



# FOCUS on Education

November 2019

BOE Calendar | Indicators of Success | Facility Facts | Focus on Faculty | Curriculum Corner

**PLEASE JOIN OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS**

## DECEMBER

**04**

**6:30 pm** Milone and MacBroom Present  
Information on Artificial  
Playing Surfaces

## JANUARY

**08**

**6:30 pm** Understanding  
the School Budget Process

**15**

**6:30 pm** School Budget  
Proposals for 2020-2021

**22**

**6:30 pm** Central Office Budget  
Proposals for 2020-2021

## FEBRUARY

**05**

**6:30 pm** 2020-2021  
Budget Forum

 : Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

 : lolschoolsct

 : lymeoldlymeschools



INDICATORS OF

**SUCCESS**

AT LYME-OLD LYME

### 2019 SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR CT

**#2** in 5th grade English/Language Arts

**#4** in 3rd grade Mathematics

**#5** in 5th grade Mathematics

**#6** in 7th grade Mathematics

### 2019 SAT RESULTS FOR CT

**#10** in Mathematics

**#10** in Evidence-Based Reading/Writing

# Facility FACTS



In the November 2017 issue of the Focus on Education, the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools published the following article. As promised, we have updated the article to reflect recent actions by the Board of Education.

If you have attended any of our recent athletic contests, you may have noticed that Lyme-Old Lyme High School has two of the finest grass playing surfaces in the area. These surfaces are maintained without the use of any pesticides and with the added burden of supporting daily practices by multiple athletic teams as well as our physical education programs. Over the past few years, our efforts to support these fields for safe play have been a struggle.

Despite being so close to the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound, our greatest challenge in maintaining our playing fields is our limited water supply. Even with a newly-drilled well, we continue to find that our water needs, which support regular water usage (cooking, toilets, sinks, etc.) for our main campus, town hall, the fire department, LYSB, and the Old Lyme Historical Society, combined with the need to irrigate our playing fields, have exceeded our water system capacity. During two recent summers, we had to purchase tanker trucks of water to avoid losing the grass on our athletic fields. It was this water supply issue that pushed the Board of Education to develop a special committee to review and research the current state of our athletic fields and develop a long-term plan to address our water issues. This committee, which included 22 members, was made up of people from the community, Board of Education representatives, and school employees. The committee's charge was to evaluate our three multipurpose athletic fields and develop a recommendation for facility improvements which best serves the long-term needs of the school district and the community. The committee's work was supported by the expertise of an engineering firm who evaluated all aspects of our facility including water sources, field use, and field location. This committee recommended utilizing a two-pronged approach to address water usage and the demands of our athletic and physical education programs.

At their October 2017 meeting, the Board of Education voted to approve the use of funds to support the design and bidding of a dedicated system that would supply water to our two irrigated athletic fields, leaving the remainder of our water supply for potable use. In June of 2019, after many months of work with town committees as well as with our neighbors who share ownership of the pond behind the high school, we installed a pump system that allows us to use a limited amount of pond water to supplement our irrigation water supply. During the summer of 2019, we successfully utilized this new system to support the irrigation of two of our three fields.

Also at their October 2017 meeting, the Board of Education approved the committee's second recommendation to pursue the concept of submitting an artificial turf field project to the town of Old Lyme



commissions for approval with associated design firm support. The second recommendation will allow the district to pursue the concept of installing a synthetic field behind Lyme-Old Lyme High School allowing multiple teams to practice and play at the same time, no matter the weather. This will also reduce the overuse of the two grass fields whose irrigation needs have exceeded our water supply. The construction of such a playing surface would be funded from the Board's sinking fund for capital projects and therefore would not impact the annual budget. The funding for this second recommendation was approved at the October 2019 Board of Education meeting. At that meeting, the Board of Education approved the hiring of Milone and MacBroom to complete the initial artificial field

design as well as to obtain local commission approvals. This next step will be completed during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Following this phase of the project, we will be prepared to complete the construction documents, refine the project estimate, and establish a project timeline for field installation.

As we move forward with this project, we welcome your input. At the December 4, 2019 Board of Education meeting, Milone and MacBroom will present information regarding this project to the Board of Education. We encourage you to attend. Once the initial design phase is complete, there will be multiple opportunities to learn about the process as well as ask questions of the design firm. Please visit [Region18.org](http://Region18.org) to learn more.

## FOCUS on Faculty

The Lyme-Old Lyme Schools Teacher of the Year is Mercy Alger (see photo at right). Mercy, an alumna of Lyme-Old Lyme, was hired in 2007 and spent the last eight years teaching fourth grade at Lyme Consolidated School. In his announcement of this award, Principal Jim Cavaleri mentioned the sign outside Alger's door, which reads, "Amazing things happen here." He



stressed, however, that doesn't tell the whole story, saying, "Truth be told, that message can't begin to describe the extraordinary experience that happens in her room," explaining that Alger has created a "non-traditional classroom space" where "a true community of learners" flourishes. Mercy is known as someone who allows each and every student — regardless of ability — to reach their potential and was described by a parent as someone who, "sparks something in everyone: finding their passion, listening for their voice, showing them their strengths, and motivating them to act."

Congratulations to Jeanne DeLaura who is this year's recipient of the Employee of the Year Award for the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools (see photo below). Noting that he, "Couldn't think of anyone more deserving for this recognition," Lyme-Old Lyme Schools Superintendent Ian Neviasser announced her recognition at the district's annual Convocation in August. Jeanne, who is the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, started working for the district in that role in 1991, thanks to information received from her brother-in-law, former Athletic Director Rob Roach, who had told her about the job opening.

"Accepting that offer was one of the best decisions I have made. I love my job here — it is because of the wonderful people that surround me. Lyme-Old Lyme is a very special place where kindness and generosity are commonplace. The bar is set very high at Lyme-Old Lyme, and I feel so lucky to be a part of it."



# CURRICULUM Corner

## How Do You Define Math Fluency?

For those who work in math education, Common Core Math Content Standards are straightforward and easy to understand. However, with a renewed focus on the Common Core Math Practice Standards, K-5 teachers have taken on the challenge of differentiating between memorization and fluency of math facts. Recent research supports that efficiency, accuracy, and flexible thinking are key components in a fluent math student. Accessing multiple strategies to make sense and solve problems accurately helps to build automaticity, in even our youngest math students. One focus this

year for our Math Team is to define what fluency means in relation to the standards so we are best able to move our community to be 'math thinkers' rather than just 'math doers.' Our goal is to develop confident and inquisitive math students as we move away from rote memorization of math facts (since memorizing something does not always mean one can apply it out of context), to strengthening number sense, patterns in numbers, and building automaticity through math modeling and a wide-range of efficient problem solving strategies.

## ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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In compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act ( 40 CFR 763.93 [g] [4], Regional School District #18 of Lyme and Old Lyme, Connecticut provides this annual public notice that the schools listed below all have EPA AHERA Asbestos Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of any asbestos containing materials found in the buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public during normal business hours at the District's

Administrative Office (49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-7238) and at each of the following schools: the Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-7238; the Middle School, 53 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-2568; the High School, 69 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-1651; the Mile Creek School, 205 Mile Creek Road, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-2209; and the Lyme Consolidated School, 478 Hamburg Road, Lyme, CT 860-434-1233. Questions regarding the program can be directed to the District Facilities Department at 860-434-8182.

The Regional School District #18 Board of Education prohibits harassment and discrimination in educational programs, services, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, military or veteran status, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, or past or present physical or mental disability in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and appropriate state laws.