



RSU #23
Old Orchard Beach School Department
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December 11, 2020

Dear RSU 23 Community,

The RSU 23 leadership team met today and decided that **Monday December 21st and Tuesday December 22nd will be remote learning days.** The remote learning schedule on these days will reduce the impact of potential school related COVID-19 cases that would carry through the holidays and adversely impact our RSU 23 community. We completely understand the additional two (2) days at home can be a challenge for families. As we evaluated all the aspects of this decision and mitigating risk, we considered the following:

- Remote instruction on Monday and Tuesday (12/21 & 12/22) substantially decreases the odds of having school cases over the holiday break
- Planning ahead not only **allows families to coordinate childcare arrangements in advance** but also reduces a sudden disruption in the schedule when compared to the alternative of school-related COVID-19 cases.
- **Provides teachers an opportunity to prepare in advance a schedule for the week with engaging lessons for effective remote instruction.** Staff will teach from within their empty classrooms on Monday and Tuesday while adhering to current health and safety guidelines.

During this pandemic we have learned that all decisions are difficult and this determination is no different. We are resolute in our commitment to maximizing in-person learning and we feel offering remote learning on the 21st and 22nd puts us in the best possible position to return to full in person learning on January 4th. Please reach out to me or your child's building principal if you have any questions. Thank you for your unwavering support and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Suttie".

John Suttie
RSU 23 Superintendent of Schools

John Suttie
Superintendent

Elizabeth King,
Special Education Director

Robert Kierstead
Facilities & Transportation Director

Cynthia Cox
Business Manager

Eric Hanson
Assistant Superintendent

Pam Pothier
Technology Director

Caroline Trinder
Food Service Director

JoAnne Dowd
Curriculum Director