



# AUGUSTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

November 10, 2020

**Katherine Grondin, CAS**  
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff:

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

Prior to last spring, many aspects of our lives were predictable and much less complicated. It was easy to separate school from home, work from home, and family from most everything else. Unfortunately, those traditional lines have been blurred and in some cases erased. Today we have to worry about who we talk with, where we talk with them and talking in groups is very difficult and must be done with caution. Most people worry about family gatherings, being in public and travel. To say things are different is an understatement.

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

#### Board of Education

All of us realize that COVID is having a major impact on our students, schools, staff and education. Teaching and learning is much different than in the past, but school is still one of the safer places where students can gather. Following the six requirements for safely opening schools has worked. The cases that have surfaced in our schools have all been initiated outside of schools. That's why it is especially important that everyone follow the CDC guidelines around the holidays to minimize the impact on families, students, and staff to increase the likelihood that schools can remain open.


**Edward Hastings**  
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**Staci Fortunato**  
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**Christopher Clarke**  
Ward 2  
**Jan Michaud**  
Ward 3  
**Kati McCormick**  
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**Jennifer Dumond**  
At Large  
**Kevin Lamoreau**  
At Large  
**Amanda Olson**  
At Large

As most of you know, Hussey School is fully remote this week and all of the elementary schools have had at least one positive case. There is an increasing concern that more cases could force the temporary closure of a school or schools. With cases growing in Maine and Augusta, it is more important than ever that everyone follow CDC guidelines.

In an attempt to proactively limit the number of cases in schools following Thanksgiving, the School Board approved my recommendation to move to fully remote education from Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to open schools for hybrid education on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and stay in session until the next holiday break.

Thank you for being a partner in keeping your children and our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

  
James Anastasio  
Superintendent of Schools