

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: Sedgwick Elementary School Parents & Guardians

From: Christian M. Elkington

Re: First Month Update!

Date: 10-9-17

It is my hope that this note finds you, your children and family well after the first full month of our school year. The month of September certainly flew by at what seemed to be record speed! As you know our school year started off with several adjustments and changes as new staff, students and families joined us at Sedgwick Elementary School. With new eyes comes new perspectives, ideas, questions and possible solutions. When adjustments and change occurs, there will of course be some confusion and/or problems needing to be worked-out during the transition. Thanks goes to our parents, guardians, students and staff for the patience each has demonstrated as we work through new procedures and the details that go with them.

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

John Dow - Principal

Penelope Wheeler – Music & Performing Arts

Christine McLaughlin – Student Support Staff

Darryl Rodgers – Evening Custodian.

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

Kathy Glennon – Director of Special Services

Tiffany Dauk – Special Services Assistant.

There are several important areas of focus for Sedgwick Elementary School, both starting and continuing throughout this school year as we:

- Rebuild 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 or less than stellar.

- Increase student and staff Safety & Security through greater drill preparation including a new “Hold in Place” procedure, developing a new *’Tree-nut sensitive” procedure this fall, along with reviewing other current school-wide procedures and expectations such as overnight trips.
- Look to make curriculum and assessment changes to increase student achievement and success in the years to come! We are developing a new mindset around curriculum planning along with introducing more data-based instructional approaches and strategies, to help develop a more instructional-rich learning culture and environment at our school!
- Relook at bullying prevention through a new process and procedures. It will be through a new plan that we will better support both student targets of potential bullying while also engaging with the aggressor. We can only really change the aggressor’s behavior through helping them learn new skills and by meeting high expectations of civility.
- Continue to increase home to school and school to home communication as it always can be improved. 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 and/or the phone are important tools in this effort. Contacting school staff directly and quickly, when a question comes up, will help us work better together in support of each child/student!

***More information about our school becoming “Tree-nut sensitive” along with our looking to revamp overnight trip procedures will be discussed at the next school board meeting and shared in another note to you shortly.**

In the above areas, our goal is to continue to foster collaborative partnerships between students, staff, community and you our parents and guardians. Sedgwick Elementary School’s two greatest strengths is our community’s support of our school and our staff’s care and concern for our children! As we embark on improving our instructional and academic efforts we know we will see improved, academic success and results by working even more closely together in the years to come.

In my eighteenth month as your superintendent I have learned how much people care for our students and school. I look forward to continuing our work together during this school year!