



Bloomfield Elementary School

Jean M. Pillsbury
Principal

September 3, 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome to in-person and remote learning at Bloomfield Elementary School 2020-21. It has been so gratifying to have children back in the building after such a long break! Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of our staff, for preparing your child to wear a mask daily, wash/sanitize hands often and keep distanced from friends and staff. Honestly, your children have totally rocked all of the requirements. I am amazed!

Whether your child is participating remotely or in-person my ultimate hope and expectation is that every student will make great progress as a reader, writer, mathematician, scientist, problem solver, and friend, this year, the first focus is on connecting and reconnecting with each other, promoting a feeling of community, and teaching students/families to use devices and applications that may be necessary throughout the year. Remote learning will begin on Tuesday, September 8th.

I know that children will learn when they feel safe, important, and interested. My dream is for every individual walking through the doors at Bloomfield Elementary to breathe a sigh of relief knowing they will be safe. **Your child will experience success if they come to school on-time daily, even early release days, and remain until the end of the day whenever healthy to do so.** Students working remotely also need to be engaged daily as attendance will be taken as well as feedback and grades given for report cards.

At the present time MSAD #54 schools are not able to allow parents/guardians and/or volunteers in the building. Still, parent involvement is an important part of a healthy school community. There are many ways for parents to contribute to improving their child's success at school. The simplest and most effective way to be involved is to make sure your child gets a **good night sleep**, has a **healthy snack**, and **brings important things back and forth** between school and home. Other ways to be involved are:

- Making sure your child comes to school every day and on-time when healthy
- Volunteering time at home to prepare materials
- Attending open houses and special events held via zoom or in-person when and if CDC guidance allows
- Attending parent-teacher conferences via zoom or in-person when and if CDC guidance allows (held in November)
- Communicating with your child's teacher through Google Classroom See Saw, phone, zoom or e-mail
- Attending monthly parent group or Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) Zoom meetings (dates to be determined)

This year students may need to be out of school more often than typical, as we are all using the COVID-19 Pre-screening Tool for School Attendance. Please see this link for a copy of the tool:

https://www.maine.gov/doi/sites/maine.gov/doi/files/inline-files/Pre-Screening%20Tool_4.pdf.

I have no doubt that you love and care for your child and want the very best for him/her. With good health and an answer of no on all the pre-screening questions, regular school attendance is one of the very best ways for you to make sure your child is able to reach all your hopes and dreams for him/her.

Here is a link to the MSAD #54 Public Information and Announcements:

<https://www.msad54.org/public>

Parents are given so many papers to complete at the beginning of each school year. I know they each take a few minutes. Please make sure to send back all paperwork as soon as possible. We are required to get the **RSU54/ MSAD 54 Parent/Guardian Economic Status Data Collection Form** from every family. By completing the form, you help our school qualify for funding, and ensure that all students will continue to receive a free breakfast and lunch.

This year for in-person learners the art, music and library schedule looks a little different than typical. Your child will have either art, music, or library for one whole trimester, three times per week. By the end of the year they will have had one trimester of each. Physical Education classes remain the traditional one time per week throughout the school year. The change was necessary to abide by the CDC recommendations to cohort students and staff whenever possible. The change means that instead of these teachers seeing 400 or more students per week they will only see about 200 (multiple schools). I will work on a way for students to check out books from the library even though they won't have library every trimester. This will take a little bit of time. Conversations and scheduling are still being ironed out for how our remote learners will access art, music, physical education and library.

Scientists now know that brains can be strengthened by struggling with hard work in a supportive environment. At Bloomfield Elementary we are all working on having a growth mindset. This means that we will be saying things such as "I can do it!"

It's going to be an interesting and great year of learning. I know that "we can" do great things together.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Pillsbury
Principal