

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: DISES Parents & Guardians

From: Christian M. Elkington

Re: First Month Update!

Date: 10-8-17

It is my hope that this note finds you, your children and family well after the first full month of our school year. Can you believe one month has come and gone? September certainly flew by! As you know our year started off with several adjustments and changes as new staff, students and families joined us at Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School. With these new eyes comes new perspectives, ideas, questions and solutions. Initial reports and observations tell me that our year has started off well at DISES. That doesn’t mean there hasn’t been some confusion and problems needing to be worked-out as there have been, but what I have seen is a new focus and concentration on working together in collaborative ways! Thanks to all for your efforts in support of our students and school!

I knew going into the 2017-2018 School Year there was new positivity to work with through multiple families giving of their time to the outside of our building this summer. Thanks to all who helped with this work! I am finding that these efforts along with the changes and adjustments made have students, parents/guardians and staff starting off working well together. Our increased focus on communication and problem-solving along with a renewed-hope on future student success and achievement have helped our school community turn onto the “high” road to improving our school’s culture!

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

Tara McKechnie – Principal

Lynne Witham – Head of School

Deanne Heanssler – Administrative Assistant

Leslie Billings – Math Teacher

Carla Magoon – English Language Arts Teacher

Victoria WOLFORD – Grades 3-4 Teacher

Coreen Modisette – Middle Level English Language Arts Teacher

Izaak Bolduc – Phys Ed./ Health Teacher

Katharine Schrader – Special Education Teacher

Stephen Malcolm – Student Support Staff
Andrea Kyzer – Student Support Staff
Dawn Nault – Student Support Staff.

At the District level joining us in support of students, staff, parents/guardians & schools:

Kathy Glennon – Director of Special Services
Tiffany Dauk – Special Services Assistant
Ben Moss – Director of Technology
Sheila Nevells – Food Nutrition Supervisor
Amy E. Billings – Food Service Assistant
Amy Kyzer – Adult Ed.
Michael Klemenz – CSD Maintenance Staff.

Important areas of focus for DISES, both starting and continuing this year:

- To build a new system of Academic 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 that are missing.
- A Student Conduct Philosophy based on engaging the student, staff and family on problem-solving, quick communication and having the students make appropriate choices by looking for solutions and appropriate consequences when needed.
- Reducing Bullying through a new mindset, process and procedures that engage and support the student target of the Bullying and engage and expect the aggressor to change their behavior through learning new skills and expectations.
- Student and Staff Safety & Security through drill preparation including new "Hold in Place" practices along with "Tree-nut sensitive" procedures.
- Home-School Communication can always be improved by each one of us. School and home 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 ask that instead of jumping to Facebook and/or assuming that what you read on Facebook is always true that you contact school staff directly so we can work better together.

In the above areas, our staff's and school's goal is to foster more collaborative partnerships between students, staff, community resources and you! We will see greater student success by working more closely together even when we disagree.

In now my eighteenth month as your superintendent I have learned how much people do care for the students and schools in CSD 13. Sometimes we don't agree on the same course of action or on the facts, but we both do care and want the best for the students in CSD 13. I look forward to continuing our work together during this school year!