

December 2016
RSU # 26 – Orono



"Cultivating a community of responsible, respectful and passionate learners"

Superintendent Newsletter

A Celebration of Hard Work

Happy Holidays RSU #26! I truly hope you get to celebrate this wonderful time of year with your family and friends! I have absolutely enjoyed being your school's superintendent this semester, however, it is hard to believe that our first semester is coming to an end. I wanted to take this moment to thank and celebrate our school system's greatest assets...our wonderful teachers!

When I took the helm of our great ship, I was not surprised with regard to the greatness that was already here! Teachers were doing great work in their individual classrooms and in the individual schools. What I quickly came to see is just how fantastic our system could be if we integrated that great work into a coherent Pre-K through grade 12 curriculum by working together...and this fall we began the work!

At the beginning of the year we started off strong in our first full-district staff meeting with a presentation outlining the hard work to be done. The teachers jumped on full force, backing this project, and began working together in what we call "vertical teams," bringing together teams of teachers in each content area from grades Pre-K through grade 12. They have been supportive of the outcome and desire to outline our curriculum for our community. Our teachers have been very patient with me as I have compelled them to work on this month after month since the beginning of this school year, and they remain passionate to this day.

What a great pleasure it has been to work with our solid team of professional teachers this year. Our hope is that by the summer of 2017, we have a complete high-level view of our robust Pre-K through grade 12 curriculum. You will be able to view it on our website at that time. Overall, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate their hard work, and wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

RSU 26 Curriculum Map								
Grades Pre-K-5	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	
English			Vocabulary and Grammar (Phonics, Spelling, Reading and Writing)					
Mathematics	Math	Every Day Math GrK	Every Day Math Gr1	Every Day Math Gr2	Every Day Math Gr3	Every Day Math Gr4	Every Day Math Gr5/6	
Science/Tech	Science		Science, Computer Lab			Science, Computer Lab, MLTI Laptops	Science, 1:1 MLTI Laptops	
Social Studies			Social Studies					
Visual & Perf. Arts	Music	Art, Music	Art, Music	Art, Music	Art, Music, Chorus	Art, Music, Recorder or Strings	Art, Music, Band, Orchestra, Chorus	
Health & PE			Physical Education					
World Languages	N/A		Spanish				French	
Other			Guidance Instruction Library Instruction					
Grades 6-8								
English	Reading, Lang. Arts, Fiction Writing, Non Fiction Writing			Language Arts		Language Arts		
Mathematics	Math 6			Math 7		Math 8, Algebra		
Science/Tech	Science, Technology			Science				
Social Studies	Social Studies							
Visual & Perf. Arts	Art, Orchestra, Band, Chorus			Art, General Music, Orchestra, Band, Chorus		Art, Band, Chorus, Orchestra		
Health & PE	PE 6, Adapted PE			PE 7, Adapted PE		PE 8, Health, Adapted PE		
World Languages	Spanish Exploratory		Spanish 1		Spanish 2			
Other	French Exploratory		French 2		French 2			
Other	Life Skills							
Other	Guidance							
Grades 9-12								
English	English 9		Expository Writing; Literature Elective; Writing Elective AP Eng Lit, AP Eng Lang, Brit Children's Lit, Bible as Lit I/II, Writing Short Fiction, Metamorphosis, College Writing, Short Fiction, Communications, Shakespeare, Women in Lit, War & Human, How to Argue, School Daze, Documentary Studies, High Adventure, American Cinema, World Cinema, Lit in Translation					
Mathematics	Algebra 1 A/B, Algebra II A/B, Geometry A/B Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, Intro to College Math							
Science	Earth & Physical Science; Biology; Chemistry-related Elective Honors Earth and Phys Science, Pre-AP Bio/Lab, AP Bio/Lab, Honors Anat. Chem, Honors Chem, Physics, AP Physics, Marine Ocean, Marine Bio, AP Env Science							
Tech	Publications, Computer Applications, Personal Finance, Media Marketing, Multimedia							
Social Studies	World Civilization and Geography; Civic Engagement; US History Native American Studies							
Visual & Perf. Arts	Beginner Acting, Beginner String, Orchestra, Concert Choir, Band, Ukulele Art Fund I/II, Drawing, Digital Art, AP Studio Art, Painting, Sculpture							
Health & PE	PE9		Health, PE Fall, PE Spring, Personal Fitness, Adapted PE, Outdoor Ed, Women's Wellness					
World Languages	Spanish I, Spanish II, Accelerated Spanish II, Honors Spanish III/IV/V French I, French II, French III, Honors French IV/V/VI Chinese I, Chinese II							
OTHER	NA		NA		Vocational Classes @ UTC, Service Learning Project			

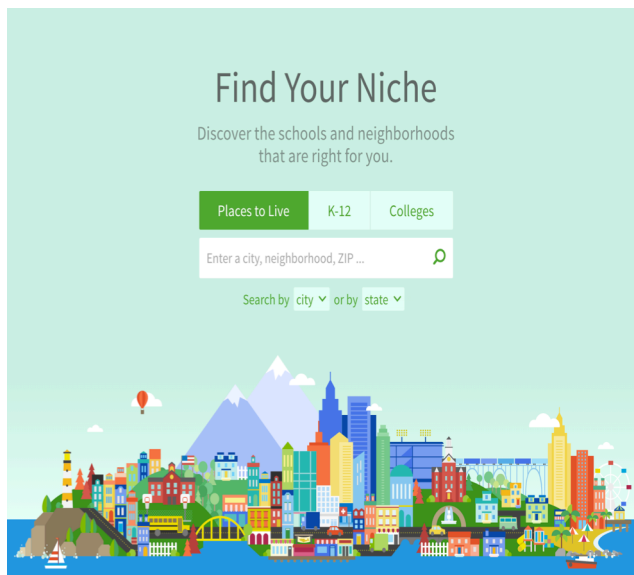
Above: RSU #26 Pre-K through 12th grade curriculum overview now on our website.

A District Achievement!

Niche.com is a newer national research firm that researches various demographics about K-12 school systems and colleges and typically offers a “rating” based on the information collected. In 2016, as announced by a local radio station, Z107.3, Regional School Unit #26 was ranked 5th in Maine as being one of the BEST school districts. This is particularly exciting news, and I am grateful to be able to share it with you.

See website for coverage below:

<http://z1073.com/orono-bangor-make-list-of-20-best-school-districts-in-maine-in-2016/>



Testing matters...

As a quick note about our regular assessments taken in RSU 26, we annually participate in the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) testing, the Northwest Educational Assessment (NWEA) testing, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). I wanted to offer a brief mention of the importance of these tests as we use them to help inform our academic programming. Stay tuned as we will be discussing these items in the coming months.

Reminder of School Closings

As a reminder, 'tis the season for stormy weather and thus, school cancellations and closings. Please make sure your phone numbers and email are updated in the schools' offices so you can receive timely information regarding this. Also these cancellations and closings will be announced on our typical radio stations and television channels as follows:

(KISS/BEAR/WVOM/B97/WABI/WKIT/WZON/
WDME/WQCB/WBZN/WWMJ/WEZQ/WDEA and
WABI-TV, and WVII/Fox-22)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Asa Adams Instrumental Assembly ~ December 8th @9:00 am ~ Asa Adams Gym
- *Asa Adams Choral Holiday Concert ~ December 12th @6:30 pm
- *OMS Holiday Concert ~ December 13th @ 6:30pm
- *OHS Holiday Concert ~ December 20th @ 7:00 pm
- * School Board Meetings ~ December 14th & January 3rd, 2017
- * Winter Break ~ December 22- January 2, 2017
- *School reopens ~ January 3, 2017