

# White Mountains School Administrative Unit # 35

BETHLEHEM ♦ LAFAYETTE ♦ LANDAFF ♦ LISBON ♦ PROFILE

**Tari N. Thomas**  
Interim Superintendent  
[t.thomas@sau35.org](mailto:t.thomas@sau35.org)

**Jennifer S. Watson**  
Director of Student Services  
[j.watson@sau35.org](mailto:j.watson@sau35.org)



**Toni Butterfield**  
Business Manager  
[t.butterfield@sau35.org](mailto:t.butterfield@sau35.org)

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(603) 444-3925/3001262 Cottage Street, Suite 301 ♦ Littleton, New Hampshire ♦ 03561 FAX (603) 444-6299

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August 25, 2020

Dear SAU#35 Families and Staff,

I hope this letter finds you well, and you are able to enjoy some very important family time as we navigate through the various stages of the pandemic. We know that since the school closure in March, families have faced unprecedented challenges. As we all look forward to school reopening, we recognize and appreciate your patience and willingness to collaborate with us. We know that in order for schools to reopen safely, we will all need to work together. Our primary focus will always be the physical and emotional safety of our students and staff. The schools of SAU#35 are committed to providing a safe and nurturing school community no matter how instruction is provided to your children.

The SAU and each school's Reopening Committee, comprised of staff, parents, board members and community members, held several virtual meetings throughout the summer and utilized survey data to gather input for our reopening plans. They will continue to meet as we look at issues from district and building-specific perspectives.

Districts have worked closely with other regional schools, local health agents, and various agencies to plan for our reopening plan. We have planned for three possibilities, in-person learning (all students physically attend school using social distancing guidelines), remote learning (all learning is done remotely), and hybrid learning (a combination of remote and in-person learning) with distance learning being an option in all three models. As we plan to reopen, our teaching and learning plans will also provide choice and options for our families in a manner that balances the need to provide meaningful instruction to students with the need to protect their health and safety.

At the same time, we must also be prepared to transition to remote learning at any time should the NH Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) officials, or the Governor, by Executive Order, deem schools must be closed for any in-person learning due to the pandemic.

As we reopen school, many requirements will be implemented to safeguard against further transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Please access our Stronger Together: A Working Plan for a Responsive Return to School at <https://bit.ly/31sz8j3> . A brief overview of some of the requirements include:

- Students and staff must have temperatures taken daily.
- Schools must ensure students and staff are protected by requiring physical distancing and face masks.
- Overall increased cleaning and disinfecting in all areas with special attention to frequently touched areas throughout the school.

- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and in common areas.
- We will have reduced capacity on our buses, and students and staff will be required to wear face masks for the entire time they are on the bus.

These operational plans are subject to change as federal and state requirements and guidance change. More information will be forthcoming within the next couple weeks from your child's school. Please be sure to visit the website often for updates as well as have your contact information updated in order to receive important texts and emails.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and willingness to collaborate with us. We are in this together, and, collectively, we can do amazing things to support our children and community.

Sincerely,

*Tari N. Thomas*

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