



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL

14 Goodridge Drive
Orono, Maine 04473-1494
TDD: 1-955-3323

Principal's Office 866-4916
High School Guidance 866-2319

Dear Red Riot parents, guardians, and students:

We're excited to welcome students back to Orono High School at the end of this month, and I'm happy to be writing with some initial information about our re-opening plans!

The RSU 26 School Board met this week and approved a **hybrid return** for Orono HS, which reduces the number of students in the building by 50% and allows students and staff to adapt to physical distancing and other safety guidelines. It is the in-person model that provides the greatest number of parents and students willing to return and the highest comfort level for staff.

Cohorts: There will be two cohorts of students, Cohort A and Cohort B, with roughly 50% of the student body in each cohort. Each student has been assigned a cohort by his/her last name:

- ★ Cohort A: Last names A - K
- ★ Cohort B: Last names L - Z

Schedule: Each cohort will attend school two days a week, either Mon & Tue or Thur & Fri, and will participate in remote learning the other three days. On Wednesdays, classrooms and common spaces will be cleaned in preparation for the next cohort.

Here's what a typical week will look like:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Cohort A	In-person	In-person	Remote	Remote	Remote
Cohort B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-person	In-person

Based on recent survey results, we expect 80-85% of our students to return for in-person instruction.

Block schedule change: We typically have an alternating day maroon/white block schedule; however as part of our health and safety plan, we are changing to an **alternating quarter** schedule **with first semester maroon classes meeting Quarter 1**, first semester white classes meeting Quarter 2, etc. This reduces the number of student groupings by 50%, making contact tracing easier (if necessary), and reduces the number of different students teachers are in contact with by 50%.



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Music instruction: Research studies this summer show that singing and playing wind instruments may project respiratory droplets beyond 6' and require additional precautions. Due to the elevated risk inherent in these activities, we are suspending our MUSE block for this year and will instead offer small-group and remote instruction for band, orchestra, and chorus. More information will be made available as we finalize these plans.

Half-block classes: Some science and math classes typically provide a half-block lab class combined with a half-block study hall. As part of our health and safety plan to minimize student re-groupings and travel inside the building, we have extended the length of our blocks and removed the lab classes from the schedule.

Revised bell schedule:

7:50	Warning bell
8:00 - 9:20	Block 1
9:25 - 10:45	Block 2
10:50 - 12:45 11:35 - 11:55 A Lunch 12:00 - 12:20 B Lunch 12:25 - 12:45 C Lunch	Block 3/Lunch
12:50 - 2:10	Block 4

Full remote instruction: Students who select full remote instruction will keep their same schedule of classes and will access classes remotely. More information will be provided as we get closer to the first day of school.

I know there are still many questions that parents and students have; I will mail home a letter next week that includes more information, including the health and safety precautions that will be in place.

Thank you all for your continued support, and please know that with every decision we make, the health and safety of our students and staff is the top priority.

Have a great week, and GO RIOTS!

Reg Ruhlin, Principal



NEW ENGLAND
ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS
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