



Mason Elementary School

School Administrative Unit #89
13 Darling Hill Rd. Mason, NH 03048
(603) 878-2962 (603) 878-3439 (fax)

December 3, 2015

Dear EDies Selection Board,

Mason Elementary School is located in Central Southern New Hampshire near the Massachusetts border. Mason has a population of approximately 1400 residents. Although small in size, Mason is known for some very famous people and landmarks. We are known as the home of “Uncle Sam”. Author Elizabeth Orton Jones who wrote Little Red Riding Hood resided here. The well-known artist C.W. Anderson lived in Mason and many of his beautiful drawings depict our town. Some famous landmarks in our town include Parker’s Maple Barn and Pickity Place. We are a rural town housing many acres of horse farms, woodlands and a beautiful granite quarry. Directly in the center of our small town sits our very special school. The original building was built in 1834 and was the Christian Church. In 1870 it was purchased by the town and turned into Centre School. Over the years, the building has grown along with the town’s population.

Mason School District is currently in its 7th year as an independent SAU. After 40 years of being part of the Mascenic School District, Mason was finally able to secede from the regional school district. For many years prior to withdrawal, Mason School and the town worked closely to formulate a plan for independent success. We now have a beautiful 20,000+ sq.ft. environmentally green facility wrapping itself around a courtyard classroom, housing 80 students in grades Pre-K through 5 with class sizes ranging from 9-15. Mason middle and high school students are tuitioned to Milford, NH where they continue to flourish academically, socially and emotionally. Since gaining independence Mason School has gone on to experience unparalleled success fiscally and academically with overwhelming community support. We truly believe the African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child”, and that is evident throughout the hallways of our school. We have a tremendously trusting relationship with not only the parents of our students, but with the community at large.

As a staff, we’ve looked upon this application process as a way to reflect on the unique practices of Mason Elementary School. Many times in education we hyper focus on ways to improve our practices. While that is necessary for success and growth, sometimes we don’t take

enough time to celebrate the positive impact we are having on children and the surrounding community. This process has helped us to really see the wonderful things that we are making happen here at Mason Elementary School. Most visitors to our school comment on how special our school is and how warm and welcomed we make them feel. We are hoping to be chosen for a site visit so we can share what makes us special with the EDies selection board. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any further questions please contact Kristen Kivela at 878-2962 ext. 20 or kkivela@sau89.org.

Sincerely,

Mason Elementary School Staff