



North Elementary School

MSAD 54

33 Jewett Street

Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Anita Hopkins
Assistant Principal/Building Administrator

Cynthia Salisbury
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Dear North Elementary Families,

Welcome to a brand new school year at North Elementary School! Our teachers, staff, and I are honored and excited to work with you and your children as they begin their paths in formal education in Preschool and Kindergarten. Skowhegan is a community that values children and education, and I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you, learning about your children, and helping to nurture their lifelong love for learning.

Teaching at North Elementary School is approached in proven ways that emphasize and foster social, emotional, and academic growth in a safe, supportive environment. We have academic and behavioral supports in place for children at classroom as well as school-wide levels. As MSAD 54 moves forward with proficiency-based education, we will continue working to ensure that every child is successful at school and beyond. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes use elements of *Conscious Discipline*[®] and *Responsive Classroom*[®] programs, which develop skills in the areas of character, cooperation, respect, and responsibility. Teachers utilize a variety of instructional strategies that are designed to improve teacher effectiveness, integrate social skill development with academic learning, and promote a joyful and cooperative learning community. Our goal is to create a respectful, responsible, and kind atmosphere in which every student has the opportunity to reach his or her highest potential.

We understand that families are a child's first teachers and want to be involved in their education. Truthfully, a child's greatest chance for success lies in a successful partnership between home and school. Therefore, we encourage you to explore the many ways in which you can connect with North Elementary. Opportunities might include volunteering in a classroom, joining our parent group, participating in special events, regularly discussing the day's events with your child, looking through backpacks and folders daily, and helping children prepare for school each day. Please keep in mind that, if you would like to volunteer at school, background checks must first be completed through the central office, to ensure the safety of all of our students.

We have an exciting, interesting year ahead of us, filled with many new experiences. My goal is that every child feels safe, valued, capable, and happy – we are so happy to have each one with us! I encourage you to stay connected and keep your child's teacher informed of any concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Anita Hopkins