

# Kittery

## School District

*Truth & Knowledge*

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TO: KITTERY SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF & FAMILIES  
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS   
DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2020  
RE: **PLAN FOR MONDAY & TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 & 22**

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One consistent factor since COVID-19 'arrived' in March has been the District's unwavering commitment to being adaptive and flexible. As we continue to learn more about this virus, and as the risk of exposure continues to rise in our region, I have been considering a new plan for the days leading up to the December break.

To the extent that the virus and restrictions will allow it, the coming weeks will be a treasured time for our staff and families, perhaps this year more than ever. To that end, I feel compelled to do whatever I can to reduce the potential for thwarted holiday plans due to a positive case in our schools.

Therefore, **Monday and Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be full remote (status red) days at all three of our schools in the Kittery School District.** Each school has a plan for this and stands 'red ready'. Your student's principal and teachers will communicate specific plans for both days prior to December 21<sup>st</sup>. Materials and technology hardware that are required for this 'status red' deployment will be provided to students before day's end this Friday. I expect that Monday and Tuesday will offer robust learning experiences for all our students with lots of teachers and support staff 'face time'.

The deployment to 'status red' on Monday and Tuesday will benefit us in other ways as well. In the event that a school (or a cohort within a school) must move into 'status red' due to a positive COVID-19 case in the months ahead, this full remote experience will offer our staff and families a unique 'test run' opportunity. Most importantly, however, we will be dramatically minimizing the risk of exposure in our schools; this will benefit our staff and students as well as their families. It won't guarantee a COVID-free holiday, but it will certainly reduce the risk so that our final days of 2020 can be merry and bright (I'm not sure I can say that is true for the entirety of 2020!).

Thank you for your support and understanding. I realize that this red deployment will be a hardship for a number of our families. Nevertheless, it is the right thing to do.

Stay positive, Kittery! There are better days ahead in 2021!