



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

October 2024

Superintendent's Report, Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

Department Updates

Operations

- Our new Facilities Manager, John Converse, started with RSD17. John comes to the district with over twenty-five years of facility and maintenance experience, with a focus on managing capital projects and implementing preventative maintenance schedules for improved operational efficiencies.
- Security cameras were installed at HKIMS and KES. (BES installation happening soon).

Student Services

- The Student Services Department has been working with staff to streamline reports around the district so that information is reported to teams in a similar format.

Food Services

- October is National Farm to School Month and October 7th - 11th is CT Grown for CT Kids week. Locally sourced fruits and vegetables were highlighted this month and are part of our menus.

Talent, Accountability, & Human Resources

- With collaboration from PDEC, the new leader and educator evaluation and growth plan is being rolled out. In September, RSD17's plan received state approval, principals delivered a districtwide slideshow presentation to their respective staff, and administrator calibration is ongoing. Also, forms were created and are live on the online platform.
- The new Nurse collective bargaining agreement is signed and uploaded to the RSD17 website. Payroll adjusted rates effective 7/1/2024.

Curriculum Office

- Data teams began on 9/27 at all levels and schools. Teams planned their focus for the year and reviewed initial fall data. Many groups are focusing on struggling students. District-wide data team has met twice this year as well and is working on student attendance and observation calibration, among other topics..
- Curriculum Coordinators have begun informal observations and fall goal-setting meetings.

Schools

HKHS



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- HKHS sent 18 band and chorus students to participate in the Shoreline Music Festival on Oct 1 & 10. This non-auditioned festival is an opportunity for students to work with a conductor from a university music program along with students from other Shoreline schools. It culminates in a concert on Oct 10th at 7 pm.
- Rehearsals are underway for our fall production of "Our Town." We have 20 actors and 15 crew members working to bring this classic to life. HK Drama is collaborating with HK English to teach this book in all core English classes, grades 10-12. English students will attend a school-day performance of the show by HK Drama at the end of the unit.
- The HKHS Choir will perform the national anthem at the Hartford Wolfpack Hockey game on Nov 6.
- HKHS is proud to announce that we have 17 students who received recognition through all five of the College Board's [National Recognition Programs](#) for a total of 20 awards! The awardees of this program are high-performing, underrepresented students who excel academically on College Board assessments, including PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and AP Exams. The programs represented by HKHS students are the *National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program*, *National Indigenous Recognition Program*, *National Hispanic Recognition Program*, *National African American Recognition Program*, and *National First-Generation Recognition Program*. There's so much that makes our students here at HKHS unique, and these honors reinforce their individuality and achievements as assets for their future.

HKMS

- On October 4, the MS held a schoolwide data team meeting focused on closing the achievement gap. Teachers collaborated within their departments to discuss potential student barriers and identified specific strategies to target our high-needs and at-risk students. Each department will progress and monitor their data, with the goal of compiling a list of strategies used and determining which had the most significant impact on the students.
- The new Droning class is nothing short of what the kids call "epic." The eighth graders are experiencing firsthand what coding can accomplish. They are problem-solving and refining their code through troubleshooting to get their drones to do exactly what they want, such as landing in a specific spot or flipping around.

HKIS

- This month at our school has been filled with exciting celebrations and activities! We kicked off the year with summer reading celebrations, where students were recognized for their hard work over the break. Each student received a certificate and a pencil and participated in engaging book club discussions. In addition to reading, we also held summer math celebrations, where students enjoyed playing math



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games outside. They were each given a deck of cards and math games to take home, encouraging them to continue practicing.

- Additionally, our school saw the formation of the student council. Students eagerly participated by writing and delivering thoughtful speeches, showcasing their leadership skills and dedication to making a difference. The newly elected council members are excited to begin their work, and they'll be collaborating with both students and staff to come up with ideas and initiatives.

BES

- All students enjoyed an informative presentation from our local volunteer firefighters for Fire Safety Prevention Month. Students learned about all of the specialized equipment that firefighters use and how to get help and stay safe in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- The character trait for the month of October at Burr is responsibility. Students gathered at the Town Meeting to talk about ways to show responsibility at school and in their community. Students listened to "A Little Spot of Responsibility" by Diane Alber and then set a class goal for how they would show respect throughout the month.
- The third-grade safety patrol is up and running. Interested third graders submitted a letter of interest to Mrs. Whidden, and one student was selected to lead each bus. Safety patrol members are role models who are responsible for making sure the kindergarten and first-grade students are safe waiting for the buses (with adult supervision as well, of course) and all get onto the bus when it is called. This is a very exciting responsibility for the students and a coveted role for third graders!

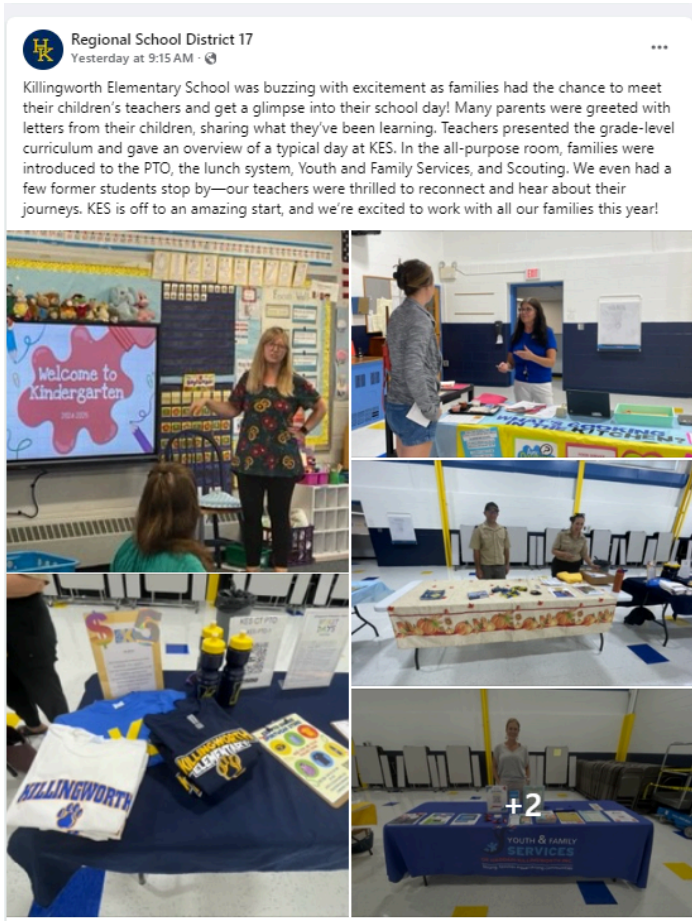
KES

- KES is showing Effort! At their October "Whole School Gathering," Mr. Reed introduced the theme of effort and read the story "The Dot" by Peter H Reynolds. This is the story of a little girl who learns that if you put effort into things that are hard, you will become better at them. After the assembly, students met with their buddy classes and worked together to create their own amazing dots. The students had a great time together and learned when you put real effort into something the results can be amazing.
- KES also welcomed the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Department as they spent the day with our kids during Fire Prevention Week.



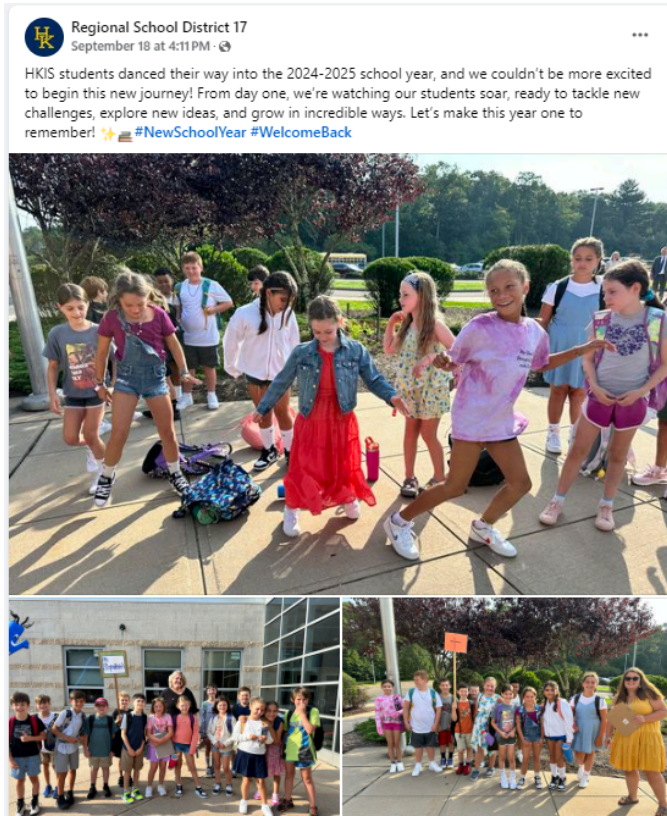
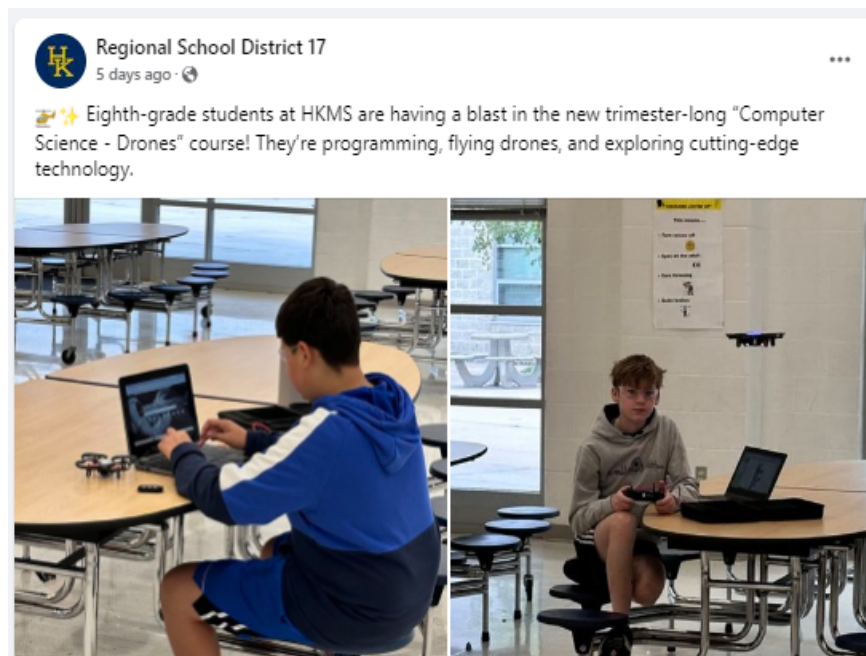
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Social Media Posts:



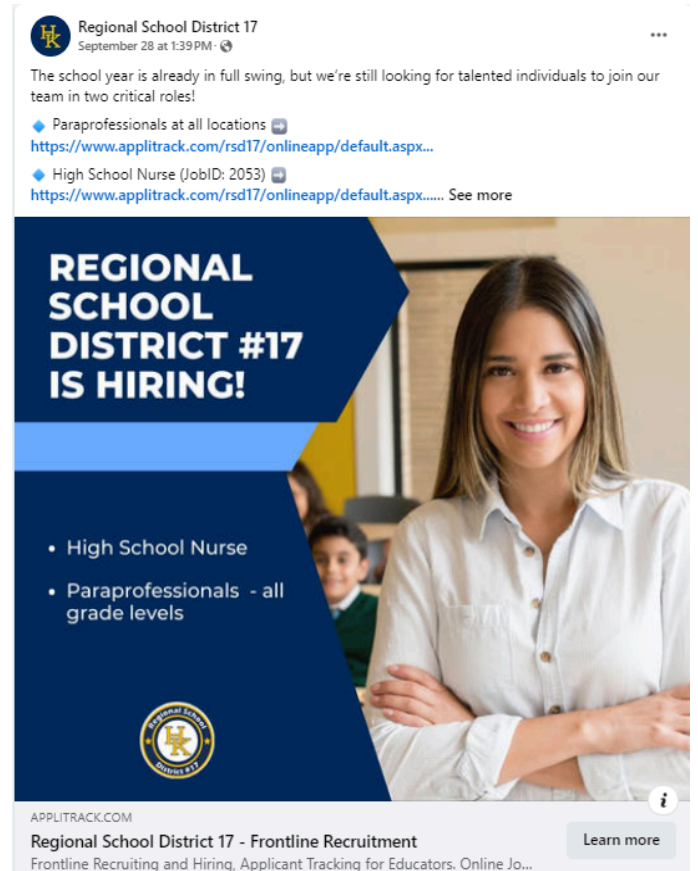


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