

A Message from the Principal

I look forward to meeting all of you as we near the beginning of the school year and as I enter my new role as principal and kindergarten teacher at Mason Elementary. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your remarkable town, which is filled with ambiance, natural beauty, culture, and wonderful children! It is clear that the people of Mason care for each other and support each other in a way that models what an exemplary community is. Imagine if every school had the support and commitment from the community that Mason has! I would like to thank all of you for welcoming me, and I would also like to thank the school board for their vision, support, and commitment to quality education for the children of Mason.

I come to you from Rivier College, where for many years I have been a kindergarten teacher, mentor teacher for college students, and professor in the graduate evening program, specializing in the principles of education and program design. Prior to that I served in the Air Force in the area of communications/electronics.

I have found Mason to be a sparkling treasure chest of history, culture, tradition, and beauty. I have enjoyed many hours at the library and the town offices, reading the history of Mason and hearing interesting stories of people, places, and things - ranging from the project of cataloging historical documents to the restoration of furniture painted by Twig. I have spent magical moments watching the sun rise and set on the beautiful statue of Bode.

We are completing preparations for the start of the new school year. We will see the addition of Kindergarten and Fifth Grade this year, as well as an inclusionary preschool. School begins on Monday August 31. Kindergarten hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Preschool hours are 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. School hours for all other grades will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Our teachers requested the additional twenty minutes in the school day (from 3:00 to 3:20) because they found last year that those minutes were valuable academic time. We are in the process of hiring specialists in music, art, foreign language and physical education.

Anyone new to the school system should get in touch with us by either phone or email about registering their child. You can reach us at (603) 878 -2962 or at adminsupport@masonnhschools.org. Our website (which is in the process of being updated) is www.masonnhschools.org. Bus routes when available will be posted on our website as well as printed in local papers. Construction on our school is going well and according to schedule. Our classrooms and playgrounds should be all set by the time school starts!

We will be having special assemblies at Mason Elementary on Friday afternoons for concerts, storytelling, puppet shows, science experiments, guest speakers, and so forth. We welcome anyone from the community who would like to share something special with the children such as an occupation, talent, hobby or other interest.

I believe that we as community, families, and school share a great and wonderful responsibility to ensure that each of the children we counsel and teach is enabled to be – to live and learn in a happy, respectful atmosphere where needs are met and children are able to rise to their full potential. We must see that those entrusted to us grow in wisdom, skills, and in quality of life. We must provide academic excellence, and the opportunity to excel intellectually and academically. We must also provide that extra something which is difficult to define - a certain grace, sense of beauty, integrity and connection. Our children must be prepared for challenges, ideas, and technology that may be unlike any we have seen before. Our children must also be flexible, creative, capable and open to ways of thinking that will enable them to navigate and contribute to the world awaiting them in their future. It is my hope that Mason Elementary will be a strong stepping stone on this remarkable journey. May we give our students roots and wings!

Betty Mulrey
Principal
Mason Elementary School