

Jonathan D. Moody
Superintendent of Schools**Mark P. Hatch**
Assistant Superintendent**David A. Leavitt**
Support Services Manager

To our Students and their Families,

We encourage you to check our website, view the attachment, or visit the following link for MSAD54's return to school plan: <http://bit.ly/54plan>

Schools will be sending information to families next week with additional school-specific information including class lists, pickup and drop-off information etc.

MSAD 54 will be having all students PK-6 attend school daily, with students in grades 7-12 attend every other day based on their last name in groups (A-J, and K-Z). The district has worked with the staff and school board to develop a "Soft Start". This approach will have students attend every-other-day for the first three weeks of school, as our teachers work to establish the health and safety requirements of social distancing, mask wearing etc. The soft start is described below in detail. Following information on the soft-start are links for our [Return to School Plan](#), the [Digital Learning Handbook](#), [Maine CDC Mask Guidelines](#) (which were recently changed by Maine CDC), and our [Public FAQ document](#), which we will continue to update moving forward.

Soft Start

MSAD 54 will utilize a "soft start" to facilitate the successful implementation of our Green/Yellow plans depending on the county designation. This approach will allow staff to begin school with fewer students in our buildings, will allow for increased individual attention and training with hygiene practices, technology, classroom and school routines as well as provide students the opportunity for more individualized attention. The soft start will run for the first three weeks of school from September 1st through September 18th. Green plans will be fully operational, with the plans described below, on September 21st.

Soft Start Alphabet Breakdown (and 7-12 ongoing): Students with last names starting -

A - J will attend school Tuesday and Thursday: 9/1, 9/3, 9/8, 9/10, 9/15, 9/17

K - Z (and remote learners in grades K-6) will attend school Wednesday and Friday: 9/2, 9/4, 9/9, 9/11, 9/16, 9/18

Note: Only 9th grade students will attend school on 9/1 (all of them as part of freshmen orientation), followed by all K-Z students on 9/2, and all A-J students on 9/3.

For a complete calendar including the soft-start visit: <https://www.msad54.org/calendar>

Additional Workshop Day: Monday, 9/14 will be a district-wide workshop day to allow staff to plan and adjust prior to full implementation on Monday, 9/21. The scheduled ½ day on September 23rd from the original schedule has been removed; 9/23 is now a full student day.

Following the Soft-Start, all students in grades PK-6 will attend school daily. Students in grades 7-12 will continue to alternate, attending school in-person every other day, with the expectation that they will attend class remotely on their off-day. This will follow the A-J, and K-Z alphabet designation as described above. Additional information will be sent to families directly. After you have a chance to review the information sent to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at school.

In addition to the information being mailed to you, the following links should be reviewed:

MSAD 54 [Safe Reopening of Schools Plan](#): <http://bit.ly/54plan>

[Parent & Student Frequently Asked Questions](#) Document: <http://bit.ly/54FAQ>

[Maine CDC Mask](#) Requirements: <http://bit.ly/54mask>

[Digital Learning](#) Handbook: <https://bit.ly/3l6yr6Z>

District Calendar: <https://www.msad54.org/calendar>

Note: 7-12 students will continue ever-other day schedule following the soft start. Please look for your school's calendar in the information sent to you.