

Dear RSU 22 Families,

Thank you for the return of our recent family survey. From the results, we have determined the following student cohorts for return to school:

Cohort A: Last name A-K Mondays and Thursdays First day of live of school for Grades PK-12 will be Thursday September 3rd (remote work may be sent earlier)

Cohort B: Last name L-Z Tuesdays and Fridays First day of live school for Grades PK-8 will Tuesday September 1st\*

\* ALL Hampden Academy Freshman will attend on Tuesday September 1st for orientation; Grades 10-12 will begin Thursday the 3rd and Friday 4th in their cohorts

UTC students will be assigned half days on Mondays and Fridays; more information will be coming.

Notes on cohorts: Cohorts will be assigned by student last name; in blended families students living at the same household address will be accommodated in the same cohort using the primary guardian's last name. RSU 22 reserves the right to move students to a different cohort based on the district need to balance particular grade levels. Both cohorts have 72 days of in-person instruction over the school year. Questions regarding cohorts should be directed to school principals.

#### Childcare Options

New childcare options are being offered in Hampden and Newburgh. We continue to seek daycare and after care sites in Winterport and Frankfort. If you are a childcare provider and would like to be added to our district list of childcare providers, please email our school district.

[CHAMPIONS](#) will be offering full day childcare and aftercare at the Newburgh Elementary School five days per week and potentially at another local site. For more information contact [lolee@discoverchampions.com](mailto:lolee@discoverchampions.com) or by phone at (207) 505-0201

[Hampden Recreation](#) will be offering child care programs by cohort for full day childcare and before and after care. Check them out at [www.hampdenrecreation.com](http://www.hampdenrecreation.com) on Monday when full program details will be available.

The [Bangor Y](#) will be offering full day childcare and aftercare at the Camp G. Peirce Webber location on Emerson Mill Road in Hampden. To learn more, contact Keegan Wakana, School-Age Programs Manager, at [kwakana@bangorY.org](mailto:kwakana@bangorY.org) or 207-941-2808 ext 339 or email our CEO, Diane Dickerson, at [ddickerson@bangorY.org](mailto:ddickerson@bangorY.org).

Note on Internet Security

Last week's Board of Director's meeting was held both in person and virtually so that participation could be maximized. As a result, a participant from California engaged in presenting highly inappropriate material both verbally and in the chat box. This breach was not a hack. Our public meeting (which was open to anyone) allowed his entrance and we suffered the consequences of his malicious intent. Security had not been added to the Board meeting to prevent this because we wanted to ensure as many community members who wanted to attend could log on in the moment could do so. We heavily promoted the meeting in the general public and the meeting invite details got into the wrong hands. We wish to assure you that our Google meetings for students **are by invitation only**. These classroom meetings are set up as private. Had the board meeting been set up as private, like a teacher would with your child, anyone uninvited would have had no way to access the classroom meeting. Google uses state of the art encryption to lock these meetings down. RSU 22 is in the midst of evaluating how we can safely conduct board meetings in the future and still allow the greatest ease of access. We want to welcome the public and promote transparency at board meetings but not at the expense of what happened last Wednesday evening. For those interested, we share the following Google Security details for your review.

<https://support.google.com/meet/answer/9852160?hl=en#:~:text=All%20data%20in%20Meet%20is,encrypted%20at%20rest%20by%20default>. Student safety, both physical and emotional, continues to be our first priority. We have confidence that this digital meeting platform, when implemented through the usual private invitation means, will serve our students and classroom needs well and responsibly.

#### Virtual Open Houses and LINK 22

Stay tuned for more information from your building principals regarding virtual open house opportunities next week. Specifics on classroom assignments, school routines, schedules and expectations for self-screening, mask wearing and hand hygiene will be shared both in virtual open houses and also by the LINK 22 newspaper. The LINK 22 will be delivered next week to mailboxes throughout our communities.

We look forward to students and staff returning to our school campuses as September begins.

Sincerely,

*Regan Nickels*

RSU 22 Superintendent