

# MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of the Superintendent

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**Christian M. Elkington**  
Superintendent  
[celkington@mtbluersd.org](mailto:celkington@mtbluersd.org)

**Monique Poulin**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Instruction, Curriculum, & Grants  
[mpoulin@mtbluersd.org](mailto:mpoulin@mtbluersd.org)

**Alison Gamache**  
Director of Finance  
[agamache@mtbluersd.org](mailto:agamache@mtbluersd.org)

**Jody Harmon**  
Assistant Director of Finance  
[jharmon@mtbluersd.org](mailto:jharmon@mtbluersd.org)

**Erin Landry**  
Director of Human Resources  
[elandry@mtbluersd.org](mailto:elandry@mtbluersd.org)

**Kevin Bremner**  
Director of Technology  
[kbremner@mtbluersd.org](mailto:kbremner@mtbluersd.org)



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227 MAIN STREET  
FARMINGTON, ME 04938

Phone (207) 778-6571  
Fax (207) 778-4160  
[www.mtbluersd.org](http://www.mtbluersd.org)

August 20, 2024

Dear Mt. Blue Families,

Time seems to have moved faster than usual this summer and so it is my pleasure to be welcoming you to the 2024-2025 School Year. In a little over a week our students will be returning to our schools. We take our responsibilities as your Public School System very seriously and look forward to working with your children along with YOU, our families. Only by working together will we make the upcoming school year the best that it can be for each one of our young people!

As your Superintendent of Schools I am fortunate to again help lead Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU 9). I say help because it is a "TEAM" effort! One person can only do so much and only through shared goals, curriculum, communication, learning, and responsibility will our entire district improve what we do for our most important resource, our children! Over the last 3+ years RSU 9 staff have seen much to celebrate and to be proud of. We have also seen several areas for us to build and improve upon.

My #1 role as your Superintendent is to help our district improve what we do for our students and staff through thoughtful, budget conscious decision-making. Our focus and efforts are on improving what we do for our young people, our families, and our staff. Thanks to the planning of many, the time and effort of the RSU 9 School Board, along with the support of the voters of our ten towns, we passed the 2024-2025 School Budget. This budget is:

Increasing:

- Multiple professional development opportunities and training for staff
- PreK to 4-Days per week from 2-Days for district 4 year olds
- Staff support for our Kindergarten Students.

Providing resources to support staff growth and learning in critical areas:

- Literacy growth for our youngest students
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) across all RSU 9 schools
- Instructional engagement in our classrooms to help staff increase each student's learning potential
- Behavior Regulation techniques and skills in all schools for struggling students
- Building regular student attendance!

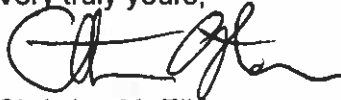
Our 2024-2025 budget is building upon our district's Strategic Plan (updated version available soon) through multiple steps. These steps combine better use of our current skills, knowledge and expertise, while at the same time looking for greater expertise. Why is this focus being guided by our strategic plan? Because this plan allows us to move forward in a clear, transparent, and understandable direction based on the feedback of many in RSU 9 - staff and community members alike - and to continue to work towards building greater Trust and HOPE within all of our communities.

We recognize that our district has areas for growth, including the need to improve academic outcomes, enhance social-emotional supports, strengthen communication with families and the community, along with prioritizing school safety. These are complex issues that require ongoing attention and effort. However, we are committed to continuing to make progress in these areas. Our dedicated staff will continue to work diligently to create a safe, positive and supportive learning environment for all of our young people.

"The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better" is a quote from the late Robert Kennedy, Senator from New York. I believe this quote shares what Public Education in RSU 9 is all about as we partner with you to help make each and every day as meaningful and supportive of our children and families' as we can!

With summer coming to an end, you will once again start to see regular communications from me, as we are about to open the new school year. Please be on the lookout for more information as the return of school brings new excitement, aspirations, and HOPE for our children's future! I very much look forward to our schools and staff working with you for the betterment of our young people in the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian M. Elkington', written over a horizontal line.

Christian M. Elkington  
Superintendent of Schools