

# MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all.

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TO: RSU 9 Parents & Guardians  
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent  
RE: A few FYIs and Gratitude!  
DATE: 11-22-2023

**A thought for the Week:** *“It’s a funny thing about life, once you begin to take note of the things you are grateful for, you begin to lose sight of the things that you lack.” - Germany Kent*

## FYIs:

- **A few of you may** - Have received a note about the data breach at the state level, which we previously warned you about. I want to reiterate that *student data* at the *Maine Department of Education* was not part of the data breach. However, other state government agencies were also affected by the breach and if those agencies had data that related to minors and if your children's information was part of that data then that resulted in your receiving a notice from the state.
- **The health and well-being** - Of our students and families is so important to RSU 9 and we are constantly on the lookout for resources to support you. Please know you can share concerns and/or needs with our counselors and social workers confidentially, and we will do our best to help you find needed resources. Asking is part of looking for the HOPE available in Franklin County.
- **The Festival of Trees** - Will be happening on Saturday, Dec 2nd.
- **Fraud, Waste, & Abuse** - We are sharing this [notification](#) related to COVID funds received by school districts and state governments and ask that if you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse related to the use of these funds, that you contact officials as noted. Thanks!

## As we move into the 2023 Thanksgiving Break, let me share what I am grateful for as your superintendent:

- I get to work with and for the students, staff, and families of RSU 9.
  - The Bjorn Project at Mt. Blue Middle School is on schedule and on budget.
  - Your assistance in helping to improve student attendance at each of our schools! After the [first 37 student days](#) of our school year our overall daily attendance average has increased from 92.52% to 94.14%! This is an increase in over 1,300 extra days of school attended by our students this school year as compared to last year! A 22% decrease in the number of days missed! Our Chronic Absenteeism Rate for students has also improved with a reduction in students considered chronically absent (10% of total school days) has gone from 620 students last year to 433 students this year. A 30% reduction in the number of students considered chronically absent. *Every*
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*day one of our students attends gives them another opportunity to take advantage of the many opportunities afforded to them in RSU 9! Thanks for working with us!*

- The multiple smiles, waves, and hellos I receive from students on my visits to our schools. Each of these interactions gives me HOPE for our future! The strong teacher-to-student and student-to-student interactions that I witness and that happen everyday support learning and create a positive school experience in our schools!
- We have wonderful kids with tremendous potential and we have much to be proud of in RSU 9!
- A caring and kind staff who put students first!
- The RSU 9 School Board which I have had the privilege to work for, and with, these last two and a half years.
- I live in the “Great” State of Maine.
- My family continues to be as healthy and happy as possible.
- And finally, for the community support we received throughout RSU 9 for the purchase of the Holman Mission House to be used to relocate RSU 9 District Offices. This purchase allows us to return space in our school buildings to student use, enhances providing special education services, and increases district security. We appreciate the support we received in each of the communities that comprise the RSU 9 school district. **Thank you!**

### **Holman House Voting Results**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Chesterville	<b>266</b>	<b>166</b>
Farmington	<b>1366</b>	<b>562</b>
Industry	<b>198</b>	<b>105</b>
New Sharon	<b>325</b>	<b>196</b>
New Vineyard	<b>130</b>	<b>104</b>
Starks	<b>128</b>	<b>63</b>
Temple	<b>119</b>	<b>62</b>
Vienna	<b>184</b>	<b>48</b>
Weld	<b>150</b>	<b>68</b>
Wilton	<b>758</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3624</b>	<b>1780</b>

67%                      33%

*Please find time for you, your family, and friends over the coming break! And please know we don't take the importance of your role in your children being successful lightly. We very much appreciate your working with us!*

*“When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.” — G.K. Chesterton*