

Rye Elementary School Overview

Suzanne Lull, Principal

Rye Elementary has a long history of high academic standards and a commitment to meeting the needs of the whole child, valuing the personal, social, and physical needs of the student as well. With the Follow the Child initiative, RES creates personalized goals for each student with input from families. These goals are followed and revised, if necessary, with each subsequent year. Several days a week each grade sets aside a portion of their day for Learning Labs, where instruction is tailored to meet the needs of each individual for extra support, practice or enrichment.

This year Rye Elementary has adopted two new assessments for all children. STAR, a computer adaptive assessment, adjusts to each student. Easy to administer, the data is valid, reliable, and useful to educators to provide interventions and instruction in literacy and math. Fountas and Pinnell, a reading assessment, provides information on a student's accuracy, fluency, and comprehension when reading. These assessments are administered three times a year and as needed to monitor progress. Teachers have created grade-level teams to analyze this data and differentiate instruction accordingly.

RES uses a balanced literacy approach to the teaching of Reading, Writing, and English. In grades K-3 we are currently using Scott Foresman Reading Series called Reading Street. In grades 4 & 5 we use the Fountas and Pinnell Guided Reading approach where children are guided in reading through fiction and nonfiction texts. As Common Core standards dictate, more dedicated time is being spent on nonfiction texts and a closer reading of texts. As we move forward, reviewing our current programs and assessments to better meet the needs of these standards is a top priority that will continue to impact the budget in the coming years.

We are in our second year of Math in Focus. Math In Focus provides an authentic Singapore math curriculum, which highlights problem solving as the focus of mathematical learning. This program teaches concepts using a concrete–pictorial–abstract learning progression to anchor learning in real-world, hands-on experiences, supported by the integration of technology. It is through this program we are equipping our students to better understand and further their application of mathematical skills.

Common Core State Standards stipulate that technology be embedded in our curriculum. Technology is not a subject taught in isolation, but a tool used to create, collaborate, and communicate in the twenty-first century. Last year through the generosity of several grants we were able to jumpstart our three year plan to equip classrooms with multi-touch interactive whiteboards with projection and a mobile technology lab consisting of iPad's and Chromebooks that can be shared across classrooms. We need to continue on that path in the next two years to ensure all students have equal access to technology.

Class size continues to be an issue in Rye as well as most New Hampshire towns. With declining enrollment, tough decisions must be made as how to best meet the needs of the students with the staffing currently in the building without compromising the quality of education. Currently 286 students are educated under our roof. With declining enrollment, grade five will restructure from four classrooms to three. While we will continue to offer a departmentalized approach in this grade, three teachers will share one subject.

We continue to develop responsible citizenship qualities in our children. Student Council comprised of five elected officers and ten appointed representatives, embrace opportunities such as collecting food for the local food pantry, donating sneakers to children in the Bronx, collecting treats for our troops, and donating blankets for the local SPCA. Rachel's Challenge, a program creating a culture of kindness and compassion, was introduced to RES, supported in part by the Rye PTA and the Rye Foundation. The impact of Rachel's story is making a difference as children earned over 2,000 kindness links. Acceptance of each one's uniqueness and

strengths is demonstrated in our monthly Celebration Assemblies that brings the school community together to celebrate Rye Elementary and promote a positive school atmosphere. These programs and initiatives while not big budgetary items, contribute to the student's social/emotional health as well as creating good citizens.

Professional development has centered on creating rigor in the classroom. Workshops on understanding Webb's Depth of Knowledge coupled with Professional Learning Communities lays the groundwork for such rigor. Staff members have created personal as well as student growth goals to ensure that the focus remains on individual students and their success. Workshops on technology integration, using data to support instruction, along with understanding and implementing our new assessments continue to be areas of focus.

The physical plant has been well cared for, and one needs only to walk the halls to have an appreciation for the hard work of our custodial staff. Safety and energy effectiveness are two primary concerns we have when we consider the budget. The doors on the lower level were replaced this past year, which provided the lower level and fifth grade wing improved safety. Of primary concern now is a strobe light warning system in the event of a fire or lock down.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our needs and concerns to you in our 2014-2015 budget. If you have any further questions, my door is always open.



**Rye Elementary School
Three Year Overview**

DESCRIPTION	Amount	2015	2016	2017	Rationale for Expenditure	Anticipated Impact in Improving Instruction, Curriculum, Assessment or Professional Development
Curriculum						
Reading books/Series	unknown	2120.	X	X	With the Common Core State Standards the teaching of reading has changed from our current series (2007) . RES needs to address these changes in the coming years. Short in non-fiction titles	Students will better be able to meet the academic demands in CCSS.
Science	unknown		X	X	The Next Generation Science Standards are possibly upon us. We have very little for engineering which will be needed and more work with models.	Addresses the Next Generation Standards if they become adopted.
Technology						
SmartBoards w/ short arm projection for 3 classrooms	6583.	X 6583.	X 9013.	-	Interactive whiteboards allow for projection of materials and for students to work col- laboratively.	Allows us to fully implement curriculum and programs. Improves student engagement, collaboration, and teacher instruction.
iPad lab for classroom check out 10 iPads w/rolling cart	4780.	X	X	-	These would create classroom sets of iPads that classes can check out from a central place.	Creativity, collaboration, and research are all skills addressed with iPads. Common Core requires integration of technology as a tool in the curriculum.
Chromebooks	6624. per year	X	X	-	Our computer lab and COWs (computers on wheels) are aging and running on XP (no longer supported starting in 2014). Chromebooks are fast and allow for cloud storage. Add 20 books per year.	Meets technology requirements and helps students to transition to the Jr. High technology model. We are a Google for education site.

DESCRIPTION	Amount	2015	2016	2017	Rationale for Expenditure	Anticipated Impact in Improving Instruction, Curriculum, Assessment or Professional Development
Maintenance						
Phone System Rehaul	14,900		X		The company who installed our phone system used wires that belong to another system and therefore did not wire each classroom.	
Strobe lights for lockdown		X			Safety issue especially for lockdowns. Currently gym and music have a difficult time hearing the sound.	
Rekeying building (Keyless)			X		Better control of who uses building.	
Carpet in Library				X	The carpet is starting to look worn. Plan on three years out replacing.	
STAFFING						
1 FT Reading Specialist to replace 2 half time specialists			X		The primary grades need the support for literacy. We need a specialist to work with non-identified students in Tier 3 of RTI	Less children being referred for I.E.P
1 Technology Ass.		X			The load is heavy for 1 admin for 2 schools.	Keep the technology current and serviced
Math specialist to FT			X		We see a lot of need for support more than 4 days. Thinking outside the box the specialist might stay an hour before and after school to service children outside of normal classroom time.	Math instruction; tier 3 support

Rye Elementary School Five Year Technology Plan

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Prof. Dev.
Teacher Laptops	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Instruction and Orientation provided at monthly meetings by Technology and Curriculum Integrator
Student Devices	<p>Purchase of iPads to complete computer room cart of iPads for classrooms to check out. Purchase a classroom set of Chromebooks for classes to check out.</p>	<p>Class set of Chromebooks for grade 3; class set of 10 iPads for computer room</p> <p>Evaluate the condition and usefulness of the oldest COWS and other laptops and desktops throughout the building and Recycle/Repurpose when necessary.</p>	<p>Class set of Chromebooks for grade 3; class set of 10 iPads for computer room</p> <p>Evaluate the condition and usefulness of the oldest COWS and other laptops and desktops throughout the building and Recycle/Repurpose when necessary.</p>	<p>Consider the needs of the teachers, evaluate the effectiveness of our existing solutions and make recommendations for additional student devices where needs exist.</p>	<p>iPad training and lesson development will be conducted by our Technology and Curriculum Integrator in collaboration with teachers</p>

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	Prof. Dev.
Lab Computers	REAP GRANT purchase 20 new iMacs to replace computer lab PC's	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance	Discussion of curriculum support and teaching methodology will determine best model
Subscriptions	BrainPop Jr., BrainPop, and BrainPop Espanol, as well as Discovery Streaming. These are subscriptions that provide teachers with libraries of video presentations that directly support curricular goals	Continue to evaluate resources available to teachers online and make recommendations when appropriate.	Continue to evaluate resources available to teachers online and make recommendations when appropriate.		Continue to evaluate resources available to teachers online and make recommendations when appropriate.
Infrastructure		Replacement of current application server and extension of server warranty on file server.	Maintenance and evaluation of current model with regard to meeting the needs of the school.		Maintenance and evaluation of current model with regard to meeting the needs of the school.