

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
SEPTEMBER 2013

September Enrollments

Student enrollments generally fluctuate during the school year and official records are maintained and provide annual comparisons of information available on October 1st each year. September enrollments show some minor variations from the 2012-2013 school year. Actual enrollment as of September 4, 2013:

Exeter High School—1697
Cooperative Middle School—1369
East Kingston Elementary School—176
Main Street School, Exeter—482
Lincoln Street School, Exeter—542
Kensington Elementary School—134
Newfields Elementary School—135
Swasey Central School, Brentwood—343
Stratham Memorial School—617

More detail about student enrollment, especially with regard to an annual comparison and/or trends, will be provided in October.

Cost Per Pupil by District

Each year the State of New Hampshire receives information relative to the cost per pupil for the past school year. This actual cost includes all services provided to students. It encompasses staff salaries and benefits, books, supplies, facility upkeep and maintenance, and extracurricular activities. In order to maintain some level of consistency among school districts in the state, this figure does not include student transportation, food service, debt service, or out-of-district special education costs. These numbers are subject to change after review by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. Preliminary figures for 2012-2013:

Brentwood--\$12,996.17
East Kingston--\$14,079.42
Exeter--\$14,555.75
Exeter Region Cooperative--\$12,684.44
Kensington--\$15,691.89
Newfields--\$15,881.56
Stratham--\$14,129.83

New Professional Staff Members

Thirty new professional staff members have joined SAU 16 this school year. Most were noted in last month's report. Since that time two new people have been hired for 2013-2014:

East Kingston—Colleen Singleton (Special Education)

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham—Jennifer Middaugh (Computer Technology)

Exeter High School Highlights

Exeter High School (EHS) Principal Sean Kiley regularly publishes a blog to keep community members informed of a wide variety of school news. It may be found online at: <http://seankiley.blogspot.com/> or by accessing it through the regular EHS website at: <http://ehs.sau16.org/>

His post from Friday, September 6, 2013 is particularly noteworthy because it highlights many of the students' and staff's success for the 2012-2013 school year.

A Glimpse at Last Year

- 419 students awarded Exeter High School (EHS) diplomas
- 81.9% of students will attend post-secondary education
- 292 students were chosen to represent honor societies
- 146 students participated in the College Board AP Equity and Excellence Exam
- \$100,000 plus awarded internally at Exeter High School's School Sponsored Scholarship Program
- EHS Athletics - 665 students participated in at least one season of athletics; 1,100 plus students comprised the rosters during the three seasons
- EHS Music - 139 students comprised the music programs
- Exeter Theatre and Film - 50 plus students were involved with school productions, including student written and directed sketches
- EHS Clubs and Activities - 1,021 students comprised the clubs and co-curricular rosters

Academic Excellence

- Exeter High School recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the "Best High Schools in the United States"
- Ranked in top 5% of 21,000 schools
- Two (2) students named National Merit Finalist - National Merit Scholarship Program
- Eight (8) students named National Merit Commended Students
- Numerous Academic Department Awards were awarded at the State and National level/National Exams
- 82.2% of EHS students (120) scored a 3 or higher on AP exams vs. 60% globally
 - 10 of 10 in Calculus

- 12 of 15 in Spanish
- 14 of 16 in US History
- 16 of 18 in Macroeconomics
- 17 of 18 in Microeconomics
- 14 of 18 in US Government and Politics
- 51 of 59 in English Language and Composition
- 11 of 12 in English Literature and Composition
- 6 of 8 in Chemistry
- 4 of 6 in Biology

Dedication of the Athletics

- Division I NHIAA Award of Excellence/Sportsmanship Award
- Exeter Area Special Olympics State Sportsmanship Award
- Division I NHIAA Individual Team Sportsmanship Award - Varsity Baseball
- NHIAA Division I State Champions - Football, Girls Soccer, Girls Alpine Ski, Boys Swimming and Diving, Bass Fishing, Boys Baseball
- NHIAA Division I State Semi-Finalists - Girls Field Hockey, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis
- One (1) EHS student-athlete won Paralympic Gold Medal and set World Record in same event
- One (1) EHS student-athlete named “New Hampshire Gatorade Player of the Year” in Football
- Numerous Division I Student-Athletes of the Year award winners
- Numerous EHS students received New Hampshire Scholar-Athlete Award
- Numerous EHS student-athletes signed NCAA Division I Letters of Intent

Dedication of the Music and Performing Arts

- Student participants in NH All-State Festival, NH Chamber Festival, and Jazz Festival
- Three (3) successful band concerts and regular performances at athletic events
- Band increased from 70 to 101 students last year - currently at 106 students
- Four (4) students accepted to participate in prestigious NHMEA All-State Festival
- Three (3) students selected to participate in NHMEA Chamber All-State Festival
- Numerous chorus concerts and performances put on at EHS
- Three (3) choirs necessary to accommodate all students - Chamber, Select, and Honors Choir
- Last year's choir numbers - 90 students. Vocalists, percussion, bass guitarists, piano
- Six (6) solo and ensemble chorus concerts last year
- Pops concerts were held in both winter and spring
- Numerous chorus students auditioned and selected to Jazz and Classical All-State Festival
- One (1) band student performed with Keith Urban on television at *American Country Music Awards*
- NH Chronicle visited Honors Choir and filmed story on EHS student(s)

Dedication of the Visual Arts

- Twenty (20) EHS student-artists participated in the Scholastic Art Awards
- Multiple regional awards received for individual works
- Multiple regional awards received for entire portfolios
- One (1) EHS student-artist received National Silver Key Award
- EHS student-artists participated in multiple exhibits that included monthly displays at SAU Offices
- EHS student-artist exhibits during Youth Art Month at Exeter Town Hall and Exeter Public Library
- Numerous student-artists participated in the High School Drawing Exhibition sponsored by the New Hampshire Institute of Art
- Numerous student-artists participated in exhibits at local businesses including Trisara Facial Spa and The Community Oven

Did You Know?

Dr. David Atwood, Technology Education teacher at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS), joined the SAU 16 “Forty Year Club” this year in recognition of the 40 consecutive years that he has taught at CMS and Exeter High School.

SAU 16 has approximately 1,200 employees. Around 650 of these staff members are administrators, teachers, counselors, librarians, therapists, and professional service providers. Paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, technology service providers, food service/nutrition workers, custodians, maintenance, and grounds personnel comprise the other groups. An additional 200 substitutes are part of the work conducted in the SAU which is one of the largest employers in the seacoast area.

At the recent 2013 Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA), Exeter High School (EHS) was honored for its high degree of sportsmanship throughout the 2012-2013 school year by being presented with the Division I Championship Banner. This impressive distinction is often cherished more than a state championship because it highlights the significant contributions of student-athletes, coaches, parents, and fans. Since the 1998-1999 school year, EHS has received this award ten (10) times: 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2013. Congratulations to all involved!

As part of its outstanding Enrichment Program, Exeter Adult Education offers classes in Conversational Spanish, French, and Italian. There are also courses in Greek Cooking, Fly Tying, Chair Caning, Excel, Power Point, Digital Photography, Ballroom Dancing, Sewing, Website Design, and Yoga.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

The students and staff at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) will join the greater Exeter community to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the founding of Exeter with a special celebration on Friday, September 27th at the school. Various crafters, as well as displays depicting Exeter's rich history and heritage, will be featured on the front lawn of the school. Students and staff will be encouraged to dress that day in clothing that would be reminiscent of that past era.

Upon entering the main lobby at **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES), one immediately notices The Tree of Kindness that is decorated with leaves in honor of students who have performed random acts of kindness. Each Friday, during the school's Morning Meeting, Principal Jim Eaves announces the weekly additions to the Tree of Kindness and those students receive a "Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible" sticker. The Tree of Kindness was created several years ago by classroom assistants and it continues to stand as a true symbol to visitors that the school is a caring community.

Lauren Gagnon, the author of *Exeter ABC*, is donating a copy of her book to every kindergarten student at **Main Street School** (MSS) as part of Exeter's 375th anniversary celebration. Ms. Gagnon is also doing this to honor MSS kindergarten teacher, Susan Drinker, for inspiring her to write this book.

The **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) held its Annual All-Advisory Committee Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2013. The Carl Perkins Grant (federal funds which support Career and Technical Education at the secondary and post-secondary level) stipulates that each SST program is required to have an advisory committee which meets at least twice each year. Advisory committees are comprised of business and industry leaders from the local community whose expertise relates to that specific program. Advisory Committee members may also include parents, students, or those who work at sending schools. At these meetings, suggestions for updating and improvement of equipment, opportunities for job shadows, internships or jobs, offers for guest speakers, donations and review of programs take place.

Two fifth grade teachers at **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) recently hosted a Parent Information Night to share their plans for the year which include using a "teaming model" so that each teacher has one of the classes for half of the regular school day. Parents learned about the team Moodle site and how to access its many features which will be posted weekly. The team will also be using Power School to monitor student progress and grades as a means of teaching the students about the power of this effective communication tool. The goal is that the students learn skills that will be helpful to them as they prepare to transition to the Cooperative Middle School.

For the fourth consecutive year the parents of new kindergarten students at **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) were treated at the end of August to a "Boo Hoo Breakfast" that is sponsored by the parents of first graders. After dropping off their children to the care of the kindergarten teachers and staff, these new parents had a wonderful

opportunity to talk with other KES parents and the principal. The new parents were able to have their questions answered in a small group and enjoyed wonderful food in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This transition time was a follow-up to the PTO sponsored “play dates” on the school playground at the end of August. These special “gatherings” were ways that parents and children could meet and play together before school started. What a wonderful transition in a small community to welcome a new school year!

In preparing for another year of community service initiatives at the **Cooperative Middle School CMS**), students will soon be treated to an outstanding presentation from former National Football League player and military service veteran Joe Tate. He will challenge the students to work hard and value the importance of community service in a wide variety of ways. Mr. Tate was a two-time Academic “All Big Ten” recipient while at Michigan State University where he also received the “Community Service and Leadership Award.” CMS students will be involved in the Travis Manion “Character Does Matter” program for the third consecutive year.

An exciting change at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** this year is the implementation of a six-day rotating schedule that will involve number and color coding to distinguish among the different days. This change provides students with regular class time at the beginning of each day with their teacher and balances out the times that student attend unified arts classes throughout the year. This change also provides a structure for staff members to meet as part of their Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) once every six days. The SMS “HEART” (Honesty, Energy, Attitude, Respect, Teamwork) Principles will guide the school community with a framework for a positive school climate and culture.

Fourth grade students at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** recently participated in “STEM Camp” where they were exposed to an exciting variety of conversations and hands-on learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Already the teachers and students are looking forward to a positive energy both in and out of the classroom. Students have also been encouraged to learn more about the many opportunities available to them through “Khan Academy” which can be easily accessed through the Internet. It is a key resource for learning about some new and exciting information.

Reflection

Regardless of our ages, each of us should have some goals to accomplish. Last year I completed a lifelong goal of visiting all 50 states! North Dakota was my last one and it was an amazing surprise—and an incredible learning experience. Check out the Hall of Fame in the state capitol building in Bismarck or visit the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Experience the beauty of the massive fields of sunflowers or the spires of Assumption Abbey rising from the plains. Study the incredible growth in Williston or experience the beauty of the Missouri River as it travels through Native American tribal lands. There is always something to learn—even in North Dakota!