

Dear Parents & Guardians! Happy New Year!

On behalf of our staff I want to take a moment to wish you and your family much success in 2018! I also want to thank each one of you for your support of the positive work being done in our schools. Schools are a partnership and without your support and involvement we would not be able to work together to better support each one of our students.

As you know 2017 was a year of change for us in the Deer Isle-Stonington Schools and in all of Union 76. New staff, new leadership, and new ideas were and are being combined with past progress to dig into our present difficulties and future needs. We needed to do this to develop better solutions and possibilities for our students and to develop a new direction for every aspect of our schools. We are looking at our present and future differently in order to improve what we do for your sons and daughters along with our staff, both now and in the years to come.

We all want the same thing, greater student, class, and school improvement! Change is never easy in any organization, but over time when done in a planned, professional manner, involving all stakeholders, improvement will happen.

Based on the efforts I have seen and participated in during 2017, I know that 2018 will be a year of continued school, student and staff growth and improvement! We must continue to work closely together, building upon increased communication and higher expectations for what we expect from each other. We must also continue to look at what school, home and community needs to change and improve upon to direct our students and schools' future success.

Each time I send an email out, the phrase **When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."** appears below my name. I believe that HOPE and sharing POSITIVITY are the greatest motivators in supporting learning and learners. HOPE and POSITIVITY help our students dig through difficulty, strive to make improvement, and in the end, not give up. Through our continued positive efforts and working together, 2018 will see our students building stronger skills as well as a stronger belief in their own abilities. I have much hope that our schools will continue to improve what we do for our students!

I look forward to continuing our work together in 2018. Building upon the positive efforts started in 2017, will continue to carry us forward in the year to come!

My best,

Christian M. Elkington  
Superintendent School Union 76

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