

Principal's Annual Report
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School
FOR: FY2019/2020
Silas Coellner, Principal

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

The following new staff were added to the Junior High:

Silas Coellner - Principal
Kelly Chouinard – Assistant Principal
Tom Cooney – Title 1 Math
Sarah Lloyd – Social Studies
Marie Regonini – Special Ed Teacher – Grade 8

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

Margaret Benson – Family & Consumer Science Teacher (retired)
Noreen Erklauer – Reading Teacher (retired)

The following staff members were reassigned:

Nate Orie moved from Gr. 8 Social Studies – Grade 7 ELA

Curriculum and Instruction:

- Analyzed SEL and Remote Learning Panorama Survey data to inform instruction.
- Professional practice goals established around 21st Century Learning Skills and Project Based Learning.
- Peer observations focused on creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication
- 8th grade social studies teachers continued to build and refine the new United States and Massachusetts Government and Civic Life curriculum aligned with the 2018 History & Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks.
- Continued implementation of Responsive Classroom with a focus on “engaging academics” domain.
- Implemented positive behavior themes in weekly advisory meetings.
- Grant supported “raising trout” project-based learning experience was conducted in 8th grade science.
- Documented every junior high course in Atlas Rubicon. Baseline documentation included; course name, course description, unit calendar, content, and skills.
- Professional Learning Community (PLC) study of implicit bias, white fragility, school talk, and white privilege.

Afterschool Activities:

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School offers many intramural activities. During the 2019-2020 school year, intramural activities included Girls Field Hockey, Dodgeball, Fitness and Volleyball. The Boys/Girls Cross Country was offered on an interscholastic basis and Grade 8 Students were eligible to participate on the high school swim team. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to offer the Boys/Girls Track (interscholastic) program or additional intramural after school activities.

Additionally, many students participated in other after school activities including Student Council (continued through June, 2020 – virtually), Jazz Band (continued through June, 2020 – virtually), GSA Club (continued through June, 2020, virtually), Engineering Club, Ski Club (continued through

June, 2020, virtually), Art Club, Geek Club, Minecraft, Ping Pong, Yoga, Chess Club and the drama production of Romeo & Winifred was not able to be presented although the Drama Club students practiced diligently from January, 2019 through March 12.

Community Service:

During 2019/2020 our students were involved in the following projects:

- The 29th Annual Thanksgiving Banquet for the tri-town senior citizens was held – over 90 eighth-graders, 1/3 of the faculty staff and ½ of the cafeteria workers volunteered their time for this annual event. Over 250 Senior Citizens from the Tri-town area were served at the banquet and 95 shut-in meals were delivered to senior citizens who were not able to attend. With the assistance of the Jr. Ambassadors, Ms. Julie Taylor, community members and monetary and door prize donations from local area businesses, this event was once again a great success!
- Students collected food items for 15 turkey dinner food baskets, including the turkey, that were given to those families in need.
- Three students, Hannah Whalley of Mattapoisett, Ella Caesar of Marion and Cattarina Nunes of Rochester, represented the Tri-towns at Project 351 in January. They met Governor Baker and participated in community service in Boston and held a Child Poverty Clothing Drive at the ORR Jr. High School.
- Our Grade 8 Green Team students volunteered their time during a field trip at Gifts to Give in New Bedford.
- During the month of November, and in support of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, the School Council held a “loose change” donation to the staff member with the best beard (Mr. Coellner’s loose change jar was the winner) – all of the proceeds were donated to Prostate Cancer Research.

Survival and S.C.O.P.E. did not take place.

Grade 7 Orientation/Opening Day:

202 of our 212 Grade 7 students attended the 4th annual orientation. Mrs. Carla Cafarella and Mrs. Carol Herrmann volunteered over the summer to organize this event; 20 teachers and 16 eighth graders volunteered for this day.

School Council:

The Old Rochester Regional Junior High School’s School Council met once a month from September 2019 through March, 2020. The School Council reviewed the FY 19-20 budget and received updates on the budget process as well as worked on the two-year School Improvement Plan for 20-21 and 21-22 school years.

Grant Recipients:

Sarah Toltin – Grade 8 Science Teacher – “Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank Grant” – Trout Project
Carla Cafarella, Spanish Teacher – “Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank Grant” – Purchased Spanish Books

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:

In September of 2019, Gr. 8 Guidance Counselor, Julie Taylor, visited each of the Grade 8 social studies classes regarding Career Exploration and High School Planning.

Vocational School Visits:

On November 1, 2020, students in Grade 8 had the opportunity to visit Old Colony Vocational School. (Mattapoisett and Rochester Students) and Upper Cape Vocational School (Marion Students). Transportation was provided by the vocational schools.

On November 26, 2020, Grade 8 students participated in a High School Application Process assembly; and, high school tours took place during the week of November 25.

Grade 6 to 7 Student Transition:

On May 13, 2020, a Q&A Parent Meeting was held virtually. As mentioned, an orientation half-day was held at the end of August, 2019 to familiarize incoming Grade 7 students with the school prior to the first day.

Initiatives:

- 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.
- Inaugural Booster-thon Fundraiser (in place of Magazine Fundraiser) raised over \$12,000.00 (Magazine Fundraiser earned \$2,690.00 in profits for the Jr. High School the previous year). Money was used to defray field trip costs, for student celebrations and to purchase equipment.
- With the Mattapoisett 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).
- Created ORRJHS Student Junior Ambassador Program.
- The Healthy Tri-Town Coalition met all year. This committee was made up of administrators, teachers, parents, and community members.
- 1:1 Chromebook initiative continued.
- Ms. Sam Enos led the Annual Scholastic Book Fair during the month of December.
- Continued late buses 3 days a week, which dropped off students at their local town libraries.
- Mandatory substance abuse screening “SBIRT” took place for our Grade 7 students.
- Several teachers piloted Standards Based Grading.
- School-Wide participation in World Read Aloud Day.
- Conducted the “Hour of Code”.
- Conducted the National Geography Bee and Spelling Bee.
- Conducted Panorama SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Survey for students and staff.
- Conducted Remote Learning Panorama Survey for student, staff and family members – June, 2020.
- Implemented in person administration/parent/guardian meetings for students at risk for being chronically absent.

Student Assemblies:

- In October, 2019 - Speaker, Aaron Polansky focused on “being kind and treating all people with respect”.

- In February and March, 2020 – Monthly Positive Behavior Assemblies were held - presented by Mr. Coellner.
- March, 2020 – Wellness Assembly by Linda Dutil
- June, 2022 – by Zoom – Diversity Talks with Nayelie

Music Accomplishments:

The following music students auditioned for and were accepted into the Southeast District Music Festival.

Instrumental: Orchestra – Luke DeVoe; Band - Jacob Hadley, Corinne Hibbert, Fiona Hoben and Allison Winters

Choral: Chloe Bean, Eloise Casi, Zoe Pateakos and Ava Sepulveda

Respectfully Submitted,

Silas D. Coellner, Principal