




**Skowhegan Area Middle School  
Continuity of Learning Plan, Grades 7-8**

<p><b>Student Responsibilities</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communicate with parents and teachers.</li> <li>● Check your Zoom schedule (<a href="https://bit.ly/SAMSPage">https://bit.ly/SAMSPage</a>), email, and classroom/team site each day.</li> <li>● Complete your school work.</li> <li>● Participate in Zoom meetings if you have the internet.</li> <li>● Email or message your teachers if you have any questions or concerns.</li> <li>● Tell your parents how you feel. Not seeing your friends at school is hard!</li> <li>● Practice SAMS core values: Attitude + Behavior = Commitment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Family Responsibilities</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Set up an at-home learning routine that works for your family.</li> <li>● Access teacher communications and help your child do the same.</li> <li>● Help your child access resources when needed.</li> <li>● Support your child with school work by asking them to show you their work.</li> <li>● Contact teachers with any needs, questions, or concerns.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff Responsibilities</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share learning opportunities with families and students through bi-weekly packets and use digital platforms to continually provide support.</li> <li>● Maintain ongoing communication with students and families via Zoom and other online platforms.</li> <li>● Make phone calls to those without internet access.</li> <li>● Provide learning materials/resources and opportunities for social connections.</li> <li>● Focus on maintaining previous learning and extending skills when appropriate.</li> <li>● Monitor student engagement and provide feedback on student learning activities.</li> </ul>

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**How do I get my child's work?** SAMS teams provide packets delivered by bus every other week. Packets can be found on each team's website (<https://bit.ly/SAMSPage>) and can be delivered to you by calling the SAMS office at 207-474-3339. Students should check their school email and team website daily for updates from teachers. If you have questions about assignments, please do not hesitate to call or email your child's teacher.

**How much time should my child spend on schoolwork?** We suggest setting aside 2 to 3 hours for schoolwork per day, and we realize that time spent on schoolwork will vary from student to student. Students do not need to complete the time in one sitting. On some days, students may have more work to do than on other days. We understand the amount of time spent on school work will vary based upon each child's needs, learning opportunities, and learning style. Encourage your child to do the best he/she can with the opportunities provided. Your child's teacher can provide more guidance based upon your child's individual needs.

**Will my child have to repeat a grade?** If we do not return to school this year, students will not stay back in their current grade. Unless the school had discussed retention with you prior to the school closure, your child will move on to the next grade level for the 2020-2021 school year. Upon returning to school, teachers will assess academic levels and students will receive instruction and support to close grade level gaps.

**Will my child receive grades?** Teachers will not give traditional grades for student work completed during distance learning, but they will provide feedback about the learning opportunities students are engaged in. For example, teachers will provide feedback via Zoom, Google Classroom/Docs, or Unified Classroom. Teachers may provide comments in response to completed digital work, and some may use checklists to keep track of finished work.

**What should I do with my child's completed work?** Completed work can be submitted through online platforms such as Google Classroom or Google Docs and email. *Please check with your child's teacher for specific instructions.* There is NO penalty for students who do not return work. The learning opportunities are provided to maintain skills the teachers taught while school was in session and to provide new learning when possible. Learning opportunities will be focused on reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art, music, health, and social/emotional skills.

**What supports are in place for special education students?** The goal is for all students to be provided with distance learning opportunities in order to maintain academic skills. Students with special needs have been provided with resources specific to their current levels of performance and areas of need. Special educators and therapists have reached out to families and continue to be available via phone, email, Google Classroom, or Zoom to offer support. If you have questions regarding your child's program, you can reach out to your child's special educator at any time. Annual IEP meetings continue to be held via phone or Zoom conference. Please visit our special education learning resources site: <https://bit.ly/54special>.

**My child is anxious and withdrawn and/or acting out. How can I help my child?** This can be a scary time for middle schoolers as they adjust to new routines and practice social distancing. Teens quickly pick up on the stress of others and this can cause worries and anxiety. If you have any concerns about your child's emotional well-being, please reach out to Matt Bigelow, School Social Worker ([mbigelow@msad54.org](mailto:mbigelow@msad54.org)) or Kelly Croom, School Counselor ([kcroom@msad54.org](mailto:kcroom@msad54.org)), or checkout our website: <http://samsguidancedept.wixsite.com/samsguidancepage>. Crisis & Counseling Centers' Crisis Line is always available 24/7 for adults and children who might need emotional support. Call the Maine Crisis Line at 1-888-568-1112 or texting "HOME toHOME" to 741741 to reach a crisis worker who can provide you with free, confidential support. The Maine Department of Education also has many resources on their website: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/continuityoflearning/parent>.

**How can we access Wi-Fi if we don't have the internet?** Each school in MSAD #54 has expanded its WiFi to its parking lot so that you can access it from your vehicle. Please visit <http://www.msad54.org/wireless-building-range> from your local school to find the best area to get access.

**Our family would like to receive meals during this time. How do we do that?** All children 18 years of age and younger are eligible for free meals being delivered by district busses. Please contact the SAMS office if you are not receiving meals and would like to start. This service is not dependent upon need, and all are encouraged to participate. ***For any additional questions, please call Skowhegan Area Middle School at 207-474-3339.***