

# MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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TO: RSU 9 Parents & Guardians  
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent  
RE: 4-14-2023 Four FYIs!  
DATE: 4-13-2023

## Safety Drill Addition “Hold in Place”

As we reviewed the kinds of drills we practice preparing for emergency situations, we noticed that we only have one drill to keep everyone in one place -- the lockdown drill. A lockdown is to be used for only the most serious of situations and is not appropriate when we simply need to temporarily keep staff and students out of the hallways. **We therefore are implementing a new drill called “Hold in Place”,** which will be used when there is:

- A medical emergency in the building for a student or staff member
- A mechanical issue, such as a burst pipe
- A large spill
- A student is in crisis who needs extra support.

A “Hold in Place” allows for staff, administrators, or outside services to attend to whatever the issue is without interference or delay and, when necessary, helps protect the privacy of the individual involved. Please don’t be alarmed when you hear about future “Hold in Place” drills in our schools. Thank you!

## Gunowners Please Make Sure

In Maine we have a strong tradition of hunting and responsible gun ownership. Across the country over the last few months, we have unfortunately seen some very disturbing instances of young people getting their hands on guns with tragic results because weapons in their households were not stored properly. None of us wants something similar to happen to any of us. Gun owners have a very important responsibility when it comes to gun safety. Gun owners in my family either have a gun safe or use gun locks to keep their guns secure. The National Shooters Sports Foundation has a saying “Own it? Respect it. Secure it.” I ask that all gun owners please revisit your safety plans. If you need more information, organizations such as the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine provide support and training in proper gun ownership and gun safety.

Thanks in advance to all gun owners for helping to keep RSU 9 Schools, our communities, and the State of Maine as safe as possible from gun accidents!

## RSU 9 Water Testing Updates

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Over the last six weeks two sets of water testing results have been shared with us. Both sets of results are very encouraging.

- PFAS results for Cape Cod Hill School  
Our initial test result was 8.4 parts per trillion(ppt) which we felt was still too high. Maine's present limit is 20ppt. Our retest showed results of 2.61 ppt. We think these excellent results will put us below Maine's future limit which could be as low as 4ppt.
- Lead in RSU 9 Schools  
Thirty-seven of our faucets needed retesting because of last summer's results. Working with our water consultant we decided to first replace each of these 37 faucets and then retest because of the likelihood that the lead came from the faucets themselves. I am happy to say that 31 of the faucets passed with great results. The six faucets that did not pass (5 at CBS, 1 at AHS) will continue to be closed. We will now be replacing the water lines from each of these faucets to the source and will then test again. PROGRESS!

(Testing results can be found on the RSU 9 Web page under "Quick Links" School Lead Sampling.)

### **RSU 9 School Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Offerings**

We follow US Dept of Agriculture guidelines for the purchase and preparation of items served through the school breakfast and lunch programs. We use local products and produce when possible and are presently looking at ways to expand this practice.

We strive to provide the healthiest food and beverages we can.

- We use whole grain products that have less sugar and fat and are better for our students than many white bread options. For example, our whole grain donuts have 5 grams of sugar and the whole grain Strudel Sticks have 9 grams of sugar as opposed to 16 grams which you would get in donuts at Dunkin Donuts.
- Our fruit juice options have zero added sugar.
- We offer fat free chocolate milk because many of our students, especially our younger ones, won't drink white milk. While it does have 11 grams of sugar, our students get important nourishment they wouldn't get if they didn't drink any milk at all.

The RSU 9 School Nutrition Program is constantly looking for ways to make what we offer our students even better than it is today. We understand that from time-to-time our parents will have questions about some of the products we use.

These questions should be directed to our Director of School Nutrition, Mr. Andy Hutchins, at [ahutchins@mtbluersd.org](mailto:ahutchins@mtbluersd.org). Please be aware that because Mr. Hutchins is constantly filling in where needed around our district, it may take a few days for him to get back to you but be assured that when time is available Mr. Hutchins will be more than happy to respond and answer parent questions.

At this very moment Maine is being looked at as a model around our country for doing what is right, offering free breakfast and lunch to all students, so no child goes without. Please thank your state senator or representative for their continued support of this state-wide program!