



District News

Winter 2018

Superintendent's Note

The election results are in! We had a record turnout in Scarborough and on November 15th we welcomed our 5 new SB members Alicia Giftos, Nick Gill, Amy Glidden, Sarah Leighton, and April Sither. In addition to our current members, Hillory Durgin and Leanne Kazilionis, each new member brings a unique background and set of skills that will be a welcome addition to our board. Three of our new Board members are Scarborough High School alumni; this says a lot about the good work that has been happening in our schools for many years! Although I will not be seeking a contract renewal beyond June 30, I am excited to work with a board that has such diverse expertise which I believe will serve them and our students well.

Unfortunately voters did not approve LOCAL question 1, which would have allowed our district to formally join the Greater Sebago Education Alliance Regional Service Center. As a result, our funding has been reduced by \$40,462 for the current fiscal year. Given the narrow margin by which this local question failed, we are hopeful that with increased communication Scarborough voters will reconsider the benefits that participation in the GSEA will bring to our district. If voters decide to vote yes at a future referendum, our schools would receive approximately \$80,000 in additional funding for the FY20 budget cycle.

Board Message

The Board is excited to be restored to seven members and get to work with our newly elected colleagues! We would also like to acknowledge our first two Spotlight Award winners, Lauri Dean, a classroom teacher at Wentworth, and Alyssa Ostrowski, a Scarborough High School senior! Lauri was selected for a random act of kindness to another staff member, and Alyssa was selected for achieving a spot in the State Jazz Festival. It was great to celebrate these special members of our school community at our board meeting on November 1st. We are excited to review submissions and announce our next Spotlight Award winner!

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Spotlight Winner, Lauri Dean

Chronic Absenteeism — Why it Matters!

How is chronic absenteeism defined?

A student is considered absent if he or she is present less than 50% of the instructional day. A student is defined as chronically absent if enrolled for a minimum of 10 days and absent for 10% or more of the days enrolled. That means 18 school days in a year. All absences (excused and unexcused) are used to make this determination.



Why is this important?

Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement. Poor attendance has serious implications. In regard to chronic absenteeism, current research shows impacts such as lower achievement, disengagement from school, course failure, and increased risk of dropping out.



Scarborough Public Schools 2017-2018 Attendance & Truancy Data*

School	Average Daily Attendance %	Tardy %	% of Students Approaching Chronically Absent (missing 5-9% of total school days)	% of Students Chronically Absent (missing 10% or more of total school days)	% of Students Truant
Blue Point School	95.64%	2.73%	24.60%	8.24%	0.54%
Eight Corners School	96.05%	3.10%	23.07%	6.01%	0.00%
Pleasant Hill School	95.99%	3.01%	29.65%	2.34%	0.58%
Wentworth School	95.95%	3.27%	22.09%	5.97%	0.87%
Scarborough Middle School	95.41%	5.00%	23.59%	9.09%	1.78%
Scarborough High School	94.34%	4.29%	21.90%	12.54%	1.50%

*this is last year's data

"The fundamental purpose of the Scarborough Public Schools is to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where each and every student is empowered to be a resilient, lifelong learner who is prepared to engage as a contributing member of society"

MeCAS Student Performance Update

For the third year, Scarborough students in grades 3-8 took part in the eMPowerME state test and students in grade 11 took the SAT. These tests, along with the state Science test, are part of the Maine Educational Assessments (MEAs) and the results are reported to districts in four performance levels: *Above State Expectations, At State Expectations, Below State Expectations, and Well Below State Expectations.*



From our preliminary analysis of the English Language Arts/ Literacy (ELA) data, 72% of Scarborough students performed at or above state expectation, compared to the state average performance of 50%. This over all percentage difference is similar to last year's performance. While the Scarborough average dipped by 2%, so did the state. Of note, is that the state included a new writing section in last spring's test in which students had to compose a piece of writing.

In Mathematics, 56% of Scarborough students were at or above state expectations while the state average was at 37%. Scarborough's average scores are down by 2% over last year with the state down by 1%. Over the seven grades tested, 5 out of 7 outscored the state by 20+%, with a range of 18 to 29 percent.

In Science, 79% of Scarborough students scored at or above state expectations with state performance at 59%. Statewide science performance is down 2% compared to last year. In Scarborough, though our students performed slightly better with a less than 1% increase.

If you are interested in more information on the MeCas results, please visit:
www.scarboroughschools.org/central-office/curriculum-assessment



Career Pathways Fund

This past school year Christy Zavasnik, a teacher at Scarborough High School, piloted an internship program with members of the Scarborough business community. This program matched thirteen students with internships that aligned with their future career interests. We are excited to share that this program has resulted in a new partnership between Scarborough Education Foundation, SEDCO, the Scarborough Community Chamber of Commerce and the Scarborough Public Schools. These new partners will work together to support the Career Pathways Initiative through the Career Pathways Fund. This fund will help expand this successful program to more students.

"Helping students discover their future career path is more important than ever. With the rising cost of education and sensitivity to mounting student debt promising students are susceptible to choosing a future based on old assumptions rather than choosing based on experience and passion. By expanding this program to serve more than just 13 students per year we will help Scarborough graduates feel confident in their post-graduate plans and be even more successful!"

-SEF



Contact Us:

Questions? Give us a call.

207-730-4100

Or check out our webpage at:

www.scarboroughschools.org