



Oceanside Middle School

47 Valley St.
Thomaston, ME 04861
(207) 354-2502
Fax: (207) 354-2369

*Principal
William Gifford*

*Assistant Principal
Stefani Lund*

August 31, 2020

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds all of you healthy and squeezing the last bit of fun out of this summer. The intent of this email is to provide you with useful information that will help you as we move into a different type of school year at OMS.

The first day of school for the BLUE cohort is September 8th. The first day of school for the WHITE cohort is September 9th. A calendar of blue/white days is attached for September and it will also be posted online.

Asking yourself what are blue and white cohorts? Due to social distancing guidelines versus our classroom and hall sizes, we have elected to divide our student body into two cohorts or groups. We will have a BLUE cohort and a WHITE cohort, and they will attend in-person on alternating days. As an example, the blue cohort might attend on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday one week and Tuesday and Thursday on the following week. On the days that students are at home; they will have material assigned to them that will align with in-school work and access to teachers via email and Google Classroom.

You will be able to identify which cohort your child is in by accessing their schedule in PowerSchool **as soon as they are available**. If you have any questions about accessing PowerSchool please contact our main office at 354-2502 or by email at vzstone@rsu13.org or rbarstow@rsu13.org.

Please note that the front of the building has been restructured to be BUS LANE only. This means you cannot pull up to the front door of the school building. Students should be dropped off/picked up on Valley Street and use the flagpole walkway and crosswalk to get to/from the school entrance. Also, students who are walkers or being transported by private vehicles cannot arrive at the building until after 7:15am. Bus schedules for the district should be published soon, and we will share on our Facebook page and website.

We are limiting who can access the school building out of health concerns to those who are invited (ie. have a meeting). Deliveries by parents/guardians will be restricted to essential needs only. Parking for visitors can be found at the side of the building on the Booker Street side or back of the building. When you arrive, either walk to the front door or call the main office to alert us that you are at the door. There are two handicap spots in the front of the building for those that have the appropriate designation.

If you have not already done so, you will find it helpful to review our district reopening plan online at <https://www.rsu13.org>, as it provides a wealth of useful information.

As a family, if you have elected to do off-site learning, you should be receiving information this week. While you will be following a different curriculum, you are still part of our OMS family and feel free to reach out with questions.

Be on the lookout for an email from our food service director, Darcy Milliard, regarding the food service program for the upcoming school year.

In closing, I want you to know this was not an easy decision. First and foremost, we wanted to provide a healthy environment for our students and staff. I know this could present a hardship for our families. The OMS staff will be working hard this year to have your children stay connected on the days that they are in school and on the virtual days when they are at home. This plan will be reviewed periodically during the school year.

Take care,

Bill Gifford
OMS Principal

SEPTEMBER 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	BLUE 8	WHITE 9	BLUE 10	WHITE 11	12
13	BLUE 14	WHITE 15	BLUE 16	WHITE 17	BLUE 18	19
20	WHITE 21 Picture Day	BLUE 22 Picture Day	WHITE 23	BLUE 24	WHITE 25	26
27	BLUE 28	WHITE 29	BLUE 30	1	2	3