

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 58
NORTHUMBERLAND – STRATFORD – STARK
15 Preble Street, Groveton, NH 03582
Telephone (603) 636-1437
Fax (603) 636-6102
www.sau58.org

Patricia J. Brown
Business Administrator

Dr. Ronna Cadarette
Superintendent of Schools

Michelle Mason
Student Services Administrator

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community:

There are daily reminders in the beauty of fall of how fortunate we are to live in such a magnificent part of our state and country. In the midst of a pandemic I also count my blessings to be visiting classrooms full of students and educators engaged in face-to-face learning. The ability of our students and staff to adjust to social distancing protocols and safety measures has been very smooth and even better than anticipated. Today is our 26th day of school. It is evident in the eyes of our educational community as they peer over masks, that we cherish every minute with your precious children.

Research shows that nothing can replace the benefits of in person instruction for academic and social emotional development. We want to protect our educational environment, and we know that you do, too, as indicated in the community commitments that were signed upon return to school. As we enter what would normally be the holiday travel season, please remember the commitments we have all made on behalf of your children, our students. Per the CDC and DHHS guidelines, if you **must travel outside of New England you must quarantine upon return to New England for the full 14 days, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test.** This is applicable to all of our students.

It is a time of many sacrifices, and I know staff are forgoing visits with family, weddings, funerals, vacations, holidays, and countless celebrations throughout the school year to uphold their professional contracts. Staff know that they must use sick time for quarantining as essential employees due to any non-compelling/non-emergency travel and are choosing not to travel. We hope that you continue to partner with us to keep everyone healthy, safe and able to receive in-person instruction. Our substitute pool is very thin, and we scramble to support regular absences due to routine illness and family priorities. If you are able to substitute, please visit or call SAU 58 for the paperwork so we can welcome you to our team.

We recognize the importance of family time and the holidays. If you must travel with your children, we ask that you choose carefully and keep the welfare of our community in mind when planning, particularly outside of New England. We always prefer that you use the school vacation weeks to take students out of school. **That will reduce the time of missed instruction due to travel and the required 14 completed days of quarantine regardless of a negative test.** In addition, please fill out the vacation paperwork available through the schools well in advance so that teachers can plan to keep your child engaged and gather materials. Many teachers may use Google Classroom to post work. The school will also be able to partner with the CDC and DHHS if there is a case, and also know who is due back to school when upon completion of the 14 day required quarantine. None of us wants to be the person thought to bring COVID-19 or sickness into our incredible schools -- or cause the entire school to go remote due to known avoidable circumstances.

We value you as our partners in your child's educational career, and look forward to easier times when we can freely vacation and rejuvenate our hearts with the ones we love. Until then, thank you for your serious consideration and support of continued in-person educational opportunities for all students throughout SAU 58. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

In health,



Dr. Ronna F. Cadarette
Superintendent of Schools

Service to Children, the Community, and the Future
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