

# THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXIV, Number 10

June 2016



## *From the President ...*

**Marty Bouchard, Principal,  
Houlton Middle/High School and  
President of the MPA**

Oh, that ridiculous month of May. It swoops in with all its fury and before you know it the students and teachers are headed out the door as you sit in astonishment wondering how another school year has passed. The list of things to do is certainly long and you wonder if there will ever be an end in sight: spring sports, year-end concerts, evening meetings, next year's schedule, collecting technology, reviewing goals and test scores, and so much more. When I looked at my calendar for the month of May, of the 21 school days we had, I was scheduled for something to do in the evenings on 16 of them. And... We chose this profession because we love it.

I recently read the book *Most Likely to Succeed* by Tony Wagner. I first encountered Mr. Wagner's work years ago when I read *The Global Achievement Gap*. He has a fantastic way of presenting thought provoking arguments, which illustrate what many of us are doing wrong, while also providing examples of experiences across the world to prove his points in an effort to spark positive change. I must say I always find his writing inspiring, as it ignites my thinking about some of the positive changes I could try to implement at my school. The problem I always seem to encounter is the change seems to need to be SO widespread, and we encounter SO many roadblocks that our efforts are often thwarted before they attain too much momentum. I continue to be steadfast in my efforts to inspire positive change at my school.

I would like to elaborate on some of my experiences when implementing educational change the past couple of years. I am so pleased we have made the switch to proficiency-based education. It certainly makes all the sense in the world to look at the key components of our curriculum that we feel students need to be proficient in and report out on them separately. I love to use the analogy of making sure all of a student's cups are filled when thinking of proficiency. Some of the unanswered questions continue to be the methods we use when the cups are not filled and it is time to move onto the next grade, teacher, or class. Schools across our state are developing protocols to

handle this.

Another dilemma I hear spoken of often is managing redos. There are a variety of reasons that students do not get things done, ranging from not being able to do a task or not wanting to do it. Teachers are stretched extremely thin already and asking them to create multiple new assessments for students time and time again is burning them out. I hear in many middle and high schools there are growing concerns about students asking when the redo is as soon as the teacher passes out the assessment. A system that requires students to jump through more hoops in order to get another shot at the assessment is most likely the answer, but at what cost to the teacher? How many times do they have to create these hoops and a new assessment?

The last area I will mention is the Guiding Principles our state has adopted. There is a great deal of discussion about assessing these. Some of the questions I hear are how frequently should we assess them, should every teacher report out on all of them, and who keeps track of all of this and how often do they appear on a student assessment report? I prefer simpler, direct feedback to students and parents rather than reporting out on Pre-K through grade 12 students on them being a lifelong learner. I would rather focus on values such as work ethic, responsibility, perseverance, collaboration, reasoning, problem solving, and intuition.

In closing, I would like to say serving on the MPA Board of Directors and as your president the past year has been an extremely rewarding experience. I have had the opportunity to meet some extraordinary educators from our great state. Working with the fine people on the board of directors and the MPA staff has been fantastic and I can assure you they all have the best interests of education in Maine as their priority. The MPA continues to be a leader in providing top notch professional development for our educators and interscholastic opportunities for Maine youth on a fair playing field. I urge you to get involved and I thank all of you for your support. Have a great finish to your school year!

*Professional Development  
Calendar ~ 2016-2017*

*See Page 6 for more information.*

Please remember the following companies who were exhibitors at the MPA Spring Conference as you implement your school budgets and conduct school and personal business.

Benchmark Education Company/  
Newmark  
Finance Authority of Maine  
Geskus Studios & Yearbook Publishing  
Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.  
Horace Mann Companies  
Hurricane Island Center for Science  
and Leadership  
Learning Sciences International  
Lifetouch School Portraits  
Maine Army National Guard  
Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council

Maine Recreation and Design  
McGraw-Hill Education  
NAESP  
Nancy Larson Science  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
Pathways  
Sadlier  
Schiavi Leasing Corporation  
Universal Publishing  
VALIC  
Wings for Children and Families, Inc.  
Zaner-Bloser

## A Special Thanks to MPA Members

As the school year comes to a close, we wish to thank school administrators, member schools, and those connected to the MPA for your many contributions throughout the year.

The office staff greatly appreciates your service on committees; your willingness to share your expertise and skills with colleagues; and your commitment, cooperation, understanding, and patience. We mean it when we say, "You are the Maine Principals' Association!"

If you find yourself in the Augusta area, please drop in for a visit during our summer hours, June 6-September 2, which are 8:00-4:00, Monday-Thursday and 8:00-3:00 on Friday. We'd love to see you. The coffeepot and the teapot are always on at 50 Industrial Drive.

**"LIKE US"  
ON FACE-  
BOOK!**

Click on the link below to go to our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Principals-Association-Professional-Division/1703592959867688>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Count ME In Poster Contest

Count ME In is sponsoring a poster contest to engage elementary, middle, and high school students in promoting school attendance!

Click [HERE](#) for more information and for the 2016 Artwork Submission Form.

## Interested in Becoming a Mentor for a New Principal or A.P.?

The MPA is proud to offer mentor/coaching for new principals and assistant principals in our state. The program, now in its 11th year, has four new principals working with mentor/coaches in the year two cohort and one new administrator working with mentor/coaches in the year one cohort.

The MPA will offer Mentor/Coach Orientation and Training on June 20. More information will be sent to members this spring. Give consideration to joining the cadre of trained mentor/coaches who are giving back to the profession by working closely with our newest colleagues. ([Click HERE](#))

## Follow us on Twitter!

MPA Professional—@DurostMPA  
MPA Professional Division—  
Holly Couturier—@HDCouturier



## Accelerate Your Degree

Join us on Sebago Lake this summer and earn credits!

### Courses for Educators include:

- Maine Special Ed Law
- Research Design in Education
- The Standards Driven Classroom

### Register Now!

Visit [sjcme.edu/summer2016](http://sjcme.edu/summer2016) or call 800-752-4723 to learn more.



*Educating for life.*

**Great Beginnings Series  
for New and Nearly New School Administrators**

**August 15, 2016; October 21, 2016;  
January 27, 2017; and April 3, 2017**

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

**Fall Conference  
Proposals**

**November 17-18, 2016 ~  
Double Tree, South Portland**

Click [HERE](#) to  
download the  
**Request for Proposal (RFP)** .  
Due: September 1, 2016

**CALL THE MPA HELP LINE  
207-622-0217**

*We are here to help you and answer questions!*

**Extensions:**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 24 = Dick Durost     | 22 = Tammy McNear   |
| 25 = Mike Burnham    | 27 = Diane Patnaude |
| 26 = Holly Couturier | 30 = Patty Newman   |
| 41 = Gerry Durgin    |                     |

**The Maine Apprise** is published 10 times a year, September to June, by the Maine Principals' Association.

The Apprise welcomes articles from its members and other representatives of the education community. Please submit them to the editor by the first day of the month preceding publication.

The material published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinion or views of the Maine Principals' Association.

For advertising or subscription rates, please write or call the address below.

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Michael Burnham, Assistant Director  
Holly Couturier Editor/Assistant Director  
Gerald Durgin, Assistant Director**

*Education  
Leaders  
Experience (ELE)*

The Education Leaders Experience (ELE) program is administered by Educate Maine in partnership with Unum and the Maine Principals' Association. The ELE program: 1) Offers established educational leaders a unique experiential learning opportunity; 2) Is designed to build strong relationships between educational leaders and partners; 3) Creates a collaborative support network of leaders statewide; and 4) Provides exclusive access to key community and business leaders who provide insight on how we can prepare Maine students to participate productively in the Maine economy.

Participants will join 25 colleagues from across Maine selected for their leadership skills, talents, and life experiences. All share a core commitment to helping Maine kids reach their full potential. The *ELE Epsilon Class* will be eligible for contact hours (not CEUs) as well as graduate level credits. The opening session will be August 1-2 at Sugarloaf.

To apply for the *ELE Epsilon Class*, please click [HERE](#) to complete the application.

**MPA Mission Statement**

To assure a quality education for all students, the Maine Principals' Association will:

- (1) promote the principalship;
- (2) support principals as educational leaders; and
- (3) promote and administer interscholastic activities in grades 9-12.

**MPA Summer  
Leadership Retreat**

MPA in partnership with Great Schools Partnership will offer the MPA Summer Leadership Retreat at Point Lookout in Northport on June 22-24, 2016.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register!

**PRincipal Tips**

As you plan for next school year, keep in mind these **basic tips to connect with parents and build trusting relationships...**

- ✓ *Always put yourself in their place*—This is the number one tip for communicating with parents.
- ✓ *Introduce yourself to as many parents as you can* at the beginning of the year. Tell parents about yourself, your experience, your degree(s), and any special honors or certificates you have received.
- ✓ *Thank parents for contacting you* when they send you messages or e-mails.
- ✓ *Proofread everything* carefully when you get in touch via written communication and be careful about what you write in e-mails. Remember, e-mail can easily be forwarded to other, unintended readers.
- ✓ *Hold events around parents' schedules.* Schedule some school events when working parents can attend, including parent-teacher conferences and recognition events. Be "working-parent friendly."

—National School Public Relations Association,  
**PRincipal Communicator,  
May 2016.**

## Newest Retirees Celebrated

**Congratulations** to all MPA members who are retiring this month. Though this list is likely incomplete, we celebrate and extend very best wishes to:

- Christopher Decker*, Principal, Rumford Elementary School;
- Suanne Giorgetti*, Principal, Benton Elementary School;
- Marianne Horne*, Principal, Wells Elementary School;
- Kevin B. Michaud*, Principal, Winslow Junior High School;
- James Miller*, Principal, Edward Little High School, Auburn;
- Gary Oswald*, Principal, Mt. Blue Middle School, Farmington;
- Bill MacManus*, Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator, Lawrence High School, Fairfield; and
- E. Jane Smith*, Principal, Woodland Elementary School, Baileyville

The MPA offers retirees continued professional membership at the rate of \$30. NAESP for retirees is \$60 and NASSP is \$50. The membership form is available at <http://www.mpa.cc/images/pdfs/membership/membershipform.pdf>. The MPA has expanded the role that retirees play in our association. Your participation is welcome and needed.

## Are You An NAESP or An NASSP Member?

*You can help support the MPA!*

For the exact same cost, you can renew your membership for NAESP and NASSP through the MPA and those associations will give a percentage of the dues back to the MPA. Questions?

Call Patty or Holly at 207-622-0217.

**Hard Conversations  
Unpacked:  
Deepening the  
Learning**

and

**Being Generationally  
Savvy: Working  
Effectively with  
Colleagues of all  
Generations**

\*\*\*\*\*

**September 27-28, 2016**  
with Jennifer Abrams

*Two one-day workshops:  
you may attend  
one or both days.*

Registration  
material  
can be found  
by clicking  
**HERE.**

Designed for Principals, Assistant Principals, Curriculum Coordinators,  
Special Education Directors, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents,  
Teacher Leaders, and Instructional Coaches

## Observances

- \* **June 1-30**
  - Fireworks Safety Month  
*Increasing awareness of the responsible, safe use of fireworks*
  - Caribbean-American Heritage Month  
*Recognizing the significance of Caribbean people in the history and culture of the U.S.*
  - Sun Safety Month  
*Creating awareness of the dangers of too much sun exposure*
- \* **June 1**
  - Say Something Nice Day
- \* **June 5**
  - World Environment Day  
*Reaffirming the importance of preserving the environment*
- \* **June 6-10**
  - Pet Appreciation Week
- \* **June 10**
  - Discovery Day (Canada)
- \* **June 14**
  - Flag Day
- \* **June 18**
  - Anniversary of the first U.S. woman in space (Sally Ride in 1983)
  - Ramadan begins
- \* **June 19**
  - Father's Day
- \* **June 20**
  - First day of summer
  - American Eagle Day
- \* **June 21**
  - National Selfie Day



# Professional Reading Suggestions

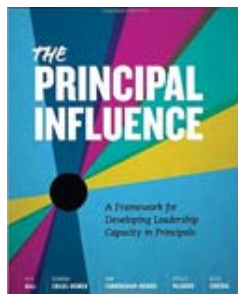


**10 Steps to Managing Change In Schools: How Do We Take Initiatives from Goals to Actions?** by Jeffrey Benson. "Whether they're the result of a mandate from on high, a crisis that needs addressing, or simply a desire for improvement, change initiatives are a constant in most every school. In this book, veteran teacher, administrator, and consultant Jeffrey Benson provides edu-

cators with a proven, practical, and broadly applicable system for implementing new practices methodically and effectively. Topics include:

- \* Identifying and communicating a clear and understandable vision of change;
- \* Ensuring that all voices in the school are heard and respected during the change process;
- \* Thoroughly and thoughtfully collecting, classifying, and analyzing data related to the change initiative; and
- \* Delegating responsibilities among staff and stakeholders.

Replete with checklists, surveys, and worksheets, *10 Steps to Managing Change in Schools* is a practical guide for educators determined to seamlessly weave new practices or procedures into the fabric of the school."



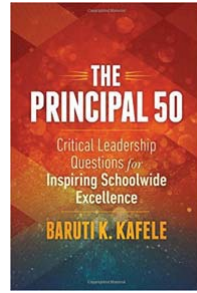
**The Principal Influence: A Framework For Developing Leadership Capacity in Principals** by Pete Hall, Deborah Childs-Bowen, Ann Cunningham-Morris, Phyllis Pajardo, and Alisa Simeral. "Principals navigate the dynamic complexities and subtleties of their schools every day. They promote, facilitate, and lead efforts to achieve both tangible and intangible

results throughout the school community. They fulfill a role that includes counseling, budgeting, inspiring, teaching, learning, disciplining, evaluating, celebrating, consoling, and a million other critical functions.

As the principalship has evolved and grown, so have the expectations of it. With that in mind, ASCD developed the Principal Leadership Development Framework (PLDF). The PLDF establishes a clear and concise definition of leadership and includes clear targets that support the ongoing growth and development of leaders.

Using the Framework, principals will learn to capitalize on their leadership roles:

- \* Principal as Visionary;
- \* Principal as Instructional Leader;
- \* Principal as Engager; and
- \* Principal as Learner and Collaborator"



**The Principal 50: Critical Leadership Questions for Inspiring Schoolwide Excellence** by Baruti Kafele. "'Why do I lead?'" With this deceptively simple question, best-selling author Baruti K. Kafele begins a powerful examination of what it takes to make a school community achieve the greatest success in the classroom and beyond. In *The Principal 50: Critical Leadership Questions for Inspiring Schoolwide Excel-*

*lence*, Kafele, a veteran school administrator, guides motivated school leaders through 50 self-reflection exercises designed to yield a deeper understanding of the meaning behind the work that they do. Along with many other insights, this book shows how best to:

- Inspire and motivate students, teachers, and other school staff to approach their work with vigor and purpose;
- Ensure that all students, regardless of color, creed, or origin, are valued and represented in the school culture;
- Focus mission and vision statements to address students' most critical needs and integrate shared values and objectives into the fabric of the school; and
- Engage parents and other community members so that they feel a stake in the school's success.

Brimming with passion, written from the heart, and informed by hard-earned experience, this transformative book is essential reading for principals and other building-level administrators determined to reinvigorate their practice, revitalize their staff, and--most importantly--guarantee the strongest outcomes for students."

## What Can We Do About Bullying?

**NEW DATE**

**October 26-27, 2016**

with Stan Davis



**Two one day workshops:  
you may attend either one or both days.**

Designed for Principals, Assistant Principals, Deans of Students, Counselors, Social Workers, Nurses, Educational Technicians, Special Education Directors, Special Education Teachers, Teachers, and Athletic Administrators.

**Registration material can be found  
by clicking [HERE](#).**

## Professional Development Calendar for 2016-2017

- \* *Mentor / Coach Training*, MPA, June 20
  - \* *MPA Leadership Retreat*, Point Lookout, Northport (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Special Education Law Institute*, Thomas College, Waterville, July 12 - 15, 2016 (*Filled to Capacity*)
  - \* *Maine School Finance Law Institute*, Drummond Woodsum Office, Portland, July 19 – 22, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Maine School Law Institute*, Thomas College, Waterville, July 26 - 29, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Education Leaders Experience*, Open Retreat, Sugarloaf, Carrabassett Valley, August 1-2, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Workshop for New Athletic Administrators*, MPA, August 3, 2016
  - \* *Improving Teaching Conditions, Part 1*, MPA, August 4, 2016
  - \* *Mental Health First Aid*, MPA, August 11, 2016
  - \* *Playing by the Rules: Sports, Schools, and the Law*, MPA, August 12, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Great Beginnings: An Orientation for New School Administrators*, MPA, August 15 and October 21, 2016; January 27 and April 3, 2017 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *MPA/MEA SLO Workshop*, MPA, August 18, 2016
  - \* *Mentoring/Coaching Program for Principals and Assistant Principals*, MPA, September 15 and December 8, 2016; and May 11, 2017 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Hard Conversations Unpacked: Deepening the Learning* with Jennifer Abrams, MPA, September 27, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Being Generationally Savvy: Working Effectively with Colleagues of All Generations* with Jennifer Abrams, MPA, September 28, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Improving Teaching Conditions, Part II*, MPA, October 4, 2016
  - \* *Assistant Principals' Conference*, Balancing the "Other duties 'As Assigned'", Samoset, Rockport, October 24-25, 2016
  - \* *What Can We Do About Bullying?* with Stan Davis, MPA, October 26-27, 2016 (Click [Here](#))
  - \* *Preparing for Retirement: What You Need to Know*, MPA, November 4, 2016
  - \* *Fall Conference*, "Motivating the Most Challenging Students," including School Law Seminar, Double Tree, South Portland, November 17 - 18, 2016
  - \* *Kim Marshall's Classroom Management* (12:00 – 3:00pm), MPA, December 6, 2016
  - \* *Kim Marshall's Rethinking Teacher Supervision and Evaluation*, MPA, December 7, 2016
  - \* *Effective Use of Technology*, MPA, January 12, 2017 (January 19, 2017 snow date)
  - \* *Mentoring Women in Sports XV*, MPA, March 2017
  - \* *Maine School Law for Secretaries*, Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor, April 4, 2017 and Double Tree by Hilton, South Portland, April 6, 2017
  - \* *Spring Conference*, "Engaging Modern Minds," Samoset, Rockport, April 27 - 28, 2017
- There will also be a variety of webinars, regional meetings, and virtual PD offered throughout the year. Keep reading your e-mails for updates! It's not too late to register, and it's never too early!***



Full Plates Full Potential  
c/o Preble Street  
38 Preble Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

To: Maine Superintendents and Principals  
Subject: Summer Meal Programs

This summer, hundreds of kids in your school district will experience hunger. Full Plates Full Potential is a collaborative private/public partnership of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, private businesses, and concerned citizens working together to put an end to childhood hunger in Maine. We are writing to urge you to be a champion to end student hunger in your community.

Kids are more acutely at risk during the summer when they do not have access to school meals. Not only does feeding hungry kids over the summer mean they return in the fall ready for academic success, but if 50% or more of students in a school in your district qualified for free or reduced meals this year and you run a summer educational or recreational program in that school, it is your obligation under Maine law to provide summer meals.

Beyond the obligation of the law, we hope you'll see the imperative to prevent hunger in your community. Your leadership helps ensure that children in your district are positioned to thrive. There are 86,000 Maine school-aged children eligible for free and reduced price meals when school is in session.

- Only 1/4 of those kids eat at USDA sponsored Summer Food Service Program meal sites.
- Many Maine children go the entire summer without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food at home. The USDA provides reimbursement for Summer Meals, while the Maine DOE administers the program. Local organizations, including schools, non-profits, parks and recreation departments, libraries and faith-based groups, serve the meals.

It's a great program with a simple application and statewide support that many towns find to be an opportunity for community building and academic enrichment. **Summer meals are the first line of defense against the summer learning loss.**

Here at Full Plates Full Potential we have a wealth of expertise. We are ready to provide the technical assistance you may need to combat summer hunger in your community. You can find more information at the DOE's website: <http://maine.gov/doe/nutrition/programs/sfsp/index.html>

Please contact us with any questions, concerns or for more information. We look forward to collaborating with you soon. You can reach me at: (207) 775-0026 or [jbindastenney@preblestreet.org](mailto:jbindastenney@preblestreet.org)

Sincerely,  
Jan Bindas-Tenney  
Full Plates Full Potential  
Advocacy Coordinator at the Preble Street Maine Hunger Initiative

[www.fullplates.org](http://www.fullplates.org)

## Featured Regions!

Each month, the *Apprise* is going to feature at least three schools from each of the eight regions in Maine. There are many great things going on in our schools that people don't know about, and it's time THEY ARE spotlighted! The June *Apprise* features the Kennebec Region. If you would like to have your school spotlighted next year, please send Holly Couturier an e-mail stating your interest and at least one great thing about your school. She will contact you and make arrangements for an hour long visit. During her visit, she will not only speak to you and take a picture of you and the school, she would also like to talk to students in your school and get their perspective of "What makes their school and principal great?" Enjoy!



## Skowhegan Middle School

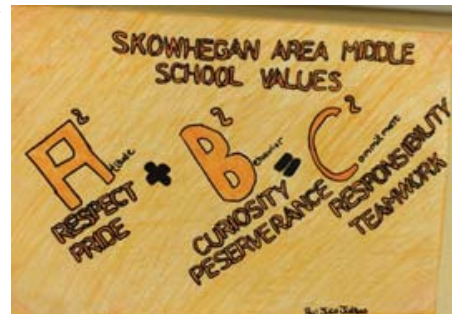
Skowhegan Area Middle School is a grades 6-8 school for students who live in Skowhegan and a grades 7-8 school for the other students in MSAD #54. The 507 students are taught by 35 teachers and 11 educational technicians. They have 20% special education population and, although 69% of the students are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch, 100% of the students have the ability to eat breakfast and lunch free of charge every day.

In addition to strong parental support for the school, teacher leadership is a significant strength. Teachers are encouraged to work together with their teams develop plans that will foster student growth. The staff considers each student his or her responsibility. "The kids are first – there is no other way to be. We are a family ~ this is home for all of the students and staff," says Principal Zach Longyear. Teachers work together during their daily team time, and many designated leaders meet during bi-weekly team leadership meetings. Through the PLC and Team Leaders' group, the teachers and administrators are able to have honest, respectable conversations about students and the direction the school is taking. Together, they are able to make decisions for what they ALL feel is in the best interest of the students. Agendas for these meetings and plans for professional development are created by all team members through Google Docs. "Everything is transparent," says Mr. Longyear.

When walking through the school, I was able to visit the different "teams" or pods, all named after Maine counties, where the students spend their 7th and 8th grade years.



The staff and students learn together using multiple measures that cross content areas. While there are different "teams" in the school, all of the students are held to the same core values, which are located throughout the school, on the walls, and by each door. The school as a whole celebrates each of the core values – for example May was "Perseverance" Month. Students learn what the core values are. When a student or staff person demonstrates that core value, they are publically acknowledged. (The "Starfish Award" is given to any staff member who goes above and beyond expectations and can be nominated by other staff as well as students.)



"We work on discipline as a team," says Mr. Longyear. If there are any issues, they are dealt with on their team first through the team leader. The team Leader works with the teachers, counselors, parents, and the student to determine what would be the best way to support that student. This allows the administration to be more present in all of the classrooms and be the "facilitators of learning" for the school.

If you want to see a school that offers one of the best examples of teacher leadership in the state of Maine, I highly advise you to visit Skowhegan Area Middle School.

### **Contact:**

Skowhegan Area Middle School, 155 Academy Circle, Skowhegan, ME 04976 ~ 207-474-3339

Principal: Zach Longyear • Assistant Principal/Athletic Director: Doug McEwen

E-mail: [zlongyear@msad54.org](mailto:zlongyear@msad54.org)



## Hall-Dale Middle/ High School

Hall-Dale Middle/High School, comprised of students from Hallowell, Farmingdale and Dresden, is a grades 6-12 school in Farmingdale, Maine. The 583 students are taught by fifty teachers and five educational technicians. They have a 35% free and reduced lunch rate and a 14% special education population.



I had the pleasure of speaking with 12th graders, Emily and Emma and 11th grader, Becca. When asked, "What makes your school amazing and unique?" they didn't hesitate to respond with, "We have really cool activities that engage students." One activity is the 'Bulldog Broadcasting Network', a student organized and managed

news station. The students get to record different school events, interview students, staff, and community members, and then edit the final video to upload on the YouTube site.

The students, because of their varied interests and small size of the school, are active in multiple clubs and activities. "We have a really strong music program, says Principal Mark Tinkham." Many students (1/3 of the school population) are involved in chorus while others, as well many who overlap, are involved in band, jazz choir and/or band and Taiko drumming. The students think the Japanese drumming "is really cool" and they are excited "to show our community what we've learned."



They also enjoy the "small town feel" of Hall-Dale. "Because we live in a small community, there is a family-oriented feeling throughout the school. We make friendships quickly. In the end it doesn't matter which of the six sending schools we come from, we are welcomed throughout our school."



Hall-Dale has also been at the forefront of Proficiency Based Education for many years. As the students explained, "We know what we need to learn, how we are going to be assessed, and what the learning targets are for each class. We must attain a 3.0 on every learning standard in order to graduate. There is no such thing as failure as we must demonstrate proficiency. We get another opportunity, after we have been

taught in another way and have practiced more, at tests or assessments when we don't achieve proficiency. You get to really know the material and show the teacher what you know. You don't have any other option but to eventually learn and demonstrate what you know up to proficiency. In our system of voice and choice we have some say on how we would like to be assessed, but sometimes we must be assessed through a teacher-determined method. Our system fosters deeper learning."

When speaking with Principal Mark Tinkham, he and his staff travel across the country performing professional development on what PBE is and how to become a PBE school. "We, at Hall-Dale, offer a truer form of PBE. We ascribe to Marzano's Taxonomy of Learning - all of our assessments are aligned to the taxonomy. Our students are able to determine the level of assessment given based upon the vocabulary tied to the taxonomy. Our students are able to go deeper in the learning by going higher on the taxonomy."

"Along with student voice and choice, our students are able to determine which pathway they'd like to follow. Our students are able to demonstrate mastery of content and skills outside of the traditional school building. They also have many dual enrollment options located both on and off campus whether it be through Thomas, CMCC, KVCC, UMA, Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby. Students, through the support of their personal learning plans, are able to develop internships with local businesses as well as experience learning through extended learning opportunities."

If you want to see PBE and student-centered learning in its purest form, I highly encourage you to visit Hall-Dale Middle/High School.

### **Contact:**

Hall-Dale Middle/High School, 97 Maple Street, Farmingdale, ME 04344 ~ 207-622-6211  
Principal: Mark Tinkham • Assistant Principals: Tom McKee and Amy Bongard  
E-mail: mtinkham@kidsrsu.org



## St. Michael School

St. Michael School is a pre-K to grade 8 parochial school in Augusta. 156 students are taught by 10 teachers and five educational technicians. They have a 0% free/reduced lunch rate and a 10% special education population.



The building itself is 51 years old and while over half of the building has been renovated, there are still parts of the original school accessible to the staff of St. Michael's. For example the small rooms upstairs where the nuns once slept are now storage spaces for the staff.



"The teachers who teach here love to be here. They are free to talk about faith and God – all of the school's core values are based on the teachings of Jesus," says Principal Kevin Cullen. "Although we are a Catholic School, only 49% of our students are actually Catholic. In fact, 10% of our students are Hindi but their parents choose St. Michael because we teach good moral values." Parents are very involved with their children's education and because they play such a vital role, student behavior is rarely an issue for the staff of this amazing school.

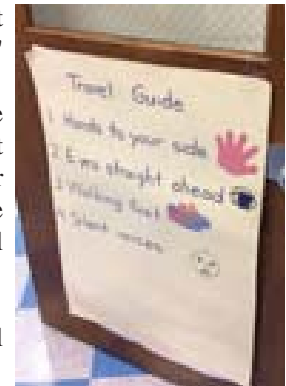
When parents choose St. Michael School, they are choosing a very rigorous academic program for their children. Religion is taught to all students every day. This takes away from the time they would spend on other core subjects and because of this, all grades have homework daily. STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts, and math) is a focus of most Catholic schools throughout the United States, and is prominent throughout the halls of St. Michael. "Even though they work very hard on their academics, the students really enjoy coming to school," says Mr. Cullen. 100% of the students are fully integrated in the entire curriculum and Title One funding provides additional support for students in grades one and two. The great majority of students in grades 3 and up are fully literate.

Diversity and acceptance are a way of life at St. Michael. "We are a part of a really cool program that has 12 people with learning disabilities along with their job coaches working and integrating with our students," says Mr. Cullen. "They aren't thought of as 'different,' they are a part of our school family. It's amazing!"



Mr. Cullen has worked with his staff and by thinking outside the box, they were able to shift some of the money in their current budget to fund an eight-week summer enrichment experience for students. The daily schedule for 50 students each week will include academics, fun enrichment activities, and hands-on experiential learning in the community.

I highly encourage anyone to visit St. Michael School. You will be very glad you did!



### **Contact:**

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# MPA Photo Album



## ELE Pitch Presentations At Thomas College

