



RSU 9 District News



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Christian Elkington

Many thanks go to parents, students and staff for your understanding, compassion and respect shown for each other during what has been a most difficult last seven days for all of us in Maine. Each person's kindness and heartfelt concern for our friends, family, colleagues, and community touched directly by this terrible tragedy can not be understated or underestimated. Many have been directly impacted and will be impacted for months and years ahead. We are all grieving together. Respect and gratitude go to our law enforcement, first responders, and medical field staff who have and continue to demonstrate selflessness, compassion, and bravery.

To say that our students have shown resilience, respect, and understanding in thoughtful ways upon their return to school after this tragedy, would be an understatement. Each of our schools report that, overall, students appeared to be focused on being here, being with their friends and our staff, and getting back to learning. They proved that they would not let the horrific actions of one person interfere with their moving forward while being "present and available" to others.

I want to acknowledge and thank all our staff for their efforts to process the impact of these events and prepare, last Friday and over the weekend, for the return to school this week. Everyone understands the importance of their presence and availability to our students and families. Please know that even though our counselors and social workers have regular and busy roles during regular school times, they remain ready to assist our students and staff whenever needed as we move forward.

Many people have reached out to ask how they can help. If you or your family would like to offer assistance please visit, [Healing Together: Supporting Victims and Families of the Tragedy in Lewiston | Office of Governor Janet T. Mills \(maine.gov\)](#). This site includes links to several vetted organizations that are collecting funds for the families and victims.

*If you, or someone you know is struggling, please seek help immediately. Below are some options for immediate support:

Maine Crisis Line ~ 1-888-568-1112

National Mental Health Line ~ 988

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, 11/7/2023

- Operations~5pm
- Personnel & Finance~6pm
- Educational Policy~7pm

[Holman Mission House Referendum Vote, 11/07/23](#)

School Board Meeting, 11/14/23

[District Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Information for Advertising Community Events](#)



Other possible resources include:

- [National Alliance of Mental Health Maine \(NAMI\)](#), 1-800-464-5767; press #1
- [StrengthenME Helpline](#), offers free stress management and resiliency resources to anyone in Maine experiencing stress reactions. They are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

There are also many resources available to assist you in helping your children process these events.

- [Helping Children Cope with Tragedy Related Anxiety](#), Mental Health America
- [How to Support a Child After a Tragedy](#), The Center for Grieving Children
- [Tips for Talking with Children About Violence](#), The National Association of School Psychologists
- [Resources for Schools and for Talking to Children about Gun Violence](#), Maine Department of Education
- [An Age by Age Guide to Talking to Children About Mass Shootings](#), The New York Times
- [How to Talk With Kids About Tragedies & Other Traumatic News Events](#), American Academy of Pediatrics

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **End of Quarter 1 Grading**
 - Thursday, November 9th
- **LATE ARRIVAL WEDNESDAY'S:**
 - November 8th
 - November 15th
 - November 29th
- **NO SCHOOL:**
 - Friday, November 10th - Veteran's Day Observed
 - Wednesday, November 22nd - Vacation Day
 - Thursday, November 23rd - Thanksgiving/Vacation Day
 - Friday, November 24th - Vacation Day



Interested in Volunteering?

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

Fill out a [Volunteer Registration Form](#)

More RSU 9 News

Are you looking for additional district news?

Follow this link to our [News 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/>

Staff Recognition



Staff Members of the Month September 2023

Matt Brann
School Resource Officer
District

Erin Reeve
Lead Custodian
MBMS

Click [here](#) for a list of all present and past honorees.

Staff Spotlight



Kathryn Clement, School Nurse at Mallett, passed the Nationally Certified School Nurse exam yesterday!

Let's Give a Shout Out to Our Bus Drivers & Custodians!!

We've recently had a few "all hands on deck," time-sensitive tasks in Central Office. This group of staff, led by Richard Joseph, has jumped in to save the day each time - bundling papers, carrying materials and driving all over the district's towns to make deliveries. We could not have finished these important tasks without their help!