

Rye School District Administrator Report

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March 19, 2025

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.

**Please note we had a one week break so slightly less to report!*

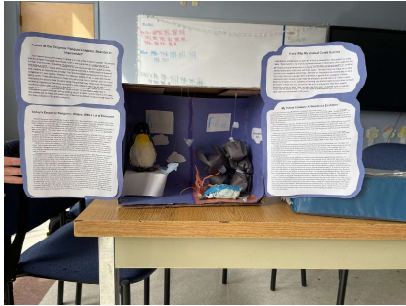
Rye Elementary School

- All students were treated to a performance by The Rhythm Method, Gene Guth's band, and were able to see and understand the possibility of what practice and playing an instrument or singing could truly mean. The talent was remarkable and one of the most exciting parts was watching the performance with the staff and students from Newington who came to watch!

Rye Junior High School

Creativity:

- As part of a biology unit, the fifth graders are learning about adaptations of animals. The Future Creature project allows students to incorporate learning from a previous climate unit, and create adaptations for certain animals based on the future climate of their habitat. Families were invited to check out these creative adaptations, and hear more about why the students created them!



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

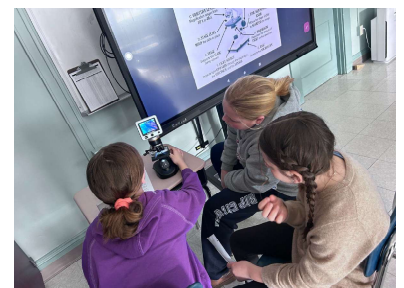
- We want to thank the Rye PTA for funding the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy grant so they could come to present on White Sharks to the fourth grade. This in-house presentation kicked off their shark tracking unit, which focuses on the standard 4-LS1-1. *Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.* Here is a picture of Mrs. Smaracko's class with the puzzle they put together after learning about a shark's anatomy.
- In early March, two fellow educators from another district/state came to tour our school to observe and learn from our staff, most specifically the interventions we employ to support students socially, emotionally and behaviorally. They were in awe of the high level of engagement, respect, responsibility and collaboration they saw all around the RES building. It was challenging to have them transition from one classroom to another because they wanted to keep learning but then the next classroom was just as educational. They learned so much and were amazed by the talent of the RES staff.



Rye Junior High School

Collaborative per grade:

- Sixth graders recently had an opportunity to use digital microscopes to analyze biodegradable materials. Students worked together to practice their microscope skills and complete the



analysis. To enhance their science instruction, they will be traveling to the Boston Museum of Science.

- The eighth grade Biosphere project has become famous (infamous?) within our student body. Students work in teams of up to four to create a viable biosphere that could support human life indefinitely. Students must report out on the life supporting aspects of their biosphere and create a realistic model of the structure. They also have to create a brochure that advertises their biosphere to potential residents. Additionally, the science topics learned have to be incorporated into narrative writing, as each student creates a "Choose Your Own Adventure" story that takes place in their biosphere.
- Currently, the RJH staff is examining our social studies instructional method. A staff wide survey was completed, which helped focus the successes and needs of our current model. What we learned:
 - Our students are engaged in the six week sessions and enjoy the opportunity to choose
 - Instructional methods are limited in a six week course, and teachers would like classes to be longer- preferably a full quarter
 - Teachers would like to offer more classes to a single grade level, focusing on required instruction at that specific grade level
 - Teachers see the importance of RJH students having a similar social studies instructional experience
 - Teachers would still like to find a way for students to have some choice

We are continuing to meet as a staff to determine the best instructional methods for our students in the area of social studies.

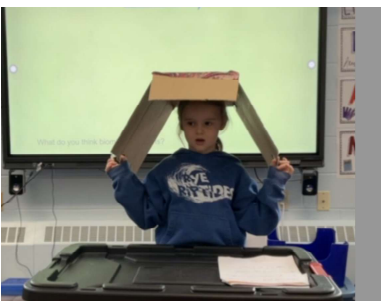
AS A LEARNER, I AM:

- 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

- *A STEAM update that reflects so many of our learner qualities!*

-In first-grade, each student designed a biomimicry project using the Engineering Design Process. The design was based on an animal adaptation for an animal they chose. Biomimicry means copying from life. Humans have created many things that use animal adaptations to solve life problems. One student



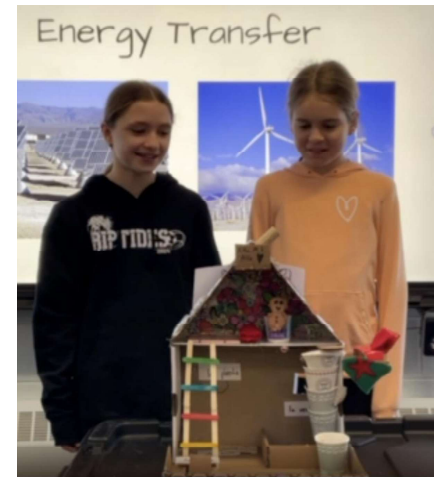
designed a covering based on a tree's canopy to help them stay dry during a rainstorm.

-In second grade, students learned about how natural forces change the Earth. We dove deeper and looked at beach erosion and how to stop it. Each group, using the Engineering Design Process, built something to help prevent a beach they designed from eroding due to the waves created by the ocean.

-Fourth graders learned about renewable energy. We focused on solar and wind energy.

Their Engineering Design Challenge was to create a house based on a book *El Hombre Jengibre*, *The Gingerbread Man*, that *Senorita Piper* read in World Language. The house was to protect their gingerbread person. Students designed and built a home powered by solar energy to power either two LED lights or a student-built fan.

- The third grade teachers engaged in Foundations training as we will be shifting this program to one more grade next year so our students can complete this training and maximize their skills in phonics, spelling and letter formation/handwriting. Currently we teach this program K-2 but it is a K-3 program. We want to thank our third grade teachers for being so open and willing to learn how to teach more complex phonics skills. What is amazing is that our current second graders will be able to demonstrate their knowledge to support the implementation because they are experts themselves!
- Leah Weeks, the Reading Specialist, and I attended a Literacy Committee meeting with Greenland as outsiders to their current pilot of CKLA, a reading/writing program they are contemplating for implementation next school year. Being able to participate in this committee and work alongside Greenland teachers and administrators, benefitting from their experience with this program, has been so beneficial. We will continue to be a part of this committee and will be observing three teachers pilot CKLA in Greenland this month.



Rye Junior High School

Persistence:

- Our seventh grade students recently created Pecha Kuchas, which is a presentation format used to tell a story. Each student created a movie of 10 slides, which were each allotted 20 seconds. These 'movies' told an impactful story from their personal experience. Students had to complete a significant amount of planning and organizing their story with different images. practice and memorize their script, and include specific details and word choice to bring life to their story. This project incorporates writing skills, presentation skills, speaking and listening skills. Each student also gave feedback to others during their presentations.



PECHA KUCHA	Poor (1)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Excellent (4)
<input type="checkbox"/> Images are powerful, high-quality, and visually appealing				✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation is engaging, entertaining, and informative			✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker makes excellent eye contact (not reliant on notes)			✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker is well-rehearsed with outstanding pacing, volume, and confidence/poise			✓	
Overall Rating (out of 10):				

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Other Updates

Rye Elementary School and Rye Junior High School

-The staff at both schools have now participated in a Cybersecurity training designed by Chris Cooney to provide specific and simple directions on how to protect our passwords and our devices. In effect, these protocols also protect our district from potential damage as well.

Our district wide Professional Development was held at Rye Junior High School. Staff offered various ‘classes’ based on their personal expertise- which included cooking skills, SEL topics, an overview of changing educational laws in NH, and juggling!