

# SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

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Office of the Superintendent

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

## Superintendent’s Memo

To: DISHS 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. Our year started off with several adjustments and changes as new staff, students and families joined us at Deer Isle-Stonington High School. With new eyes comes new perspectives, ideas, questions and solutions. During this transition, I am happy to report that from my observations and perspective our year has started off well at DISHS. I am finding that students, parents/guardians and staff appear to be working well together with a focus on communication and problem-solving along with a renewed-hope on future student success and achievement!

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

Edward Hatch – Principal

Lynne Witham – Head of School

Coreen Modisette – English Teacher

Izaak Bolduc – Phys Ed./ Health Teacher

Tim Goding – Guidance Counselor

Jesse Gorden – Special Education Teacher

Amy Kyzer – Adult Ed.

Morgan Witham – Planning Room

At the District level the following have joined us in support of our students, staff, parents/guardians and schools:

Kathy Glennon – Director of Special Services

Ben Moss – Director of Technology

Sheila Nevells – Food Nutrition Supervisor

Amy E. Billings – Food Service Assistant

Michael Klemenz – CSD Maintenance Staff.

The following areas have been an important focus for us at DISHS to start our year and will be throughout 2017-2018:

- Student Conduct and engaging the student to focus on problem-solving, making appropriate choices, looking for solutions and on staff using appropriate consequences when needed. This includes the use of a new Planning Room at DISHS.
- Reducing Bullying through a new process and procedures that engage and support the target of the Bullying and engage the aggressor to changing his/her behavior.
- Student and Staff Safety & Security through drill preparation including “Hold in Place” along with “Tree-nut sensitive” procedures.
- To continue building on the Academic Interventions previously put in place by staff along with a new emphasis on finding and identifying skill deficiencies through identifying what students can do well and building on those areas of strength.
- School Lunch and Breakfast has been an area of concern shared by students for some time. In our transition to new staff this summer we brought in a consultant to assist with both making improvements and assisting us to better follow State and Federal Guidelines. Based on first impressions we seem to be off to a good start and will continue to make improvements throughout the year!
- Home-School Communication is never perfect and always can be improved by each one of us. Students, staff along with our parents and guardians must continue to strive to ask each other questions, share positives along with concerns and to remember that more communication is better than less. 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 parents and guardians contact school staff directly so we can work better together for each and every one of our students and families.

In each of these areas our staff’s and school’s goal must be to foster more collaborative partnerships between students, staff, community organizations/ resources and you our parents & guardians. We will only see the success our students must have and we all want, to be prosperous and successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century if we work more closely together even when we might 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 right 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!