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## Skowhegan Area High School and Bloomfield Academy

DANIEL F. HYLAN  
DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE

BRIAN JONES  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Dear SAHS students and families,

I hope this letter finds each of you rested, rejuvenated, and ready for another great year here at Skowhegan Area High School. My name is Jason Bellerose, Principal of Skowhegan Area High School. Joining me in the office again this year, serving SAHS as Assistant Principals, are Mr. Ryan Libby and Mr. Dylan Engler. As we prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead, we wanted to take a moment to emphasize a few critical elements that will help ensure a successful academic year for our students.

At Skowhegan Area High School, we understand the important role cell phones play in today's society. While we acknowledge phones as important tools for communication and safety, we also believe in fostering an academic environment that minimizes distractions. To this end, please know that cell phones and electronic devices should not be in use during class periods and study halls, unless otherwise directed by a teacher for educational purposes. Students are permitted to use their cell phones prior to 8:15, during lunch, between classes, and after 2:15. We believe that these guidelines help create a more focused and productive learning environment for all students. Your support and cooperation in reinforcing these expectations with your student is greatly appreciated. More information on school cell phone use can be found on page 9 of the SAHS Student Handbook. If you have any questions or concerns about our cell phone policy, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Timely submission of assignments is fundamental to achieving academic success. Completing and turning in school work on time not only reflects a student's commitment to their education, but also creates positive habits that will be needed beyond high school, both in continuing education and in the workforce. Missing or late work impedes teachers' ability to understand where a student is in the learning process, and negatively impacts teachers' ability to provide timely feedback to students. Late or incomplete assignments not only have negative impacts on students' grades, but also interrupts the formative education process, leaving students unprepared for summative assessments. Considering this, we urge students and families to exhibit sound time management strategies and for students to stay caught up in their studies.

We recognize that as a school year unfolds, each of us can experience personal struggles or setbacks. We also understand that our students may find work challenging, confusing, and that students may need extra assistance. At SAHS, we believe that making mistakes is a part of the learning process. When any of these things happen, we encourage our students to communicate with our teachers as soon as possible. We expect our students to need help and suffer setbacks and we welcome our students to speak with us if they don't understand something or are in need of support – we are here for you. Success at the high school is directly tied to key attributes and practices: being resilient, being able to rebound after a setback, being engaged during class time, using time wisely, checking grades in PowerSchool regularly, being productive, being a kind, respectful and a positive member of our student body, and being here. It is important to have good attendance and be to school on time. We encourage our students to be in school as much as possible; a missed day of class is a missed day of instruction.

In closing, we would encourage parents and students to review our SAHS Student Handbook which can be found on our school's webpage. Finally, please know that a list of back-to-school supplies can also be found on the SAHS homepage.

It is truly a privilege to be part of a community that values education so highly; a community where parents, teachers, and students respect one another, value one another, and work together to build the positive relationships that support social growth and academic excellence. Always remember that we are here for you and are committed to the success of our students. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,



Principal  
Skowhegan Area High School