

Superintendent of Schools
School Union 69
Hope - Appleton - Lincolnville
444 Camden Road, Hope, Maine 04847

(207)763-3818•FAX (207)763-4262

Dianne Helprin Superintendent
Gail Kenney Bookkeeper

Deborah Bailey Director of Special Services
Wendy Tricomi Central Office Secretary

March 23, 2020

Dear Families,

It's hard not to reminisce about the 'good ole days' when the biggest challenge of the day was whether to call a snow day or not. The upcoming storm unexpectedly brought those memories flooding back. School budget season also doesn't seem so daunting any more as we face these new challenges!

Your principals and I want you to know how much we appreciate your patience and support while we work through figuring out the best ways to provide appropriate resources for learning and efficient meal delivery to families who have requested them. It has been incredible to watch how our staffs at each school have gone above and beyond to continue to stay connected and express their concern for their students and families. They miss your children as much as I know the children miss their teachers!

No decision has been made yet, but I want you all to be aware that we may be preparing for a closure lasting through the end of the school year. This decision will be made in close consultation with state and public officials. Please know that our teachers and staff will work to make sure that learning in the fall takes into consideration any gap in learning that students may experience no matter how long the closure becomes. There have been concerns among students that they won't be able to advance to the next grade. Please assure your children this is not the case, even if we remain closed until the end of this school year. And parents, please be reassured as well, that your child's brain is wired for learning. Encourage their reading and exploring and curiosity throughout this time and try to relax and enjoy watching your child's individual interests and talents bloom.

If you have ANY questions at all, please know that all of us are here for you online or by phone every day throughout this closure. If there is anything more we can do to help and support you, please do not hesitate to let us know. My email is Dianne.helprin@fivetowns.net and my cell is 207.460.9163.

Sincerely,

Dianne Helprin