

In the Biddeford Schools, our caring teachers and staff aim to nurture healthy, resilient students who are prepared to excel in any post-secondary pursuit. Through 2030, we will sharpen our focus on three key pillars to further advance students' academic and social-emotional growth:



## PILLAR 01

We create an environment where learning feels more like *discovery* with practical application, authentic engagement, and transformative, student-centered experiences.

- Our schools foster academic development by helping students sharpen their critical thinking skills and fully invest in their learning by linking lessons to real-world situations, communicating to authentic audiences, and connecting academic studies to community involvement and future goals.
- Using an aligned, comprehensive, standard-based curriculum, we maintain high academic standards and empower each student to achieve by providing various pathways and supports to meet their individual needs.
- By offering rich, varied content and differentiated opportunities for analytical and creative thought, we aim to nurture curious, capable learners who can think independently, understand complex ideas, analyze information impartially, combine various viewpoints, and convey their knowledge successfully.

## PILLAR 02

We will not ignore--nor make excuse for--the impact of what happens outside of school. Educating the whole child, being mindful of trauma, housing disruption, and our transient student population requires us to center relationships and rapport.

- All staff will prioritize interactions that build respect and trust with students, parents, and each other, creating psychological safety and cultivating collaboration and connectedness. Working to engage families in their children's education is a priority.
- The School Committee will allocate resources to educate the whole child beyond math and literacy. Recognizing the connection between student well-being and educational outcomes, we will invest in wraparound services to support student access to healthcare, behavioral health, housing, and nutrition.
- Our school curriculum, programming, and schedules are intentionally designed to support the whole child, with relationships at the core. Our staff play an important role in creating a sense of belonging.

## PILLAR 03

All learners are best supported by a positive culture and climate. By prioritizing a sense of belonging in our schools, we create an environment where students feel valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.

- Biddeford's New Mainers enrich and enliven our curriculum, hallways, and city. The School Department has added staff and programs to support these families and will continue to embrace diversity and welcome our new neighbors.
- We embrace and celebrate our differences, seeking to understand each other and finding ways to unite through collaborative problem-solving. We will honor our differences and continue to become more culturally aware.
- To best meet the needs of all students, staff identify needed support and share resources in a way that fosters collaboration.