

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

251 N. DEER ISLE ROAD, UNIT 1, DEER ISLE, ME 04627

Office of the Superintendent

Telephone (207) 348-9100

Fax (207) 348-9103

“It takes a whole community to educate a child.”

Superintendent’s Memo

To: Brooklin School Parents & Guardians

From: Christian M. Elkington

Re: First Month Update!

Date: 10-9-17

Hopefully, this note finds you, your children and family well. It amazes me how the first full month of our school year feels like it flew by. September is now just a blur as we are already at Columbus Day! Part of this is because of the business at the beginning of the school year, but part of it I believe is also because of the very positive transition we have had at the Brooklin School. Thanks goes to our parents/guardians, students and staff for all of the helpful efforts you have made to begin our school year!

It was clear to me that we were going to have a very positive start to our year based on two specific examples. The efforts by multiple families to give of their time with a facelift to our building this summer were impressive! Most of our staff met with Principal Jil Blake repeatedly this summer to start to look at ways to make curriculum and assessment adjustments so as to increase student achievement and success at the Brooklin School in the years to come! An increased focus on involving community as well as data-based instructional approaches and community curriculum planning will help to develop a renewed-hope for our school’s future and improving our school’s learning culture!

Our school year started off with several adjustments and changes as new staff, students and families joined us at the Brooklin School. With these new eyes comes new perspectives, ideas, questions and solutions, which we are committed to building on in support of our working better together in more collaborative ways!

With new staff comes new energy, ideas and experiences. We feel fortunate to have had the following join us at the Brooklin School this year:

Jil Blake – Principal

Julia Dahdah – Grades 3-4 Teacher

Penelope Wheeler – Music/Performing Arts Teacher

Sharman Grindle – School Cook

At the District level joining us in support of students, staff, parents/guardians and the Brooklin School:

Kathy Glennon – Director of Special Services
Tiffany Dauk – Special Services Assistant

Important areas of focus for the Brooklin School, both starting and continuing this year:

- Rebuilding our system of Academic & Behavioral Interventions with an emphasis on finding and identifying a student's skill deficiencies and then through data-driven intervention plans teaching needed skills and/or developing those skills that are missing.
- Increased Student and Staff Safety & Security through drill preparation including a new "Hold in Place" practice.
- New process and procedures to support student targets of potential Bullying by engaging with the aggressor to change their behavior through learning new skills and meeting high expectations of civility.
- School to home and home to school communication can always be improved. We must continue to strive to ask each other questions, share positives along with concerns and to remember that more communication is always better! The use of email or the phone will be key in this effort. We expect school staff to contact you quickly and ask that you contact school staff directly and quickly when the need arises so we can work better together for your child(ren) and our students.
- School Nutrition is in the middle of a transition and several questions and concerns have come up. I ask that you review the other attachment sent with this memo, which further explains the work being done in our School Nutrition Program. Thanks!

As you know one of the major concerns from parents & guardians coming into this school year was the need to foster and grow more collaborative partnerships between students, staff, community resources and you! During the 2017-2018 school-year we know we will see greater student success by developing stronger bonds within each of these relationships!

In now my eighteenth month as your superintendent I have learned how much the people and Community of Brooklin care for their students and school. I look forward to the combined efforts of all in continuing our positive work together during this school year!