

Superintendent's Update

June 2021

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Dear HAL Families:

As the year winds down and I watch students, teachers, administrators and staff reflect on the year and share memories, I am struck at how “normal” everything is. The 8th grade graduation ceremonies were beautiful, end of the year field trips and field days took place almost as if nothing out-of-the-ordinary had happened this year. An inordinate amount of research, preparation and planning went in to making sure these events went off without a hitch, but in the end, it felt like any other school year and that is just what we all needed!

As always, at the end of the school year, it is time to reflect on what went well and what new practices we might keep going forward. Here are some of my takeaways from my first year as a Superintendent, first year in Maine and first year managing all this during a global pandemic:

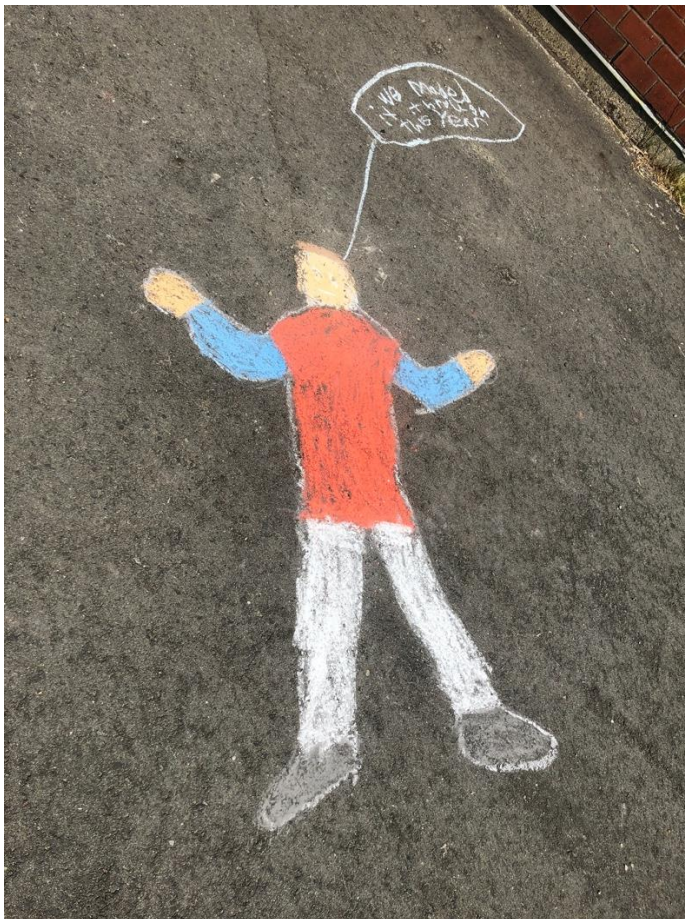
- No matter what is happening, when we focus on what is best for children, we know we are doing the right thing.
- Self-care cannot be put aside or ignored; we need to keep ourselves healthy for the good of all.
- Caring for each other is not optional, either. We exist in a complicated ecosystem in schools and what we do affects others.
- It's easy to judge, it is much harder to listen and try and understand the perspective of others. But it is only through empathy and compassion that we can really thrive.
- Focus on the small wins.
- Keep listening! Include all diverse voices in the decision-making process.
- Adhere to the tenets of meaningful, civil discourse.

June 18, 2021

The Central Office, at 444 Camden Road in Hope, will be open most days from 8am to 4pm this summer. Give us a call if you have any questions or concerns. 763-3818

As you well know, the COVID 19 situation is changing rapidly now, cases in the Midcoast are very low and we continue to see restrictions lifted. As of June 30th, all of the DOE requirements for opening school will become recommendations. Each summer school program will let you know which mitigation measures are in place. The Health and Safety Team at your school will begin meeting again in August to determine, with the latest recommendations and health and safety data, what protocols need to be in place for the coming school year. You will get word from your school as to what those new protocols might be toward the end of the summer.

If your child(ren) has yet to be immunized, please make sure you are up to date on the parameters of LD 798, which will impact the upcoming school year. Depending on the individual situation, families who do not immunize their children may have to find an alternative to schooling, so I encourage you to learn more about this new law as soon as possible.



The final word for this year goes to one of our astute 1st graders. In case you can't read it, the picture to the right is a depiction of a celebrating person saying: ***"We made it through this year!"***

We did, we made it through this year, by working together and caring for one another. That is certainly something to celebrate.

Enjoy your summer and we will be happy to see you all back for the 2021-2022 school year!

Kate