

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
130 Wescott Road
South Portland, Maine 04106-3442

Kenneth Kunin, Superintendent of Schools
Jodi Mezzanotte, Assistant Superintendent
Rolfe Forland, Director of Finance, HR, and Operations



Megan Welter, Director, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment
Kathleen Cox, Director of Instructional Support
Andrew Wallace, Director of Technology

[Estimadas de Familias](#)

[Chères familles](#)

[Prezadas famílias](#)

[亲爱的家庭](#)

[Дорогие семьи](#)

March 10, 2021

Dear Families,

With the anniversary of school closure owing to COVID-19 approaching, the South Portland Elementary School Principals recognize that families likely have many questions about learning that has occurred for students over the past year and preparedness for next year. Parents may be wondering--perhaps worrying-- will my child(ren) be ready for what comes next?

While there continues to be uncertainty about the trajectory of COVID-19 infections and vaccine availability, there are some reassurances that we can provide. These include:

- None of us are alone in this. ALL families, students, teachers, communities have been impacted by the pandemic. So, our planning for the next school year will account for the reduced in-person learning time for all of our students during the 2020-2021 school year, across schools and grade levels.
- Social-emotional learning will continue to be at the forefront of our planning. Connecting students with teachers and students with one another will take priority as we plan for 2021-2022. Well-established daily routines and procedures, school and classroom community-building, and guidance programming are a few of the ways in which we will attend to the social needs of students who have missed each other during these times of small cohorts.
- Decision-making about instructional targets for next year will be made using district and school data collection and analysis that help us understand what and how students have learned this year.

- We have well-established systems in place at all of our schools so that when students demonstrate the need for additional instruction or reteaching, goals and supports can be identified and addressed in a timely fashion.
- The district is looking at summer learning opportunities for those students who have been most significantly impacted by the school closure and distance learning required over the past year.

We also know that students and families in South Portland Schools have many strengths--and have surely proven perseverance!--that we will draw upon as we continue on this journey. In partnership with you, and utilizing the talents of our excellent teaching staff, we will do everything that we can to overcome the collective challenges presented to our school communities since March of 2020.

Sincerely,

Myra Caron, Skillin School Assistant Principal

Bethany Connolly, Skillin School Principal

Elizabeth Fowler, Dyer School Principal

Bonnie Hicks, Kaler School Principal

Alexis Jones, Brown School Principal

Diane Lang, Small School Principal