20	21	14	15 ED T	16 I			5 Inservice Days				
24	25	26	27	28 ED						1 Teacher Comp Day				
31 H										3* Storm days are included				

August 24, 25, 26  
 August 27, 31  
 September 1  
 September 2  
 10/30, 12/11, 2/12, 4/16, 5/28, 6/15  
 November 25  
 8/28, 10/9, 1/15, 3/19, 6/16  
 June 15  
 June 13

New Teacher Orientation  
 Management, Teacher Prep  
 Partial Attendance (PreK-9 students only)  
 Full PreK-12 Attendance  
 Early Dismissal  
 Teacher Comp Time (no school)  
 Inservice - no school  
 Last Student Day  
 Hampden Academy Graduation

Quarters Q  
 1 46 days  
 2 42 days  
 3 44 days  
 4 46 days  
 178

Trimesters T  
 9/1-12/1/20 59 days  
 12/2/20-3/12/21 59 days  
 3/15-6/15/21 60 days  
 178

H=holiday, V=vacation day,  
 I=teacher inservice day, no school  
 ED=early dismissal

## Earl C. McGraw School is still magnificent!

Dear McGraw Students and Families,

We are so excited to have students back in our building in just a few short weeks! I am also excited to begin this journey as your principal. This year will be great....different, but great! The staff are ready to make your child's school year "McGraw Magnificent" as usual. We have worked hard all summer to come back in the way that meets the CDC and MDOE guidelines and allows you to re-enter McGraw safely. Our school hallways are clear, the cafeteria is set-up for lunch, new recess equipment has been ordered, and classrooms are ready for learning. By the time you read this article, the dirt parking lot where the buses have traditionally parked will be paved and we look forward to using this to assist with our parent drop-off and pick-up each day. We are eager for your return, whether it is in the hybrid model of education or 100% remote. Our teachers are prepared to build nurturing relationships with each student, no matter the setting.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you are making for your families regarding safety during this pandemic. We have made many changes to procedures to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. We understand that things will be different and we ask for your patience, understanding, and communication as we embark in this new process. Please review the changes and reach out to me, Ms. Nickerson (jnickerson@rsu22.us), with any questions you may have. If there is a medical exemption or adjustment that needs to be made, please include our School Nurse, Mrs. Layman (blayman@rsu22.us). Please download the RSU 22 app if you have not already to stay up-to-date on information as it becomes available. Our website is also a great resource for families throughout the year.

We can't wait to see students in Cohort B in-person on Tuesday, September 1st and students in Cohort A in-person on Thursday, September 3rd. More information will be coming soon regarding distribution of materials for our Cohort A and 100% remote learners so they are ready to begin their school year (from a distance) on the 1st as well.

Soak up these last few rays of summer sun!

—Ms. Jennifer A. Nickerson, Principal, Earl C. McGraw School

### Arrival and Morning Routines

Upon entering the building, all students and staff will be required to wear an approved mask that covers the mouth and nose and use the hand sanitizer in their classroom. We ask that parents conduct the self-assessment each morning before dropping your child off or putting them on the bus.

Students will be given access to the building starting at 8:30 am and will report directly to their classroom, unless having breakfast. The school day will begin at 8:55 am.

Students getting breakfast will enter the building through the cafeteria doors in the front of the building. After eating, they will exit the cafeteria and go to their classroom.

### New Schedule

Our schedule will look a bit different this year. Instead of a six day rotation, we will have a Purple Week and a White Week. Art, music, physical education, library, and guidance learning opportunities will still occur. Students will also have an activity in each area to engage with during their remote learning days as well. Each of the specialists will also have time in the schedule for instructing 100% remote students.

More information regarding the activities on remote learning days for the students who have selected the hybrid model will be provided soon.

Each classroom will have a morning and afternoon community meeting. This meeting will be very similar to the morning meeting many of the students are used to. Those students who are at home will be able to join their classmates via Google Meet for this time each day. More information will be coming from your classroom teacher!

### Hallway Movement

Teachers, including specials teachers, will be going to each class instead of students moving to them. Classrooms will be utilizing their individual outside doors as much as possible to move from their room to the cafeteria or playground, or for student drop off and pick up.

### Classrooms

Student desks are arranged to provide a minimum of 3 ft. between each student. Teachers will have a 6 ft. designated space to move from their desk to the front of the room, around the student learning area, and to the doorway. Each room will be equipped with a plexiglas divider so students are able to work one-on-one or in a small group with the teacher, when necessary.

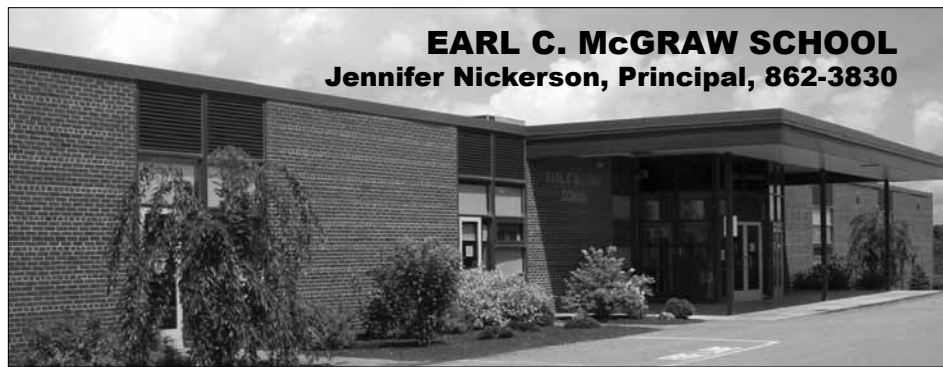
Students will still have flexible seating options in the classroom, where they can go to work individually with a clipboard or read a book or complete another assignment from their teacher. These spots are designated on the floor and the seating options have been changed to include only those that can be sanitized easily after student use.

### Recess

Each classroom is part of a smaller group of classrooms for recess and lunch. Recess will be 20 minutes long and will be either in the morning or afternoon, depending on the group. We have worked hard to create a pool of



Jennifer Nickerson



EARL C. MCGRAW SCHOOL  
Jennifer Nickerson, Principal, 862-3830

fun activities that our students can do while at recess and still be safe. Equipment for recess has been ordered that students can use together, but apart (ie. jump ropes, skip-its, hula hoops, bubbles, pogo jumpers, and scavenger hunt games). Students will wash their hands immediately before going to recess and immediately when they come back inside.

### Lunches

Students are required to practice 6 ft. social distancing while eating lunch and face the same direction while their masks are off. We have rearranged the cafeteria to seat 36 students at each lunch. We will have five 20 minute lunch periods each day. Students will pick up their lunch at the window as usual and move to a seat at tables designated for their classroom. The cafeteria floor is marked with appropriate physical distancing decals to help our youngest students move safely in this space.

### Parents and Visitors in the Building

Unfortunately, we will no longer allow visitors in the building, this includes parents dropping off items the student may have left at home. There will be a place in our foyer for parents to drop off forgotten items and staff will make sure they are delivered to the classrooms.

### Parent/Guardian Meetings

All meetings will be held virtually. This may include IEP, 504 and Chapter 104 student meetings.

### Hand Hygiene

While we have many hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, we will be asking that all students practice thorough hand washing in the bathrooms, whenever possible. We are fortunate at McGraw to have a bathroom in each of the regular classrooms. Good hand hygiene will be taught by our nurse during the first few weeks of school.

### Masks

Students will wear a mask at all times. Please refer to the RSU 22 description of an appropriate mask.

Masks will be treated as a dress code item and will need to meet those guidelines in order to be worn. No distracting or inappropriate images will be allowed. If the student refuses to wear a mask, they cannot continue with in-person schooling and will need to become a remote learner.

Each teacher will be providing a "mask break" for students during their class period. This will look different teacher by teacher. Lanyards will be provided for each student so that during the break, when using the bathroom, or at lunch masks will not get misplaced or dirty.

### End of the School Day

Students not previously scheduled to stay and work with a teacher will be asked to leave the building immediately after the school day. We ask that transportation is prompt after school to maintain the health and safety of all the people in the building and allow the optimal time for disinfecting.

*Note: Some of these items may be subject to change due to adjustments in the CDC and Maine DOE Guidelines.*

## NEW STAFF AT MCGRAW

### Emily Burns, Kindergarten

Emily Burns, a native of Hermon who graduated from the University of Maine in May, will be enjoying

her "dream job" as a kindergarten teacher at the Earl C. McGraw School in Hampden this fall.

Miss Burns received her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development from UMaine with a concentration in Elementary Education and a minor in Disability Studies.

She currently lives in Hermon. She enjoys working out and spending time with her family.



Emily Burns

### Jennifer Nickerson new Principal at McGraw

Jennifer Nickerson, who served as curriculum coordinator for RSU 64 in Corinth for the past four years, is the new principal at Earl C. McGraw School.

Previously, she was an elementary school teacher in Dixfield and Canton, and, for 14 years, in Madison. She has been a Reading Recovery teacher, a Title 1A teacher, a traditional classroom teacher, and a grades 3-4 looping teacher.

She grew up in Newburgh, where her parents still live, and she currently resides in Winterport with her two daughters, who will be the 5th generation in her family to graduate from Hampden Academy.

*(Please turn to page 15)*