

RSU 9 District Newsletter



SAFETY FIRST

Did you know that school bus travel is the safest mode of transportation in the United States? In speaking with our insurance company, they shared with me that overall, RSU 9 Bus Transportation is one of the better Transportation Systems they insure. However, we know we are not perfect and that mistakes happen. Please know that when a mistake or an accident happens, we immediately look to diagnose what caused the problems that resulted in the accident and work immediately with the driver involved to try and make sure that we do not repeat our mistake.

Distracted driving is a factor in most vehicle crashes. Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that distracted driving is a factor in 80% of the crashes within the US. I am sharing this data with you because it's an area of concern in RSU 9 and we need student and family assistance. We are seeing an increase in the number of students not following RSU 9 Transportation Safety expectations which increases distractions. This needs to change immediately! We believe that one way to reduce distractions on our buses is by students, families, drivers, and schools working as a TEAM, sharing the same message. That message needs to be: "All RSU 9 students must follow our district's transportation expectations so that all students can arrive at school and return home safely each and every day." We need you to please also emphasize to your child(ren) the importance of adhering to district expectations JICC. Most specifically: Since a bus is an extension of our classrooms, the Board shall require children to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.

Once your child boards an RSU 9 bus, we assume responsibility for their safety until they are dropped off at their designated stop. This means that our conduct expectations are to be followed. To reduce distractions, we need to also rely on your support to instill in your child(ren) their need to follow our safety expectations. Please remind your child(ren) to:

- Follow the bus driver's instructions promptly and respectfully.
- Be kind and courteous to your fellow passengers and your driver.
- Always remain seated and face forward to take advantage of the built-in safety supports on your bus.
- Keep noise levels low to avoid noise distractions.
- Keep your hands off other students.

As we move forward, we will increase bus safety by following these and other transportation expectations which will reduce distractions along with the chance of serious accidents/injuries occurring on our buses. Over the coming weeks we will be working with students, staff, and you to this end. Unfortunately, it needs to be noted that not following RSU 9 Bus expectations will lead to disciplinary action, including suspension of bus riding privileges. We appreciate your future partnership in helping to maintain a safe and orderly bus environment for all RSU 9 students.

THANK YOU!

**A Message from the
Superintendent**

~ Christian M. Elkington



November 15, 2024

Staff Recognition

Staff Members of the Month

July:

Mark Gibson - Computer Technician, MBHS

August:

Bonnita Oliver - Lead Custodian/Driver, CCHS

Katie Joseph - Social Studies Teacher, MBHS

September:

Dillion Baker - Communication Support Specialist, Adult Ed.

Kimberly Allen - Special Education Teacher, MBHS



Our staff's hard work and commitment to our students and schools is invaluable!



Job Openings!



RSU 9

Facebook Page

Promotional Flyers for Non RSU 9 Events



RSU 9 Website

Volunteer Information

School Board of Directors Meeting

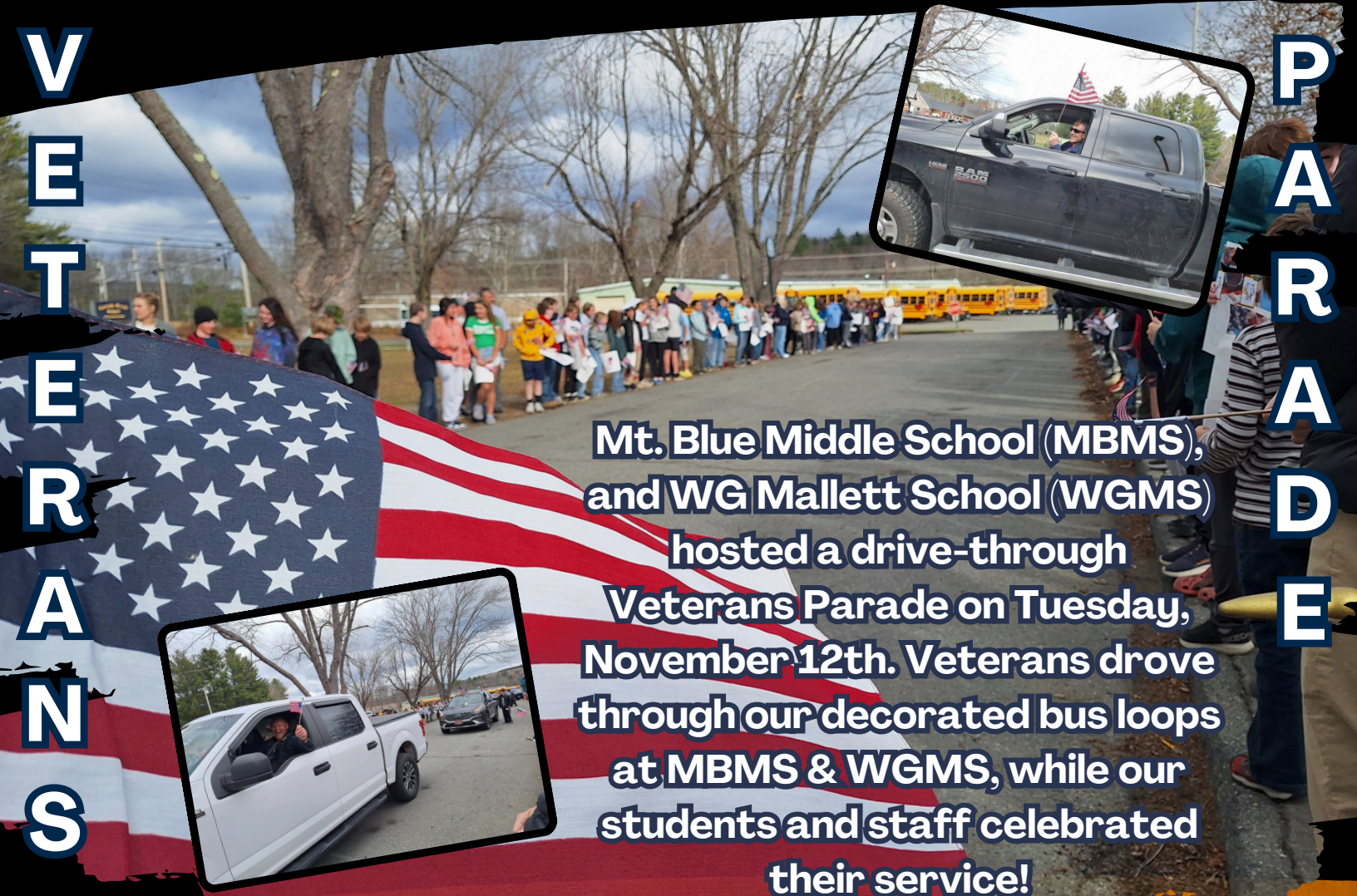
Tues., 12/10/24
6:30pm | MBC Forum

There's LOTS of fun events happening in our 10 towns! Be sure to frequently check the [Promotional Flyers for Non RSU 9 Events page](#) on our district website!



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Mt. Blue Middle School (MBMS),
and WG Mallett School (WGMS)
hosted a drive-through
Veterans Parade on Tuesday,
November 12th. Veterans drove
through our decorated bus loops
at MBMS & WGMS, while our
students and staff celebrated
their service!



Halloween Fun Run!



Cascade



Brook



School