



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We are most appreciative of all the efforts that are being made to increase student attendance in RSU 9 Schools. Thanks for working with us!

We made it through the holidays and now are dealing with winter weather and the toll it can sometimes take on school attendance. With many students spending more time inside because of snow and rain, illnesses will spread more quickly resulting in the increases we are already seeing in colds, the flu etc., including Covid-19. As mentioned more than once by us, breaking the daily attendance routine can reduce a student's connection and engagement in their learning and in our schools. To help us continue to focus on proven strategies for improved attendance, it seems like a good time to send a reminder of the steps shared previously to consider in helping keep your children and our students healthier and continue to be in school this winter.

Please don't forget:

- To develop back up plans for getting your children to school. Check who can give your children a ride if you can't take them. If your child doesn't ordinarily take the bus, you have the option to contact the RSU 9 Bus Garage to arrange for transportation if needed.
- If your children get sick or you are concerned about Covid or the flu, please talk to your child's medical provider or one of our school nurses for advice.
- That stomach pain and headaches can be signs of anxiety and may not be reasons for keeping your child home. If you feel that anxiety or stress is playing a role, please, please talk to your child's teacher, principal, the school nurse/counselor, or your medical provider about how best to support your child.



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

January 19, 2024

- To encourage children to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the restroom.
- To avoid sharing cups and utensils with other individuals at home or school.
- To dress your children for the cold weather so they can go outside and enjoy the fresh air. If you need help with winter clothing, please contact your school for assistance. Each of our schools has resources to help families and will share information with you about who to contact for assistance. We promise to keep it confidential!
- To encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking fluids and getting exercise.

The staff of RSU 9 is here to help each student and each family but we can't work with you unless we have a dialogue with you. If we notice something of concern and a teacher, counselor, nurse, or the principal reach out please don't take that as questioning you or your parenting. Our responsibility is to each of the children in RSU 9 schools and it is our duty to help if we can. Thanks again for your continued support!

LINKS:

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Volunteering in our Schools](#)

[Promotional Flyers for Non-RSU 9](#)

[Sponsored Events](#)

[District Calendars](#)

[Excusable Absences](#)



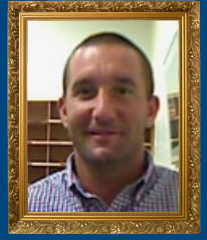
WELCOME STUDENT TEACHERS!

In our area partnerships with the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) and Thomas College, RSU 9 has welcomed 18 student teachers! These individuals will be afforded excellent opportunities to learn and grow as beginning professionals, under the guidance of our outstanding and experienced teachers as mentors. Below are our 2024 mentees:

Rhiannon Alley
Bryn Bernier
Kayla Bond
August Corbett
Isaiah Day
Shane Edwards
Genevieve Feeney
Samuel Grant
Sydney Huntington-Strohm
Tyler Hutchinson
Cassandra Libby
Paige Luszczuk
D'Nell McDonald
Keegan Meredith
Aubrey Merritt
Madison Nadeau
Kate Nowell
Madelyn White
Dongmei Yuan



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Jake Turner, social worker at Mt. Blue High School! On Thursday, January 4th, Jake passed the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical Exam, meeting the State of Maine's full licensure requirements for LCSW!!



On December 5th, staff member Jeff Bivens earned his Class B, CDL License, and passed the skills test to receive his school bus endorsement. Congratulations!



A big shout out to Mike Broadway for leading by example everyday, and for his recent efforts jumping in to help our mechanics at the Bus Garage, filling in while our district was in need!



IT'S MOVING DAY!!

The RSU 9 District Office is ready to move to our new location at 227 Main St., in Farmington! We will be spending this afternoon and the first few days of next week making the physical move, and hope to be fully settled by mid-February. We ask that over the next couple of weeks, our staff, families & community members have patience as we navigate this transition. Non-emergent correspondence may be slightly delayed, but we will get back to everyone as timely as possible. Thank you in advance!!



IMPORTANT DATES

Late Arrival Wednesday (LAW)

Wednesday, 01/24/24

Wednesday, 01/31/24

Early Release

Friday, 01/26/24 - PK to 5 Only

End of Q2/S1

Friday, 01/26/24

Committee Meetings

Tuesday, 02/06/24

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, 01/23/24



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