

# RSU 9 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

*Thursday, April 3, 2025*

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CHRISTIAN M. ELKINGTON

It's been a busy winter in RSU 9, filled with a wide array of activities and achievements with our students! We have enjoyed captivating music and drama performances that showcased the immense talent within our schools. Our robotics teams and other clubs have been actively engaged in enriching and educational experiences demonstrating student skill and expertise. And all of our winter sports teams worked hard with some achieving athletic championships and sportsmanship recognition! We are proud of each and every student who chose to represent Mt. Blue with their commitment and dedication! Special thanks go to our coaches, advisors, and volunteers for supporting these student opportunities!

We experienced a relatively mild winter with minimal snow days, but unfortunately we have seen Mother Nature play tricks with us the last three weeks. Let's all hope that spring will arrive next week!

RSU 9 recently held a referendum vote regarding the Maine Connectivity Authority Grant to purchase the Ingalls School for a potential new location for a family and student centered support hub while also looking at ways to increase CTE programming at Mt. Blue Campus. While the referendum did not pass, we want to acknowledge the many efforts put forth by everyone involved and thank those who voted for taking part in the democratic process. Please know we will continue to explore avenues to build better student and family supports in our region.

Behind the scenes, our budget committee and administrators have been working on the FY 26 budget for several months. This past Tuesday evening, we held a community forum to present the proposed budget to our community to receive valuable feedback. We appreciate and thank those who came or watched on Mt. Blue TV.

This coming Tuesday Evening, April 8th, the School Board will vote on whether to adopt the proposed budget to send it to the voters. We understand and appreciate that there are many needs within our communities and for our families and are pleased to report that the proposed budget reflects a small overall increase of 0.54%, with a 1.24% average increase to our towns. Our fiscal responsibility is crucial as we navigate the multiple needs of our students with the reality of funding questions being discussed in each of our towns, Augusta, and in DC. We have worked hard to minimize any impacts on student learning and services while identifying necessary reductions in the budget.

Please watch for the FY26 budget flyer in your mailbox this May. We encourage your participation in the Annual Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 27th, 7:00 PM at the Bjorn Auditorium on the Mt. Blue Campus. The referendum vote will take place in each town on Tuesday, June 10th. Please check with your town for specific polling hours. We will also publish them during May.

Thank you for your continued support of the students and staff in RSU 9, we appreciate your positive partnership in our shared efforts. As our Mission says: We are "working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all."



## ROCK IT OUT WITH SLEEPING BEAUTY!

Academy Hill & G.D. Cushing students star in a rock n' roll musical! Saturday, 4/5 at 1:00 PM in the AHS gym. Support our young stars in this fun, family-friendly show! Presented by Missoula Children's Theatre, with thanks to Gracie Vaughan & the Wilton PTF. Don't miss it!





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Mr. Minear's Gold Day students decided to surprise him with a unique April Fool's Day treat. Unbeknownst to him, they arrived around 6:30 in the morning and prepared a full and fantastic breakfast. The spread included quiche, pancakes, fresh fruit, garlic and onion seasoned hash browns, Bakewell biscuits with sausage gravy, fresh-from-the-oven cinnamon rolls, and doughnuts. Mr. Minear is retiring after 3 decades of service!!



## CLIMATE WORKSHOP

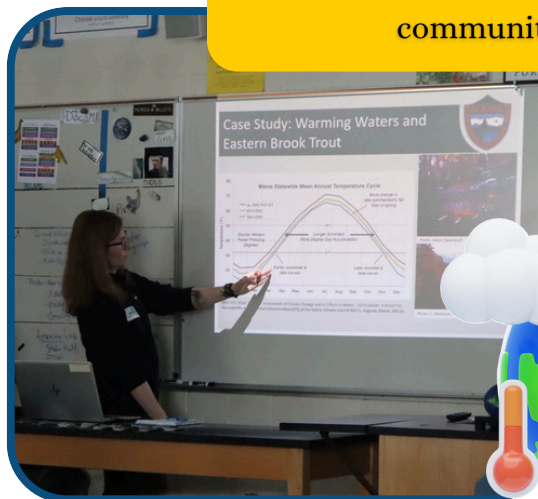
Mt. Blue's annual freshman workshop educates students on how Maine's climate changes can impact our state while sharing possible solutions.

Experts from multiple fields—forestry, wildlife, business, academia, and government—presented data. The event emphasizes local relevance and fostered collaboration, with plans for future expanded fieldwork and partnerships in our communities.

## 2024/25 RSU 9 & UMF New Teacher Academy Mentoring Program



*A collaborative spirit and willingness to learn made for another successful mentoring experience for our newest teachers.*



## KV HONORS MUSIC FESTIVAL

In February, Mt. Blue students contributed to the success of the KV Honors Music Festival. They were involved in intensive rehearsals and performances across various ensembles, including Jr. Chorus, Sr. Chorus, Jr. Band, Sr. Band, and a combined Jr./Sr. Orchestra. The festival took place at Waterville Junior High and Waterville High School.



Wyatt McLeod, gr. 7 violin, Lindee Woodsum, gr. 8 viola, Evelyn Simons, gr. 8 violin and Danila Cundick, gr. 11, cello.





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## FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA)

### STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RESULTS

### FOR THE MT. BLUE/FCTEC CHAPTER



#### Elected to the 2025-26 Maine FBLA State Board

Mason LaBonte, State President  
Morgan Kelley, State Secretary

**1st**

Kaden Reeve  
**1st and \$2500 Thomas College  
Scholarship, Job Interview**

Kaden Reeve  
**1st Networking  
Infrastructure**

Kaden Reeve  
**2nd Banking and Financial Systems**

Lily Hanley  
Gabriella Seaberg  
Mason LaBonte (Spruce Mt)  
**2nd Business Ethics, Team Event**

Kaden Reeve  
Morgan Kelley (Mt. Abram)  
Mason LaBonte (Spruce Mt)  
**2nd Business Management, Team event**

Morgan Kelley (Mt. Abram)  
**3rd Electronic Portfolio**

Lily Hanley  
Gabriella Seaberg  
Jenna Osgood (Mt. Abram)  
**3rd Marketing**

Kaden Reeve  
**3rd Securities and Investments**

Lily Hanley  
Kaden Reeve  
Gabriella Seaberg  
**2nd and \$1500 scholarship to Thomas  
College, Entrepreneurship, Team  
event**

Kaden Reeve  
**2nd Financial Math**  
  
Mason LaBonte (Spruce Mt)  
**2nd Parliamentary Procedures**

Lily Hanley  
**2nd Spreadsheet Applications**

**New Member of the Year**  
Morgan Kelley, Mt. Abram

**Chapter Advisor of the Year**  
Regina Savage

**3rd**