

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

CHESTERVILLE – FARMINGTON – INDUSTRY – NEW SHARON – NEW VINEYARD – STARKS – TEMPLE – VIENNA – WELD – WILTON

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TO: RSU 9 Staff
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent
RE: Moving forward in the face of adversity.
DATE: 10-29-2023

Fortunately, for all of us the most immediate part of the terrible events of last week has now ended. I know that this is small solace when you consider the lives lost, the long road of physical and emotional recovery facing so many, and the loss of innocence we Mainers now must live with. Knowing the immediate crisis has passed, we can and must take steps to move forward for our students, our communities, and ourselves. We are and must believe that we are stronger than the negative forces which gripped us for several days. We are stronger because we continue, you continue with the caring, kindness, respect, learning, and HOPE that Mt. Blue is known for!

As you know the children of RSU 9, **our children**, look forward to and thrive on the routines, friendly faces, positive comments and interactions, meals and snacks, and safe trips to and from school each school day that each of you help provide. When not available, they assuredly miss the warmth and safety of what RSU 9 staff members and schools give to them each and every day! Let's also make clear that we in turn miss many of the same things from them! One of the beautiful parts of working in our public schools is that positivity, respect, caring, and kindness go both ways. It is one of the great gifts we receive each school day!

A few points I need to highlight with you:

- Our schools are safe! Maine Schools are some of the safest places to be in our nation.
- The safety practices followed by RSU 9 are considered top notch, so please follow them.
- Structures and routines are best for students and staff and that is why we will return tomorrow with a regular school day. Thanks for returning to them with the patience and caring that the staff of RSU 9 is known for!
- Age-appropriate expectations for future safety drill practice will be what is best for students. No drills will be held this week and will be limited for the next several weeks.
- Students are naturally inquisitive and so we must expect to have to answer questions about this event. MDOE has posted some guidance on how to have the tough [discussions about gun violence](#). Some of these resources have been shared with you and we will continue to develop and share these resources with you.
- **Do what you have done previously when facing difficult conversations as your experience in respecting student questions and comments will support you along with our students tomorrow!**
- Look out for your fellow staff neighbor as they will be looking out for you!
- Take care of yourself and PLEASE reach out if in need for yourself or others!

We are fortunate to have each one of you supporting our students and each other in RSU 9! Thanks for all you do!