Dear RSU 63 Parents,

Wow!  I used to think about how hard it is to be a parent in these times of technology and social media.  It got a whole lot harder really quickly.  We know you are doing what you can to take care of your family, your children, and yourself.  Please think of us (RSU 63) as a resource and not a “have to.”  These are new and difficult times.

We are all going through many “first times” at the same time.  “Firsts” are scary.  It is normal for you and your child to feel a wide range of emotions.  Uncertain, sad, brave, happy, anxious, proud… This is hard and we are not good at it – yet.  Like learning to ride a bike, we are going to wobble.  Our kids are going to wobble.  When that happens, forgive yourself.  Forgive your child.  Straighten up the bike, bandage the knee, and try again.

Routines help.  Our routines are going to be very different than they were.  **Help your child by developing a routine and trying to create some normalcy.  Attached is an example and a template** you can use to develop a routine that might work for your family.  Remember to allow for wobbles!

[Sample Schedule](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http:%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FVEFArgmJ3fBNT8a8h0TQmg~~%2FAAAAAQA~%2FRgRgWd9SP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPVI2ZjNYZzY3MHg0Jm1hbD03ZTdhNGNiMTg2M2Y2YTU3N2M3ZDNhNmJhNWM1ZGVmMGI0Y2E4OTU3NTU0ZmVhMjVlZTBlMjk3ZGM0ZmE5YTYxVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAANKreF6zHQ9XUhFqanBhbmdidXJuQG1lLmNvbVgEAAAAAQ~~&data=02%7C01%7CSean.Landry%40maine.gov%7C427873875bcd4dbf418808d7cf38e5c2%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637205715581885331&sdata=kjF0Lv1h%2Fuqbu9plh7WaGM%2FrJg1pYigDcacFx%2FkhhJc%3D&reserved=0)

[Schedule Template](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http:%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FWHU951nSDdgh7hXwpca7wg~~%2FAAAAAQA~%2FRgRgWd9SP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPVI2ZjNYZzY3MHg0Jm1hbD1mZjEzZjI3NmE2OTI4OGRkYzBmY2YzOTdhZjFlNTE3MjlmNDk1Yjk3MjAxNTY2YzUwYWM5YTA0OTY3YzQ5ODM4VwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAANKreF6zHQ9XUhFqanBhbmdidXJuQG1lLmNvbVgEAAAAAQ~~&data=02%7C01%7CSean.Landry%40maine.gov%7C427873875bcd4dbf418808d7cf38e5c2%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637205715581895287&sdata=9ge9dq3Ay1Zs3p4DJSs6mUIRnLEi%2FMt4vva7GQ0SJjU%3D&reserved=0)

RSU 63 schools are closed, but our staff is working hard and our students are learning.  Meals and gift baskets have been delivered, teachers are connecting with students remotely, and we are developing systems for getting materials and supplies to students.

**From 10:00am until 2:00pm on Tuesday, March 24th Holbrook parents can come to our Holbrook Drive-Through to pick up computers and musical instruments.**

**We will be delivering supplies and materials to our elementary students this week.  (A schedule will be announced soon.)**

We are learning how to help while practicing social distancing and washing our hands frequently.  We are learning how to stay safe and healthy, provide food, and stay connected to our kids and each other.

School is closed.  We cannot provide regular school or regular instruction.  However, we will figure out how to provide activities to help our students stay engaged and connected to each other and our staff.  **Teachers will be checking in with students, in one way or other, between 10:00am and 2:00pm on days that were originally scheduled to be school days.**  (They are “meeting” with administrators and each other between 8:00am and 10:00am.) We will continue to provide educational resources and engagement activities for our students.  We will not be grading or requiring assignments.  We will provide feedback, suggestions, resources, and support.

Our students are learning. Our students are learning that helpers are all around them.  They are learning that communities can pull together in a crisis.  They are learning that the opportunity to give a loved one a hug is truly something special.

Take care of yourself.  Take care of your family.  Take care of each other.  Let us know what you need.  Please be patient with us and forgive us when we wobble.

Sincerely,