

SAU # 7

# Superintendent Report December, 2022

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## Welcome to Winter!

Our landscapes become sculpted with snow and ice in winter! What a beautiful sight!

I would like to provide you with an overview of the process we use to determine if school delays, early releases or closures are required due to inclement weather. We have provided this information on our website: [School Cancellation Procedure](#).

## SAU 7 BOARD UPDATE

Our SAU 7 School Board will hold its next meeting on December 8th at 6:00 pm in the Colebrook School Library.

Our SAU 7 Strategic Plan update was presented to the Board in November. The Board voted to continue the current plan for two years as the goals and activities are in progress and remain relevant.

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The Board approved the Superintendent Goals through 2024. Debra will continue to provide regular updates to the school board. The Board reviewed policies as a first reading and requested that the second reading occur at the individual school boards.

Continue her monthly virtual office hours, visits schools and classrooms weekly and is supporting our new administrators. Schools and SAU 7 are also contributing information to local media to keep our community informed about school activities.

## **BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

This month, we are preparing school budgets for presentation to the school boards. We have just received our Adequacy Aid estimates for 23-24. We have received preliminary notice of the health premium increase, not to exceed 13.1%. All boards will review preliminary budgets in early December and provide feedback and direction to the administration. We have completed our schedule of public hearings and town meetings for each school board.

## **SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Colebrook Academy and Elementary School**

Colebrook School Board is focusing on communication regarding the proposed Colebrook Academy and Elementary School Building Expansion and Renovation Project.

The School District was recently notified that the Colebrook Academy and North Point CTE program has been prioritized as Number 2 in the state for building aid by the New Hampshire Department of Education. The School Board action to proceed with the project, noted that it is contingent on Building Aid. With the aid, the estimated taxpayer impact is \$6.5 million, which is the same amount the town approved for the original elementary school project over 20 years ago.

The scope of the project includes 28,300 square feet of new construction including the New Colebrook Academy and North Point Career and Technical Education Center (CTE) along with a regulation sized high school gym.

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The North Point CTE program began this fall with five programs including: automotive, culinary/hospitality, education, health sciences and information technology. The new building will accommodate needed lab and classroom space for these programs.

The major goals of the new Colebrook Academy and North Point CTE are: Space, Safety and Spirit.

The New Colebrook Academy and North Point CTE will:

- Provide CTE programs to the region including Auto, Power Sports, Health Sciences, Culinary/Hospitality, Education, and Technology
- Include regulation sized high school gymnasium
- Provide adult education opportunities
- Provide expanded on site college course offerings beyond the 42 credits offered this year
- Be a community resource for indoor winter activities and gatherings
- Include dedicated high school areas
- Be fully handicapped accessible
- Give Colebrook Academy back the identity & home lost in 2019

The new building will provide more of a standalone high school area, giving students the feeling that they are moving into the next phase of their academic lives. The school expansion project is designed to provide much needed high school level education spaces, which also has the added effect of improving the existing elementary school by returning rooms designed for elementary and middle school learning back to their original classroom level. Additionally, the design creates a CTE wing, a high school sized gym with secure public entry and provides spaces for specialized learning designed for collaboration, intervention and projects based learning.

The Board Building Communications Committee has reached out to various community organizations, including retired teachers, North Country Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis club, and Community Craft Fair. There will also be public information hearings where residents can view floor plans and external renderings and ask questions. Voters will consider the proposed project at the Colebrook Annual School District Meeting on March 7 at 6:00 pm.

Visit the School District website for more information on the proposed project:

[https://csd.sau7.org/proposed\\_colebrook\\_academy\\_and\\_cte\\_center](https://csd.sau7.org/proposed_colebrook_academy_and_cte_center)

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## Pittsburg School

Pittsburg and Colebrook students continue to participate in collaborative classes. This includes academics, electives and CTE classes. Our students and families appreciate our cooperative efforts to support students' growth and career development.

Pittsburg held a fall festival in October where students decorated and carved pumpkins, which were displayed in front of the school. There was a trunk or treat activity sponsored by the National Honor Society and homecoming parade of student floats.

Dr. Charles Lloyd, President of WMCC visited with the Superintendent, Principal and faculty on November 29. Expanded collaboration will result in more opportunities for students, such as a CDL training pathway program, enrollment in live, hybrid or asynchronous online college courses, and extended visits to WMCC to experience hands-on programs such as welding in the spring of 2023.

Students in Civics class completed their midterm which included 50% of the questions for the Citizenship test, newly required for graduation. Every student passed the test. For their final, they will complete the remainder of the test. Go Social Studies Scholars!

Students in the humanities class enjoyed a school sponsored trip to Boston this fall. Students visited historic sites, attended plays and sporting events over the three day trip.



Pittsburg school staff and students will be decorating our classroom doors for the holidays. Families who attend the winter concert on December 19 will be invited to view our decorated

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doors. Basketball season has begun and our Pittsburg/Canaan Team will hold all home games at Canaan School this year. Go Team!

## Stewartstown Community School

Stewartstown Community School afterschool program is up and running with 20 students. Students work on homework and do a daily craft and other activities. It has been a great success.

Dorothy Lapoint, Shelley Crossley, and Mrs. Humphrey have begun the six-week RULER approach training to help us meet the social and emotional needs of our students, families, and staff. We are excited about the material and can't wait to share it with the team during staff meetings and early release days starting in December. Meeting our staff's and students' social and emotional needs is critical to a child's education. If we can't help our students with their emotional needs, we can't help them reach their academic goals.

John Kennedy and Amy Falconer have begun working with Jeremy Knowlton from WMSI. They will work with him on robotics and other STEM projects throughout the school year. Amy has been working with students in the MAKERSPACE, and John will continue to be part of the spring WMSI work when they come into SCS and work with the younger students. We are all excited about the problem-solving skills and engineering skills students are learning.

On the October 14, 2022, admin day, teachers continued working on competency-based grading, focusing on rubrics. Jon Vander Els and Brian Stack from V&S were in Colebrook, working with the entire staff and individual PLCs (Professional Learning Communities). Jenn M continues to head up our work with CBE, and I look forward to seeing it all come together. As a result, students will be able to take ownership of their learning and tell you why they are learning the materials they are in the classroom.

The November 9, 2022 Parent Teacher Conferences were very successful. Families participating came to school and met with their teachers. In addition, we asked students in grades 3 to 8 to join their parents for students to be part of the conversation.

The eighth graders have worked on a plan for Holiday Cheer week, and the staff will be having a staff breakfast and sock swap. Then, on December 16, 2022, Mrs. Thilkey will present a Holiday Music Celebration at 1:30 pm. Students will be performing, and families will be invited. We are working to see if it can be recorded to share with families that can't make it. This is an excellent

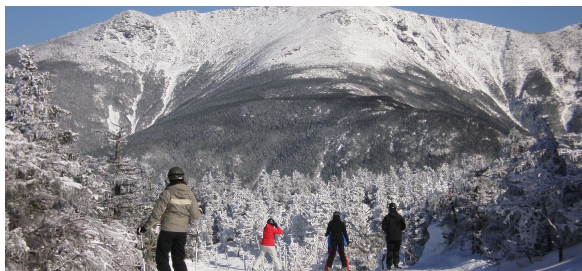
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opportunity for students to start performing in front of an audience and then, in the spring, have a more formal concert.

Mrs. Humphrey has applied for the Berlin City Keep Driving Foundation grant which if received will be used to continue growing our Makerspace in the library. The funds would be used to purchase another table and stools, tablets to run robotics, materials for the 3D printers, and general materials for the hands-on projects and learning opportunities. Berlin City has granted more than \$850,000, since 2011, for education, food insecurity, and other community organizations. I am excited about this possibility for our students.



Stewartstown Students Maker Space Fun!



Students from Stewartstown, Pittsburg and Colebrook will participate in six weeks of snowboarding and skiing at Burke Mountain beginning in January. All are looking forward to it!

## Notable School Upcoming Events:

### Winter Concerts:

Colebrook: December 15 at 6:00 pm

Pittsburg: December 19 at 5:30 pm

Stewartstown: December 16: 1:30 pm



Be well and take good care.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Taylor, PhD.  
Superintendent