



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all.

A Message from Superintendent Elkington

I hope this finds you enjoying another wonderful Maine Fall! In this newsletter, we will be sharing some information about our efforts to team up with families to support regular school attendance along with giving you information about an excellent opportunity we have to return space in our schools, particularly on the Mt. Blue Campus, to student programming and support, by creating a centralized space for the RSU 9 District Office at no purchase or move-in costs through local taxes.



Regular attendance – is the biggest driver for future student success and so addressing student health needs with our families is KEY! Data shows that young students missing 10% (considered chronic absenteeism) or 18 school days per year, (two days per month), even at the Prek level, usually results in lower student test scores. This is especially true if it happens year after year. If children aren't at school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills. Data from many differing studies shows that students with chronic absenteeism in grades Prek - 2nd were far less likely to read at grade level at the end of grade 3.

Health concerns, especially asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons children

miss school in their early years. This is one of the reasons why RSU 9 works w/medical professionals to give children and families health care opportunities!

Free Dental Cleanings Offered

In September, a dental hygienist and her assistant cleaned the teeth of 92 students in five days, many of whom hadn't seen a dentist in some time. In addition to the cleanings, they were able to make referrals to dentists who take MaineCare and see students in a timely manner. Many students were able to have small cavities treated w/silver diamine fluoride to prevent further decay. Equally important to the treatment success was the relationship building with students and the encouragement they received to take care of their oral health. This TEAM effort between parents, students, W.G. Mallett School staff, and the dental health professionals are an important part of working together to achieve the best outcomes possible for ALL of our students. We encourage all of our parents to be on the lookout for future opportunities like this.



Downloadable Calendars for 2023-24

[2023/2024 District School Calendar](#)

[2023/2024 Blue Gold Calendar](#)

Every Day in School Matters!

[Excusable Absences](#)

Staff Recognition

Click [here](#) for a list of all previous honorees.

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.

District Office Space - A plan to find permanent space for the RSU 9 District Office was developed in September 2021 when the School Board voted to use some of the 5 million dollars of federal COVID assistance funding to find a new centralized location for the District Office. The goal was to return space currently occupied at Mt. Blue Campus and other school buildings to student use. Much research and many site visits went into developing a final proposal being put before the voters on Tuesday, November 7th. The Holman Mission House (227 Main St) in Farmington was found to best meet the criteria for cost, location, space, and for being a long-term solution. **The use of federal funds will allow for the outright purchase and some renovations of this property without having to use or ask for local tax funding from our communities to move in.** YES THAT IS CORRECT, without having to use local tax funds! These remaining funds are from other RSU 9 District projects that qualified for funding which have either been completed or will end by August of 2024. ***It is important to note that if these funds are not used by September 2024 they must be returned to the federal government.***



In order for community members to be fully informed and to ask questions about the potential purchase prior to the **November 7th vote**, a **public hearing** will be held on **Tuesday, October 24th, 6:00 PM in the Forum** at Mt. Blue Campus. More info about this potential purchase can be found in [this memo](#). Please watch for more information in upcoming newsletters. Thanks!

Flu Season is Here!

We urge everyone to get their flu shots as soon as possible. **Call your Primary Healthcare Provider** to schedule an appointment for a Flu vaccine, or visit one of the following mobile clinics or pharmacies: [Click here](#) to view the list.

Interested in Volunteering?

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

Fill out a [Volunteer Registration Form](#)

What Else is Happening?

[District Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Information for Advertising Community Events](#)

More RSU 9 News

Are you looking for additional district news?

Follow [this link](#) to our News website.

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