

BEALS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
P. O. Box 220 24 Mill Pond Rd. Beals, ME 04611
Tel: (207) 497-5449

Christopher Crowley, Principal

Crystal Blackwood, Administrative Assistant

August 23, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After an enjoyable break from school, it is time to begin thinking about the upcoming school year. A lot of work has been completed at the school, with the finishing touches being completed early this fall.

Over the spring and summer months we have had crews here insulating the building, installing new floors in two classrooms, installing new lighting throughout the building, and most importantly completely overhauling the heating and ventilation system. We are so happy to think that we now will have comfortable surroundings with adequate air exchange throughout the building.

The students in grades 5-8 will begin the year preparing for an author visit. During the first week, they will work with Alison Johnson, one of the directors of Island Readers and Writers who will introduce VTS to the students. VTS stands for visual thinking strategies. Through this work with her, the students will learn how to develop better critical thinking skills, as well as how to express their thoughts and ideas more clearly. They will also Zoom with Newbery honor-winning author, Lauren Wolk, so to begin reading her novel, *Echo Mountain*.

Preparations will be made during the school year for the students in grades K-4 to participate in an IRW author visit in the spring. We are very fortunate to be a school working yearly with Island Readers and Writers.

At this time, masks are optional in the building, however, masks are mandated while students are on the bus. Families may opt to have their child(ren) wear masks, which is perfectly fine. Some of our teachers will also choose to mask. We will be mindful of spacing, not having the students crowd together, as well as frequent hand washing and sanitizing. Prior to coming to school, parents of students should assess the health of their child daily. See the 2021 School Opening Plan sent home in fall packet.

Vision Statement

At Beals Elementary School, our goal is to create an environment that fosters a love of learning. Through collaboration, hard work, creativity, and fun, every student will achieve his or her full potential.

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We are happy to introduce two new staff members to our team. Jordan McGlaughlin is our new Physical Education teacher, and Jordan Demetros will serve as our new Special Education teacher. We look forward to them working with them in helping our students succeed.

Our continued partnership with DEI will continue this year, although at this point, I am not sure what form it will take. Our hope was to get back to the marine lab at DEI on a weekly basis. It may not be the possible, so instead, the DEI education team may come to us each week. The students look forward to their STEM and Marine Science lessons, and they will be happy to get back to the DEI facility, where they can explore the touch tank full of sea creatures.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call your child's teacher. No issue is too small to deal with. In fact, it is best to deal with it before it develops into something larger. If you need to speak with me, you can email me at chris.crowley@union103.org, or you may call the school at 497-5449.

Sincerely,

Chris Crowley

Principal

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