



**Rye Junior High  
Rye School District Administrator Report  
February 15, 2023**

**Anne Gilbert, entry plan goals:**

Goal 1: Orient my understanding of the SAU 50 Plan for Effective Teaching in order to implement it with the staff at RJH.

Goal 2: To gain a comprehensive understanding of the Rye School District to include policies, procedures, and budgeting for all aspects of the school- curriculum, maintenance, staffing, technology.

Goal 3: To align practice, goals, and vision with Rye Elementary School

Goal 4: To gain a deep understanding of curriculum and assessment practices and analyze student data to identify goals for instruction and student progress.

**Accomplishments and Successes**

Goal 1: I am continually establishing routines and processes around teacher observations and feedback. Currently, the Category 1 and renewing teacher observations are being completed for their due date of February 28.

Goal 2: Sue Penny and I met regarding budgeting practices and how those can be improved, both in Rye Junior High and across the Rye District. This summer, Michelle and I will be working on building a collaborative process to track and spend professional development funds equitably.

Additionally, I wrote a grant for Title II funds to bring a team to the New England League of Middle School's annual conference in late March. The focus of this year's conference is:

Engaging classroom practices, SEL, Equity and Diversity, Young Adolescents, Leadership, and Communication.

Goal 3: Thanks to Michelle for spearheading a Writing Committee with the RES staff! The group will be taking a look at potential programs and a vertical alignment of skills and expectations to help our students progress through writing achievement more fluidly.

Goal 4: Our staff just completed another round of Star testing in reading and math. We are providing short term interventions for students during WIN block that require extra support in each skill area. We completed an examination of the data during our content level PLCs today to identify the skills in which our students need more instruction.

On Wednesday, February 8, the eighth grade teachers and I attended a transition meeting at Portsmouth High School, facilitated by Shelagh St. Laurent, the PHS curriculum coordinator. There were teacher and administrative representatives from each sending middle school, along with ninth grade teachers. The discussion was focused around identifying strengths and areas of concern for the transition to PHS from each school's perspective, and we were able to engage in discussion about the myths versus the reality of the transition. The conversation also turned toward curriculum and assessment, and we are all interested in shared assessment practices and curriculum goals.

#### Current school focus

Goal 1: As I continue to observe teachers in different classes, I can see patterns of instruction on teams and in content areas. This information is critical as we continue to align our expectations of students with the identified standards each content area is focusing on. After February break, we will be working on content teams and grade level teams completing observations of each other in order to observe student achievement and best instructional practice. In this way, we are able to develop shared language and expectations for all students.

Goal 2: Next month, I will be working with Kelli Killen to start the search for the RJH open positions. I'm looking forward to becoming familiar with her processes for hiring. After the school board vote on the updated dress code policy, the staff will again review the policy and handbook suggestions, and create a plan for implementation with families and students.

Goal 4: Our staff has identified 'power standards' for each content area. Next, I would like to work with teams to develop learning targets and rubrics for each of these standards.

#### Other

Community Listen: We know how busy schedules are, but we also want to keep lines of communication open about the successes and challenges that come with raising and teaching young adults. Join us in listening to a two-part podcast episode, titled "Happier Parents, Happier Kids" from The Happiness Lab podcast by Dr. Laurie Santos of Yale University. Each group member will listen on their own and then we will schedule a virtual discussion on a specific date coming in March.

RJH Spelling Bee: We had 24 representatives from grades 5-8 participate in the RJH spelling bee. Our top speller was Dom in 6th grade!



**GATHER drive:** The student council hosted a food and supplies drive for Gather. We had an internal challenge to collect 200 items, and earn a talent show! Mission accomplished!

**Kindness Month:** February is Kindness Month at RJH. We are overwhelmed with the level of kindness we are able to witness each day. Students are inviting new folks to their cafeteria tables, helping each other out in the hallways, and trying new games at recess.

**Security Assessment:** Our security assessment through the NH Department of Homeland Security was completed January 27. While it is not a pass/fail situation, our team was grateful for the expert suggestions by the visiting team, and look forward to receiving the final report and making a plan for further improvements in our building.

**Lockdown:** We have had two lockdown drills this year, and our Safety Committee led an overhaul of our emergency buckets to contain items that are necessary when following the ALICE training we received from Rye PD.