

Rye Junior High Overview **Christopher Pollet, Principal**

In the era of the new standards and expectations, the Rye Junior High School has appropriately adjusted its program and continued to provide a high quality education with students meeting success in all aspects of student life. Rye Junior High School students move on to both public and private high schools where they are have continued success and enhance the school community.

As educators have stepped into the Common Core State Standards era, our professional philosophy continues to stay focused on student learning around a rigorous curriculum. Our work in Professional Learning Communities has allowed for teachers to look at their work through the eyes of student achievement. Professionals have established Student Learning Objectives for their content areas. As a school, we have identified areas that we feel are important to focus on through the year. Teachers will have set baseline measures for student achievement and check at the midyear and the end of the year for student growth. By looking at data through assessments (STAR Assessments, classroom measures), they can determine student understanding of curriculum and skills necessary to move to the next level or standard. We have formalized our Response to Instruction (RTI) as a way to reach all learners in an effective way. We are looking at assessment results and determining the best way to instruct students in regular classes as well as dividing them by individual needs to offer supports and challenge. We have designated times set aside in each grade to pursue this goal. We set high expectations for all students and believe that every child can and will achieve during their three years here.

Our process to stay connected with students and parents in our unique way is through our Advisory program and the Learning Compact. We have been working with our Advisory Program for four years, which creates small groups that meet with their advisor (a teacher). It is this program that allows us to institute the Learning Compact. It starts with the Student Information Form (filled out by teachers). The student's teachers pass to the receiving team to help new teams differentiate their instruction fill out this Student Information Form. The Partnership with Parents Form (filled out by parents) is the second component of this compact. The Partnership with Parents form is sent out early in the fall solicits input from parents about their sons and daughters. We have established goal setting for seventh and eighth graders through our Career Cruising program that has students doing inventories of interests and projecting into the future. The Goal Setting Process for students allows for students to outline their hopes and dreams in long term and short-term goals. Goal Setting is done early in the school year when energy is high and goals are better to set. The research says that students reach those goals that they set for themselves when they write them down 85% of the time. So we have them write them down. The parent and the teacher both work together to help support the student in reaching their goal. These three components all work together to bring the greatest success for students. We are spending this year reflecting on this process and seeing if it is valid and successful.

Rye Junior High School has worked on a long-range plan for technology to enhance student learning. We continue to upgrade our hardware for students, with the goal of 1:1 computing, where every learner will use a Chrome Book. We have firmly established our school as a Google Applications school. These devices support collaborative learning and the creation of course materials in a variety of formats such as Documents, Sites, Presentations, Spreadsheet and Forms. Classrooms will continue to be outfitted with modern interactive white boards and projectors. We continue to provide online subscriptions that provide teachers with access to digital multimedia as methods of presenting ideas and engaging students in learning. This growth and improvement in our technology department will only improve our student's achievement. Technology is no longer something that is a separate curriculum area or department; it is how we learn so much of what we do as learners and educators.

The library's resources continue to be a focus of our school. Large numbers of students are able to access this research center of our building while students can continue to use the library in a traditional way (borrowing books). Although more limited than in the past due to staffing changes, teachers collaborate with our librarian on lessons that include research and higher level thinking skills. Our library space also allows for an alternative teaching space with different resources for our classroom teachers as it allows for a different configuration of seating, technology and overall climate. This vibrant space continues to allow for students to apply skills across the curriculum areas in a state of the art environment.

Rye junior High School has had very few personnel changes over the past several years. However, the traditional team setting is no longer in place with one less social studies teacher, which has changed the school schedule and dynamics of interdisciplinary plans. RJH is certainly different than it has been in the past but striving to help students' to reach their greatest potential.

Rye Junior High School has worked to reach out to the community of Rye in many ways. Our Harvest Festival culminates a year with our community garden as we have parents and community members into our building for a night of food, education and dancing. Our connection with the Rye Historical Society allows students to better know the history of the town of Rye through visits to the RHS and guest speakers in their classrooms. The Police Department sends officers in to talk about challenges facing students in our society such as cyber-bullying, harassment and other difficult topics. Project Safeguard brings seventh graders and their parents to the Rye Congregational Church for a day of workshops on all the issues facing students and parents in today's world. We continue to support several organizations with charity efforts such as the Seacoast Food Pantry, 68 Hours of Hunger, and Toys Bank with the Rye Fire Department. The Goss Farm Collaborative gets our support with planting and harvesting in the spring and fall.

Our interscholastic sports teams and extra-curricular activities are big draws for the student population. Our interscholastic sports teams include anywhere from 40-60 percent of our students depending on the seasons. Our teams are competitive and known for their sportsmanship during all seasons. Our clubs and activities offer students' outlets for their personal pursuits from Math Counts to Art Club to our Drama Club students are engaged in meaningful activities with peers and great advisors.

To help foster a well-rounded education, the Rye Junior High School includes a wide variety of educational, community minded and extra-curricular programs that enrich and push all types of learners. We have accepted the challenge presented by the changing world and our students are flourishing now and for the years to come because of the design of our school and the tremendous professionals who guide them.



**Rye Junior High
Three Year Plan
Christopher Pollet, Principal**

Over the next three years, there are three areas of focus in expenditures at Rye Junior High School: Curriculum, Technology and Maintenance.

In the area of Curriculum, the implementation of the Common Core State Standards has brought about a different approach to the analysis of student data. We have undertaken collecting data through the Renaissance Learning's STAR assessments. This testing model is adaptive for students; as they get questions correct, the test becomes more difficult and vice versa. This expenditure was approximately \$3000.

In the area of Technology, we hope to continue modernizing our classrooms with interactive whiteboards and projectors. This program will include 2 classrooms a year over the next three years at approximately \$8000 a year (\$4000 a classroom). We continue to upgrade our hardware with purchases of Chrome Books. These Chrome Books (70 for next year) are computers that allow students access to online resources but have no memory. Our move to Google Applications will help students store documents and spreadsheets, create websites, etc. on the web and lessen our need for servers here on site. This continued upgrade will cost approximately \$19,500 (\$250 per computer) for hardware and licenses. Our goal is to offer students a variety of hardware options as different activities and lessons rely on different technologies.

Maintenance objectives and budgeted items for the area of school Maintenance include structural concerns, upgrades to the plant, and furniture. We are concerned about the main hallway floor that is shifting. An Engineering plan is necessary for us to move forward with remedying the problem in the main hallway. Upgrades to carpeting in the music area and electrical for classrooms are the areas the existing plan shows wear and needs. Storage continues to be a consideration as we are trying to expand our program into our existing footprint.

The planned expenditures of note for Rye Junior High School are included in the following worksheet.



DESCRIPTION	Amount			Rationale for Expenditure	Anticipated Impact in Improving Instruction, Curriculum, Assessment, or Professional Development
	2014	2015	2016		
Curriculum					
Star Assessment	0	2500	2500*	2500*	Better understanding of student skills levels (Cost is based on per pupil cost)
Technology					
Smartboard and Mounted Projectors	7998	0	7998	7998	Allow for modern programming in classrooms These devices easily allow us to integrate Google applications into our classroom programming and reduce server needs
Chrome Books	19495	19495	19495	19495	Continue with 1 to 1 Program
Mac Book Air	0	10000	10000	10000	Device choice by prior IT Director allows for better lesson planning and presentations
Maintenance					
Engineering plan	Unknown				To come up with a plan for the sinking floor in the main hallway
Security System	MO	Subscription Cost	Subscription Cost	Subscription Cost	Maintenance Objectives will cover this
Carpeting	MO				Maintenance Objectives will cover this
Gym Chairs	1699	1699	1699		Original carpeting from 1996 To update worn out chairs
Electrical Upgrade	1494	1500	1500	1500	Several rooms are not accessible due to location of electrical