

# AUGUSTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**James Anastasio, M.A.**  
Superintendent

12/10/20

**Katherine Grondin, CAS**  
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Students, Parents, and Educators:

**Kathy Casparius,**  
M.B.A., M.C.T.E.  
Business Manager

I hope this communication finds you safe and healthy. It is so important during this Pandemic for all of us to do everything we can to stay safe and healthy to protect our families, friends and community. It is often said that schools are safe. I counter with schools are safer. They are safer than many other places because of the efforts of everyone to follow the six safety requirements for opening schools, but it doesn't mean students and employees are not at risk.

**Susan Walters, CAS**  
Director of Special Education

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A major consideration in all of the discussions regarding school safety is how to reduce that risk and still provide a meaningful education for students and a safe environment for all building users. The increase in COVID cases across the country, Maine, Kennebec County, and Augusta is making it much more difficult to do. As a result, the impact of COVID-19 on the Augusta School Department is increasing. More parents have requested remote learning and the concern among employees is at a new high. The positive number of cases for educators and students is growing, and the number of close contacts in school and in the community is causing more students and staff to quarantine. Our ability to safely offer in person education continues to decline.

In an attempt to address the issues I've mentioned, the School Board, after hearing from educators and administrators, accepted my recommendation to make the following adjustments to the school schedule around the upcoming holiday break.

December 16, 17, and 18, will be fully remote school days.

There will be no school on December 21 and 22.


Fully remote education will begin again on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and continue until Friday, January 15.

Hybrid education will resume on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Once again school nutrition will be doing bus delivery meals. To sign up go to the Augusta School website to fill out the bus delivery form. If you signed up and received meals the week after Thanksgiving you are automatically on the list to receive bus delivery meals.

I want to thank you for your understanding and wish you good health and happy holidays.

Sincerely,



James Anastasio  
Superintendent of Schools