



Superintendent's Report

November, 2021

***Our first frost -
October 28, 2020***

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale."

Lauren DeStefano

Connecticut River Collaborative Planning Committee

This committee has been on hiatus since May, 2021. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4 at 6:00 pm. Meeting focus: subcommittee will provide updated draft financials and articles of agreement concerning two models.

SAU 7 Board Meeting

The SAU 7 Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Colebrook Academy and Elementary School in the Cafeteria. At this meeting we will address the following items: Technology Director Resignation, Technology Director Appointment, SAU 7 Department Updates, Superintendent Report on Strategic Plan and Business Administrator Search, SAU 7 Budget for 22-23. Hope to see everyone there!

Curriculum Instruction and Assessment

SAU #7 School Districts and Canaan Schools are continuing our focus on collaboration and

innovation to scale and deepen their implementation of personalized learning, using integrated technology tools and a competency-based learning approach.

Activity Highlights:

Professional Learning Committee work continues. Teachers met on the October 8 administrative day to continue the work initiated this fall focusing on developing a common quality performance assessment by grade level (elementary) or content area (secondary and specialty subjects).

Building upon the existing collaborative committee of educators representing our three regional high schools and recognizing that many of our high school students attend classes in one another's schools, we have decided to return to the discussion of high school scheduling in hopes of attaining a common schedule for all three high schools.

Our curriculum committee, which was instituted last fall, continues to meet monthly after school. Their task is to build our professional development plan, communicate with teachers and PLC teams, communicate progress and seek feedback from their school colleagues. More information will be forthcoming at our upcoming SAU 7 School Board Meeting on November 10 along with an update on progress toward our SAU 7 Strategic Plan and Superintendent Goals.



Substitute Teachers

We are making slow but steady progress on recruiting substitute teachers for our schools. We have employed some additional substitutes, however, we are still experiencing a severe staffing shortage in this area. Remember to refer candidates for substitute teaching to me. I would be pleased to speak with them. While a teaching degree for a substitute teacher is preferred, we are able to employ individuals with high school diplomas, provided they meet our criteria including a successful criminal background check in advance of the initiation of their employment.

Communications During These Challenging Times

One thing is for certain, one can never communicate enough! During these challenging times, we are often bombarded with information from several different sources - some accurate and some false.

We continue to follow our safe and healthy protocols which are being observed by staff and students. Thanks to all for the hard work and dedication and dedication to keeping our students safe. Due to rising cases this fall, some of our schools have instituted requirements for face coverings. These are observed only when the school has sufficient cases to be identified as a cluster site. The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services provide all schools in NH with an opt-in testing program which we implement weekly beginning this month for any student or staff member who wishes to participate. Parent consent is required.

Please remember that first and foremost, we only communicate information about the effect of COVID - 19 on our schools through official channels to our School Boards, staff, parents and students. We also must honor confidentiality requirements for schools and staff in that we cannot personally identify individuals who may have tested positive or are quarantining.

Meanwhile, we continue to communicate internally to ensure consistency and support through biweekly SAU office and leadership team meetings, weekly school visits and regular email and phone communications. Superintendent Office Hours are held monthly to communicate with staff and parents.

School Principal Update

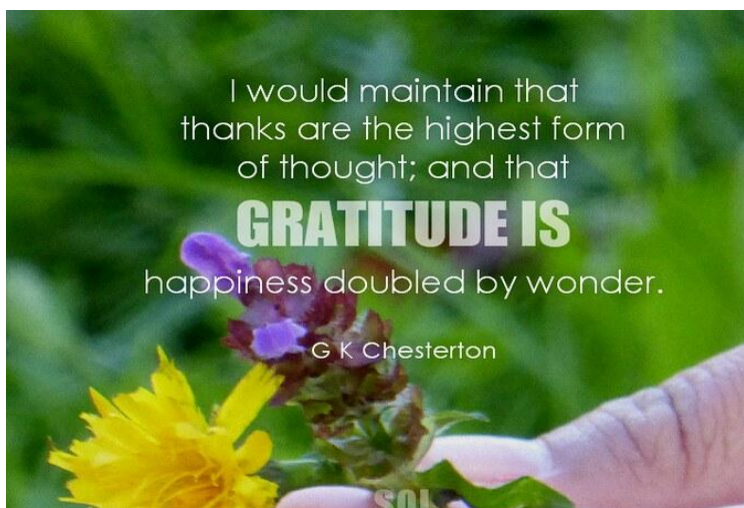
This is ***Principal Appreciation Month***. I would like to personally thank all SAU 7 principals and assistant principals for a job well done.

Mrs. Elaine Sherry has recently resigned her position as principal in Pittsburg. She is heading to southern New Hampshire to support her family. Elaine has served as principal of Pittsburg for seven years. We appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to the students and staff in our community. The Pittsburg School Board accepted her resignation on October 25 and plan to interview candidates for the position on November 8.

Fall Message of Gratitude to School Staff and Families

This year, I am perhaps the most proud I have ever been of our students, staff and families. When the world came to a near grinding halt due to the COVID-19 health crisis, our community made the choice to continue moving forward to support our students, progress and innovate during this unprecedented time that was marked by a genuine commitment to serve students and meet their needs with care and compassion.

We have witnessed our community put into practice the skills we believe are essential for students to be prepared for challenging colleges and careers and to be engaged citizens. Together, our students, staff and families have faced challenges with a growth mindset, adaptability, fortitude, and grace. Teachers found new ways to teach and connect with students and parents, while our students found new ways to learn and engage with their teachers and classmates. Our parent community took on new roles and worked tirelessly to support their children and schools. When you look back at this time, I hope you will feel the same sense of pride. While it has not been perfect, it has been inspiring and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



As always if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me.