

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
December 4, 2018**

Staffing

- Math teacher Spencer Emerson is submitting his resignation. The position is posted. We have a long-term substitute available if we are unable to fill the position.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Maine Educational Assessment results from Spring 2018 were recently published. Whittier Middle School students continued to perform better than the average state percentages in the three subject areas tested. While we are pleased to stay ahead of the state average, we recognize the need to address the number of students who are not meeting state standards. Staff is reviewing released items and data to evaluate our own curriculum and instruction.

Subject Area	Whittier % meeting/ exceeding	State % meeting/exceeding
Mathematics	48.99%	37%
English Language Arts/ Literacy	53.81%	50%
Science	75.65%	67%

- We are following the high school's lead in alerting parents and students to the dangers of vaping. Cari Medd shared a letter she wrote to parents, and we included it in our recent newsletter. While we have not seen vaping devices coming into school, students are talking about it with staff and parents. Grade 8 students talk about smoking and other dangerous behaviors in Wellness class, but Grade 7 students do not have this education included in their curriculum. Wellness teacher Kim Yorkey is working with counselor Bonnie Robbins, middle school dean Sam Chatto, and me to design instruction for the seventh graders.

Events

- Maine Math and Science Alliance brought ten drones to Whittier on the evening of Thursday, November 29th. The program is an effort to highlight STEM education in rural schools. We were able to invite a small group of students and their parents to practice programming and flying drones in our middle school gym. The parent involvement was a great addition to an excellent program.
- The first band and chorus concert of the year is coming right up! Please join us for an evening of music that the students have been studying throughout these first months. All band and chorus concerts at RSU 16 are free admission, open to the public, and held in the auditorium.
- We are looking for parents, family and community members to be judges for our annual Whittier History Day which will take place on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 (with a snow day of Wednesday, February 13th). The time commitment would be around 8 a.m. - Noon that morning. The students will be creating projects based on the theme "Triumph and Tragedy". The judges will be trained on what to look out for and assess. We need about 80 judges. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Logan Landry at llandry@rsu16.org. We greatly appreciate your support of this special yearly event.

Facilities:

- Nothing to report at this time