

March 17, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today we begin remote learning. I am proud of the professionalism and spirit of our teachers and staff as they have prepared to deliver content. In my role as Head of School, safety is job one, followed quickly by quality of education. Our students deserve it, even in these difficult times.

PLEASE PICK-UP YOUR STUDENT’S LAPTOP, if applicable. The building will be closed indefinitely as of Thursday, March 19th.

This letter contains information regarding our Remote Learning Plan and how you can support your students. Currently the Commissioner of Education is encouraging us to close for an indefinite period of time. It is critical to develop a solid routine of at-home study. Our plan relies heavily on internet connectivity but we are prepared to deliver materials by mail as well. Please let us know if connectivity is an issue. Your support and encouragement are necessary to the success of our partnership.

* Materials pick-up at the school building:
  + Tuesday, March 17, 2-5pm
  + Wednesday, March 18, 8-3:30pm

* Remote Learning Plan: In overview, students will be engaged with their teachers during the mornings Tuesday through Friday, starting at 8:00 am. Teachers will be setting up Google Classrooms and taking attendance during the regularly scheduled class times. In addition, they will be setting up ways to communicate and interact with their students via Google Hangouts. Many of our students and teachers are already familiar with these software platforms. Work will be graded and students will continue to meet standards.

* Technical Support. If your students are having difficulty with their laptops or login please contact the school tech coordinator Solomon Heifets at [sheifets@means.academy](mailto:sheifets@means.academy) for assistance.

* Additionally, administrators are available for questions and concerns.

Danni Best, Dean of Students, [dbest@means.academy](mailto:dbest@means.academy),

Becky Dennison, Dean of Threshold [rdennison@means.academy](mailto:rdennison@means.academy)

Christine Sullivan, Special Education Director [csullivan@means.academy](mailto:csullivan@means.academy)

* Meal assistance is being provided by local schools and RSUs. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide a service at this time. At the end of this document is a list of meal pick-up locations and times. If you need additional assistance, please let us know.
* We will be posting additional updates and information on our website: <https://meansacademy.org/covid-19-remote-learning-updates/>

The COVID-19 crisis has been incredibly challenging to navigate and I appreciate your patience while developing our plan. I encourage your feedback and thoughts as we move through this situation together. Stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Newberg

Head of School

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

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Meal pick-up Locations:

**Augusta**

Monday & Wednesday from 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Cony High School Parking Lot

William Playground

Farrington Elementary School Parking Lot

Lincoln Elementary School Parking Lot

Gilbert Elementary School Parking Lot

**RSU #49 - Fairfield – Beginning Wednesday**

Monday thru Friday 9:00 am to 11:00 am

This includes the schools in

Albion

Benton

Fairfield

Clinton

Lawrence High School

**RSU #3 - Thorndike**

Tuesday & Wednesday from 11:00 am-6:00 pm

Monroe Elementary School

Morse Memorial Elementary School

Mount View Elementary, Middle, High School

Troy Elementary School

Unity School

Walker Elementary School

**RSU #54 – Skowhegan**

TBD

Winslow Public Schools will be providing breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday from 9:00 am-10:00 am. for all students who wish to participate.  Both meals can be picked up during this time. The meals can be picked up at the following locations and should be taken off site: Winslow Elementary School (curbside pickup only),  Clinton Avenue Playground, Halifax Street Park and the Vassalboro Community School (curbside only).

The Waterville Food Service Department will be providing breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday, during this closure. The program will be modeled after the Summer Meals Program. These. meals are available to anyone 18 years or younger and, unlike the summer meals program, may be taken off site.. The meals can be picked up at the following 8 sites between

9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m:

GJMS - Curbside

WJHS - Curbside

Armory Road Housing

Home Place Housing

Chaplin Street Playground

North Street Playground

Western Avenue Play Area

Southend Teen Center - Curbside

**Alfond Youth & Community Center, Waterville**

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Growing Dome

Pull up and stay in your car.  Let them know how many meals you need and they will bring them to your car.

**Jefferson**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Jefferson Village School

Please check with your local municipality for more information.