

Week 2 Letter:

Hello RSU 63,

During our 2nd week, I noticed students settling into the new routines at all three schools. Parents and students were able to navigate technology more easily. I also saw some really great, teacher-made digital lessons and resources for our students. Transportation routines (bussing, drop-offs, and pick-ups) were very smooth. Weekend/backpack food and healthy snack programs are being implemented. Remote Option students are receiving supplies, assignments, and food. Well done everyone!

Covid-19 continues to disrupt the supply chain in a variety of ways. 37 of the 55 adult chairs we ordered will be here next week. The desks ordered for the elementary students will arrive the week of Sept. 14th. The middle school desks are taking a bit longer. We have plenty of PPE on hand. More gloves, gowns, face shields, and "read my lips" masks with clear panels will be arriving.

The biggest challenges now include effectively and **safely** moving more students to the "Green" plan. We also need to work out better schedules and more instructional time for art, music, p.e., Spanish, and library as well as special education, intervention, and extension services.

Nearly all our students are actively participating at-school and remotely. However, we have a few students who we are still trying to connect with and engage. (If you are concerned about a student's well-being, please let Joy or Janet know.)

Administrators continue to meet frequently to problem-solve together. Please continue to let us know what you need help with. We also have a variety of groups and meeting times lined up to tackle these and other challenges as they arise. See the attached "District-Wide Committees - Fall 2020" document. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, let the facilitator know.

Please continue to be supportive of one another. While many things are familiar and similar to our "old" routines, there are also many new things for people to learn and for us all to figure out together.

It has been really up-lifting to hear our students laughing and to see them working and playing outside.

Enjoy the long-weekend and take some time to catch your breath,  
Susan

There is a School Board Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:00 at Holbrook.

Again if you have any questions, please contact me anytime,

Linda Graban

## September, 2020 School Board Report

Below are two letters from Superintendent Susan Smith regarding the opening of school. One is the first week of school and the second is the second week of school. I thought it would be good to share how things are going since school has opened. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email.

Hello RSU 63,

Thank you very much for your hard work this week! It was wonderful to see staff and students in our buildings and on our buses. You all did a great job welcoming all our students and helping everyone feel less anxious as the week progressed. There were definitely some hitches, particularly with technology, but much of the technology is new learning for staff, students, and parents. I am confident we will all be more proficient with a little more practice.

Bus runs went really well. Thank you drivers! It was interesting to note that more Pod B students rode the buses on Thursday than Pod A students on Wednesday. We will have to see if that continues to be the trend next week.

Morning drop-off went smoothly at all three schools. All the kids had facemasks on and I saw lots of water bottles. Afternoon pick-up at the elementary schools went well. Holbrook was too congested on Wednesday afternoon. Adjustments were made and things went much better on Thursday. We feel ready to handle the heavier traffic expected on Monday.

Students and staff did an excellent job with facemasks. I noticed people providing instruction and reminding students about physical distancing, pausing and having kids spread out when they were on the move. The weather was great and outdoor spaces were used frequently for breaks and outside instruction.

I also noticed lots of hand washing and hand sanitizing. A few classroom hand-sanitizer locations still contain the insta-foam product. This is the same product as required in hallway locations and has been proven effective against corona viruses. When we tried to fill the classroom locations with the alcohol-based hand sanitizer we received from the state, it just ran out onto the floor. Jake quickly ordered more of the alcohol-based hand sanitizer designed for the wall-mounts. Most of the classrooms have been switched over and we are slated to get more for alcohol-based hand sanitizer for the classrooms tonight at 7:00pm. (Thank you Jake for being there for the late delivery!)

Technology glitches included links that were difficult for parents or students to access (especially from a non-RSU 63 computer and/or a non- RSU 63 account), some trouble "presenting" when using Google Meet, and the internet was down for a while at Holbrook on Wednesday morning. Kids now have their RSU 63 devices and email accounts. We've had a few days to work through some of those kinks and there will not be so many "first time users" next week. Please let George and me know if access is still difficult next week.

There was a lot of technology that also worked very well. For example, Wednesday afternoon when some of our students got home, they emailed their teachers. One elementary student sent, "I wanted to write to you right away to tell you I got home ok."

Breakfasts and lunches were made by our cooks and eaten at school. Breakfasts and lunches were bagged up by the cooks and sent home with students for remote days. Arrangements were also made for food, devices, and school supplies to be delivered to a few of our all remote students who are without transportation.

Thank you everyone for taking such good care of our kids!  
Susan