



DECEMBER 29, 2023

# RSU 9 DISTRICT NEWS



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

*Christian Elkington*

First and foremost, Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU 9) continues to send positive thoughts to all within our communities affected by the terrible flooding last week. We know that events such as this hit many, if not all, aspects of peoples' home and work lives, creating difficulties in taking care of basic needs and adding a layer of worrying about family members and friends. We know that there may be far reaching effects for the weeks and months ahead and will support all through caring and understanding.

To try and help in the immediate aftermath of the storm, we opened Mt. Blue Campus (MBC) to anyone in need and had approximately 30 families use MBC as a shelter over the three days we were open to get a hot shower, enjoy a meal or two, feel some warmth or sleep. If you or someone you know continues to need help in dealing with the effects of this storm please contact your school's principal, social worker, or counselor to see if we can help. Only through all of us continuing to pull together will we be able to come out better on the other side of this terrible disaster.

On a happier note, I am pleased to share that the efforts of RSU 9 students, families, and staff continue to support improved student attendance this school year. In the seven weeks before the student break, RSU 9 students attended over 5,000 more school days than they did in the previous year during the same timeframe and reduced our absentee rate from 11.41% to 6.37%. An improvement of 44%! Our number of chronically absent students also reduced by 59% from 1,159 to 472. Wow!

Our improved numbers are a result of everyone's efforts to work together to make sure our students take advantage of the time, resources, and people they have available to them at our schools. Thanks go to everyone for their positive support in helping our students be at school! Through the generosity of the communities of Mt. Blue Regional School District and the State of Maine, we have much to offer our students and are excited that our students are taking more advantage of it!

Finally, I want to send my best wishes to each of you for a healthy, happy, and peaceful New Year!

## Post Pandemic: American Students Succeed!

Data from the Program for International Student Assessment suggests that American students improved their standing among their international peers in math, reading, and science during the years of the pandemic. This is a double positive as the US has a much more diverse student body than most countries. We also test all of our students and many countries do not! Read more here:

[American Students Outperformed Much of the World During the Pandemic](#)

## Downloadable Calendars

[2023/2024 District School Calendar](#)

[2023/2024 Blue Gold Calendar](#)

## Every Day in School Matters!

[Excusable Absences](#)

## RSU 9 is hiring!

Have you ever considered  
working for RSU 9?

Click [here](#) for a complete list of  
job openings, information about  
each position, and to apply.

## What Else is Happening?

[Committee Meetings, 1/2/24](#)

[School Board Meeting, 1/9/2024](#)

[District Calendar of Events](#)

[Promotional Flyers for Non-  
School Events](#)

[Information for Advertising  
Community Events](#)

## Interested in Volunteering?

Check out the [Volunteer  
Page](#) on our website, for  
more information!

Fill out a [Volunteer  
Registration Form](#)





## FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the generous donations of Mallet School students & families, who made their annual trek to the community center before the holiday break, the Mt. Blue HS food pantry is restocked! Extra food is set aside in anticipation of sending it home with students as they return from vacation. MBHS has plenty of food available to share with students and their families.

## FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA) MT. BLUE CAMPUS (MBC) CHRISTMAS



**Thanks** to everyone who donated to this year's Christmas family! FBLA supported a very large, extended family and so all the extra support they received from students and staff at MBC was a huge help! Future Business Leaders of America wrapped all of the gifts the day of the storm. The Franklin County Children's Task Force picked up all of the gifts and delivered them to the family.

## AHS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN WINTER GAMES!

Academy Hill School is one of 16 schools from across Maine to be selected to participate in the Competitive Track of the WinterKids 2024 Winter Games!

This free program will run January 8 through February 2 and will be supported by both AHS Staff and the Wilton Parent Teacher Forum.

The entire school (students and staff!) will participate in daily, curriculum-aligned activities focused on outdoor physical activity, nutrition, family engagement, and FUN! We'll be tracking our participation each day for four weeks and competing with the other Maine schools as we get our AHS students excited about being outdoors and staying healthy and active during winter. Principal Keith Acedo and AHS teachers Kiana Thompson, Jamie Leo, and Nancy Ellis will be serving champions/cheerleaders for this effort.

Information about Winter Games can be found here:

<https://winterkids.org/winter-games/>

## Staff Recognition

### Staff Persons of the Month - November 2023

#### Support Staff:

Laurie Hastings  
Secretary  
WG Mallet School

#### Professional Staff:

Jessica Gilbert  
Special Ed. Teacher  
Mt. Blue Middle School

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## More RSU 9 News

Are you looking for  
additional district news?

Follow this link to the [News Page](#) on our district website

## Stay Connected!

Join or follow these sites and help us celebrate students and staff and stay informed of our district and local education news.



<https://www.facebook.com/MBRSD>



<http://www.mtbluersd.org/>

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### LATE ARRIVAL WEDNESDAY

#### Holiday Break

December 22, 2023 - January 1,  
2024

### Late Arrival Wednesday (LAW)

January 3, 2024

January 10, 2024

January 17, 2024

### NO SCHOOL

January 15, 2024 - Holiday