



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

*Christian M. Elkington*

Unfortunately, we live in a time when there is a high level of negative messaging being delivered about life in general, and at times specifically directed toward Public Education. This may be expected given the difficult times we are going through in our country and across the globe. I find myself wondering if today's difficulties are worse than when I was younger or do they just seem so because they get amplified by the media and technology of today? It can be hard to believe that there is anything good happening in our world, country, or district.

I am happy to say that in my visits to schools and connections with students, staff, parents, and community members within our differing communities that there is a strong level of respect and trust for the efforts being made in RSU 9. That there is an appreciation for the positive efforts being made by many within our district. Sure, there is disagreement from time-to-time but that does not mean disrespect. I appreciate that many of the people within RSU 9 can see that not agreeing with someone does not mean the other person is the enemy or does not care. That we are all making efforts to best support RSU 9 student needs.

One of the best examples of many, is the year-long cooperation being demonstrated and being made with our work on improved student attendance. Our students can't take advantage of the instruction and learning taking place in our schools and classrooms if they are not present. Thanks go to everyone for your focus on helping our students be present to take advantage of what RSU 9 has to offer!

Here's hoping that our students, families, and staff have an enjoyable February Break!



## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

February 16, 2024



**MARCH 15TH NOW  
A STUDENT DAY!!!  
(EARLY RELEASE)**



Friday, March 15, 2024 is now a **student day**, **NOT** a full Staff Workshop Day.

It will be an early release day for students, with PD time for staff the remainder of the day.

**Students in grades 6-12 will be dismissed at 12:30**

**Students in grades PreK - 5 will be dismissed at 1:30**

### CONGRATULATIONS GO TO:



**MBHS Wrestling Team**  
3rd Place  
Class A State Wrestling  
Championships



**Troy Norton**

Class A North



Boys Varsity Basketball  
Coach of the Year





## CONGRATS TO THE BARR TEAM AT ACADEMY HILL SCHOOL!!

AHS was one of 5 schools in Maine selected to present at the [BARR Center National Conference](#) in April!

Representing AHS/RSU 9 are:  
BARR Coordinator/Social Worker, Sofie Mattens,  
& 4th Grade teacher, Gracie Vaughn

The topic they will be presenting is how Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) and Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) work together, focusing on the strengths both models provide.

**LINKS:**

- [Employment Opportunities](#)
- [Volunteering in our Schools](#)
- [Promotional Flyers for Non-RSU 9 Sponsored Events](#)
- [District Calendars](#)
- [Excusable Absences](#)

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### No School

February Vacation  
2/19/24 - 2/23/24

#### Late Arrival Wednesday (LAW)

Wednesday, 02/28/24

#### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, 02/27/24



[Click Here to Visit our District Website](#)



[Click Here to Visit our District Facebook Page](#)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Staff Members of the Month - December 2023

Reilly Romanoski - Science Teacher - MBMS  
Bev Vollrath - Finance Manager - FTC

### Staff Members of the Month - January 2024

Nathan Reeves - Maintenance - Skilled Crafts  
Nicole Lesperance - Technology Integrator - District

## FOSTER CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER (FCTEC) WINS BIG!!

Three of our students from FCTEC took home 1st, 2nd & 3rd place at the 2023 Fall Qualifier Microsoft Office Specialist Maine State Championship, in the Powerpoint category!!

- 1st Place - Autumn Hensley of Farmington
- 2nd Place - Aspen Mitchell of Carrabassett Valley
- 3rd Place - Trenton Beaudoin of Industry

[Click here to read the full article in the Franklin Journal](#)

## COLIN WOHRLE-LOGAN QUALIFIES TO COMPETE IN TWO NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENTS

The National Catholic Forensic League's Grand National Tournament is held annually on Memorial Day Weekend. Colin is one of four Maine high school students who qualified for NCFL's tournament at Bangor High School this year. (The NCFL is non-denominational, and Maine public high schools have sent debaters to compete at the League's tournaments for many years.). The National Speech and Debate Tournament is hosted by the National Speech and Debate Association. This year, the tournament takes place in Des Moines, Iowa, from June 16 to June 21. Colin is one of two Maine high school students who qualified for this competition.