RSU 9 District Newsletter

September 20, 2024



Message from the Superintendent ~ Christian M. Elkington

I am delighted to welcome you all back for the 2024/25 school year. It is a privilege to serve as your superintendent and to be a part of the ten towns which make up Mt Blue & RSU 9.

We are committed to providing a nurturing and supportive environment where our students are given opportunities to grow and prosper. Our staff is dedicated and eager to work with all of our students and families in helping each child develop both academically and personally.

As we move forward this school year we look forward to sharing updates of our district's work following our 2024-2025 theme: "Engaged Students Exhibit Their Growth." Through our district's **<u>Strategic Plan</u>**, we are committed to continuing our efforts to improve each school's learning environment so that students are more actively involved in their education and see the positive outcomes of their hard work.

Our student engagement work includes the following:

Community	 Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) prioritized Community School developmentDevelop & implement Family Engagement Coordinator position MBMS Career & Technical Education (CTE) program refinement MBC27 Committee action step progress World languages program expansion planning District Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR) expansion 	"Engaged Students Exhibit Their Growth."
Culture	 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) playbook shared Increasing "Student Engagement" through instruction 10 yr building & facility plan completed Investigate student self-regulation strategies & skills Schedule Review Study Committee begun 	
Curriculum	 Professional Development in MTSS, Artificial Intelligence (AI), data informed instruction, Literacy, iPads, & NWEA assessment expansion Literacy audit recommendations implemented English & Science Curriculum reviewed, updated, & shared Implement year 1 of 7-yr Curriculum Review Cycle 	Let's Grow Together

By increasing our focus on engaging students in their learning, we will improve each school's academic culture where each student has the opportunity to reach more of their potential. We look forward to a year of growth, discovery, and academic success!

As we embark on this new school year, I encourage each student to take advantage of all the opportunities that our schools have to offer and all our families to encourage their child's participation. Whether it's participating in extracurricular activities, joining clubs, attending extra academic support opportunities, or simply connecting with their classmates, there are countless ways for our students to make the most of their time in RSU 9.

I wish our students and their families a successful and fulfilling school year. We look forward to seeing improved student success and building stronger, more trusting relationships with our families!

Foster CTE Hires Interim Assistant Director, Welcomes Familiar Face to Serve as Interim Director



ESSA DASHBOARD

Each year, school districts are required by law to share the ESSA dashboard provided by the MDOE. It contains information about a district's performance on state assessments, attendance rates, and per pupil spending, as compares to other school districts in the state.

Pictured

Lana Swett, Interim Assistant Director Galen Dalrymple, Interim Director Chris Davis, Assistant Director



CCHS had the honor of hosting a site visit from the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) for our Community School Grant opportunity.

A panel discussion was held consisting of school staff, parents, a student representative, our community school grant trio of coordinators, Assistant Superintendent

Poulin, and members of the MDOE team. A tour of the school was conducted for the MDOE team to see first hand, all of the terrific opportunities available for our students and families. The visit ended with a debriefing between Principal Kiesman and the MDOE team to ask clarifying questions and sum up their thoughts on the visit. We received very positive feedback!

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A Year of Growth and Gratitude: Opening Day 2024

The 2024-2025 school year kicked off with a delightful breakfast hosted by our dedicated school nutrition team. The delicious spread provided a nourishing start to a day filled with anticipation and excitement.

Superintendent Elkington took the opportunity to outline the district's updated strategic plan, highlighting key areas of focus for the upcoming year. This shared vision provided staff with a clear understanding of our collective goals and action steps. The day was also marked by a celebration of our annual district employee of the year award recipients, and recognizing individuals who have dedicated 10, 25, 35, and even 51 years of service to our district. Their unwavering commitment and contributions have been invaluable to our school community. As we embark on this new academic year, we are grateful for the dedication and hard work of our staff. Their passion and expertise are essential to providing our students with the best possible education.





Made to Order Omlette Station ~ Prepared and Served by our School Nutrition Director, Andy Hutchins, and his amazing Food Service Staff!.



10 year Longevity Award Recipients



25 Year Longevity Award Recipients



35 Year Longevity Award Recipient



Go Cougars!



All Staff ~ Opening Day Assembly



Erin Reeve ~ 2024 District Employee of the Year



Kayla Walsh-Greenleaf ~ 2024 Outstanding Educator



Camille Fontaine ~ 2024 Outstanding Novice Educator

