

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

CHESTERVILLE – FARMINGTON – INDUSTRY – NEW SHARON – NEW VINEYARD – STARKS – TEMPLE – VIENNA – WELD – WILTON

129 SEAMON ROAD, SUITE 2, FARMINGTON, ME 04938

Phone (207) 778-6571 | Fax (207) 778-4160

TO: RSU 9 Parents & Guardians
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent
RE: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
DATE: 5-4-2022

May 2nd – 6th is National Teacher Appreciation Week. As I shared with our staff, I have always looked at this week as a Staff Appreciation Week as teachers and school support staff work together as a TEAM to support our students' many differing needs. In my time in RSU 9 I have found a dedicated, caring and kind group of educators who take their jobs and service in our schools very seriously. It became all the more apparent during the pandemic that educating our young people well is not easy, but our staff persevered and so I ask you to join me in showing your appreciation and admiration for their hard work and dedication to our children!

During my first school year as your superintendent, I have learned that we have so much to be thankful for. Not only have our teachers and staff successfully worked together to battle through a second full year of the pandemic, but they have also demonstrated an amazing amount of patience and positivity with our students in the face of adversity. In my multiple visits to schools each week I have seen our staff model respect and kindness while problem-solving multiple difficulties daily. They have had to change what they do and how they do it to help our students adjust and learn during this time. Showing our students how to persevere in some of the most trying times most of us have ever seen may be the most important life lessons we/they could ever hope to teach.

As safety expectations have been eased this spring, I am now seeing full-faced students focused, engaged, and enjoying their learning in our classrooms as they work together with our teachers and support staff. Because of this strength and HOPE that I see in our young people, it is important that you join our School Board and me in saying “*THANK YOU*” and in taking time to share positive words of support with all our staff.

I came to the Mt. Blue School District (RSU 9) last year in part because it is comprised of a diverse set of communities with people who have many varying interests, beliefs, hopes, and skills. My experience as your superintendent proves to me that RSU 9 is a system and a staff with a strong foundation -- a public school system that is trying to do its best to support all students regardless of who they are, what color their skin is, how much money their parents have, or what they or their families believe in. We cannot do this without all our staff, so **in honor of Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week I ask you to join me in honoring our teachers and school staff for their efforts during the most challenging of times. Thank YOU!**

Also included with this email is a proclamation from President Biden honoring America's Teachers. I urge you to read it as his words have meaning about the efforts being made in our Public Schools.

“Preach, my dear sir, a crusade against ignorance.” Thomas Jefferson