



Rye School District Administrator Report
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AS A PERSON, I AM:

- Kind- I show empathy, compassion, and consideration for others.
- Confident- I strive to be independent, self-assured, and prepared to achieve goals.
- Creative- I use my imagination to express myself and share original ideas.
- Mindful - I build healthy habits for my personal well being.

Rye Elementary School

- For the past five years, third graders have been creating a Macy's Day Parade scene in November out in the hallways for all to see. This is a huge cross-curriculum and community project! The parade scene kicked off the first week of November when teachers read the picture book, **BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY**, which highlights the life of the puppeteer, Tony Sarg. The display includes a multiplication city where children design their buildings and then write out the break apart models to a multiplication fact. Then, the kindergartners traveled to the third grade hallway and Mrs. Goss explained how and why we created this project. The kindergartners also created mini parade balloons and read this book. Lastly, some first grade buddies visited as well. The first grade buddies created a mini parade scene and shared their work with their third grade friends! A true project-based learning opportunity and a collaborative effort from three different grades.
- This month's theme is empathy. Students are being taught about this important learner quality through the Purposeful People curriculum, with the help of Mrs. Arsenault. One of our second grade classes sang the "Empathy" song from this curriculum at our monthly assembly and the pom poms we give to students this month will focus on this



trait. We will also focus on the role of the upstander in the bullying circle to give kudos to those students who turn empathy into action.

- The new format of our report card will be shared with families immediately following the holiday break. Within this format are new learner qualities that will focus on the characteristics outlined in the Profile of a Learner: kind, confident, responsible, collaborative, resourceful and persistent.

Rye Junior High School

- Our 'Hype' Committee has been busy organizing several events meant to appeal to the entire school community. This group organized a dance for grades 6-8, complete with professional DJ, pizza and snacks, and even a photo booth. They also organized our Spirit Week last week, which combined full school theme days (think PJ Day) with a collection of items to benefit Stocking Elves and Operation Blessing. Currently, the Hype Committee consists of eighth grade students, with a plan to involve younger students later in the year. We are so proud of our Hype Committee student leadership team, and their focus on wellness within our student population.
- Cooking classes have become increasingly popular at RJH. While we have designated cooking classes available through the Explore program, other classes have integrated cooking into their curriculum, including world language cuisine, food truck design, 'Real Life Skills', and even advisory and after school groups. Cooking is clearly an important skill to learn, but there are several other skills students are able to practice. Following a recipe, problem solving when making a mistake, and staying on task are all important skills that are happening for our students each time they are in the kitchen. Additionally, they must adhere to healthy habits as they plan their recipes!



AS A CITIZEN, I AM:

- Respectful- I behave courteously and am thoughtful of the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of others.
- Engaged- I participate in my community and explore what makes it unique, while keeping a global perspective.
- Responsible- I hold myself accountable and take action when appropriate.
- Collaborative- I listen and communicate effectively and work well with others.

Rye Elementary School



- Our fourth graders visited the State House and learned so much about our government. They dressed like professionals and were able to take a tour. The Rye representatives Jaci Grote, Dennis Malloy and Peggy Balboni, met the students at the State house, which was such a treat! The fourth graders enjoyed being part of Congress; they visited the House and the Senate. Their favorite part was the Hall of Flags!
- Students in K visit Webster at Rye in December to spread holiday cheer. The residents love these visits from our students and the bridge that is built between our young learners and our senior members of this incredible community is a unique and joyful experience for all!
- On December 20, we will be hosting a Holiday Sing along. This year we have started a new tradition in which we invite family members and friends of our staff to enjoy some holiday cheer with our RES community. We have always had this event with students and staff but this year we wanted to have one opportunity for our extended family, those who support our staff and hear all about our community, to experience it firsthand.

Rye Junior High School

- Seventh grader Emma H. acted as principal on Tuesday. She had a busy day organizing and delivering a breakfast for teachers, investigating some shenanigans in the hallway, running a fire drill, and a few tasks to ensure school events run smoothly. She also requested to play a few ‘intercom games’- a fun RJH tradition. She also facilitated a discussion that led to an improved furniture design in a classroom. Emma did it all with patience, a good nature, and a smile on her face. Thank you, Principal Emma!
- Ms. Kaplan’s social studies class recently visited the Black Heritage Trail of NH. According to Ms. Kaplan, “It was a snow-filled, story-filled Social Studies field trip! Our amazing tour guide, Valerie, shared with us some of the incredible black history that shaped the Portsmouth we know and love. Our RJH students were respectful, inquisitive, and such troopers through the wet and cold. Valerie said they were quite possibly the most enjoyable group she had ever encountered in her eight years of being a tour guide!”



AS A LEARNER, I AM:

- Resourceful- I use tools, materials, and critical thinking skills to address issues and to solve problems.
- Persistent- I keep trying and approach learning with resilience, motivation, and flexibility.
- Prepared- I take on academic challenges and equip myself to succeed in a variety of settings.
- Curious- I explore learning opportunities with wonder and reflection.

Rye Elementary School

- The third-grade classes in STEAM have been learning about the pros and cons of dams. In today's age, students need to understand renewable energy and that we can get that from dams using water flow. Dams also create reservoirs for recreation, water storage, and the prevention of floods. In class, the students learned vocabulary and the pros and cons of dams, and then they built a dam using clay, sticks, rocks, and other natural materials. Along with the learning, we also used Discovery Education to watch various videos on how dams are built, dams around the world, and how dams can sometimes cause natural problems, such as blocking fish migration and failing, which causes floods. This is being provided, free of charge, from the NH Department of Education.



Rye Junior High School

- Rye Junior High recently held a school wide Science Expo with a specific grade level focus. Fifth graders set up their own investigations using the scientific method. Some creative projects include what color hair generates the most static electricity, which local beach has the saltiest water, and many projects that included how pets reacted to certain foods, smells, or sounds. Sixth grader projects were student designed self propelled Newton's scooters, which culminated in a spirited competition of distance between groups. Seventh grade students created bioengineered prosthetic hands that were designed to complete a variety of tasks. Eighth grade student projects focused on Newton in action through live demonstrations and experiments. It's important to our teachers to provide opportunities for students to experience working through an open ended problem, and use research, collaboration, and problem solving skills to create a new solution. We know, through professional research and experience, that middle school students prefer to delve into the unknown and work together to figure things out! The community was invited to view student projects, and we were all impressed with the student projects, but also their speaking skills and ability to answer questions from visitors. Thank you to everyone in our community for attending our first school wide Science Expo!



Other Updates

Rye Elementary School and Rye Junior High School

- Recently our RES Safety Team engaged in a tabletop exercise with members of RJH, Homeland Security, central office, and the Rye PD and Fire Departments. We have been planning this for almost a year and the work we did together was a learning experience but also validating, as the systems we had in place to respond and the organizational structures we had in place were impressive to our observers. We ran through a few scenarios, which were unknown to the RES team prior, and tested our Emergency Operations Plan, which is submitted to the state by the principals each year.
- Both RES and RJH students and staff have been contributing to the Stocking Elves project, an initiative started by the Daniels family, providing stocking for families in need. Members of our school communities have been donating funds, stocking fillers and time to sort and stuff stockings to aid in this incredible endeavor.
- We want to thank the PTA for contributing to our holiday cheer once again by providing staff lunches and a fun cookie swap for staff, as these weeks before the holidays can pull a bit harder from our energy sources. The fuel these events provide the staff does help more than they know!