

Superintendent Goguen

Dear Students, Families and Staff,

The BHS Impressions Show Choir and Pit Band opened up the Webster Town Meeting with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.



These groups were recognized for their accomplishments:

- ❖ 2 Gold metals,
- ❖ 2 Silver metals,
- ❖ Grand Champions at 3 out of the 4 competitions,
- ❖ Best Vocals Sounds at 2 of the 4 competitions,
- ❖ Best Choreography at 1 of the 4 competitions,
- ❖ 3rd place finish at the National competition in Nashville Tennessee,
- ❖ Judges Award for best piano player, and
- ❖ Outstanding performer award at 2 competitions.

This group of students and Mr. Carney and Mr. Twiraga were congratulated by many for this outstanding year.



CJ Gibbons was given a new bike by the Hubbard Health System Mary Bixby Legacy Grant at Wednesday's annual meeting. As you can see CJ is ecstatic!!

pic.twitter.com/8uuntiyUlu twitter.com/WebsterSuperrg

Proclamations were dedicated to both Impressions and the Pit Band from Selectman Andrew Jolda and School Committee Chairman David Hurton.



FY19 school budget of \$20,969,695 was passed at the Town Meeting Monday, May 14th and I would like to thank our community for their continued support as we move the Webster Public Schools forward. The budget was built with the following goals in mind:

- To improve student programming and student achievement rates
- To continue to provide up to date resources and PD for our staff. We believe in investing in our own human capital to build strength from within!
- To continue to focus on safety
- To keep student learning & programming the central focus to all budgetary decisions and to prioritize our high needs group which includes economically disadvantaged (50%), special education (21%), and ELL population (9%).
- To take a systems-wide approach – rather than school by school approach - to achieve more efficiencies across the district as we build a stronger and more cohesive PreK-12 program.

We were able to reallocate some of our existing resources in the FY19 budget and we will be increasing our supports for our students in the following areas:

- Special Education Teachers (PAE, WMS)
- Librarian (PAE)
- PE Teacher (PAE)
- .5 Foreign Language (WMS)
- Grade 6 Teacher (WMS)
- Special Education Team Chair
- School Psychologist

Pictures from the week

Members of the New Attitude Middle School Show Choir talk to the entire middle school about the joys of being in show choir. One student said, "It's so much fun, it's like a second family!"



New Attitude performing at the WMS school wide assembly



The BHS Pit Band ROCKS!



Update on BHS Principal Search

Interview Committee:

Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent
Monique Pierangeli, Business Manager
Kathleen Baris, Director of Student Services
Janice Daniels, Curriculum Director of Title 1 and Literacy
Jill Chapdelaine, Curriculum Director of Math and Science
Eric Tracey, BHS Dean of Students
Michael Zajac, WMS Principal
Maryann Hoenig, BHS Business Teacher
Sean Harrington, BHS Art Teacher
Melissa Arsenault, BHS Special Education Teacher
Stacy Trudeau, Parent

To date there have been two separate rounds of interviews with members of the District Administrative Team. Two candidates were then chosen to move forward to a second round of interviews with teachers and parents.

On May 14th, the second round interviews were conducted with BHS teachers, a parent and the District Administrative Team. This committee unanimously recommended for one candidate to move forward in the process.

I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Peter Cushing will be visiting Bartlett High School on May 22nd where he will be able to meet teachers, students, parents, and School Committee and community members. Forums will be held after school and feedback forms will be collected.

Please take the time to come and meet Mr. Cushing and provide us with your input on this important leadership position.

Agenda for the May 22nd visit

12:00 -12:30	Meeting with Superintendent
12:30 -1:00	Tour School/ Classrooms with Assistant Principal and Dean of Students
1:00 -1:30	Meeting with Union Reps/Guidance/Nurse/Available Teachers & Staff
1:30 - 2:00	Meeting with Student Representatives
2:00 - 2:30	Meeting with District Administrators and Principals
2:30 - 3:35	Meet and Greet with WMS Teachers and Staff (library)
4:00 - 5:00	Forum for Student/Parents/Community/School Committee (library)

Short Biography:

Peter J. Cushing taught high school history in Lynn and Arlington prior to becoming vice principal at Narragansett Regional High School in Templeton. Following three years at the high school focused on improving student outcomes and staff development, Cushing was asked to take the principalship of Narragansett Middle School. He has worked at Narragansett since 2008. Cushing earned his bachelor's degree from Saint Anselm College with a Politics major and a Classics certificate. Cushing has earned both a master's and doctorate of education from Boston College. Cushing lives in Ayer with his wife and two daughters (who he loves to bring to school events).

DISTRICT EVENTS

Thursday, May 17	BHS	Spring Concert 7:00pm
Monday, May 21	WMS	Gr. 5 Invention Convention 8am-10:40am
Thursday, May 24	BHS	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Business Class to UNUM
Friday, May 25	PAE	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ K to Southwick Zoo
Tuesday, May 29	BHS	Senior Honors Night
Thursday, May 31	BHS	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Medical Careers to Anna Maria College – Wellness Conference
Friday, June 1	BHS	Senior Class Trip
Friday, June 1	WMS	Great East Music Festival
June 4-8	WMS	Spirit Week
June 4 - 6	WMS	Gr 8 Forensic Presentation/Webster Police
Monday, June 4	BHS	Senior Cookout/Yearbook Distribution/Awards Assembly 9:00am
Tuesday, June 5	BHS/WMS/PAE	Grad on Parade
Tuesday, June 5	BHS	Senior Banquet
Wednesday, June 6	WMS	Nat'l Jr. Honor Society Induction
Wednesday, June 6	PAE	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Gr. 4 to Wachusett Mtn.
Thursday, June 7	PAE	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Gr. 2 to Roger Williams Zoo
Friday, June 8	BHS	Graduation
Tuesday, June 12	WMS	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Gr 6/7/8 Band Chorus to Six Flags (Rain date of June 13th)
Thursday, June 14	PAE	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Gr 3 to Old Sturbridge Village
Friday, June 15	PAE	<i>Field Trip</i> ~ Gr 1 to Davis Farmland
Monday June 18	PAE	Spring Concert ~ Grade 1 9:00 Grade 2 10:00 Kindergarten 11:00
Tuesday, June 19	PAE	Spring Concert ~ Grade 3 9am, Grade 4 10am
Tuesday, June 19	WMS	Field Day
Wednesday, June 20	WMS	Eighth Grade Celebration Day
Thursday, June 21	WMS	Step up day for current 4th graders

Dear Families,

I have been informed that the second season of *13 Reasons Why* is about to air and I wanted to share some information that has been shared with the entire district staff.

This show is about suicide and how many adolescents do not know how to use their voice to express their struggles. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for teenagers and it takes all of us to first recognize when students are struggling and second to provide the wrap around services they need in order to be safe both physically and emotionally. Our guidance staff across the district are great resources and with the show second season starting, please contact them if have questions or concerns.

Here are some resources:

A [video](#) from the show creators and producers to understand the context.

NPR recently aired this [broadcast](#) about this seasons themes, which includes sexual assault and a school shooting.

Information from the [National School Psychologists Association](#) regarding the second season.

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry-TOaM2Kfk>

Broadcast <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/05/16/607066609/as-13-reasons-why-returns-schools-try-to-help-students-who-are-thinking-of-suicide>

National School Psychologists Association

<http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators/information-regarding-the-upcoming-release-of-13-reasons-why-season-2>

Please find [linked here](#) a valuable resource entitled *13 Reasons Why Talking Points*, and [linked here](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists. This list of talking points was created by The Jed Foundation and SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) to help and to aid parents/guardians in the conversations you have with your child(ren). The links below can also help you to discuss the matter.

- <https://www.weareteachers.com/discussion-questions-13-reasons-why/>
- <http://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/tv/netflix-series-13-reasons-why-glorifies-suicide-mental-health-experts-n749551>

Links:

13 Reasons Why Talking Points: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7T5plzKDU5ILUJNcDBJskU4U0U/view>

School Safety and Crisis: Information Regarding the Upcoming Release of *13 Reasons Why*, Season 2
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qk_SUHM8norVgKoXfXqt2-yHGoA_GhX/view

[The National Suicide Prevention line is 1-800-273-8255.](tel:1-800-273-8255)

Finally, we urge you to reach out to your healthcare provider if you ever have any concerns about your child's well-being. If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at school.

Kind Regards,

Ruthann Goguen