

THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXV, Number 7

March 2017

From the Executive Director ...

Legislative Update

As we move into early March the Legislature, and the Education Committee in particular, is moving at an ever increasing pace. The week of February 27 through March 3 is a prime example. After scheduling mostly orientations, briefings and few public hearings in previous weeks, a full schedule for the aforementioned week included public hearings for 13 bills, work sessions for four bills, briefings on the FY18 – FY 19 Budget, and a lengthy joint meeting with the Appropriations Committee on Friday March 3 to hear testimony on the Governor's proposed budget.

Bills of interest heard this week include:

- LD 96 regarding attendance at public elementary schools
- LD 356, a proposal to remove the Guiding Principles as a graduation requirement
- LD 398, a proposal to recognize computer science as a component of math and science proficiency
- LD 412, a proposal to require home economics and industrial arts as pre-requisites to high school graduation
- LD 462, a proposal to require capstone projects as a condition of high school graduation
- LD 527, a proposal to prohibit corporal punishment in schools
- LD 528, a proposal to create a Maine race, ethnicity and cultural studies educational component
- LD 333, a proposal that the Commissioner of Education be nominated by the State Board of Education rather than the Governor
- LD 355, a proposal to require earlier

reimbursement for certain hardship special education costs

- LD 468, proposal to require that high schools have a start time no earlier than 8:30 am; and
- LD 526, a proposal to increase the states share of the cost of health insurance for retired educators

A reminder that this was the public hearing stage. Work sessions will be scheduled, usually about two weeks later, and that is when the Education Committee will take their votes and move the bills on to the House and Senate for full consideration

I have been in full attendance for all of these hearings as well as the work sessions and budget hearings. Your MPA Legislative Committee met on February 28 and established positions on 42 bills. Presently, they have reviewed and established positions on nearly 60 bills with another 130 or so yet to be printed. They have scheduled bi-weekly meetings as we move forward in March and April.

If you find this type of update interesting or helpful, I am prepared to provide you this type of report by email every week or two as we move forward. Feedback from you to my email address would be most helpful in determining whether these updates are something you would care to receive. ddurost@mpa.cc

Just a reminder that I am on twitter @DurostMPA and provide frequent informational tweets most days from the Education Committee hearing room.

I wish you all the best as you move forward into March. Spring is almost here!!

~ *Dick Durost*

MPA SPRING CONFERENCE

THE IFFACTOR:
Why Everything You Know
About Success in Education
Could Be Wrong

April 27-28
Samoset, Rockport

Keynote Presentations:

Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28—*Dan Waldschmidt*.

Thursday Sessions Include:

- * *Continue the Conversation with Dan Waldschmidt (K-12 Levels)*
- * *What is Professionalism (K-12 Levels)*
- * *Seven Deadly Sins of Administrators (K-12 Levels)*
- * *How to Create A Successful Leadership Team - and Why it is Critical to Moving Forward As a Staff (K-12 Levels)*
- * *How Committed is Your School to Equity? A Whole-School Collaborative Assessment and Readiness Tool*

Friday Sessions Include:

- * *The Role of the Principal in Building A Strong School Culture (K-12 Levels)*
- * *Efficient and Effective Staff Meetings: How to Make the Most of What Professional Development Time You Do Have (K-12 Level)*
- * *Technology 101: The Basics of Using Social Media Effectively*

Click [HERE](#) To Register.

Planning to Retire?

If you are or know about a principal, assistant principal, or career and technology center director who is planning to retire this year, please notify Patty at the MPA by April 3 (pnewman@mpa.cc). The association will honor its retiring members at the annual MPA Awards Banquet that will be held on April 27, as part of the Spring Conference at the Samoset.

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 one principal working with mentor/coaches in the year two cohort and ten new administrators working with mentor/coaches in the year one cohort.

The MPA will offer Mentor/Coach Orientation and Training this summer. 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.



July 9-11, 2017
Philadelphia, PA

Join us for this first-ever joint conference
for pre-K through grade 12 school leaders.

Don't miss this groundbreaking event!

This conference will give you an unprecedented opportunity to engage in authentic conversations with a large pool of your peers—giving you fresh solutions and connections that will last long after the conference. Unlike any conference before it, the National Principals Conference will inspire school leaders like you to understand and value your peers' expertise and worth. Also, it will give you an opportunity to build transition bridges and fully prepare students for success in school and beyond to college and careers.



**START PLANNING
YOUR FUTURE**

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- Adult Education & Training
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- School Educator (K-12)
- School Leadership

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**"Improving Climate and Culture
in Maine Schools:
How to Retain Your Best
Educators"**

"Webinar Series"

ALL sessions run from
3:15-4:15 p.m.

March 7—*Community Support
and Involvement*;

March 21—*Professional Development*;
April 11—*Managing Student Council*;
and May 9—*Instructional Practices*

Click **HERE** to Register.

MPA 2017 Spring Conference

**"THE IF FACTOR:
Why Everything You Know
About Success in Education
Could Be Wrong"**

with Keynote Speaker
Dan Waldschmidt

April 27-28, 2017
Samoset Resort

Click **HERE** to Register.

*30th Annual Seminar for
School and District
Secretaries, Special
Education Secretaries, and
Administrative Assistants*

"Dealing with Difficult Situations"
with Stan Davis

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Double Tree, South Portland
(Across from the Maine Mall)

Click **HERE** to Register.

NASSP Update

With February coming to a close and the great abyss that is the month of March approaches we begin that time frame where we want to finish the year strong while thinking about the new year to come. There is a good chance that you are working on presenting well balanced budgets that your Boards and communities will support. Many times things like professional development, conferences, and dues are the first thing to go. If you are a current NASSP member then I would encourage you to continue this membership and make full use of your membership benefits. If you are not a member, I would encourage you to advocate as best as possible to have your dues covered by your district. NASSP is striving to provide for the needs of our middle and secondary school leaders on a National, State, and Local level. One of these benefits is a subscription to *Principal Leadership*. I am sure that you, like me, receive a ridiculous amount of junk mail from solicitors and salespeople. It is easy to lose track of what is worth your time to look at and what heads to the wastebasket. This publication is one I always take the time to read in detail. Last month's issue gave guidance on topics like legal and ethical responsibilities on student substance abuse, school violence

prevention, and providing pertinent written feedback to teachers. Other resources I find are of benefit include the many free webinars either live or archived and the ability to have your voice as a school leader be heard. You can access the many advocacy efforts of NASSP through their website. Currently NASSP is working to help us all understand and implement the many aspects of ESSA. Their ESSA toolkit provides clear concise, and accurate information.

Latest NASSP news includes:

- A position paper speaking out against the federal administration's rescinding of the Guidance Related to Civil Rights Protections for Transgender Students.
- A newly formed partnership with Community for Education Foundation to increase life skills experiences throughout schools.
- Advocacy to increase funding for school leaders.

I hope to see lots of Maine school leaders at the 2017 Ignite Conference in Philadelphia this summer!!! Happy Spring to you all.

~ Dan Welch, *Principal, Boothbay Region High School, MPA President, and NASSP Coordinator*

"LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK!

Click on the link below to go to our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Principals-Association-Professional-Division/1703592959867688>

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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PR Tips for PRincipals

One of the **most costly mistakes** a principal can make is not using research to guide communication efforts. Here are a few ways to help you become a better listener.

- Place 4x6-inch **question or idea cards** in public spots in your building, especially during events when more parents and visitors are present. Be sure to respond promptly to questions and comments.
- Make it easy for stakeholders to use **email, voicemail, and the school website** to provide feedback.
- Start a **question-and-answer section** in your newsletter. Ask parents to submit questions. You can answer them directly and include the most relevant in a future issue.
- At least once every two weeks, check with your secretary and counselor about the **types of repeated calls** they get from parents. Include information about these issues in your newsletter and on your website.

—National School Public Relations Association,
 PRincipal Communicator,
 February 2017.

Follow us on Twitter!

Dick Durost—@DurostMPA

Holly Couturier—@HDCouturier

MPA to Honor Outstanding Seniors and Award Ten \$1,000 Scholarships

The annual MPA Honors Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.

Each high school principal from an MPA member school names a senior award recipient who is invited to the luncheon and receives the MPA's Principal's Award. The criteria for the award are academic excellence, citizenship, and leadership. Each school defines and interprets these criteria in its own setting.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, a drawing will be held for five \$1,000 Horace O. McGowan and Richard W. Tyler Scholarships plus five additional scholarships for a total of ten scholarship opportunities! The school's recipient must be in attendance to be eligible.

Information regarding the luncheon has been sent to all MPA member school principals. If you have any questions, please call Patty at the MPA at 622-0217, ext. 30.

NAESP Report

By Jane P. Stork, Principal of the Etna-Dixmont School and NAESP State Representative ~ jstork@rsu19.net

Gail Connelly, Executive Director of NAESP since 2007, announced in August 2016 her retirement following a planned transition and search for a new Executive Director. In recognition of her 32 years of service to NAESP, Connelly will serve as NAESP Executive Director Emeritus upon her retirement. Over the next couple of weeks, the NAESP Executive Director Search Committee will be vetting and interviewing top candidates for the position of Executive Director. The NAESP Board of Directors will make a hiring decision and plan on announcing the new NAESP Executive Director this coming April. NAESP and the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) are in the process of developing and implementing a national executive leadership initiative that will serve as an opportunity for NAESP to further its vision for sustaining and promoting high professional standards and leadership among PK-8 principals. This initiative will bring a leadership development resource to PK-8 principals in the future.

Upcoming NAESP National Conference dates: 1.) The 2017 Annual NAESP and NASSP Joint Conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA this July 9-11, 2017; 2.) The 2018 Annual NAESP Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida July 7-10, 2018; and 3.) The 2019 Annual NAESP Conference will take place in Spokane, Washington July 10-12, 2019.

NAESP Members Benefits Corner: Looking for resources to support your practice? The NAESP website offers a variety of online resources that support PK-8 Principals: 1.) Archived NAESP sponsored webinars (2012-2015) are available to members and provide an opportunity to hear content experts, educational leaders and practicing principals talk about current issues; 2.) The NAESP Wallace webinar series are based on a set of five videos, School Leadership in Action: Principal Practices, produced by the Wallace Foundation. The videos feature exemplary principals in varied school settings nationwide, who bring to life and reinforce the five key practices of effective principals; and 3.) NAESP and BAM Radio Network have partnered to bring NAESP Radio to NAESP members. Executive Director Gail Connelly hosts the program that helps keep school principals and administrators abreast of the latest developments in the field. Check out NAESP online learning at: <http://www.naesp.org/online-learning>.

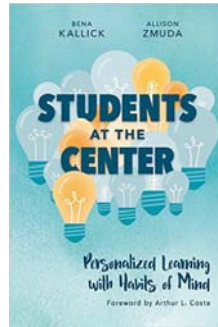
I encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have about the benefits of NAESP membership.

Observances

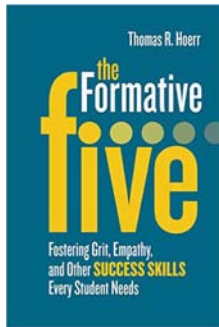
- * **March 1-31**
 - Music in Our Schools Month
 - Youth Art Month
- * **March 1**
 - Ash Wednesday
 - World Compliment Day
- * **March 2**
 - Read Across America Day
 - Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- * **March 3**
 - Adoption of U.S. National Anthem in 1931
 - World Wildlife Day
- * **March 6-10**
 - National School Breakfast Week
 - School Social Work Week
- * **March 7**
 - Peace Corps Day
 - Commemorating creating of the Peach Corps in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy*
- * **March 8**
 - International Women's Day
- * **March 12**
 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
 - Purim
- * **March 17**
 - St. Patrick's Day
- * **March 20**
 - First Day of Spring
- * **March 20-24**
 - World Folktales and Fables Week
- * **March 21**
 - National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Professional Reading Suggestions

Students at the Center: Personalized Learning with Habits of Mind by B. Kallick & A. Zmuda. “Based on their exciting work in the field, Kallick and Zmuda map out a transformative model of personalization that puts students at the center and asks them to employ the set of dispositions for engagement and learning known as the Habits of Mind. They share the perspectives of educators engaged in this work; highlight the habits that empower students to pursue aspirations, investigate problems, design solutions, chase curiosities, and create performances; and provide tools and recommendations for adjusting classroom practices to facilitate learning that is self-directed, dynamic, sometimes messy, and always meaningful.”



The Formative Five: Fostering Grit, Empathy, and Other Success Skills Every Student Needs, by T. Hoerr. “For success in school and life, students need more than proficiency in academic subjects and good scores on tests; those goals should form the floor, not the ceiling, of their education. To truly thrive, students need to develop attributes that aren't typically measured on standardized tests. In this lively, engaging book by veteran school leader Thomas R. Hoerr, educators will learn how to foster the “*Formative Five*” success skills that today's students need, including



- Empathy: learning to see the world through others' perspectives.
- Self-control: cultivating the abilities to focus and delay self-gratification.

- Integrity: recognizing right from wrong and practicing ethical behavior.
- Embracing diversity: recognizing and appreciating human differences.
- Grit: persevering in the face of challenge.

When educators engage students in understanding and developing these five skills, they change mindsets and raise expectations for student learning. As an added benefit, they see significant improvements in school and classroom culture. With specific suggestions and strategies, *The Formative Five* will help teachers, principals, and anyone else who has a stake in education prepare their students—and themselves—for a future in which the only constant will be change.”

A School Leader's Guide to Excellence, Updated Edition by C. Farina & L. Kotch. “This updated edition of *A School Leader's Guide to Excellence* models exactly how current Chancellor of New York City Public Schools, Carmen Farina, and former Executive Director of Professional Development for the New York City Department of Education, Laura Kotch, transform struggling schools and make good schools great.

Carmen and Laura “believe that conversations and collaboration work better than competition and isolation, and that excellence can be shared and replicated. The building blocks of what works well in one classroom or school can be exported to build consistency and community across classrooms and schools.”

Their plan shows precisely how to envision success and share your plan, collaborate inside your building and outside it to build the momentum for change then focus everyone's energy toward accomplishing even your highest goals.”



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.

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

Delta Class Calendar:

- Opening Retreat: Sugarloaf (Early August)
- Session 1: Aroostook County (October 12-13)
- Session 2: The Jackson Laboratory and University of Maine, Orono (November 9)
- Session 3: TBD (January 12)
- Session 4: Maine State House—Mock Legislative Day, Augusta (February 9)
- Session 5: Unum and Maine Medical, Portland (April 13)
- Project Presentations: Thomas College, Waterville (May 4)
- Closing Retreat: Moosehead Lake, Rockwood (June 25-26)

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 March *Apprise* features the Cumberland Region. Next month we will feature the Aroostook Region. If you would like to have your school spotlighted, 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!



Pownal Elementary School

Pownal Elementary School is a pre-K–grade 5 elementary school in Pownal, Maine. Pownal houses 120 students who are taught by 16 teachers (many of whom are shared with other buildings), two regular educational technicians, and five special education technicians. They have a 19% free and reduced lunch rate and a 20% special education population.

This quaint, hometown school is truly the focal point of the community. Because of their smaller population, there is only one classroom per each of the 7 grades. Their small class sizes allow for the students and staff to know each other very well and help hold each other accountable. The staff have high expectations of all of the students and the students know this and meet those high expectations. Using the text, *Mindset for Learning*, the staff has adopted the values of empathy, resilience, flexibility, optimism, and persistence. They have implemented the Mindset Curriculum into their daily lessons. The students learn what each of these values are and what they look like. When one student demonstrates one of these values, another student can give them a "Paws for Applause." According to Principal Lisa Demick, "Having a growth mindset is a school-wide focus this year. When the entire school earns 300 'Paws for Applause tickets,' we celebrate as a school community. We have a high standard for behavior for all students.

As part of RSU 5, Pownal Elementary School is able to maintain their identity of being a small, community school, while having access to the RSU resources. "Our teachers are amazing. They are flexible and work together on a daily basis to rearrange the day to allow for maximum learning. They also get to work with other grade specific teachers and access high quality professional development throughout the district. We really have the best of both worlds," says Ms. Demick.



The school has a very active PTO. They work hard to offer enrichment programs for the students. Parents who have a specific skill or trade will come to the school and share it with the students. "We have a strong volunteer program. People continue to come back to volunteer even when their own children have moved on to another school!" The community came together to help create the skating rink on the school grounds, as well as raise money in order for the students to go on curriculum-based field trips or have published authors visit the school. (Chris Van Dusen just visited!) In the spring, parents will help clean up and open "Minkle Berry." This is a wooded area behind the school where students can learn, explore, and play.

If you want to see a beautiful elementary school that truly represents a positive climate for their students, I highly encourage you to visit Pownal Elementary School. As Ms. Demick states, "Our students are the best part of this school. This school is the center of their world – they know this is the place that helps them to be their best selves."

Contact Information:

Pownal Elementary School, 587 Elmwood Road, Pownal, ME 04069 ~ 207-688-4832

Principal: Lisa Demick • E-Mail: demickl@rsu5.org



Stevens Brook Elementary School

Stevens Brook Elementary School is a kindergarten through grade five school in Bridgton, Maine. 307 students are taught by 34 teachers (full and part time) and 19 educational technicians. They have a 61% free and reduced lunch rate and a 20% special education population. Stevens Brook also has a transient population. This year alone they have a 32.5% mobility rate.

While this rate is higher than most in the state, the staff know the importance of taking the student from where they are when they come and get them as far as they can for as long as they have them. Principal Cheryl Turpin praises the staff for putting the students first and foremost. They do this with the help of Liz Shane, Academic Leader, who meets with each of the teams and teachers on a weekly basis to look at student data on the very colorful and living data wall.

It's not only the staff who are aware of student growth, the students are very aware of where they are when it comes to meeting standards as well. While I was visiting Stevens Brook, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with 4th grader Quinn and 5th grade students Everett and Izabell. When asked, "What makes their school great?" The students were exceptionally articulate. "All of the teachers are great. They help us solve problems. They all try and help you no matter what. We even have special teachers to help us get to the standards if we aren't meeting them."



They also credited the lunch ladies. "They help keep us healthy. 'My Plate' is a program that tells us how much protein, grains, vegetables, and dairy to eat on a daily basis so we stay healthy and strong."

The students also mentioned the large number of clubs to which they can belong. "Clubs like student council help the school. They help to raise money and gets to participate in order to build our greenhouse. We are really hands-on with our environment."

"We get recognized every month during school meeting. We have a Walking Program, (15 minutes of walking around the school at the beginning of the day, three days a week) and a daily motor break (each month a song is selected and choreographed by the music teacher, Asa Furst, and broadcast over the PA mid-morning).

"The whole school comes together and we get recognized for being safe, respectful, and responsible. There are student of the month awards and 6 'Writing Stars' are chosen to read a piece of writing – one from each grade – to the whole school. We like getting recognized for doing something good."

One of the programs that Mrs. Turpin is most proud of is the Bridgton Literacy Taskforce. This is a group of retired people from the community who are trained specifically on how to read one-on-one with every kindergartener and some first grade students. This has been an incredible resource for our students.



If you desire to see how a school can implement movement into their learning, increase attendance and celebrate student success on a regular basis, Stevens Brook Elementary School is where you want to visit!

Contact Information:

Stevens Brook Elementary School, 14 Frances Bell Drive, Bridgton, ME 04009 • 207-647-5675
Principal: Cheryl Turpin ~ E-Mail: Cheryl.turpin@lakeregionschools.org

Yarmouth High School

Yarmouth High School is a grades 9-12 school in Yarmouth, Maine. 504 students are taught by 42 teachers and 6 educational technicians. They have a 12% free and reduced lunch rate and a 9% special education population.



Entering the front doors of Yarmouth High School, one immediately senses "Clipper Pride." Students take a very active role in the forward movement of the school. "Our Student Senate works with tough issues," says Principal Eric Klein. "If there is a need, the students are a part of the solution. They are part of the change. Two examples of how they implement the change would be either how to better use the space in the parking lot to the implementation of 'Clipper Catch Up Day.'" This is an opportunity for the STUDENTS to approach the teachers for additional help and support during the school day. They just started this program this year and so far it has been a huge success. "We have to implement a RtI program during the school day because 75-80% of our students are involved in outside activities."



Mr. Klein and Assistant Principal, Amy Bongard, constantly seek feedback from staff, students and the community. "We work very collaboratively. We have to – education is different now, everyone is involved in helping the students be successful. One way that Mr. Klein connects with his parents is with his weekly note to parents. This note keeps them current with upcoming events and celebrations of students' successes.

According to Mr. Klein, the heart and soul of the school community is the advisory system. 100% of the staff at Yarmouth High School has an advisory group who stay with that staff person for four years. This helps to build a strong staff/student relationship. "We trust the students and they know it; therefore, they trust us." This connection helps to better identify those students who may otherwise slip through the cracks.

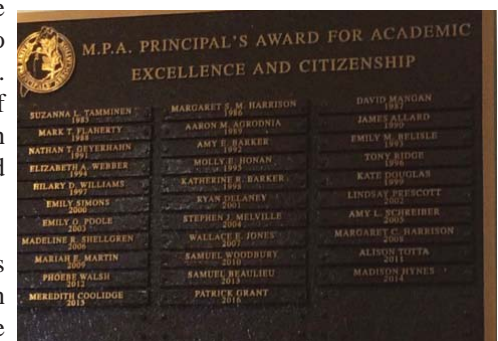
The trust exists between the students as well. Each month there is a student assembly that is completely run by the students. During this time the students celebrate each other with awards, events, and always includes a student musical performance.

As for academics, Yarmouth High School has worked hard to build strong connections with area businesses. Having students work with and/or in the business helps to further support the alternative pathways that are made available to students.

Then using these connections, the teachers work together to create interdisciplinary units with the students. One amazing example of this is how the staff at YHS is working with Hancock Lumber with the ultimate goal of having the students build tiny houses!



If you want to see a school where students are very actively involved in their education and therefore help to create a vision for the school, I highly encourage you to visit Yarmouth High School.



Contact Information:

Yarmouth High School, 286 West Elm Street, Yarmouth, ME 04096 • 207-846-2316

Principal: Eric Klein and Assistant Principal: Amy Bongard

E-mail: eric_klein@yarmouthschools.org