



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Christian M. Elkington

We can only do it with YOU!

As our school year moves forward towards spring, RSU 9 staff continues to have discussions with parents about the importance of regular student attendance. As I have shared several times, regular school attendance is known to be a major contributor to student success in and out of school. Student absenteeism is a focus of educators all over our country. Also proven is the need for families and school personnel to work together to improve and maintain consistent student attendance.

Having children and being a parent is hard at all stages of our children's lives. From experience I know that sometimes we may need help from others in figuring out what to do. More ideas, experiences, and just conversation can help us make more informed decisions and plans to support our kids. The need for support or collaboration also applies to promoting school attendance for our students.

Calls and conversations from school staff about attendance concerns are meant to try and see if we can help our parents with their child's attendance needs. However, it's become clear that some parents are taking contacts from school staff as attempts to place blame on them for doing something wrong or not doing enough. This could NOT be farther from the truth! Please know we are not blaming. We want to foster cooperation between home and school so that we show a united front and work together on behalf of each one of our children!

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

March 29, 2024

INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR THE APRIL 8TH SOLAR ECLIPSE

Monday, April 8th will be an Early Release Day. Grades 6-12 students will be dismissed at 11:30 AM, followed by Grades PreK – 5 students being dismissed at 12:30 PM.

Like us, many districts in the area and across the state share concerns about students being on buses during the time of the eclipse, and bus drivers being able to manage both student excitement and ensuring safety.

Franklin County Emergency Management Officials, along with local PD, Fire, Ambulance, and Franklin Memorial Hospital staff are also worried about the potential for added problems that may be caused by an expected increase in traffic this day, especially between the hours of 2 to 4 pm. No one knows for sure what traffic will be like because of visitors, and how that could impact our afternoon transportation.

We understand the inconvenience this may cause for many families but, unfortunately do not see practical alternatives which would prioritize the health and safety of our students above all.

Thank you for your understanding.

RSU 9 has purchased ALL students protective glasses to wear during the event, which will be distributed along with a handout of [helpful information and resources.](#)



MT. BLUE HIGH SCHOOL'S FIDDLERS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE MAINE STATE HOUSE!

FOSTER TECH INDUCTS 2024 NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS



Foster CTE Center proudly inducted 31 new members into the National Technical Honor Society on Tuesday night. The National Technical Honor Society is an educational organization that honors, recognizes, and empowers students and teachers in Career & Technical Education.

The talented Franklin County Fiddlers, Mt. Blue High School's renowned fiddle band led by Steve Muise, recently took their music to a prestigious venue – the Maine State House!

This honor included a performance in the Hall of Flags, sharing the stage with other outstanding vocal groups. The Fiddlers' high-energy style undoubtedly captivated the audience.

Their dedication to music extends beyond the stage. The group also brought their talents to the Maine Veterans Home on Hero's Way, performing a special "Armed Forces Tribute" that included each branch's song. The veterans and guests were treated to a heartwarming musical experience.

These impressive performances, coupled with their exemplary behavior as noted by Mr. Muise, are a source of immense pride for Mt. Blue High School and RSU 9!



IMPORTANT DATES

Late Arrival Wednesday (LAW)
 Wednesday, 4/3/24
 Wednesday, 4/10/24

Early Release/Solar Eclipse
 Monday, 4/8/2024

Committee Meetings
 Tuesday, 4/2/24
 Operations - 5:00pm
 Personnel & Finance - 6:00pm
 Ed. Policy - 7:00pm

School Board Meeting
 Tuesday, 4/9/24

BUDGET TIMELINE FY 25

LINKS:

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



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