



# ELM STREET SCHOOL

**Principal**  
Jess Madsen

**Administrative Assistant**  
Rebecca Adamson

**Dean of Students**  
Amy Jenkins

To the Citizens of Mechanic Falls,

January 10, 2022

In my fourth year as principal of Elm Street School, I continue to be impressed by the ongoing support of the Mechanic Falls community for our schools and our students. While this year has brought more normalcy to our school schedule and routines, we continue to face challenges associated with the ongoing pandemic. As of today, our current school enrollment stands at 253 students in grades Pre-K through 6. This year, we have been able to return to in-person learning five days a week for all of our students in grades K-6. Our Pre-K students have returned to their half-day model, four days a week. We offer both a morning and an afternoon Pre-K.

Our ESS team of educators consists of 16 classroom teachers, 3 special education teachers, 2 Title intervention teachers, 3 specialist teachers (art, music/movement, physical education), 1 school counselor, 1 special education social worker, and 1 speech/language clinician. In addition to our teaching staff, we have 17 support staff who serve either in special education, the library, or on our intervention team. We also have 1 school nurse, a Dean of Students, and two front office staff. We contract with two outside service providers, Sweetser and Spurwink to provide additional counseling services for our students.

Last year, we were able to use our ESSER (Federal COVID relief) funds to greatly improve the security, ventilation, and cleanliness of our facilities in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. With our final round of ESSER funding, we began to focus our efforts and attention on ways to support learning loss experienced by our students as a result of the closure of our schools followed by the hybrid model last year. Over the summer, we were able to provide a summer school program for all students within the RSU. This program served approximately 70 students within the RSU. Of those 70 students, 28% of the students who participated were Elm Street School students. It has been a number of years since the RSU has been able to offer a summer program for our elementary students and this program helped our students continue to make gains not only in reading and mathematics, but they also offered instruction in social and emotional learning as well. Our summer school students were provided a healthy breakfast and lunch each day through our universal school meal program. The summer school program was overseen by Elm Street School grade 6 teacher, Valerie Young.

In addition to our summer school program, we were also able to use our ESSER funds to hire two additional academic interventionists to our team. These interventionists have been working with our Title staff to provide targeted instruction and interventions to students who are not meeting grade level expectations. Elm Street School has moved from a targeted Title 1 school to a whole school program which allows us to use our interventionists to support all students in grades K-6. As we continue to help students make necessary academic gains and overcome the learning loss associated with the pandemic, these additional services have proven to be an integral part of our whole school program. We have also used the funds to provide us with additional academic screeners, an online program to support students who are out of school for quarantine/isolation, and to bolster our intervention programs with research-based academic programs to help our students.

Lastly, this year our staff have worked hard to provide our students with opportunities to reconnect with each other and with our community. We were excited to be able to once again welcome our very own Mechanic Falls Fire and Rescue back for our annual Fire Safety Awareness Day. This fall, we also held a food drive to support the Mannafed Backpack program through the Vineyard Church. This program works hard to ensure that no students within the RSU go hungry on the weekends by providing backpacks filled with food to our students and their families every Friday at no cost to the families. We are so grateful for this resource that was provided to our students throughout the closure and as we have returned to in-person learning.

We are also pleased to announce that Elm Street School applied for the competitive track of the WinterKids Winter Games and we were chosen to represent all of Androscoggin County this winter. Our students will be participating in an opening ceremony and lots of fun winter activities to earn points for our school. Elm Street School has the opportunity to earn up to \$10,000 to promote health and wellness for our students. We are honored to be chosen and I am excited to see all of the students participating and staying active this winter! If you'd like to see how we are doing, follow our Facebook page, Elm Street School. We will be using this page to provide regular updates on not only our WinterKids progress, but on all the happenings within our school and to celebrate the incredible work of our staff and students!

Best Wishes,

*Jessica Madsen*

Jessica Madsen  
Principal, Elm Street School