

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GATEWAY REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BLANDFORD, CHESTER, HUNTINGTON, MIDDLEFIELD, MONTGOMERY,
RUSSELL**

2022

YEARLY EDUCATIONAL HAPPENINGS!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY	PAGE 2
GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL	PAGE 3
GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT	PAGE 5
2022 GRADUATES OF GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	PAGE 23
MARCH 1, 2023 CENSUS	PAGE 25
ASSESSMENT INFORMATION (FY'24)/GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET 2023-2024	PAGE 26

GATEWAY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

GATEWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE	685-1000
PUPIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT	685-1017
LUNCH PROGRAM	685-1005
GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	685-1100
GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT	685-1107
GATEWAY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	685-1200
GATEWAY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT	685-1206
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER	685-1106
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	685-1360
LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	685-1300

"No School" signals will be broadcast between 5:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. over the following stations:

WYHN	Holyoke
WAQY	Springfield
WNNZ	Westfield
WHMP	Northampton
WMAS	Springfield
WPKX	Springfield
WWLP	TV 22, Springfield
WGGB	TV 40, Springfield

As well as on the website and the weather line @ 685-1001

**THE GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AND ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL**

THE COMMITTEE

Sarah Page, Chairperson
Jason Forgue, Vice Chair
Tara Balboni
Jeana Briggs
Pegg Dragon
Terri Garfield
Lisa Goding
Keri Morawiec
Lyndsey Papillon
Frank Pero
Ed Renauld
Tasha Strong

Russell
Chester
Russell
Chester
Huntington
Blandford
Huntington
Blandford
Russell
Chester
Huntington
Middlefield

ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL

Kristen M. Smidy
Stephanie Fisk
Stacy Stewart
Deborah Kuhn
Deborah Burkott
Scott Caron
Dupere Law Offices

Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Facilities
Administrative Assistant
District Treasurer
Transportation Coordinator
Accounts Payable
Counsel for the Committee

BUSINESS OFFICE

Gateway Regional School District
12 Littleville Road
Huntington, MA 01050

Telephone (413) 685-1000
FAX: (413) 667-8739

Hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Most regular meetings of the School Committee are held one Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. A calendar with specific dates and location can be found on the district's website – www.grsd.org under the school committee tab.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jason Finnie
William Sullivan

Principal – High, Middle School
Assistant Principal – High, Middle School

Andrew Samuelson
Mark Folta
Melissa McCaul

Principal – Littleville Elementary School
Interim Principal - Littleville Elementary School
Student Support Leader - Littleville Elementary Sch.

Vanna Maffuccio

Principal–Chester Elementary School

Kurt Garivaltis
Christopher Tamburrino

Director of Pupil Services
Assistant Director of Pupil Services

Deanna LeBlanc

Director of Curriculum

Martha Clark

Programs Coordinator

Kelly Sudnick

Nurse Leader

Christopher Parker

Technology Director

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

2022 - 2023

Annual Report Superintendent of Schools

Gateway Regional School District continues to thrive and grow in the 2022-2023 school year. With the new district strategy plan adopted at the start of the school year, we are focused on developing our three priority areas. All administrators and staff will:

- commit to an unwavering, unified purpose centered around teaching and learning (Learn);
- develop more structures and systems that create a safe and supportive environment for all students (Support); and
- strengthen community partnerships and collaboration (Connect).

These three areas—Learn, Support, Connect—act as our guide as we set and strive towards professional goals, allocate resources, determine our focus for professional development, and work together for the benefit of all Gateway students.

We have already started to experience the benefits of this unified approach to our work. Educators have been working tirelessly to ensure grade level standards are being taught to all students. You would think in the year following a pandemic that teachers would need a bit of time to adjust to the shift in teaching and learning, yet I've seen the opposite with the Gateway staff. Our teachers and paraprofessionals have fully committed themselves to ensure that our students have the best possible experiences in class filled with rigorous instruction as well as opportunities for laughter and joy.

The administration and staff have worked to establish and uphold a safe environment for all students and staff this school year, with a renewed focus on ensuring that policies and procedures are in place to support an environment where all students can learn. The district's required bullying policy has been updated and approved. Staff engaged in training to prevent and intervene against harassment and discrimination. Additionally, select staff were trained extensively to ensure that the district was in compliance with all Title IX regulations.

Strong community partnerships have been developing nicely throughout the district. At the high school, students have more opportunities to engage in internships and job shadowing experiences due to the collaboration of our towns and district. At the elementary level, students have hands-on experiences learning from experts in our community and enjoying participating in demonstrations and real-life learning, such as hatching baby chicks, composting, and growing their own garden.

We are also proud of our relationships around the hilltowns. Our continued partnership with the Hilltown Community Health Center must be highlighted, as we host the only rural

School-Based Health Center on campus for our students and staff to access for their healthcare needs including physicals, dental, optometry, and mental health support. We are in constant collaboration with our local police and fire departments, as well as the towns' highway departments. I am so appreciative of our communication and teamwork as we ensure that we are getting our students to school and maintaining a safe environment for them. We are also pleased to continue to strengthen our partnerships with our towns' libraries and Councils on Aging. There are many other friends that provide a great deal of support to our district, but I must highlight our towns' Select Boards/Boards of Selectmen, as their support and encouragement has been incredible for the school district's work.

Speaking of our local community's joint efforts, I must highlight the strong advocacy that has happened at Gateway Regional for increased state aid for our school budget. Although the state is allocating a great deal of funding towards education in general, many districts including Gateway do not benefit from the increase. Based on the new calculation of the Student Opportunity Act, last year Gateway saw an increase of only 0.4%, which obviously does not keep up with the basic needs of our vital operation of instructing and caring for the children of our community. However, after a strong and robust push to our legislators, rural school funding, which is an additional line item allocated for districts that meet specific criteria, was more than doubled from the initial Governor's budget to the budget the Senate recently proposed and approved. This funding makes the difference to offer courses and opportunities that our students deserve without needing to ask towns to foot the entire bill. One legislator told me that she received over forty letters from members of the Gateway community. I could not be more proud of our community's collective voice to ensure that our students are not provided with fewer resources just because of where they live.

One collaboration that still requires attention is updating the regional agreement that governs how our six towns work together to run the school district. A draft was proposed last year to towns, and the feedback received was that it still required some additional tweaks. We are looking forward to engaging with all towns in this revision in the near future. It is noteworthy that the regional agreement can be updated anytime with the approval of all six communities and acts as our local regulations to set parameters for our working relationship including how we fund our budget. It is important that we hear stakeholder voice to understand how this should look along with updating our agreement to comply with updated state regulations.

As we look towards the end of the school year, I hope you join me in celebrating those staff retiring from Gateway this school year including:

- Ginny Lee, STEM Teacher at Chester and Littleville Elementary
- Linda Coffey, Accounts Payable
- Donna Morrissey, secretary at Chester Elementary
- Chris Bresnahan, Reading teacher at Chester Elementary
- Anne Fisk, 3rd grade teacher at Littleville Elementary
- Karen Smith, Kindergarten teacher at Littleville Elementary

- Melinda Slowey, paraprofessional at Littleville Elementary
- Stephanie Flinker, 3rd grade teacher at Littleville Elementary
- Kathy Murray, Occupational Therapist for the district

I am so thankful for the hard work and dedication of these amazing women. On that note, I am also honored to announce that this year's Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence Award was presented to Jenna Kakimoto, elementary special education teacher and Huntington resident. Ms. Kakimoto was celebrated by her colleagues and family this year for her tireless support of all students, her passion for the environment and the community, and her true care for her colleagues.

I could go on and on about the incredible work of our staff and students this school year. Emerging from the pandemic has had a number of difficulties including filling staff vacancies, ensuring students have what they need to thrive, and supporting families with their increased demands. However, Gateway has demonstrated its resiliency and commitment to our students time and time again. I am incredibly thankful to be a part of this special community. You will learn about more specifics of this work in the reports below. I look forward to our continued partnership, and I invite any member of the community to reach out to me if you would like to speak about the wonderful work happening at Gateway.

Pupil Services

The 2022-23 school year has been marked by growth, excitement and change. Special education has experienced an explosion of growth as the impact of the pandemic and alternative learning models caused staggering regression among all students. Especially those at risk. Our district has historically hovered on or about the statewide average of 20% of the entire student body. This year, our number of students served on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) has shot up to approximately 25% of the student body as students struggled to transition back into traditional "in-person" learning. Aligned with National and Statewide trends, students requiring mental health and social emotional support has similarly risen concurrently. I am pleased to report with Superintendent Smidy's support, vision and leadership, staffing in the department consequently rose to meet the needs of all students as we added staff to our special education staff at Chester Elementary School (with the fulltime addition of longtime staffer and Grinspoon award winning teacher, Jenna Kakimoto); Littleville Elementary school (with Ryley Carleton hired as the new K-1 special educator); and in the middle/high: new additions David Bergmann and Chris Camarco, middle school special educators replace departing staff. In the high school Michael Marchetti and Andi Elliot similarly replaced two special educators who left the district for positions elsewhere. Elsewhere in the department we added a Telehealth Speech pathologist in Jeanan Haddad after efforts to replace longtime SLP Lynn Archambault were unsuccessful. Our Speech Assistant, parent and local resident Katy Wojcik will complete her graduate program next month and join the certified ranks as a Speech and Language

Assistant (please congratulate her if you see her) and the district currently has a second SLP-A position open that we are hopeful to fill very soon with another in-person SLPA.

In Early Childhood services, the district has further experienced growth and development due to the growing needs of our communities. This past Fall we added a second Inclusive preschool learning classroom at Chester to augment the other in Chester and two at Littleville. I am pleased to report that all programs have run at or near capacity most of the school year which is very exciting as we hope serving more young children will result in continued growth across all grades in time. With respect to our English learners, we lost longtime secondary instructor Laura Macklin but were fortunate to secure another high quality, certified instructor with experience, Rachel Dougherty who is already making an impact with our students and families who came to the district from other countries.

Nursing and Counseling services further experienced significant growth and change due to the dynamics. The district experienced a significant loss with longtime Nurse Leader, Jodi Cabral's departure. Jodi served the medical needs of generations of hilltowners and so much more, we wish her well in the next stages of her journey! Thankfully, we were able to hire another district resident and Gateway Grad as our new Nurse Leader; Kelly Sudnick. Kelly's leadership and energy has been transformative as we navigate through this brave new world with ongoing health concerns. Finally, in order to meet the social emotional and mental health needs of students across the district, we added a new social worker in the middle school with Kelly Blu Crawford who has quickly established herself as a caring and competent Counselor and a tenacious advocate for our younger students in the middle/high school. All our new staff have demonstrated that they are up for the challenge and supporting not only our students and their families but further the vision, goals and objectives of our new Principals, Assistant Principal and District Leaders. The 2022-23 school year has been a transformative year of growth and change and we look eagerly forward to finishing strong and celebrating our largest Summer program ever this coming July!

Gateway Regional School District Curriculum Updates

FY '23 has been a busy year of implementation and strategic planning. Our GRSD teachers and administrators have spent immense time and energy in the continued implementation of I-Ready diagnostic and individualized learning platform as well as the Illustrative Mathematics core math program in grades K-8 to address student achievement needs. In addition, teachers and administrators have been actively implementing Amplify CKLA core literacy programming in grades K-3, Wit and Wisdom core ELA instructional materials in grades 4-8, and Reveal Math core instructional materials in high school math courses. As we know, the pandemic created a need for additional academic support for students while

still keeping the goal of reaching proficiency before graduation in sight. This means that the district has to look at both what we teach and how we teach it. We are taking on this challenge by both looking at implementing stronger high quality instructional materials in core programming, and taking a look at student achievement data to address individualized needs. This is challenging and exciting work, and our staff have been incredibly dedicated!

Gateway Regional School District was in status with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education based on data collected in 2019 regarding subgroup performance on MCAS testing, attendance, and graduation rate. This prompted the support of our Statewide Systems of Support (SSoS) Team, led by Kenneth Rocke and Zachary Ellers, in providing tenacious advocacy for improving instructional practices through a strengths-based approach. This work started with facilitated learning walk-throughs, which are class observations where one or two objectives are looked for by the team. During this school year, we moved to data analysis work with the leadership team to ensure that we are prepared to sustain growth and continue our improvement efforts after the SSoS team phases out their work with Gateway.

In response to the needs that the teachers and administrators in our district have identified through work with SSoS, GRSD implemented two new literacy high quality instructional materials this school year in grades K-8. To support this implementation, Director of Curriculum Deanna LeBlanc continued work with DESE's Learning Acceleration Network to focus on our ELA implementation. Through this network, Gateway has received free coaching support and free professional development to support the implementation of Wit and Wisdom in grades 4-8. GRSD is proud to continue the work with the Learning Acceleration Network to ensure successful implementation and support of our staff.

Professional Development

This year's professional development became more focused on instructional practices, literacy and math content, and equity. The district strategy, "Learn, Support, Connect" grounded our work in ensuring that staff were learning about our new high quality instructional materials, enhancing our supportive learning environments and connecting our work to the larger community through a culturally responsive approach. We had many enriching experiences, including a session with the author of "Ruthless Equity," Ken Williams. Staff had the opportunity to collaborate as they worked through new materials. Most importantly, staff provided regular feedback to the professional development

committee, who worked under the coordination of the Director of Curriculum to create a comprehensive professional development menu of offerings. Staff feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the engagement in sessions was significantly increased both visibly and from feedback data.

In addition to our internal professional development workshops and release time, Gateway Regional School District has tenaciously advocated for and been enrolled in the Massachusetts DESE Multi-tiered Systems of Support Academies for both math and for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). These two academies each include extensive professional development for a team of staff that is paid for by the state through their own internal grant system. The PBIS academy is training a team of 12 internal staff to be leaders in PBIS across the district, in order to build our own capacity to keep this framework in place at the end of the academy. We are in the third year of this program. The math academy is specifically designed around the Add-Vantage Math Recovery program, meaning that our team of ten staff being trained in this group will be highly trained in this system of math recovery. Gateway's curriculum director, Deanna LeBlanc, is now a Math Recovery Champion, and is finishing teaching her first AddVantage Math Recovery 1 course to Gateway teachers. Both of these opportunities are helping build capacity and improving instructional strategies, which will improve outcomes for students. In addition, Gateway Regional School District is engaged in the Learning Acceleration Network, which provides ELA high quality instructional materials support and coaching to leadership and to teachers. These opportunities also dramatically reduce financial burdens to our district long-term, as we will have internal experts available to support our teachers.

Grants

FY 23 has been a monumentally strong year in grant funding. Above our entitlement and targeted grants managed through the curriculum office, Gateway Regional School District was able to secure \$288,050 in competitive grant funding from the Student Opportunity Act Evidence-Based Practice grant (FC 117) for \$66,000, the Supporting SEL Behavioral, Mental Health and Wellness Grant (FC 311) for \$39,350, the SEL & Mental Health Grant (FC 311) for \$85,000, the Safe and Supportive Schools Grant (FC 335) for \$10,000, the After School and Out of School Time Grant (FC 528) for \$80,000, the Integrating SEL grant (FC 151) for \$10,000, the 21st Century Learning Grant (FC 647) for \$210,000 (Co-written by Director of Curriculum) and the High Quality Instructional Materials Implementation Grant (FC 185) for \$26,000 have totaled \$526,350 in competitive grants that the curriculum office is directly involved in. Most of these grants have continuation opportunities as well, so that we can continue the important work from these grants moving forward!

Technology

The Technology Department at Gateway is constantly striving to improve our students' education by providing high quality devices and support to all students and staff. In order to keep pace with the ever changing environment, the Gateway Technology Department continues to install, maintain, and upgrade all aspects of security and safety as well as all of the educational technology.

The 2022/23 school year has been one of the most challenging years for technology. The pandemic provided many obstacles in the technology world ranging from supply lines, shipping delays to price increases and extended outages of products. As a result, priorities were constantly shifted to be able to focus on the tasks we were able to complete based on all the mitigating factors.

Based on the recommendation of the Office of Homeland Security during one of our lockdown drills, we were able to install an additional array of cameras throughout the district to add to our coverage. This ensures that we have constant visibility in all public places in order to closely monitor the state of our schools. We also updated several doorways with additional security measures to allow safe and easy access for staff and students when needed.

We were awarded a grant through the Electronic Connection Fund that helped us to pay for our annual chromebook purchase for our kindergartners, first graders and seventh graders as well as a much needed upgrade for our paraprofessionals. This grant also enabled us to move forward with our audio/visual upgrades in both Littleville and the Middle/High School. All classrooms in the district have now been upgraded to high definition projectors which enables teachers to support the implementation of our curriculum.

Through the first year of the WIN period at the middle/high school, we have now started teaching students how to design, troubleshoot and print 3D Models through the use of our 3D printer. Our elementary STEM teacher was awarded a grant for robotics kits for students to begin learning block coding. Our older elementary students are beginning to learn coding using online formats as well.

With the ever changing technology world, we are constantly learning along with our staff and students.

Annual Safety Report

Gateway Regional continues to prioritize safety to ensure that students and staff are able to focus on learning in an environment that is secure for all. The district works closely with our local police chiefs to support our community. As State Trooper Andrew Canata has moved on from his post as safe schools liaison, newly appointed State Trooper Shannon Guilbeault is now assigned to Gateway from the state barracks.

We have made some great progress in our safety plans as our knowledge and needs continue to evolve.

- Our comprehensive Safe Schools Plan is updated with the most current research and recommendations from the state and local police.
- The US Department of Homeland Security has conducted a safety assessment and commended the plan that we have in place.
- Superintendent and Chief of Police in Huntington completed a joint ASHER training
- Administration and local police completed a joint Emergency Response training.
- Gateway was the first school district to successfully develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Westfield State University for emergency planning purposes.
- The district has completed updates for our surveillance system based on recommendations from police.
- The district has completed two lockdown drills during the school year, and our police partners have walked students through a drill in the lunch room and at recess.
- The district was selected to be the first in the state to participate in visualization imagery, which includes taking 360 degree photographs of campus to put in a confidential state database in case emergency responders that are unfamiliar with our campus need to support our community. It is a goal of the Department of Homeland Security to have all school districts completed.
- We have made updates to our communication system to ensure that we can provide timely and appropriate information to staff and families.
- Superintendent Smidy was selected to be on the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council for her knowledge and experience with school safety.

Every year, we will continue to update our plans and work with our partners to ensure that we are doing everything we can to provide the best environment for learning.

As a partner in this work, please do not hesitate to contact any administrator if you see something concerning or questionable. Proactive action is the best way to keep our community safe.

Chester Elementary School

The mission of Chester Elementary School is to facilitate and support all students to learn and demonstrate essential academic skills, personal and social efficacy and qualities of character and citizenship that prepare them to face and conquer challenges, attain ambitious goals and stay on track to achieve a future of success, fulfillment and honor.

Student Enrollment (as of 4/5/23) at Chester Elementary School:

Preschool:	33
Kindergarten:	17
Grade 1:	14
Grade 2:	11
Grade 3:	18
Grade 4:	19
Grade 5:	14
Total:	126 Students

Enrollment increased by 17 students this school year!

2022-2023 Achievements:

Implemented high quality English Language Arts curriculum, in all kindergarten through grade 5 classrooms, through the adoption of Amplify CKLA (K–3), Amplify Skills (K-2), and Wit and Wisdom (4-5).

Created a multitude of diverse, student centered enrichment programs and opportunities for students in the areas of science, civic leadership, visual arts, performance arts and music. New enrichment courses and opportunities offered to students throughout this school year were as follows:

- Chorus, Music Exploration, Bucket Drumming and a targeted 1:1 genius hour.
- Pre-K Art expansion for all 3 sections of student programming.
- Pre-K Music expansion for all 3 sections of student programming.
- Science of Magic Class, KIBO Robotics, Agricultural Programming
- Broadway Production Mini Course: Broadway artist led a 3 day workshop and facilitated a student performance of the play *Shrek*.
- Established a group of student leaders through the development of a school based Student Advisory Council. Students on this council actively explored and discussed actionable avenues for spreading awareness and enacting change related to current

events and school based practices. The Student Advisory Council advocated to fully fund rural aid through a speech they wrote and delivered to Senator Paul Mark.

- Studying Greek Mythology through Theater Arts and Set Design Coursework: These two classes integrated our brand new high quality English Language Arts knowledge and content units into the areas of theater arts and set construction/engineering. The culmination of this coursework came alive through two productions of the Greek plays *Pandora's Box* and *King Midas, the Golden Touch*, which were both performed for all students in grades Pre-K-5.

Aligned instructional initiatives with the town of Chester's community resilience plan by implementing relevant, sustainable agricultural learning experiences for students.

Two of our biggest accomplishments this school year were as follows:

1. Tapping trees and boiling sap over a bonfire(all done on our very own school grounds) in order to produce and bottle maple syrup.
2. Partnering with the lead farmer at Community Food Engine Farmstead(CFE Farmstead)to engineer and implement a cutting-edge, large-scale hydroponics gardening system and educational program within our school.
3. Created an Agricultural learning classroom space in a classroom that was once used as a storage space.

Initiated and utilized a multi-tiered system of supports framework, MTSS, to provide all students with targeted, timely and research based practices and interventions in response to assessment and performance data in the areas of academics, behavior and social emotional skill development and advancement.

Developed and empowered three dynamic teacher leader teams to employ peer support, engage in targeted collaboration and provide their colleagues with professional development aligned to our school's identified areas of growth. This work increased teachers' collective efficacy, advanced writing instruction and the development of a writing continuum and provided all teachers with common, aligned high leverage, tier 1 practices to initiate schoolwide.

Created and shared a photo filled and action packed newsletter with families and the community in order to increase engagement and showcase/celebrate the robust, engaging instruction and events occurring within our school each month.

Initiated a superpowered character counts educational initiative to teach and instill good character and citizenship within our student body. After students learned and practiced a specific monthly character trait, students demonstrating this trait as their superpower were awarded a cape and certificate during an assembly style celebration. This character counts initiative will be culminated in June by the selection and celebration of our 22/23 Ultimate Citizens(one student selected from each grade level). The students who are awarded the prestigious title of Ultimate Citizen will be presented with a cape, certificate, luncheon and trophy.

Implemented and maintained a newly developed Academic Progress Monitoring structure/model for measuring and responding to student performance data through biweekly skill based assessments. This model was upheld in order to ensure supports and interventions were resulting in adequate to ambitious growth in specific domains of foundational math and/or reading skills. This structure of continuous monitoring of student progress resulted in the ability for us to adjust, intensify and modify instruction and programming in a timely, effective and accountable/measurable manner.

Implemented and upheld a new instructional schedule for math and reading in grades K-5 in order to ensure all students were provided with equitable access to robust, quality grade level instruction. Students receiving services for special education or from a reading or math interventionist were pulled out of the classroom for this specialized support outside of their tier 1 mathematics and english language arts blocks(Core plus more model).

Developed criteria and aligned documentation protocols for student behavioral infractions through the use of a school wide interchange system, SWIS. We used this system for data driven decision making in order to initiate, increase or modify tiered positive behavioral supports and interventions. Implementation of this data driven response system resulted in the ability to target, monitor and decrease the number of behavioral infractions in specific locations within our school and at specific times during our school day.

Beginning in the summer and continuing throughout this school year, the administrative team engaged in comprehensive course and fieldwork through a Research for Better Teaching course focused on analyzing teaching for better results; we worked together to assess and expand the shift from a professional leadership community that focused on teaching to one that focused on the impact on student learning. We researched, studied and implemented a common and clear approach to providing teachers with motivating, meaningful feedback to improve student learning outcomes in the classroom, instead of

simply “supervising” or “evaluating”. As instructional leaders, we began to gather “raw” data to serve as concrete evidence of student learning (For example, this raw data could look like the recording of direct student quotes or actions or providing the specific number of student responses or response rates/frequency of specific students and student groups.) Our district team worked to apply the concepts of a balanced analysis structure and model to ensure impactfulness, cohesiveness and caliber through feedback that drove growth within our teacher evaluation system and structure. Our team of administrators worked to collectively learn how to use the teacher evaluation system to empower sustainable school and district improvement, and it has had a significant and positive impact on student learning across our district.

Littleville Elementary School

Elementary Vision Statement:

The Gateway Regional elementary schools are dedicated to creating a learning environment that fosters respect, encourages curiosity and creates a desire in each child to attain their potential and become a confident life-long learner.

Current School Operating Goals:

1. To improve the holistic educational development of all students by identifying and providing tiered supports for all students to optimize their learning potential.
2. To provide a safe and respectful school environment for students, staff and families that encourages collaboration, and promotes inclusion and access for all.
3. To actively engage parents and families as partners in each student's education to facilitate the healthy development of the whole child.
4. To work collaboratively with all stakeholders to balance school program and service needs with fiscal responsibility that continues to provide a high quality education for all students.

Littleville Enrollment 2022-2023

Grade PreK- 39 students

Grade K- 51 students

Grade 1- 43 students

Grade 2- 37 students

Grade 3- 40 students

Grade 4- 56 students

Grade 5- 56 students

With a supportive, dedicated, and flexible staff leading the way, Littleville's students have had an exciting year and are thriving. Our school has utilized a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) structure to provide tiered support in academics, social emotional learning and behavior. A team of six staff members were put together to meet monthly to develop and discuss action steps that fosters student growth in all three domains. At the beginning of the school year and throughout the year, teachers administered various reading and math assessments including the iReady diagnostic that helped identify students' needs. An addition to Littleville this year was the hiring of a math interventionist who utilizes *Math: AVMR (Add+Vantage Math Recovery)* to help diagnose and advance student understanding and numeracy development. Students within this program are carefully monitored over a ten week period and reassessed to determine the next course of action. To support the social emotional learning of our students, the MTSS team began to conduct monthly assemblies focusing on a character trait that we want our students exhibiting throughout the day. At the end of the month, students who were identified as showing the character trait were awarded with a certificate of achievement and a superhero cape and mask. The Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) team also completed year 3 of implementation. They worked throughout the year to support staff utilizing SWIS, our behavior data collection application, and to create a school store as another way to reward positive behavior.

In addition to the new MTSS system, the district used grant funds to purchase two new curriculums and provided professional development opportunities to facilitate their implementation. Grades K-3 adopted *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)*, which is built on the science of reading. This program inspires curiosity by exposing students to deep content knowledge while building foundational skills. Grades 4 and 5 adopted *Great Minds: Wit and Wisdom*, which integrates knowledge from a variety of subjects while expanding vocabulary and developing reading and writing skills. For the second year, students engaged in *Illustrative Math by Learnzillion*. Both teachers and students showed confidence working with the structure of the program and its components.

The small group of committed parents serving on our Parent Teacher Organization were once again busy fundraising. The funds raised help offset the cost of field trips, holiday crafts, and events throughout the year. The PTO also put on our first Valentines Dance,

which was a huge success! K-5 students decorated cookies, ate pizza, took pictures at the photo area, and danced the night away. Fun was had by all who attended.

Finally, our Wrap Around program that provides before and after school care has continued to expand which required an additional staff member to supervise. Our wrap around staff also worked closely with the Summer Camp program to provide lots of additional learning opportunities and field trips over the summer. We are looking forward to continuing that collaboration to provide even more opportunities for our students over the summer break.

Gateway Middle and High School Updates

Gateway Regional High School and Middle School continued work on the following school improvement goals:

- **Teaching & learning:** To improve the college and career readiness of all students by identifying and provide tiered supports for all students to optimize their learning potential by:
 - Developing a college and career exploration program (Find Your Grind) grades 7-10 to guide students in meeting each school's academic, social & civic expectations
 - Developing/revising curriculum documents to assure and communicate integration of MA Common Core Standards and 21st century skills
 - Collaboratively analyzing summative and formative assessment data to adjust instructional practices and provide tiered supports to meet student needs (MTSS)
- **Safe & Respectful Schools:** To provide a safe and respectful school environment for students, staff and families that encourages collaboration, and promotes inclusion and access for all by:
 - Developing and implementing social/emotional learning (SEL) curriculum and training all staff in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
 - Developing and implementing a system of targeted assessment and remediation of reading and math skills to support all content areas
 - Enhancing substantially separate, self-contained programs to address the therapeutic needs of all at-risk students (Lifeskills, Learning Lab, and Bridge programs)
- **Family & Community Engagement:** To actively engage parents and families as partners in each student's education to facilitate the healthy development of the whole child by:
 - Providing training on and developing implementation plans for sharing of

- classroom projects and student work on websites and/or through GoogleClassroom
- Developing community workshops on educational, SPed, SEL topics facilitated by district staff
- Continuing a home/family outreach component for each substantially separate program
- **Fiscal Responsibility & Compliance:** To work collaboratively with all stakeholders to balance school program and service needs with fiscal responsibility that continues to provide a high quality education for all students by:
 - Improving participation of parents, students, and community members in School Council and other forums to address School Improvement Plan goals
 - Use of contractual collaboration time to facilitate Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and vertical collaboration within content areas (lead by reinstated Teacher Leader positions)
 - Collaboratively developing schedules with the capacity to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of all students

Enrollment 2022-2023

Grade 6- 55 students
 Grade 7- 63 students
 Grade 8- 78 students
 Grade 9- 45 students
 Grade 10- 31 students
 Grade 11- 45 students
 Grade 12- 40 students

Additional notable achievements and goings-on include:

Athletics

Our MIAA athletic programs resumed in full (with some COVID protocols still in place), and all athletes competed to the best of their abilities and represented Gateway with pride and passion. Our students compete in Division III varsity and junior varsity athletics, which include:

Boys & Girls Soccer
 Boys & Girls Cross Country
 Boys & Girls Basketball
 Wrestling
 Baseball & Softball

High School

- Our guidance department is committed to the Massachusetts Model for Comprehensive School Counseling programs. In addition to meeting with students regularly about academic matters, college and career planning, and various socio-emotional needs, our counselors offer numerous workshops including college planning, career exploration, and financial aid; both during the school day and in the evening.
A high school team attended multiple workshops and seminars throughout the course of the year, and will complete development of a plan to implement Find Your Grind in grades 9 and 10 for the 2022-2023 school year. This comprehensive plan will guide student goal-setting and portfolio development, and provide formative feedback for students and families related to school wide academic, social, and civic expectations.
- I Ready progress monitoring assessments in reading and math have been implemented in both grades 9-11 to identify student needs and inform classroom instructional practice.
- 15 (out of 56) members of the Class of 2021 were awarded John and Abigail Adams Scholarships for their accomplishments on MCAS. This scholarship awards the recipient with free tuition at any state community college or university for four consecutive years.
- 92% of the class of 2021 reported plans to further their education after high school: 54% at four year colleges or universities; 24% at schools with two year programs; 5% in technical programs; and 9% in the military.
- In the spring of 2022, 37 AP exams were administered across multiple subject areas. Presently, 44 seats are filled in AP courses.
- The High School continues to offer a wide variety of co-curricular activities, including:

Student Council
 Student Government
 School Climate Council
 National Honor Society
 Yearbook
 Perspective Magazine
 Drama Club
 Best Buddies Social Club
 As Schools Match Wits
 Gender & Sexuality Alliance
 Spirit Squad

Additionally, the concert and jazz bands and choir perform for the Gateway community at evening concerts and community events (winter concerts were virtual), as well as for the student body. These students also have the opportunity to audition for and participate in all-district and all-state competitions sponsored by the

Massachusetts Music Educators Association, and also in the American Choral Directors Association High School Honor Choir.

- The class of 2023 is planning a variety of events to celebrate their educational experiences at Gateway. Graduation exercises will commence at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 2, 2023 on Booster Field (weather permitting).

Middle School

- The 6th grade rejoined us this year, operating on an Academy model to assist with transitioning students from the elementary model.
- Counselors are available to all 7th, and 8th grade students to assist in their achievement of academic, social, and civic expectations, and guide their college and career (this year we are implementing Find Your Grind), including the vocational school application process. They also continue the guidance department's commitment to the Massachusetts Model for Comprehensive School Counseling, and work with all students individually, in small groups, and in the classroom.
- I Ready progress monitoring assessments in reading and math have been implemented in both grade 7 and grade 8 to identify needed interventions for all students. Data from these assessments has been used to inform flexible groupings in a scheduled Intervention period, providing remediation or enrichment opportunities to all MS students.
- Positive Behavioral and Intervention Supports (PBIS) has been implemented to identify, teach, and reinforce school-wide social and civic expectations.
- Five 8th grade students, representing five out of the six towns of Gateway, were selected to participate in Governor Patrick's Project 351. Students representing the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth assemble virtually for dialogue, action, service, and celebration.
- In addition to the athletic and other opportunities above, the Middle School also offers students the opportunity to participate in a MS Drama Club and MS Student Council.
- Middle School grades are planning their annual celebratory events. The school year will culminate with the Grade Eight Awards ceremony.

Annual Athletic Report

Baseball and softball both had varsity and junior varsity squads, with both participating in a PVIAC League only competition in the spring of 2022. Baseball worked to get younger players to develop skills while balancing opportunities for older athletes. Softball moved upward into the Bi-County League after much success in the Tri-County League. The team defeated every team in the league at least once. Varsity Softball became the first Gateway squad to qualify in the new WMASS tournament as the 8th seed. They were also seeded #28 in the division state playoff, hosting and defeating an opponent from Central Mass

before losing in the round of 32.

The Boys and Girls Soccer teams competed in PVIAC League only competition this season. Both programs had enough participation to field Junior Varsity teams, but it was based on a modified schedule as there were no junior varsity coaches available, which meant the responsibility of coaching JV games went to the varsity coaches. Both the boys and girls qualified for the expanded WMASS playoffs as #8 seeds.

The Girls and Boys Cross Country teams competed in a full season. Both teams competed in the Middle School Championship, PVIAC championship, and state qualification race (mix of schools from all regions, there were three locations for all division three schools).

Gateway participated in a co-op boys hockey program hosted by Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional High School, and played a full schedule this year. There were two student participants.

The Girls and Boys basketball played in a PVIAC League only competition. Each program had both a full varsity and junior varsity team. Both teams had several wins during the season.

The Wrestling team competed in a PVIAC League only schedule with the addition of select tournaments/dual meets to try to complete a comparable season as the other athletic teams. The wrestling team participated in the WMASS championship, and had one wrestler who qualified for the state championship, and the all state (multi division) championship.

Our athletic director will be completing their fourth year as a member of the PVIAC Executive Board. Our AD also completed their first year as one of two District 1 representatives to the MIAA softball committee (there is one AD and one principal/assistant principal from each district) and is District 1's liaison to the other softball programs in District 1. Our AD also has continued on for the third year as a member of the WMASS tournament committee. Gateway hosted one of the monthly PVIAC AD meetings (which was catered by our wonderful food service department who was reimbursed by the PVIAC) due to its central location in the four counties of the PVIAC. Our AD is now both an instructor for NFHS/MIAA coaches education classes and NIAAA leadership training courses.

Celebrating the Class of 2022

Gateway Regional High School held its fiftieth commencement exercises on Friday, June 3, 2022, at Gateway Regional High School, Huntington, MA. Kristen M. Smidy, Superintendent and Sarah Page, Chairperson of the School Committee, presented diplomas to the Class of 2022.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town</u>
Abilene, Lee	Huntington
Anable-Thompson, Caleb	Blandford
Balboni, Leo	Russell
Berge, Allison	Middlefield
Besancon, Siera	Huntington
Boszko, Rebecca	Huntington
Card, Jacob	Montgomery
Coffey, Preston	Montgomery
Crane, Shamus	Huntington
Doolittle, Richie	Blandford
Federici, Joseph	Montgomery
Fellows, Mia	Blandford
Fitzgerald, Elise	Russell
Gardner, Laine	Russell
Glukhova, Anastasia	Russell
Gomez, Xavier	Russell
Govoni, Chloe	Blandford
Hannigan, Nicole	Chester
Hennessey, Shai	Blandford
Hiller, Miles	Huntington
Houriham, Connor	Russell
Jette, Raymond	Chester
Judson, Kayla	Chester
Kievitt, Emma	Woronoco
Kot, Brianna	Westfield
Labonte-Perron, Haley	Russell
LaBranche, Garrett	Russell
Mann, Aiden	Russell
Marchese, Ariana	Chester
Martin del Campo, Julio	Chester
Mazzaferro, Samuel	Chester
Miltimore, Dylan	Russell
Morin, Ryan	Montgomery

Nakaya, Katrina
Paiva, Stephanie
Peloquin, Michelle
Perras, Mack
Richard, Landon
Santiago, Leah
Sayre, Casey
Vasilchenko, David
Wozniak, Jaeger
Young, Xavier
Zajko, Dominic

Middlefield
Belchertown
Huntington
Montgomery
Russell
Westfield
Huntington
Russell
Huntington
Huntington
Blandford

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARCH 1, 2023 CENSUS

TOWN	Pre Sch.	Kdg.	1	2	3	4	5	Total Pre-5	6	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	Out of District Spec. Needs	TOTAL PRE-12	School Choice	Charter School	TOTAL	PERCENT
BLANDFORD	13	5	5	4	3	12	5.5	47.5	4	11.5	7	22.5	1	3	6	6	16	0	86	11	0	97	11.729%
CHESTER	11	11	7	5	14	7	5	60	6	8	13	27	9	7	7.5	10	33.5	0	120.5	6	1	127.5	15.417%
HUNTINGTON	25	18	25.5	16	17.5	24	21	147	19	17	28	64	19	8	10	5	42	3	256	27	7	290	35.067%
MIDDLEFIELD	2	2	1	1	0	2	3	11	1	3	1	5	0	1	0	1	2	0	18	4	0	22	2.660%
MONTGOMERY	9	8	4	6	4	3	6	40	3	1	6	10	2	0	5.5	8	15.5	0	65.5	11	0	76.5	9.250%
RUSSELL	13	23	7	11	12	13	18.5	97.5	18	18.5	18	54.5	9	10	12	7	38	1	191	23	0	214	25.877%
TOTAL	73	67	49.5	43	50.5	61	59	403	51	59	73	183	40	29	41	37	147	4	737	82	8	827	100.000%

TOWN	Pre Sch.	Kdg.	1	2	3	4	5	Total Pre-6	6	7	8	Total	9	10	11	12	Total	Total Pre-12
EXCHANGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUITION	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
SCHOOL CHOICE	0	1	7.5	5	5.5	0	9	28	3	7	5	15	7	2	4	5	18	61
TOTAL	0	1	7.5	5	5.5	0	10	29	3	7	5	15	8	2	4	5	19	63
GRAND TOTALS	73	68	57	48	56	61	69	432	54	66	78	198	48	31	45	42	166	4

*Preschool role models and at-risk children

VOCATIONAL	West. Voke	Smith Voke	Total Voke
TOWN			
BLANDFORD	5	8	13
CHESTER	2	4	6
HUNTINGTON	9	23	32
MIDDLEFIELD	1	2	3
MONTGOMERY	1	1	2
RUSSELL	13	7	20
TOTAL	31	45	76

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES & BUDGET BY FUNCTION

FUNCTION	FY '18 ACTUAL	FY '19 ACTUAL	FY '20 ACTUAL	FY '21 ACTUAL	FY '22 ACTUAL	FY '23 BUDGET	FY '24 BUDGET	INC./ (DEC.)	% DIFF.
TOTAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION	\$728,938	\$691,293	\$612,513	\$649,061	\$639,052	\$576,727	\$594,792	\$18,065	3.1%
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$7,480,857	\$7,676,891	\$7,988,635	\$7,803,286	\$8,094,152	\$8,393,860	\$8,405,237	\$11,377	0.1%
TOTAL OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES	\$1,765,069	\$1,653,662	\$1,565,223	\$1,363,263	\$1,555,101	\$1,854,085	\$1,874,834	\$20,749	1.1%
TOTAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	\$1,099,174	\$1,073,623	\$1,109,463	\$1,038,652	\$1,167,071	\$1,088,356	\$1,166,206	\$77,850	7.2%
TOTAL FIXED CHARGES	\$3,046,660	\$3,172,380	\$3,133,530	\$3,253,715	\$3,260,475	\$3,206,183	\$3,579,478	\$373,295	11.6%
TOTAL ACQUISITION, IMPROVEMENT & REPLACEMENT OF FIXED ASSETS	\$151,758	\$265,129	\$230,995	\$390,473	\$222,995	\$222,995	\$222,995	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL DEBT RETIREMENT AND SERVICE	\$664,747	\$660,550	\$590,100	\$595,600	\$585,400	\$579,700	\$578,300	(\$1,400)	-0.2%
TOTAL PROGRAMS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS	\$726,288	\$659,060	\$819,991	\$789,765	\$848,146	\$825,368	\$955,491	\$130,123	15.8%
TOTALS	\$15,663,491	\$15,852,588	\$16,050,450	\$15,883,815	\$16,372,392	\$16,747,274	\$17,377,333	\$630,059	3.8%