



Our Mission:

*To awaken our students to the possibilities around them, as leaders in their own learning.
To instill a sense of wonder and personal agency that can only be achieved through the exploration of
real-world challenges and their potential solutions.
To accept students as they are, and in so doing, encourage them to discover their best selves.*

September 2, 2020
Dear King Families,

We are Crew! On behalf of the entire staff at King Middle School I am happy to welcome you to the 2020-21 school year. While the upcoming school year will be a different learning experience for our students, we are excited to welcome them back to King. After 6 months of being away from school, we know that our students will need additional support as they transition into the hybrid model of learning.

Our first priority is to ensure that our students learn the health and safety protocols and practices that will establish a safe learning environment for everyone. We will prioritize social and emotional support for our students by creating opportunities- both through our Crew structure and academic classes- for students and staff to build nurturing and enduring relationships. Additionally, we know that our students will need to be taught the skills they will need to be successful learners on their remote days. We are committed to explicitly teaching these skills and supporting our students as they manage a new way of learning.

All of our students have been placed on a team. An academic team is made up of five core teachers and about 80 students. About 40 students will attend on A days and 40 students will attend on B days. We have 6 teams at King (2 at each grade level) which are named after Maine islands, lakes and rivers.

6th Grade Moosehead Kineo	7th Grade Moxie Sebago	8th Grade Matinicus Monhegan
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In the next few days you will receive a communication indicating which team your student is assigned to.

Next week we will welcome students back for an orientation. **Students assigned to A days will come on Wednesday, September 9th. Students assigned to B days will attend on Thursday, September 10th. It will be an abbreviated day from 9:45-12:30.** This will be an opportunity for students to learn about the health and safety protocols and practices, reconnect with their Crew and their teachers, and practice going through an in-person day at King.

Prior to the orientation days, please review the following arrival information and share it with your student.

- Complete the daily symptom screener before sending your student to school and keep them home if they are sick. (More information to come from PPSD.)
- Supervision begins at 9:15AM - if your student is walking or getting a ride to school, please plan for arrival after 9:15AM.
- When students arrive at school there will be signs for each team, helping to direct them to their assigned entry point. Additionally, we will have staff positioned to greet students.
- Students need to maintain 6ft(2m) of distancing at all times.
- Students should be wearing a mask as they arrive at their entry door and we will provide masks if students arrive without one.
- When students line up at their point of entry, they need to stand on the green King logos that have been painted on the ground. These markings are there to maintain 6ft (2m) spacing between students.
- At 9:25AM we will begin to let students into the building and we ask that they travel directly to their assigned classroom. There will be staff helping with this process as students will be notified of their Crew assignment upon arrival.

Orientation Day Schedule and Priorities	
9:15AM - 9:45AM	Morning Arrival <i>(See above for arrival instructions)</i>
9:45AM-12:30PM	Prioritizing health and safety, fostering relationships and connection, and practicing a day in the life of a King student. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew • Shortened Academic Blocks • Snack/Movement Breaks
12:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismissal

We are looking forward to the start of the new school year and we are very excited for students to return to school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions at kingsecretary@portlandschools.org.

Sincerely,

Caitlin LeClair, Principal and Craig Hanson, Assistant Principal