



Rye School District Administrator Updates

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**RYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **Organizational Pillars**

1. **Academics:** Students actively seek knowledge, think critically, and apply what they learn to solve real-world problems.
  - For the first time in several years, we are going to complete all lessons and units across the curriculum and across the grades due to the collaboration, pacing and hard work of our teachers. Students will move on to the next grade with the knowledge they need to build on concepts that are to come!
2. **Community Connection:** Students build relationships and contribute positively to their school, local, and global community.
  - Our Kindergarten students visited Webster at Rye and sang the song from our Earth Day Assembly, *Spread a Little Sunshine*. The residents participated by singing the echo verses. Here is the video if you want a little sunshine too! [Spread A Little Sunshine](#)
  - Ethan Curtin, a chef, taught our preschool and pre-Kindergarten students how to make biscuits and shared his journey, which started by working in local restaurants. He shared photos of his food art with our students and impressed all of the teachers with his skills! The children all had their own decorated aprons and all of this was supported by REF!
3. **Equity, Inclusion, Belonging:** Students value differences, treat others with respect, and help create spaces where everyone feels welcome.
  - Recently, I hosted a Principal Advisory Council (PAC) meeting and asked for some feedback around RES strengths and areas of focus as I plan the 2026-2027 school year. I would like to share this feedback because it was VERY validating for our RES community.



**Here were the strengths they noted:**

- Constant joy in the building, which permeates from all staff
- Any child can talk or get support from anyone
- Drop off is very welcoming with smiles and warm, happy greetings
- Family members can pop in for lunch
- Deep traditions
- Strong data at a student level with frequent deep discussions about the best way we educate children
- Teachers are clearly passionate about the work they do
- RES appreciates the outdoors by taking advantage of the unique geography (maple sugaring, Ocean Week, etc...)
- RES allows for questions/community feedback in a way that does not solicit negative emotions in a way that is hard to do by providing moderate dives into what we are doing,
- RES staff is prepared for difficult questions and are genuine when asking for feedback.

4. **Transferable Skills:** Students use skills like problem-solving, adaptability, and creativity in any situation they face.
5. **Physical and Mental Wellness:** Students make choices that support their health, balance, and personal growth.
6. **Collaboration and Communication:** Students work well with others and express their ideas clearly while listening to different perspectives.

### **Operational Strategies**

1. **Deliver a Quality Curriculum:** Implement and regularly review a rigorous, relevant, and well-aligned curriculum to prepare students for future success.
  - We want to thank REF for the very generous grant that supported an entire week of ocean study. We had several visitors who taught us about ocean mapping, fishing and swimming with sharks. We visited the Seacoast Science Center and had Coastal Critters visit RES. We had the author of *Float* speak to our younger students and had artist in residence, Ralph Masiello, work with our students to complete the most gorgeous underwater mural. THANK YOU, REF!



- **Strengthen Teaching and Learning:** Use engaging, research-based instructional practices that inspire curiosity and deepen understanding across all classrooms.
- Students in grades 1-4 attended the *Wild Symphony* performance at The Portsmouth Music Hall last week. This book, by local author Dan Brown, was read

to students and, after each page, they enjoyed music played by a full symphony orchestra specifically to highlight each page of the text.

2. ***Invest in Professional and Staff Development:*** Provide ongoing, high-quality learning opportunities that build staff expertise and improve student outcomes.
  3. ***Provide Layered Support for Students:*** Maintain a coordinated system of academic, social-emotional, and behavioral supports to meet the diverse needs of every student.
  4. ***Amplify Student Voice:*** Create structured opportunities for students to share ideas, influence decisions, and shape their learning experiences.
  5. ***Maintain Safe and Supportive Facilities:*** Ensure school environments are safe, accessible, well-maintained, and conducive to student learning and well-being.
- Over the April break, Chris Cooney spent time reworking many of our internal video cameras to ensure that all spaces could be monitored or reviewed for safety. Thank you, Chris!

## **RYE JUNIOR HIGH**

### **Organizational Pillars**

1. ***Academics:*** Students actively seek knowledge, think critically, and apply what they learn to solve real-world problems.

Students enrolled in VEX robotics are building robots to complete identified tasks, and are using our in house competition field to complete challenges. Because we have the competition field, students are able to make adjustments to the components of their robots to make them more effective while completing challenges.

2. ***Community Connection:*** Students build relationships and contribute positively to their school, local, and global community.

Eighth graders recently traveled to Lowell, MA to test the water in the Merrimack River as part of their ecology study in science class. The data collected will be used to create charts and graphs using an online resource that allows users to add and delete data to create different groups of data based on needed results.

3. ***Equity, Inclusion, Belonging:*** Students value differences, treat others with respect, and help create spaces where everyone feels welcome.

RJH is working with consultant Quinci Worthey to support our school in

building a strong culture around acceptance and equity. His expertise in these areas, and restorative justice, have been invaluable during this work. With his guidance, we have a plan for next year around identifying a stronger belief system with our students, and how to incorporate that into our daily work with students.

4. **Transferable Skills:** Students use skills like problem-solving, adaptability, and creativity in any situation they face.
5. **Physical and Mental Wellness:** Students make choices that support their health, balance, and personal growth.

Students in PE classes are again traveling to Salt Pump Climbing for a community experience in wellness. Students get to experience a different way to stay active and learn more about options in our community. PE teacher Jordan Cartlidge is also working with First Tee of NH to introduce his students to golfing at local courses.

6. **Collaboration and Communication:** Students work well with others and express their ideas clearly while listening to different perspectives.

### **Operational Strategies**

1. **Deliver a Quality Curriculum:** Implement and regularly review a rigorous, relevant, and well-aligned curriculum to prepare students for future success.
2. **Strengthen Teaching and Learning:** Use engaging, research-based instructional practices that inspire curiosity and deepen understanding across all classrooms.  
RJH's literacy interventionist, Brianna Durand, traveled to RES to see a lesson using their newly adopted literacy program. Both Denise Wheeler and Brianna Durand plan to engage in professional development in myView to ensure that the transition in literacy instruction is effective for students.
3. **Invest in Professional and Staff Development:** Provide ongoing, high-quality learning opportunities that build staff expertise and improve student outcomes.
4. **Provide Layered Support for Students:** Maintain a coordinated system of academic, social-emotional, and behavioral supports to meet the diverse needs of every student.
5. **Amplify Student Voice:** Create structured opportunities for students to share ideas, influence decisions, and shape their learning experiences.
6. **Maintain Safe and Supportive Facilities:** Ensure school environments are safe, accessible, well-maintained, and conducive to student learning and well-being.

*Lastly...*

In the Rye Schools, we would like to thank the incredible staff at RES and RJH for all

of their incredible hard work and the ways they go above and beyond in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week! Also, we want to thank PTA for all they do to coordinate fun and treats for our teachers throughout the entire week!

[Strategic Planning Work](#)