

Principal's Annual Report
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School
2020-2021 School Year
Silas Coellner, Principal
Kelly Chouinard, Asst. Principal

The 2020/2021 school year was like none other in the history of the school. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic a day in the life of an ORRJHS student was radically different. The entire structure of the school day and learning model was changed to fall within the safety guidelines provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools (DESE).

The JHS implemented a hybrid model. Students attended school every other day in person Tuesday through Friday. All students attended school virtually on Mondays. When a student was not in person, they worked on asynchronous lessons and checked in each period with their teachers virtually. The students had four longer classes each day instead of the normal 7 periods per day at school. Advisory was held every morning to support students' social connections and academic outlook for the day of learning. Students were grouped into pods and assigned classrooms to minimize movement and the number of student to student interactions at school. Social distancing was implemented at 6ft in every classroom. A portion of our high needs students attended school in person every day. Approximately 15% of our students participated in school fully remote.

On April 1st, 2021 we held a virtual parent informational night to include a time for Q & A. This was done in preparation for our transition to full in person. On April 27th, 2021 ORRJHS returned to full in person learning.

The Junior High experienced several personnel changes in the past year.

The following new staff were added to the Junior High:

Colleen Morehouse - ELA Teacher
Rubab Rashid - Special Education Teacher
Joanna Buckley - Special Education Teacher
Kevin Thompson - Paraprofessional
Dionne Cozier - Paraprofessional
Morgan Matthews - Paraprofessional
Kathrynne Perrill - Receptionist

The following staff retired/resigned from the Jr. High School:

Kathy Bobrowiecki - Paraprofessional
Patricia Costa - Receptionist

The following staff members were reassigned:

Diane Setera - Paraprofessional from the high school to the junior high school
Colleen Morehouse - ELA Intervention Teacher to Remote ELA and Social Studies Teacher
Thomas Cooney - Math Intervention Teacher to Remote Math and Science Teacher
Carol Herrmann - Librarian/Media Specialist to Digital Literacy Teacher

Curriculum and Instruction:

- 10 days of professional development for staff to prepare for hybrid instruction during a pandemic.
- The social studies department continued to develop and refine curriculum aligned with the 2018 History & Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks.

- MASSCUE Virtual Conference
- Community Conversation with Sarah Fiarman - WHO ME, RACIST? - Unconscious Bias
- Staff professional development: Creating an Equitable School District for All Students & Keynote Eugene Hamilton Cultural Proficiency: Is This Place Safe?
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion Non-Negotiables with D. Kris Taylor of Teachers21
- Implemented Aimsweb+ benchmark assessments (Fall, Winter, Spring) in reading and mathematics.
- Schoolwide implementation of Zoom, Google Classroom, EdPuzzle, PearDeck & Screencastify
- Daily Responsive Advisory Meetings through implementation of the “The Responsive Advisory Meeting Book”. Supporting instructional materials provided daily to staff in a virtual friendly format. Students were surveyed for feedback in May of 2021.

Virtual Afterschool Activities:

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School offered Jazz Band, GSA Club and DECA (with the HS).

Virtual School Wide Assemblies:

DRUG STORY THEATER - October 30th - Drug Story Theater made a video of their middle school show “The Price You Pay; Second Chances”. The show taught the students how the developing brain is more easily addicted to drugs than a full grown brain.

SOCIAL MEDIA - April 12th 10:15 am-11:15 am - Mr. Eugene Hamilton presented an interactive workshop to help students identify positive, appropriate and helpful uses for social media platforms (TikTok; Instagram; Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in the school environment and beyond.

INTERNET SAFETY - April 26th 10:15 am-11:15 am - Mr. Eugene Hamilton presented an interactive workshop to help students avoid individuals and groups that seek to derail them. The presentation helped students identify warning signs of inappropriate activity and equipped them with tools for alerting adults and authority figures when they feel unsafe and/or threatened.

PREPARING TO PIVOT - April 14th - Principal Coellner provided detailed information regarding the transition to full in person learning on April 27th.

Community Service:

During 2020/2021 our students were involved in the following projects:

- CRADLES TO CRAYONS - PROJECT 351 CLOTHING DRIVE
- GSA Club students distributed Pride Pins to interested students in June
- Provided six Tri-Town families with food baskets and gift cards during the holiday season

Grade 7 Orientation/Opening Day:

5/17/2021 Virtual parent night for incoming 6th grade students

School Council:

The Old Rochester Regional Junior High School’s School Council met once a month virtually from September 2020 through June, 2021. The School Council reviewed the FY 20-21 budget and received updates on the budget process as well as worked on the Two-year School Improvement Plan for 2022/2023.

Staff Accomplishment(s):

Nichole Charbonneau, Grade 8 English Teacher (Orange Team), was selected to serve on the state level Bias & Sensitivity Assessment Development Committee for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)

Old Rochester Regional Junior High to Senior High Transition:

The 8th grade guidance counselor created a “My Career Notebook” for students and guided them through a career exploration and introduction to the vocational schools.

On June 9th, ORRHS hosted a “Step Up Day” for the 8th graders,

Vocational School Visits: Due to COVID-19 the receiving vocational schools created promotional videos and interactive maps. They also provided virtual meet and greets and small group in person tours.

Grade 6 to 7 Student Transition:

On May 19, 2021, a Parent Night was held virtually followed by a Q&A.

As mentioned, an orientation half-day was held at the end of August, 2021 to familiarize incoming Grade 7 students and remote students with the school prior to their first day.

Initiatives:

- Inaugural year of the Life Skills Program which consisted of a severe needs certified special education teacher and three paraprofessionals.
- Weekly voluntary staff meetings
- Maintained our summer reading program where students in grades 7 & 8 were allowed to choose a minimum of one book from a selection of fiction and non-fiction titles. A book discussion was held on their selected title in September.
- With the Mattapoissett Police and School Resource Officer, Matt McGraw, we trained our staff and students in the A.L.I.C.E. program (enhanced lockdown for school intruder emergencies).
- Implemented the “Responsive Advisory Meeting Book” and conducted a hybrid Advisory every day of the week.
- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Conducted the National Spelling Bee virtually.
- Conducted Panorama Cultural Proficiency Survey for students and staff.
- Administration active participation in the ORR Anti-Racism Subcommittee
- Ms. Samantha Enos led the Annual Scholastic Book Fair during the month of November.
- Daily Morning announcements live on YouTube with Principal Coellner.
- A Christmas Carol - virtual field trip to Trinity Rep Company
- Virtual Walking tour of Berlin supporting the 7th grade ELA curriculum

Respectfully Submitted,

Silas D. Coellner, Principal