



**BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

23 Cemetery Road, Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Tel: (207) 666-5546 Fax: (207) 666-3160

Website: [bhm.link75.org](http://bhm.link75.org)

Chris Lajoie, Principal

Email: [lajoiec@link75.org](mailto:lajoiec@link75.org)

March 2023

Dear Bowdoinham Community Members,

I am honored to once again provide this update from the Community School for inclusion in the town's Annual Report. At a time when most of what we hear relates to arguments, dissension, and division, at our school we have chosen to focus on what unites us. We all want our students to be able to read, understand, and communicate information and ideas proficiently. We all want them to be able to utilize mathematics effectively in their lives. We all want them to think critically and solve problems peacefully. We all want them to have friends and feel a sense of belonging and investment in their school and community. We all want them to be set up for success in life as: workers who can support families and contribute to society; citizens who understand their rights and responsibilities, and uphold the democratic principles of our great country; and adults who look out for others, and who keep learning long after they leave school. That is our ongoing work as a school.

While we did not broadcast it widely, in 2021 our school was recognized as a "Best Elementary School" in Maine by U.S. News and World Reports. And last Spring, our students again placed above the state average in Reading and Math on the state assessment. Our performance was tops in the district in Reading and a close second in Math, and we did this while spending the least per student of any school in the district. We take seriously the balance of providing an excellent education, with being conservative in what we ask of our taxpayers. Our student population has grown to 194 in the past year, and next school year we may very well be a school of 200 for the first time in over a decade. To continue our success as our school grows, I am doing everything I can to retain the highest-quality teachers and staff. They are the heartbeat of our school - if you have the opportunity to thank one of them, please do!

Since the groundbreaking in 1954, our town has stood firmly behind this school. As we wrap up this school year and look beyond, I want to thank you for your ongoing support. Our school will continue to be great because we all commit to keeping it great. I am happy to answer questions from community members anytime: [lajoiec@link75.org](mailto:lajoiec@link75.org) or (207) 666-5546, option 6.

Yours in Meaningful Learning That Lasts,

Chris Lajoie  
Principal