

School Union #93

Blue Hill • Brooksville • Castine • Penobscot • Surry

Mark E. Hurvitt
Superintendent of Schools
Karen Watts
Director of Special Services

Final Plan Approved 3-0 8/11/20
August 11, 2020

CASTINE Regular Green Plan

Classes start on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

The school day starts when the student steps on the bus. From that point on, until the student steps off the bus, face coverings for students will be required. Face coverings will also be required for all staff members, including bus drivers. At this point, face coverings will be defined as follows: a mask, scarf, bandana, or other approved covering, which covers the nose and mouth. Also, at the teachers' discretion, face covering breaks will be allowed outside, provided that the students/staff are at least 6' apart.

Bus runs will be organized so that students sit in every other seat, staggered by the two rows. There will be one student per seat unless there are family members riding, and they can sit two or three per seat.

When the bus pulls up at the school, all students will go to their classrooms where they will be met by a teacher or staff member. There will be no school-wide outside recess, and no "bus room."

Breakfast will be limited and will be organized by each school principal, in the classrooms.

During the school day, students and staff need to be at least 3' apart, and preferably more than that, up to 6' apart, even while wearing face coverings.

At the start of school, each student will be assessed by the school Morning Screening Coordinator, going through a checklist provided by the DOE. Any medical issues will be immediately referred to the school nurse. We will hire these coordinators with CRF funding, one for each school. Plus, parents will be expected to screen their children every day using the Department of Education COVID pre-screening tool.

Specials teachers will come to student classrooms, and we will revisit that plan early DECEMBER. The point of this will be to limit hall traffic, and to create a classroom cohort as much as possible. Regarding PE, it will be outside to start, and we will revisit this plan in mid-OCTOBER.

Recess will be by classroom. Principals will assign appropriate duties.

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The 2 nurses (Jenny Pert, April Chapman) will be very active in each school and will take temperatures, if necessary, as well as making sure that hand sanitizing stations are set up appropriately. Each school will set up an isolation room, and the nurses will be actively involved with this. Our School Doctor, Marjorie Olivari, will also be actively involved with all health issues which may arise.

Lunch will be eaten in classroom cohorts, scheduled by the principal.

The school doors will be locked, as they always are, for security reasons. Plus, school volunteers will not be used in schools, and school visitors, as well as parents, will not be able to come and go, as they have in the past. We will revisit this in DECEMBER.

Each school will have a different pickup/dropoff plan, and will make that clear in their summer school newsletter.

The use of technology will be enhanced and our three Technology Integrators will work with teachers, students, and parents to integrate technology in the classroom.

Schools, classrooms, and buses will be disinfected regularly by custodians and bus drivers using State protocols.

Wednesdays will be a half day for students and staff to allow staff to plan for all of the new accommodations associated with these new regulations for 2020-21. Specific dismissal times will be based on each school's schedule and on bus run coordination with different high schools.

Sports and after-school clubs will be based upon MPA decisions, and will be clear by SEPTEMBER 8th. Most likely, there will be no Fall sports or after-school activities.

There will be no field trips, at least through DECEMBER 31st.

We are working on a Union 93 video which will address all of this information and which will be posted on all Union 93 school websites in August.

Lastly, in the event of a positive COVID test by a student or a school employee, the CDC will be called immediately by our school nurse, and their recommendations on what to do in the building, going forward, will be followed. We will be erring on the side of extreme caution before bringing anybody back into the school or classroom.

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For students who are immune-compromised, and for parents who are fearful about sending their children back to school on September 8, 2020, there is another option, the Alternative Green Plan.

Students would stay at home.

Students would Zoom with their classroom every day during morning meeting (usually at about 8:00am).

Students in grades PreK-6, would receive a weekly packet of work from the students' teachers, to be picked up every Friday, and will return their previous week's packet when picking up the new packet.

Students in grades 7-8 would be able to follow along with their class as it will be zoomed synchronously by the Technology Integrator.

Students in grades PreK-8 will also be able to work on MOOSE work (Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education). Dawn McLaughlin will coordinate this work, and the details of this State curriculum are emerging, as it will be online in late August.

Parents interested in this option will be asked to contact your school's principal for details, and each school will have a different commitment timetable, so that parents and students will not constantly be moving between options.

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CASTINE Green Homeschooling Plan

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As always, the State of Maine offers a Home Instruction (formerly known as home schooling) option which is run directly by the Maine Department of Education and registration (a 1 page form) is done through them. Vernetta Bannister (374-9927) in the Central Office is the local contact for this option.