

# MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of the Superintendent

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

August 6, 2021

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*Our learning community  
creates structures that support  
students' achievement.*

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is my pleasure to be writing to you as your new Superintendent of Schools. From everything I knew about our district before I applied and everything I have learned since accepting this position in May, we have much to celebrate, be proud of and build upon in RSU 9. There have been some difficulties within RSU 9 the last few years and we've gotten some added bumps and bruises during the Pandemic, but that does not take away from the fine young people, caring staff and committed parents, guardians and communities which make up Mt. Blue. I feel fortunate to be joining you!

I have enjoyed serving in several districts as a principal and most recently as the Superintendent of Schools in School Union 76 over the last 26 years. I have always believed that my #1 role as an administrator is to help the school or district I was proud to be a part of, improve what we did for our students and staff through budget conscious decision-making. You have my word that we will focus our efforts to improve what we do for our students, you our parents/guardians and for our staff and that any suggestions for changes will be made openly and with full transparency. We will combine our skills, knowledge and expertise to move in a clear and understandable direction with you by building Trust, HOPE and working as a Team for your children!

In speaking with staff, school board members, community members and some parents over my first four weeks in Mt. Blue I have learned first-hand that there are some concerns needing attention. That the need for academic improvement, increased social-emotional learning support, frequent communication with parents and our communities, along with a focus on school safety are important. I know how important these points are for all of us from my experience as a student, teacher, parent, principal and now superintendent. And I know that I speak for each and every staff member in RSU 9 when I say we are committed to setting and achieving strong goals in all these areas.

You will start to see regular communications from me as we are now in August, close to the opening of our schools and because it will be needed with the ongoing Pandemic. Please know that our plan is for all students to have in-person learning this September by following and increasing safety expectations as needed. Please watch for more information.

I believe with all my heart that "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better." For me this quote from Robert Kennedy is the promise of what Public Education in the United States tries to fulfill day in and day out. I also know that as a staff member in RSU 9, we are fortunate to work in our public schools, get to assist young people in making this happen each and every day.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Elkington', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christian M. Elkington  
Superintendent of Schools