



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

August 2026

A NOTE FROM MR. SUTTIE

Welcome Back, RSU 23!

August is here, and with it comes the excitement of a new school year! Our buildings are coming back to life, our fall sports teams are already competing, and we are looking forward to seeing students filling our classrooms, hallways, fields, and activities once again. There is something special about the beginning of a school year, the fresh start, the new possibilities, and the energy that comes from having our entire school community back together.

Go Seagulls! Our fall athletes have already begun their seasons, and I encourage everyone to get out and support our teams. Athletics provide our students with opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and school pride, and there is nothing quite like seeing our community come together to cheer them on. I look forward to standing alongside our families, staff, and community members as we support our athletes throughout the fall.

August has also been a month of important beginnings and progress throughout American history. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, extending the right to vote to women, and on August 28, 1963, thousands gathered in Washington, D.C., for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. These moments remind us that meaningful progress often begins with people coming together around a common purpose. As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, that same spirit of purpose will guide us.

Our mission is clear: to provide high-level instruction and exceptional services so that every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and achieve their goals. Our staff have worked hard throughout the summer to prepare for another successful year, and I am grateful for the dedication and care they bring to our students every day. I am excited about what lies ahead and look forward to working together to make 2026–2027 another outstanding year for RSU 23!



Updates

Multilingual Summer Program

Over the summer, elementary-aged multilingual learners had the option to attend a grant-funded program intended to support their English language development. The program provided learning opportunities in academic and social language with a special focus on informational writing. ESOL coordinator and teacher Sasha Kantro designed and delivered instruction focused on the topic of growth. In addition to learning about how plants grow when they receive proper care and attention, students identified and wrote about their experiences of personal growth in the areas of academics, athletics, and self care. The program was enhanced by activities including the cultivation of beans and nasturtium from seed, flower pressing, insect collection and observation, daily soccer matches, and a field trip to the beach.

Exploration



Food & Nutrition

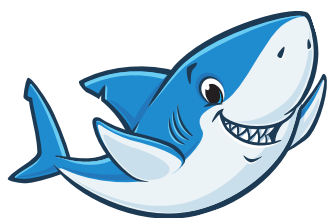


Fueling Our Students All Summer Long!

While many of us have been enjoying a slower pace this summer, our School Nutrition team has been hard at work making sure students in our communities have access to nutritious, delicious meals!

From student cooking classes to Shark Week-themed fun to a week-long culinary training, our staff has kept busy all summer long, preparing and serving meals to help keep kids fueled, focused, and energized during the warm months.

A big thank you to our amazing School Nutrition team for spending their summer helping ensure our students have the nourishment they need to learn, play, grow, and thrive. We appreciate you!



Jameson Prepares for Pre-K with New Grant Funding

It's been a busy summer at Jameson, where staff have been unpacking hundreds of boxes filled with new furniture and educational materials for our Pre-K classrooms. This effort was made possible by \$65,000 in grant funding RSU 23 received from the State of Maine to support our transition to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for four-year-olds. Thanks to this investment, all four-year-olds at Jameson will now have access to the general curriculum, set up in classrooms equipped with the furniture and materials they need to learn and thrive.



ESY 2026!



The Extended School Year Program ran from July 6th to July 30th at LMS and JES. Students participated in activities to maintain their academic, social/emotional, and functional life skills. Thank you to Michelle Hiltz, Dawn Hall, Samantha Dery, Greg Downs, Bill Robbins, Missie Cox, Molly Walrath, Lisa Spencer, Casie Levesque, Kayla Fotheringham, Cynthia Robbins, Tanya McAlevy, Sydney Clendaniel, Amanda Nason, Sandy Atkins, Alise Anson, and Morgan Bassett for providing their time and energy to support students.

Updates

Year-Round Staff Appreciation BBQ

THANK YOU!
to



Our schools don't stop operating when the final bell rings in June, and neither does the incredible work of our staff. Thank you to all of our year-round employees for the dedication, care, and pride you bring to RSU 23 every day!

We are especially grateful to the staff who continue to work in our buildings during the summer, providing instruction and support for students participating in our Extended School Year program. We also appreciate our custodial and facilities teams, who work tirelessly through the hot summer months to clean, maintain, repair, and prepare our schools and grounds for the return of students and staff, and our food service staff for their great work in the summer feeding program. And thank you to our transportation staff, who spend the summer maintaining our fleet and ensuring our buses are ready to safely transport students when the school year begins.



Summer Custodial Workload and Staff Recognition by Mark Beaudoin, Transportation and Maintenance Director

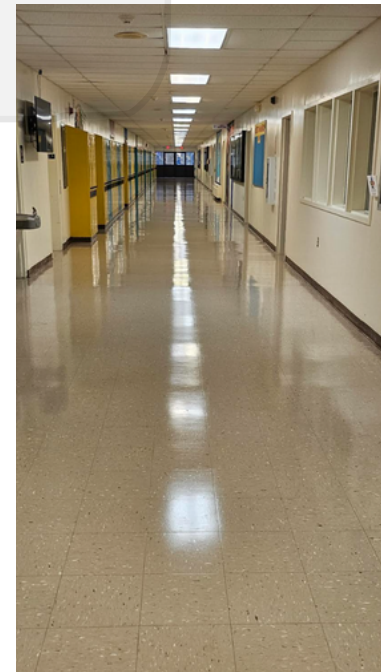
Summer is an extremely busy and demanding time for the RSU 23 custodial crew. During the summer months, custodians are responsible for entering and thoroughly cleaning virtually every room throughout the district. This includes cleaning walls, windows, light fixtures, desks, furniture, floors, and essentially every accessible surface within each room.

Two of the most time-consuming aspects of summer cleaning are carpet extraction and the stripping and refinishing of tile floors. Stripping and waxing a single classroom or other space can sometimes take two to three days to complete, depending on the condition and size of the area. These projects require extensive preparation, multiple steps, drying time, and the use of heavy equipment.

The working conditions can also be challenging. Our buildings are not air-conditioned, and indoor temperatures can become extremely hot while custodians are performing physically demanding work. In addition, custodians frequently have to move from building to building, transporting cleaning equipment and supplies as they work around summer instructional programs, the use of our facilities by the Old Orchard Beach Recreation Department, and the summer food program. This requires the crew to continually adjust schedules, relocate equipment, and work around other activities taking place throughout the district.

Despite these challenges, I can honestly say that in the eight years I have been employed by RSU 23, this has been the most productive summer I have experienced with our custodial staff. The current custodial team has worked exceptionally well together for the majority of the summer and has maintained an impressive pace while accomplishing a tremendous amount of work. Their teamwork, dedication, flexibility, and willingness to help one another have made a significant difference in what they have been able to accomplish.

I am extremely impressed with and proud of the work this team has accomplished together. They have worked hard under challenging conditions and have taken great pride in preparing our schools for the upcoming school year. Please take the opportunity to let the custodial staff know what a great job they have done throughout our schools this summer. They have earned that acknowledgement and deserve to know that their hard work, teamwork, and commitment have been noticed and appreciated.



Quarter 4 Honor Roll!

Grade 12

Highest Honors:

Ayden Arnold, Jaelyn Ashley,
Samantha Darling, Wesley
Gallant, Olivia McInnis, Ryan
Oliver, Kiley Reynolds

High Honors:

Megan Dow, Anthony
Hutchins, Christopher Moody,
Zachary Musto, Mathew
Stevens, Hannah Webber,
Adora Whitten

Honors:

Bassam Alabdullah, Gaige
Barrett, Ella Febbi, Andy
Kilenduka Mabaya, Alanna
Parent, Ethan Pendleton, Tom
Pierko-Perry, Ransom
Randall, Christopher
Thornton, Kayla Townsend,
Nicole Tsicouleas, Gibson
Villanueva

Grade 11

Highest Honors:

Caleb Dupee

High Honors:

Liliana Albair, Ava Alivizatos,
Lea Alivizatos, Methos Barna,
Marucs Ciccariello, Chloe
Cushna-Leonard, Talan
LaChance, Mia Perez, Davio
Richards

Honors:

Brianna Crone, Aiden Hodgkins,
Rebeca Massanga, Kenson
Maynor, Elias Pumba, Alexis
Sweeey

Grade 10

Highest Honors:

Corinne Androkitis, Ian Cook,
Cadence Oliver, Shaelynn
Sanderson, Eve Tweedie, Samarra
Winn, Savannah Winn

High Honors:

Lexi Broad, Daniel Cashman,
Aidan Henderson, Brooklyn
Mansur, Lilah Morris, Jaival
Patel, Vivienne Provencher,
Khloe Wood

Honors:

Kamryn Arey, Joshua DeSouza,
Emelia Michaud, Logan Morin,
Rafael Pierko Perry, Estevan
Valdez

Grade 9

Highest Honors:

Holden LePauloue

High Honors:

Kason Cassette, Samuel
McKenzie, Eva McLean

Honors:

Lauren Bell, Bryleigh Bugaj,
Graysen Doyle, Amelia Gervais,
Reagan Partridge, Alex Pelletier,
Kevin Phan, Avery Schildroth,
Liam Thomas, Gabrielle Weeks

Welcome

New Teachers!

NEW!

- **Heather Martel-Balfour - Dean of Students, JES**
- **Sydney Beecher - Teacher, Grade 3, JES**
- **Mia Delaney - Teacher, Grade 3, LMS**
- **Whitney Geleney - Teacher, ELA/Multilingual, OOBHS**
- **Derek Gendreau - Teacher, Special Education, LMS**
- **Bryar Tipton - Teacher, Music, OOBHS**



FREE Biddleford-Saco DENTAL ASSOCIATES DENTAL DAY



Providing care for those who need it most.



SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026



DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 AM

Patients seen until capacity is reached.



WHO

Adults 18+
without dental
coverage or
access to care.



WHAT

**One free service
per person:**

- Cleaning
- Simple filling
- Extraction

*Treatment determined by
doctor based on clinical need.*



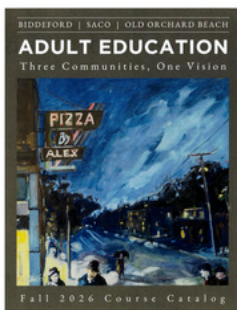
HOW

**FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVED –
LIMITED CAPACITY**

No appointments.
Walk-ins only.
Arrive early.
Expect wait times.

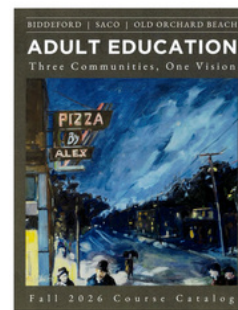


485 MAIN STREET • SACO, ME 04072



OOB/Saco Adult Education

Learning for Better Living



We have a wide range of academic, enrichment, and professional learning opportunities for adults ages 18+. Our enrichment program includes classes in creative & culinary arts, technology, dance, languages, music, personal finance, recreation, travel, wellness, and workforce training. Our free academic program includes a high school diploma program and HiSET as well as courses in college prep, English for multilingual learners, and citizenship prep. Visit our website at oobsaco.maineadulted.org for more information. Interested in teaching for our program, fill out and submit a [course proposal form](#).

School Board Meetings

Our school board meetings normally take place on the third Thursday of every month at 6 PM at OOB Town Hall. You can watch the meetings with the link below, on local access television live, or on video replay.

Link for meeting:

https://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/oob_maine

Important Upcoming Dates:

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • School Board Meeting @ Town Hall | August 20 @ 6 PM |
| • Staff Professional Development Days | August 27 & 28 |
| • Jameson Open House | August 27 @ 5:30-6:30 PM |
| • First Day of School Grades 1-9 | August 31st |
| • First Day of School Grades 10-12 | September 1st |
| • First Day of School Kindergarten | September 2nd |
| • First Day of School Pre-K | September 3rd |
| • Early Release Day | September 16th |
| • LMS Open House | September 16 @ 5 PM |
| • OOBHS Open House | September 16 @ 6 PM |

