

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Marion, Massachusetts

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April Nye, Chairperson	Term Expires 2024
Nichole Daniel, Vice-Chairperson	Term Expires 2025
Michelle Smith	Term Expires 2024
Nichole Nye McGaffey	Term Expires 2026
Mary Beauregard	Term Expires 2026

ORR SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Marion Representatives)

April Nye	Term Expires 2025
Margaret McSweeney	Term Expires 2026
Michelle Smith	Term Expires 2024

Please check the school district website at www.oldrochester.org for meeting schedule.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Michael S. Nelson, M.Ed.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
Sharlene Fedorowicz, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS
Howard Barber, CPA, SFO, MCPPO

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
Kristine Lincoln, M.Ed.

DISTRICT FACILITIES DIRECTOR
Eugene Jones, B.A.

SIPPICAN SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL, Marla Sirois
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, Peter Crisafulli
SCHOOL PHYSICIAN, Dr. Mendes & Dr. Reynolds
SCHOOL NURSE, Meagan Morais

ORR JR. HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL, Silas Coellner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, Kelly Chouinard
SCHOOL PHYSICIAN, Dr. Mendes & Dr. Reynolds
SCHOOL NURSE, Linda Deveau

ORR HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL, Michael C. Devoll
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, Vanessa Harvey
SCHOOL PHYSICIAN, Dr. Mendes & Dr. Reynolds
SCHOOL NURSE, Nicole Reedy

Report of School Department

To the Honorable Select Board:

Introduction

Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 serve the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Dedicated educators and staff serve the three communities of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester and the four school district structure, working collaboratively to provide a high quality education for our students preparing them for post-secondary success. The support provided to the school-system from the three towns from a resource standpoint helps ensure the ongoing success of our students through strong educational programming and by providing safe learning environments.

The 2022-2023 school year marked the final year of the school-system's strategic plan known more commonly as Vision2023. For a five-year period, beginning in 2018, the school community has worked diligently to towards the desired outcomes articulated in Vision2023. By following a clear strategic plan to guide the direction of the school-system, the stakeholders within the school community were able to work collaboratively on common objectives and initiatives on behalf of the Tri-Town's students and families.

The progress achieved has positioned the school-system to adopt its new strategic plan and begin the ongoing work of meeting our students' educational needs into the future. With Vision2023 coming to an end, the strategic planning process begun in the 2022-2023 school year to ensure the school-system's next strategic plan was in place for the coming school year.

Ultimately, the mission of our school-system remains steadfast to inspire all students to think, to learn, and to care.

As you read this report, you will see examples of our students' achievements, staffing and program changes, as well as signs of the structural improvements that have taken place in our buildings to upgrade learning spaces, technology infrastructure and safety.

Strategic Plan Overview

Vision2023 was created in the spring of 2018 by a steering committee with the help of focus groups from all three towns. The steering committee narrowed the scope of the work to three priority areas; social and emotional learning, global awareness, and 21st century learning. The anchoring outcome or theory of action is:

IF WE ...

provide all students with life and career skills, learning and innovation skills, and technology skills, by integrating these skills into a rigorous and relevant curriculum,

AND

develop and consistently utilize evidence-based approaches and

strategies that foster the social and emotional well-being of students to promote their success,

AND

create a school district environment that broadens our students' leadership skills, understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism, diversity, and global awareness by building relationships to establish a broader worldwide network, inspire all students to think, to learn, and

THEN WE WILL ... to care.

have provided our Tri-Town students with 21st-century academic skills, strengthened their social and emotional competencies and prepared them to be engaged global citizens.

Strategic Plan - Year Five

During the 2022-2023 school year, school stakeholders (i.e. students, teachers, staff members, families, school leaders, and school committee members) worked hard to complete the desired outcomes identified in the fifth year of the strategic plan. The Vision2023 strategic plan includes strategic initiatives and desired strategic outcomes for each of the five years. Below are the fifth year outcomes for each of the three goal areas within Vision2023:

21st Century Learning Year Five

Strategic Initiatives	Strategic Outcomes	5th Year
<p>Core Subjects - Enhance all curricula by embedding them with 21st-century skills and themes.</p>	<p>Core Subjects - Adopted 21st Century skills and theme based curricula is documented using Atlas Rubicon design and management system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assemble a Curriculum Team to develop a comprehensive curriculum review plan PreK-12 that will lead us into the next 5-year strategic plan. - Develop a Curriculum Review Plan which will include a multi-year review of specific content areas utilizing the DESE Curriculum Implementation Guide aligned with MA State Frameworks and DESE Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading. - Gather tools and resources to determine consistency and alignment of grade level and content area curriculum, instruction, and assessments for best practices and designs for curriculum writing.
<p>Life and Career Skills - Expand the opportunity for all students to work collaboratively through project-based learning (PBL) experiences in every subject area and discipline.</p>	<p>Life and Career Skills - Collaborative project-based learning experiences have been established and are integrated into all grade level curricula.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisit Project Based Learning with faculty. - Provide review training on the PBL 'Project Overview Template'. - Assess and document that PBL are aligned to the 'Project Overview Template'. - Ensure leading or guiding questions of PBL aligned to real life problem-solving issues. - Publish PBL finished projects including 'Project Overview Template' and 'Rubric' for accessibility to all staff.
<p>Learning and Innovation - Engage students in learning that is purposely designed to incorporate 21st-century skills of collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking/ problem-solving (4Cs).</p>	<p>Learning and Innovation - Student learning and professional practice goals for educators and administrators are utilized to improve 21st Century teaching and learning skills (4Cs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct District-wide Administrative Learning Walks to look for evidence of the 4Cs (collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking/ problem-solving) in the classroom. - Create best practices and designs for curriculum writing ensure the 4Cs will be reviewed for application, coverage and consistency.

<p>Technology - Support students and educators to use technology to strengthen their ability to research, apply, and communicate responsibly, meaningfully, and effectively.</p>	<p>Technology - Integrated digital instruction is embedded and embraced in all learning environments to improve student digital literacy outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintain momentum with technology instructional initiatives as a result of ongoing 1:1 district-wide.- Continue to embed Digital Literacy standards in the K-12 grade level and content area curricula for best practices in teaching and learning.- Implement staff and student use of Promethean Boards during instructional learning and Presentations.- Assess instructional technology used by students throughout the district.
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Social Emotional Learning Year Five

Strategic Initiatives	Strategic Outcomes	5th Year
<p>Relationships - Build strong, positive relationships with each student and focus on the student as an individual to build a sense of belonging and engagement.</p>	<p>Relationships - Students are invested in their learning and feel they are valued members of their learning communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing/annual training for all eligible district staff in Responsive Classroom. RC practices will continue to be utilized throughout PK-8 classrooms across the district. SEL programming will be utilized at the High School during Bulldog Block. - Student feedback will be gathered bi-annually through Panorama surveys and/or building based surveys to gauge engagement and sense of belonging. Data will be used to identify strengths and areas of need. - District Administrators will continue to utilize the Kaleidoscope (RC) tool in elementary schools and JHS to monitor and ensure best practices of Responsive Classroom implementation across all grade levels. - School SEL teams will identify at-risk students and will create an intentioned plan to support these students.
<p>Behavior Management - Develop and expand effective and consistent discipline practices, expectations, and teacher language throughout our learning communities.</p>	<p>Behavior Management - Consistent and effective discipline practices characterized by teacher language and expectations to promote responsible decision making, self-management, and a sense of community are established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All classrooms and other learning settings will routinely establish clear behavioral expectations on an annual or as needed basis. - Consistent and aligned incident/discipline data collection methods are fully implemented through PowerSchool extension. Training for administrators and teaching staff will occur. - The District will adopt an established and consistent discipline philosophy that will be modeled and utilized in each school. - Building-based behavioral interventions and discipline practices will be guided by CASEL competencies and restorative practices. - Common student handbook language related to school behavioral expectations and discipline practices.
<p>Partnerships - Enhance family and community engagement opportunities, communication, and practices.</p>	<p>Partnerships - Maximized partnerships among family, community, and staff to ensure short and long-term student success are formed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The district will adopt a collaborative and inclusive family engagement philosophy that will be modeled and utilized in each school. The DESE Family Engagement frameworks will be used in guiding the development of this philosophy. - Specific family engagement practices and opportunities will be established at the district, building and classroom level. Parental and community involvement will continue to be the primary focus of family engagement. - All schools will communicate identified family engagement opportunities with their school communities and stakeholders in a timely manner during the course of the school year. - Teachers will continue to demonstrate best practices in regularly communicating and engaging with families and use a variety of strategies to support every family to participate actively and appropriately in the education of their children.
<p>Safety and Security - Identify and enhance effective and comprehensive safety and security measures.</p>	<p>Safety and Security - A learning environment is created which protects and promotes the physical and psychological safety of our students and staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All district buildings will have current and operational crisis plans, which incorporate research-based best practices. These plans will be shared with building staff. - The district will integrate school safety software that enables schools to screen visitors, track volunteers, report on drills, respond to emergencies, and reunite families. - All buildings will conduct annual student and staff Alice safety trainings over the course of the 2022-2023 school year. - Review and analyze school safety Panorama data for all stakeholders, identify strengths and areas for improvement, implement at least one action item to address areas of improvement during the course of the 2022-2023 school year. CPI Safety Training will continue to be provided to identified staff in each building.

Global Citizenship Year Five

Strategic Initiatives	Strategic Outcomes	5th Year
<p>Global Awareness - Support students as they learn from, and work collaboratively with, individuals representing diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work, and community contexts.</p>	<p>Global Awareness - A diverse and inclusive curriculum that offers a wide range of voices, perspectives, and experiences of local and global communities is developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic content area units will be reviewed to include lessons and/or learning experiences for global/multicultural learning with links and resources to integrate into curriculum. - Work toward integrating a sense of belonging through classroom group work and communication.
<p>Personal Responsibility - Encourage students to act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind while demonstrating personal integrity, honesty, and ethical behavior.</p>	<p>Personal Responsibility - A school culture exists where students are invested in their learning and respect differences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content area units that include experiences for global/multicultural learning will be reviewed and digital tools will be embedded into those lessons. - Clear behavioral expectations will be communicated and visible in learning settings to encourage strong ethical behavior and tolerance.
<p>Civic Literacy and Citizenship - Involve students in civic life through understanding the rights and obligations of citizenship at local, state, national, and global levels.</p>	<p>Civic Literacy and Citizenship - An updated social studies and civics curriculum for preK-12, aligned to the state frameworks and learning standards is adopted and implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilizing the new curriculum review plan, the PreK - 12 vertical team will reconvene to review and continue to update the Civics and Social Studies curriculum. - Civics and Social Studies curriculum will ensure that the curricula is taught with needed resources and continues to align with the new MA State Frameworks.
<p>Empathy - Teach students to demonstrate an understanding of others' perspectives and needs while listening with an open mind to understand others' situations.</p>	<p>Empathy - Ongoing learning opportunities for students and professional development for all staff are provided to foster empathy for others' perspectives and needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old Rochester Regional School District and Superintendency Union #55 will provide building-based and district-wide opportunities that foster students' sense of belonging within our school community. - Conduct a series of multicultural awareness community events for students, parents and staff that brings in the perspective of empathy and open-mindedness.

School Leadership

During the 2022-2023 school year, Mr. Michael S. Nelson continued to serve as the Superintendent of Schools, supported by Mr. Howard G. Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. Sharlene Fedorowicz joined the team as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Mr. Craig J. Davidson remained as the Director of Student Services. In addition, Mr. Eugene Jones, Director of Facilities, Mrs. Jill Henesey, Director of Food Service, and Mrs. Doreen Lopes, Early Childhood Education Coordinator continued to serve our schools in their capacities.

At the school building level – our administration teams remained relatively constant from the previous school year. The Marion School District welcomed back Ms. Marla Sirois, Principal and Mr. Peter Crisafulli, Assistant Principal. As for the Mattapoissett School District, Mr. Kevin Tavares became the Principal of Old Hammondtown School and Dr. Linda Ashley was appointed as the Principal of Center School after the retirement of Mrs. Rose Bowman. Mr. Michael C. Devoll, Principal, and Mrs. Vanessa Harvey, Assistant Principal, returned to lead the Old Rochester Regional High School during the 2022-2023 school year. At the Junior High School, Silas Coellner, Principal and Ms. Kelly Chouinard, Assistant Principal, both also returned. Ms. Lauren Millette also joined the secondary team as the Director of Guidance. Lastly, the Rochester School District continued to be led by Derek J. Medeiros, Principal and Mr. Charles West, Assistant Principal.

School Buildings

The Facilities Department worked hard with each town and within each building to ensure safe and secure educational facilities. Security in all schools remained paramount. We have added cameras, communication equipment and door access upgrades across the District. Phase replacement of facility equipment and machinery conducted throughout the four districts extending our capability to continue the high material condition of our buildings and grounds.

At Rochester Memorial School, we completed the security/surveillance upgrade, which improved the overall safety by providing enhanced surveillance and access to our school and grounds. A new kitchen serving line and washing machine for food service department was installed. We completed Phase 1 of HVAC recommissioning to improve energy efficiency and air quality and installed Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) on boiler pumps to maximize efficient and cost saving operation of the boiler/heating system. All mandated yearly inspections and tests were completed. We continued routine maintenance on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Old Rochester Regional Junior and Senior High Schools, we completed the running track surface restoration and track field improvements, including irrigation. This restoration allows the students, staff and community to enjoy a modern track and field to enjoy outside athletics. We replaced the entire baseball backstop and bullpen area providing a safe and functioning backstop and dugout area for players and observers. The press box construction started as well. We conducted routine maintenance as well as minor repairs conducted on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Sippican Elementary School, the rear playground construction started, swing banks were installed and Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) surfacing laid. The Sippican Garden Project was started. We also completed Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) flooring resurfacing in all 1st grade rooms and the School Resource Officer's office, which was funded by Capital. The main office roof top unit (RTU) was overhauled utilizing Capital funding as well. We completed complete restoration in room 208 after the May 23rd sprinkler activation. Lastly, we conducted routine maintenance and minor repairs on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Center School, a complete HVAC upgrade utilizing Capital Improvements ensured optimum operation of our HVAC/BMS. We conducted an overhaul of the roof top unit (RTU) supplying the administration suite. Outside, we resurfaced basketball court asphalt and properly lined for age appropriate regulation. Lastly, routine maintenance and minor repairs took place on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Old Hammondtown School, we executed a phased replacement of the food service kitchen serving line along with a phased replacement of the clothes washer and dryer. Faulty sewage pumps and floats were placed and we completed repairs to side playground. Also on the exterior grounds, we replaced two basketball hoops and striped for age appropriate regulation. Lastly, routine maintenance and minor repairs were conducted on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

Student Services and Special Education

In Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester, students who receive special education services range in age from 3 to 21. For our youngest students our integrated preschool programs, Project Grow, provides services for preschoolers who are eligible for special education in their least restrictive environments. There are some students at this age level that also come to their local schools to receive therapies on an appointment basis based on their individual needs.

Students that are elementary age and receive special education services may be eligible through mild learning, language and/or social emotional disabilities, developmental delays or more significant disabilities (multiple, intellectual, autism). Services are determined through initial/triennial evaluations and annual review of individualized education plans. The complexity of certain disabilities may require services that occur after school or during the summer vacation period. Students that are at junior high, high school and 18-22 program level additionally receive services that focus on transition where school-based teams assist in surveying career and post-secondary education goals and begin to work with adult agencies for students that are entitled to these support services. There is a community-based component to our Life Skills and Transition programs to facilitate skill development in the area of transition (job exploration, daily living, and community experiences).

During the 22-23 school year, the percent of students with disabilities within our school districts were as follows:

District	Marion	Mattapoissett	Rochester	ORR	District-Wide	State-Wide
SWD%	21.5%	19.5%	19.5%	15.3%	18.75%	19.4%

The average percentage of students with disabilities (SWD) was 18.75%, which falls below the state average.

Students in grades 9-12 have had the opportunity to participate in Unified Sports. In the fall, athletes and partners played basketball with local area unified sports teams. In addition to both home and away games, highlights included senior recognition presentation, jamboree of all local teams hosted by Dartmouth High School and a game against a team comprised of our local police departments. In the spring athletes returned for Track and Field where they demonstrated their skills in the areas of javelin, shot put, long jump and track. Selected students were invited to the state tournament. Selected students from grades 2-12 and the transition program also participated in the Tabor Academy Unified Sports day. Tri-Town students along with Tabor Academy students participated in events such as soccer, volleyball and bocce to name a few. After participating in the sports activities, all students are recognized for their efforts.

Professional development was provided to staff district wide on two full days and four half-day afternoons. Responsive classroom training was provided to new teachers and staff. School Nurses focused on professional development topics that included the school nurses role in the development and review of policies and procedures. Early Childhood staff focused on equitable supports for children in early childhood programs and kindergarten readiness. Special education staff (special education teachers, paraprofessional staff and related service providers) participated in topics that ranged from helping traumatized children learn, Google training, Medicaid billing, creating therapeutic classrooms for all learners, mentorship, data collections and supporting students who may become dysregulated.

The Office of Student Services collaborated with Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) to provide community wide events for students and families. The Community Talks series continued in the fall with a virtual presentation by Dr. Robert Brooks entitled “Nurturing Resilience in Our Children and Teens During Challenging Times”. In the winter, Ms. Sarah Ward presented “Powerful Strategies to Help Children Develop Independent Executive Function Skills”.

Our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) hosted meetings and workshops for our Tri-Town parents. Workshop topics included “Basic Rights: Evaluation and Eligibility” and “Effective Communication”.

Within the Tri-Town educational community staff, students, families and community members continue to work collaboratively as a team to provide high quality educational opportunities for our students. Our student services staff are dedicated to providing supports that develop the

whole child and develop a sense of belonging. Our student services staff are innovative, caring and committed to providing exceptional educational services.

Finances

Federal and state grants continue to offset staffing in all four school districts, as well as provide staff development for targeted student needs including social and emotional learning, language-based learning disabilities, and students with significant and complex needs. Grants also offset a percentage of preschool programming. Finally, the continued investment in providing special education services within the neighborhood schools enriches the quality of teaching available to all students, improves the school culture and ultimately results in students with disabilities and their families maintaining a higher level of independence.

The School Budgets

The table below displays the trends in the budgets of the Tri-Town district in recent fiscal years.

The per pupil cost for education in the schools of the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 is compared to each other as well as to the Massachusetts state average:

	<u>FY'20</u>	<u>FY'21</u>	<u>FY'22</u>
Marion	\$17,017	\$19,705	\$20,722
Mattapoissett	\$20,891	\$23,679	\$23,988
Rochester	\$14,805	\$16,832	\$17,019
Old Rochester	\$17,110	\$17,952	\$19,953
State Average	\$17,572	\$19,117	\$20,271

The source of support for public education programs in the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 includes funding sources described in the tables below:

Local Tax Assessments: Local School Budgets (Grades K-6 Elementary School Program)

	<u>FY'20</u>	<u>FY'21</u>	<u>FY'22</u>	<u>FY'23</u>
Marion	\$6,165,701	\$6,301,167	\$6,456,815	\$6,561,086
Mattapoissett	\$7,185,583	\$7,357,475	\$7,511,872	\$7,646,778
Rochester	\$6,424,585	\$6,609,831	\$6,798,275	\$7,065,014

Old Rochester Regional School District (Grades 7-12 Program)

	<u>FY'21</u>		<u>FY'22</u>		<u>FY'23</u>	
	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>
Marion's share	\$4,743,800	\$212,223	\$4,901,695	\$201,747	\$5,069,289	\$319,174
Mattapoissett's share	\$5,885,034	\$292,716	\$5,952,951	\$278,197	\$5,933,462	\$420,233
Rochester's share	\$4,627,733	\$264,464	\$4,727,285	\$260,692	\$4,780,838	\$385,010

State Aid (Towns (K-6) & ORR District (7-12))

	<u>FY'20</u>	<u>FY'21</u>	<u>FY'22</u>	<u>FY'23</u>
Marion	\$860,344	\$860,344	\$872,434	\$1,041,767
Mattapoissett	\$839,485	\$839,485	\$851,365	\$980,381
Rochester	\$2,057,549	\$2,057,549	\$2,072,039	\$2,384,342
Old Rochester	\$3,043,394	\$3,043,394	\$3,074,894	\$3,384,440

Grants

	<u>FY'20</u>	<u>FY'21</u>	<u>FY'22</u>	<u>FY'23</u>
Federal and State Entitlements	\$896,276	\$1,410,874	\$3,087,836	\$1,020,794
Federal and State Competitive	\$76,977	\$47,689	\$389,652	\$1,315,009
Federal Targeted	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,185
Private Grants	\$3,414	\$9,675	\$33,572	\$28,113

Each fiscal year the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 receives awarded grant funding that are identified in various grant categories. These categories are recognized as Entitlement (or Allocation) and Competitive and Targeted grants, which are received from Federal, State or Private Sources.

Entitlement grants are funds allocated school districts from federal or state sources based on predetermined criteria such as demographics, economic indicators, income, or specific characteristics. Recipients of entitlement grants automatically qualify for the funding without having to compete with others through an application process. These grants are often distributed to meet the needs of a particular group or population, and eligibility is typically determined by meeting specific criteria set by the grantor and are less competitive than that of competitive grants. Examples of these grants awarded are the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for \$714,339, Title I Part A for \$152,795, or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Early Education and Care grant for \$18,257 are included in the \$1,020,794.

Competitive grants are funds provided by governments, foundations, or other organizations through a competitive application process. In this model, multiple individuals or entities submit proposals or applications for a specific project or program, and the grant is awarded to the most deserving or promising proposal. The selection criteria often include factors such as the feasibility of the project, the qualifications of the applicant, and the potential impact of the proposed initiative. Competitive grants are intended to encourage innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness by fostering healthy competition among applicants. Examples of these grants awarded are the Summer Acceleration Academies for \$160,000, Math Acceleration Academies for \$250,000, Development and Expansion of High Quality Summer Learning for \$200,000, and Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials for \$466,000. These grants are included in the \$1,315,009 total.

Targeted grants are designed to address specific issues or target particular populations or regions. These grants are distributed to meet the unique needs of a defined group or to support initiatives that align with specific goals. The focus is on achieving specific outcomes or addressing particular challenges within the identified target area or population. Examples of these grants awarded are CTE Secondary and Postsecondary Programs — Perkins Reserve for \$5,000 and Rural Energy for America Program for \$50,185. These grants are included in the \$55,185 total.

Private grants refer to financial assistance or funding provided by non-governmental entities, typically private foundations, corporations, or individual donors. These play a significant role in supporting a wide range of initiatives and organizations, contributing to positive social, environmental, and cultural impact. Private grants are derived from the resources of private entities or individuals. Examples of agencies providing these grants awards are the Tri-Town Foundation, Boston College and the Cape Cod 5. These source type of grants received total \$28,113.

The following are some of the Federal and State Competitive Grants from one time funding received in Fiscal Year 2023 that may not be available next fiscal year:

Summer Acceleration Academies Grant is to fund the implementation of a specific strategic initiative, the Acceleration Academies, during summer 2022 to help accelerate the learning of students most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Acceleration Academies are intended to supplement, not supplant, programming an applicant is already planning to offer over the summer, therefore the Summer Acceleration Academy program should take place between the end of an applicant's currently planned summer school programming and when the applicant's teachers return for the 2022-2023 school year. The focus areas are Early Literacy Academy for rising kindergartners, rising 1st graders, and rising 2nd graders and Math Academy for rising 3rd graders, rising 4th graders, rising 8th graders, and rising 10th graders.

Math Acceleration Academies Grant is to fund the implementation of a specific strategic initiative, the Acceleration Academies, to help accelerate the learning of students most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds from this grant can be used to support the implementation of math focused Acceleration Academies for students in grades 3 through 10. The Math Acceleration Academies must take place during the February and/or April school vacation weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Development and Expansion of High Quality Summer Learning Grant is to fund support for the development and expansion of high quality, comprehensive summer learning opportunities and partnerships in districts to address both the academic and social-emotional impacts of COVID-19 on students.

Massachusetts Lead for Literacy Institute Grant is to support educators and administrators to create a literacy plan aligned to the [multi-tiered system of support model](#) (MTSS) for grades K–5. Through this collaborative Network, districts will create K–5 literacy plans that include instructional leadership

responsibilities, literacy priorities and goals, [evidence-based instruction and intervention](#), assessment, and professional learning.

Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials Grant is to equip schools and districts with the high-quality core instructional materials needed to accelerate literacy learning, particularly as schools recover from extended closures and students require rich instructional support to accelerate their learning. It will support schools and districts with 50% of the purchase price of new core instructional materials for literacy, and up to the entire cost of the initial professional development for educators.

Enrollment

The October 1st enrollment totals in the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 Districts are showing a fluctuation from year to year. Enrollment in Massachusetts public schools has fallen nearly 4 percent — or by roughly 37,000 students — since fall 2019, a decline that is attributed to shifting demographics, housing costs, and fallout from the pandemic. It is important to note that our homeschool numbers are almost at the same level they were prior to COVID-19. In 2019, we reported 24 students districtwide. In 2020 we reported 92 students K-12 and in 2021 there were 31 students K-12 that were homeschooled. In 2022, 30 students in grades K-12 were homeschooled.

October 1 – Preschool through Grade 6

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sippican School	400	403	386
Center School	235	229	228
Old Hammondtown	187	189	168
Rochester Memorial	511	489	491
ORR Junior High School	388	390	396
ORR Senior High School	600	559	530

Although a high percentage of the elementary school students K-6 are enrolled in the Tri-Town Public Schools, there is some movement to independent and parochial schools from grade seven and a more significant movement to independent, parochial, and vocational schools, after the eighth grade. The following chart captures trends in student transfers. The largest transfer trend is seen from Grade 8 to Grade 9 where some of our students opt to go into Vocational High Schools, such as Upper Cape Cod Technical High School, Old Colony Regional High School and Bristol County Agricultural High School.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Grade 6	208	187	207
Grade 7	183	212	181
Grade 8	205	178	215
Grade 9	135	134	134
Grade 12	170	151	136
Graduating Class*	188	192	168

* Graduating class figures are as of June 2023; other figures are as of October 1, 2023.

GRADE	NON-RESIDENT			MAR	MATT	ROCH	TOTAL
	NON TUITION						
ELEMENTARY:	MR	MT	RCH				
PROJECT GROW				23	24	19	66
K	1			35	45	62	142
1		1		45	53	57	155
2	1	1	2	51	55	60	166
3				55	51	61	167
4		2		54	47	70	171
5			1	66	60	73	199
6	1			57	61	89	207
SUB-TOTALS	3	4	3	386	396	491	1273
JUNIOR HIGH: (not including school choice)				MAR	MATT	ROCH	TOTAL
7				59	64	58	181
8				69	63	83	215
SUB-TOTALS				128	127	141	396
SENIOR HIGH: (not including school choice)				MAR	MATT	ROCH	TOTAL
9				48	48	38	134
10				39	48	40	127
11				45	53	31	129
12				36	50	50	136
SP (Special Program ages 18-22)				1	2	1	4
SUB-TOTALS				169	201	160	530
SUB-TOTALS 7-12				297	328	301	926
Charter School Students 7-12 (FY23 Reporting)				3	1	7	11
FY 23 School Choice 7-12 (sending)				6	3	5	14
SUB-TOTALS 7-12				306	332	313	951
GRAND TOTAL				683	724	792	2199
UPPER CAPE COD:				MAR	MATT	ROCH	TOTAL
9				5			5
10				14			14
11				5			5
12				6			6
TOTAL				30	0	0	30
OLD COLONY:				MAR	MATT	ROCH	TOTAL
9					6	25	31
10					9	20	29
11					9	35	44
12					9	17	26
TOTAL					33	97	130
BRISTOL COUNTY AGGIE:				MAR	MATT	ROCH	TOTAL
9				0	1	1	2
10				0	2	1	3
11				0	0	2	2
12				0	0	3	3
TOTAL				0	3	7	10

GRADE	SCHOOL CHOICE		
		MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
K		4	
1		1	
2		2	
3		1	
4		3	
5		2	
6		0	
GRAND TOTAL		13	
JUNIOR HIGH:		OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL	
7		11	
8		24	
SUB TOTAL		35	
SENIOR HIGH:			
9		25	
10		19	
11		18	
12		16	
SP(18-22)		2	
SUB TOTAL		80	
GRAND TOTAL		115	

The following students graduated in 2023 as part of the School Choice Program.

Theodore Carroll	Fairhaven	Paul Petronelli	Wareham
Gabriel DeBlois	Wareham	Henry Richards	Buzzards Bay
Giovani Dupras	New Bedford	Norah Schiappa	Wareham
Nathan Guerreiro	New Bedford	Haralambos Sivvianakis	Wareham
Elizabeth Higgins	Onset	Jacob Smith	West Wareham
Sofia Irish	Wareham	Gio Theodore	Wareham
Konstantinos Jorjakis	Wareham	Jamal Gomes	West Wareham
Brady Kidney	New Bedford		
Aiden Lamontagne	Acushnet		
Kyle LeBlanc	Fairhaven		
Myles Lopes	Wareham		
Angus MacLellan	Wareham		

Union Agreements

During the 2022-2023 school year the following agreements were negotiated and settled as follows:

- On June 13, 2023, the Marion School Committee ratified an agreement with the Marion Teachers' Association for a successor agreement to begin on September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026.

2022-2023 Academic Performance

At Old Rochester Regional School District MA Superintendency Union #55, we are extremely proud of our school community's efforts and achievement on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The 2023 school year was the second year for the full MCAS administration since 2019. Grade 10 students in 2022 had not taken an MCAS assessment since they were in grade 7 in 2019.

Trends from the state show that the slide in scores due to the pandemic has halted and recovery is underway. Although state science achievement scores decreased slightly across Massachusetts, English Language Arts (ELA) and math achievement scores are stable or increasing. Now that we are on the road to recovery, the state realizes we have significant ground to make up to reach pre-pandemic achievement levels. The state is using the 2019 MCAS results, the last pre-pandemic assessment, as a goal to improve student achievement toward our road to recovery. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) acknowledges that the last few school years have not been normal and therefore predicted the learning loss due to the pandemic.

The ORRS and MA Superintendency Union #55 is proud to share that the majority of our scores consistently trended above the state average in achievement and recovery. In many cases, our recovery path well exceeded the state and we are accelerating toward or above the 2019 MCAS score level. The dedication and hard work by the students and educators in the district did not go unnoticed.

Although we are pleased with our scores and recovery, we pride ourselves on a continued effort to focus on the rigorous standards and ways to refine and enhance our teaching and learning to guide our instruction. We are extremely proud of our school community's achievement and success.

We continue to cultivate a sense of belonging and partnership with families and students creating rigorous instructional delivery and scaffolding to meet the learning needs of our students. At our local school committee meetings this past fall, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning along with the Principals, conducted MCAS presentations on the scores and results.

The following data in this Annual Report discusses an overview of both MCAS and Accountability results. The MCAS results are for diagnostic and improvement purposes to support planning for the district and school buildings. The assessment is computer based and focuses on critical (independent) thinking abilities, application of knowledge, and ability to make connections between reading and writing.

MCAS Achievement levels are broken down into four categories ranging in increments of 30 from 440-560. A score of 500 or above is considered "meeting expectation" and a score of 530 or above is "exceeding expectations" which are both passing scores. Scores under 500 are not considered a passing score in MCAS. These include the categories of "Partially Meeting Expectations" or "Not Meeting Expectations".

In terms of accountability status, this is the first year DESE is providing full accountability determinations for schools since 2019. DESE has provided an accountability percentile for schools in the state of Massachusetts. An accountability percentile ranges between the numbers of 1 and 99. The percentile score is an indication of a school's overall performance relative to other schools with similar grades, and is calculated using multiple accountability indicators from contiguous years, such as MCAS

data from 2022 & 2023. Although percentiles are calculated for schools, they are not calculated for districts. The table below shows an at-a-glance overall performance of each school according to these accountability measures. Overall, our schools performed well and are classified as “Not requiring assistance or intervention”.

2022/2023 Accountability Percentile	
Schools	Overall Progress Toward Improvement Targets (%)
Rochester Memorial School	50%
Sippican School	24%
Mattapoisett (Old Hammondtown School and Center School)	77%
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School	28%
Old Rochester Regional High School	36%

In our school districts, we continue to improve learning by utilizing data, including MCAS and other assessments, to analyze, inform, and guide instructional strategies. We are proud of the persistent endurance and growth of our students, as well as the dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff and administrators. Further, cultivating a sense of belonging in addition to collaborating with families and students creates strong connections that support and enhance the educational experience for our students. Each school’s individual MCAS performance is discussed further in this report.

Rochester Memorial School Performance

Rochester Memorial School is made up of pre-k through grade 6 students. Rochester Memorial School students continue to perform at a high level in all subjects.

Students at Rochester Memorial School in grades 3 through 6 achieved an average standard score very close or above the 500 threshold consisting of 494 for grade 3, 496 for grade 4, 492 for grade 5 and 508 for grade 6 in ELA. The school performed 3% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Rochester Memorial School students were 498 for grade 3, 500 for grade 4, 494 for grade 5 and 507 for grade 6. The school performed 6% better than the state average in math.

The grade 5 average score was 501 in science. Grade 5 is the only elementary grade that takes the science MCAS. The school performed 6% better than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at Rochester Memorial School.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
GR. 3 – ELA	44	44	3	7	41	37	44	40	12	16	68	494	N/A	N/A
GR. 3 – MATH	47	41	4	8	43	33	41	39	12	20	68	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 4 – ELA	44	40	4	5	40	34	44	43	12	17	73	496	51	71
GR. 4 – MATH	43	45	4	8	39	37	54	37	3	18	72	500	51	71
GR. 5 – ELA	36	44	1	5	34	39	51	40	14	16	87	492	39	84
GR. 5 – MATH	37	41	2	5	34	36	54	46	9	13	87	494	39	84
GR. 5 - SCIENCE TECH/ENG	50	42	9	8	41	33	41	40	9	19	86	501	N/A	N/A
GR. 6 – ELA	73	42	14	8	59	34	16	34	11	24	63	508	70	61
GR. 6 – MATH	71	41	8	7	63	34	27	42	2	17	63	507	80	61

Sippican School Performance

Sippican School serves students pre-k through grade 6. Sippican School students continue to outperform the state at a high level in ELA, Math and Science.

Students at Sippican School in grades 3 through 6 achieved an average standard score close to or above the aforementioned 500 threshold consisting of 499 for grade 3, 496 for grade 4, 499 for grade 5 and 508 for grade 6 in ELA. The school performed 4% better than the state average in ELA.

Average Math scores for Sippican School students were 502 for grade 3, 504 for grade 4, 500 for grade 5 and 504 for grade 6. The school performed 13% better than the state average in math.

The grade 5 average score was 497 in science. Grade 5 is the only elementary grade that takes the science MCAS. The school performed 3% lower than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at Sippican School.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
GR. 3 - ELA	47	44	9	7	38	37	40	40	13	16	53	499	N/A	N/A
GR. 3 - MATH	43	41	13	8	30	33	53	39	4	20	53	502	N/A	N/A
GR. 4 - ELA	41	40	13	5	28	34	41	43	19	17	64	496	41	59
GR. 4 - MATH	64	45	14	8	50	37	23	37	13	18	64	504	54	59
GR. 5 - ELA	43	44	11	5	32	39	45	40	13	16	56	499	49	50
GR. 5 - MATH	53	41	4	5	49	36	40	46	7	13	55	500	52	49
GR. 5 - SCIENCE TECH/EN G	42	42	11	8	31	33	44	40	15	19	55	497	N/A	N/A
GR. 6 - ELA	60	42	21	8	40	34	26	34	14	24	58	508	65	56
GR. 6 - MATH	53	41	10	7	43	34	36	42	10	17	58	504	50	56

Mattapoisett Schools Performance

Center School serves students pre-k through grade 3. Old Hammondtown School serves students grades 4 through 6.

Students at the Mattapoisett schools in grades 3 through 6 achieved an average standard score very close to or above the 500 threshold consisting of 498 for grade 3, 501 for grade 4, 505 for grade 5 and 511 for grade 6 in ELA. The school performed 19% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Mattapoisett schools in grades 3 through 6 were 498 for grade 3, 505 for grade 4, 509 for grade 5 and 508 for grade 6. The school performed 18% better than the state average in math.

The grade 5 average score was 508 in science. The school performed 23% better than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at Mattapoisett schools.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
GR. 3 ELA	48	44	6	7	42	37	48	40	4	16	50	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 3 MATH	36	41	6	8	30	33	56	39	8	20	50	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 4 ELA	59	40	8	5	51	34	37	43	3	17	59	501	60	58
GR. 4 MATH	58	45	12	8	47	37	38	37	3	18	60	505	64	58
GR. 5 ELA	65	44	8	5	57	39	31	40	5	16	65	505	55	63
GR. 5 MATH	74	41	11	5	63	36	25	46	2	13	65	509	61	63
GR. 5 SCIENCE TECH/ENG	65	42	18	8	46	33	32	40	3	19	65	508	N/A	N/A
GR. 6 ELA	70	42	17	8	53	34	20	34	9	24	64	511	66	62
GR. 6 MATH	66	41	11	7	55	34	23	42	11	17	64	508	54	62

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Performance

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School serves students in grades 7 and 8 from Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Students at the Old Rochester Regional Junior High School in grades 7 and 8 received average standard scores above the 500 threshold consisting of a score of 502 in grade 7 and 504 in grade 8 in ELA. The school performed 12% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Old Rochester Regional Junior High School were 502 for grade 7 and 494 for grade 8. The school performed 6% better than the state average in math.

The grade 8 average score was 499 in science. Grade 8 is the only junior high school grade that takes the science MCAS. The school performed 9% better than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at ORRJHS.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State				
GR. 7 - ELA	52	40	13	8	40	33	41	40	7	19	227	502	46	215
GR. 7 - MATH	55	38	5	8	50	31	39	40	5	22	226	502	35	215
GR. 8 - ELA	62	44	17	10	45	34	24	34	14	22	190	504	54	188
GR. 8 - MATH	39	38	5	7	34	30	52	42	9	20	189	494	35	188
GR. 8 - SCIENCE & TECH/ENG	52	41	4	6	48	35	39	40	9	19	189	499	N/A	N/A

Old Rochester Regional High School Performance

Old Rochester Regional High School serves students grades 9 through 12 from the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Students at the Old Rochester Regional High School in grades 9 through 12 received average standard scores above the 500 threshold consisting of a score of 509 in grade 10 in ELA. The school performed 21% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Old Rochester Regional High School were 506 grade 10. The school performed 15% better than the state average in math.

The grade 9 average score was 502 in science. Grade 9 takes the biology MCAS at the high school. The school performed 3% better than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at ORRHS.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State				
GR. 10 - ELA	66	58	17	15	49	43	29	30	5	11	146	509	44	133
GR. 10 - MATH	57	50	12	10	45	40	41	42	2	9	145	506	50	132
GR. 10 - SCIENCE & TECH/EN G	48	47	11	11	37	36	50	42	2	11	134	502	N/A	N/A

Old Rochester Regional SAT Performance

A total of 206 SAT exams were taken by students during the 2022-2023 school year. The Mean Score for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing was 573 which outperformed averages at both the state (563) and national (534) levels. In Math, the mean score for the district was 565, which outperformed the averages at both the state (558) and national (524) levels.

Advanced Placement Coursework

One hundred eighty-five students took advantage of the variety of Advancement Placements courses offered at Old Rochester Regional High School in the 2022-2023 academic year. These 185 students took a total of 332 AP exams, meaning many students took multiple AP courses at the same time. Many students chose to get a leg up on college level coursework while still in high school. AP exams are developed by the College Board. With a scoring system of 1 through 5 on the AP exam, if a student earns a 3, 4, or 5, many higher education institutions offer college credit. Students enter college with credits already earned, placing them ahead in their degree aspirations. We are proud that many students take multiple AP courses and exams while at the Old Rochester Regional High School.

With AP Scholar awards, the AP Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college level achievement through their performance on AP exams. The AP scholar designation is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. Old Rochester Regional High School had an impressive 95 students who earned this distinction. We are very proud of the robust participation of our students in Advanced Placement courses. Below is a table of the AP Awards received.

ORR Students	AP Award	AP Criteria
58 Students	AP Scholar	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
11 Students	AP Scholar with Honor	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
13 Students	AP Scholar with Distinction	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams
7 Students	AP Capstone Diploma	Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing.
13 Students	AP Seminar & Research Certificate	Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research.

College and University Admissions

Old Rochester Regional School District students attained admissions at a variety of public and private institutions of higher education. The largest portion of Old Rochester Regional High School's class of 2023 students, 12 students total, chose Bridgewater State University. Nine students chose the University of Massachusetts, Amherst as their choice of school. Seven students chose Bristol Community College and six students chose the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. The top four choices were the most economically advantageous opportunities within close proximity to the Tri-Town.

The complete listing of colleges and universities the Class of 2023 attended is listed below:

American University
Baylor University
Bentley University
Boston College
Bridgewater State University
Bristol Community College
Brown University
Cape Cod Community College
Clarkson University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado School of Mines
Curry College
Dean College
Elon University
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Florida Institute of Tech
Florida State University
Franklin Pierce University
George Washington University
Hawaii Pacific University
Iona University
Keene State College
MA College of Pharmacy & Health
MA Maritime Academy
Mass College of Art & Design
Massasoit Community College
Merrimack College
Monmouth University
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
New England Institute of Technology

North Carolina State University
Northeast Maritime Academy
Northeastern University
Plymouth State University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Sacred Heart University
Saint John Fisher University
Salve Regina University
Simmons University
Smith College
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
The Catholic University of America
UMass Amherst
UMass Boston
UMass Dartmouth
UMass Lowell
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Maine
University of New Hampshire

The graduating Class of 2023 also had students who chose to serve in the Armed Forces. We are proud of those individuals and thank each of them for their service.

School Committee

During the 2022-2023 school year, all of our School Committee members remained consistent.

Old Rochester Regional District School Committee

Term Ends

2024	Michelle Smith, Marion
2023	Frances-Feliz Kearns, Mattapoisett
2025	April Nye, Marion
2023	Margaret McSweeny, Marion
2024	Jason Chisholm, Rochester
2024	Matthew Monteiro, Rochester
2023	Joseph Pires, Rochester
2024	James Muse, Mattapoisett
2025	Rosemary Bowman, Mattapoisett

Marion School Committee

2024	April Nye
2025	Nichole Daniel
2024	Michelle Smith
2023	Nichole Nye McGaffey
2023	Mary Beauregard

Mattapoisett School Committee

2023	Carly Lavin
2024	James Muse
2024	Tiffini Reedy
2025	Amanda Hastings
2025	Cristin Cowles

Rochester School Committee

2025	Sharon Hartley
2024	Robin M. Rounseville
2023	Anne Fernandes
2024	Jason Chisholm
2023	Katherine Duggan

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Sippican Elementary School Principal's Report

The school year began with an enrollment of 403 students in grades PreK through grade six. We embraced the normal that this school year brought to us and the excitement was palpable!

Staffing

The 2022-2023 school year brought a few new faces to Sippican Elementary School including:

Michelle Ennis – School Adjustment Counselor

Maggie Francisco - School Psychology

Katie Pike - Art Teacher

Taylor Nelson - Special Education Teacher

Emmalee Sanders - Physical Education

Darby Nolet - Paraprofessional

At the conclusion of the school year, Mrs. Penny Sullivan retired after about twenty years as a teacher at Sippican Elementary School in the Special Education Department. Her strong advocacy for the children of the school is irreplaceable.

Curriculum and Staff Development

Sippican Elementary School worked closely with the HILL for Literacy to conduct a literacy needs assessment and to purchase of a new core literacy curriculum aligned with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) high quality instructional materials resources to best meet the learning needs of our students. As a result, Sippican Elementary School adopted the new, high-quality literacy curriculum called IntoReading by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for grades K-6. Sippican Elementary School was awarded an \$152,000 grant from DESE to assist with the procurement of the new literacy curriculum.

In the sciences, grade 6 was in the second year of piloting the DESE approved OpenSciEd curriculum funded through a grant. Teachers were provided professional development to implement two new modules last year for a total of four units in the curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year. Grade 5 was awarded a grant at the end of the year to start piloting two units of the OpenSciEd for the 2023-2024 school year. Funds from the grants awarded were used to purchase science materials and resources for the classroom, as well as provide professional development to teach the science units.

Grade 3 teachers and students have been supported by a grant through Marion Institute Grow, Farm to School project to learn how to grow and cultivate food. This year-long project that starts for the 2023-2024 school year will allow students to understand the importance of gardening and growing food.

Funding included the purchase of soil, garlic, and garden boxes. Students will learn the importance of cultivating soil, planting garlic bulbs, caring for plants as well as learning about the important pollinators that pollinate the flowers in gardens.

Students in grades 3 through 6 at Sippican Elementary School took the MCAS last spring in English Language Arts (ELA), math and science and achieved average standard scores either close to or above the 500 threshold. In ELA, the school outperformed the state average by 4%. In math, students excelled, surpassing the state average by 13%. Last, grade 5 is the only elementary grade that undergoes the science MCAS. The school performed slightly lower than the state average by 3%.

With the new core literacy curriculum, ELA teachers have been receiving targeted instruction on implementing the new IntoReading core curriculum and the Science of Reading. In addition, our educators that teach science have been participating in OpenSciEd instructional training. The district is providing training supports in these areas to ensure teachers receive high-quality professional development necessary to successfully implement new curriculum and provide targeted instructional delivery methods to meet student needs.

Highlights Across the School

The school year began with our traditional open house on the night before school starts. A large number of Sippican Elementary School families attended and the faculty was excited to welcome the students back. Sippican Elementary School's clinical team, Ms. Francisco, Mrs. Ennis and Mrs. Emmons provided a warm welcome and many resources for families at the open house.

In December, our collaboration with the Marion Police Department brought a Marion Police Satellite Office to the school. We are grateful for their continued contributions to our school safety and ongoing partnership.

During this school year, 20 students in grades 5 & 6 participated in two workshops with the Project 351 Playbook Initiative under the leadership of two Juniors, Sara Kroll and Jaymison Gunschel. Following the workshops, the students met with Mrs. Lauren Millette, Guidance Director, and provided ideas for the 23-24 school year, including participating in additional opportunities to gather with student influencers from Rochester and Mattapoisett to develop leadership skills and promote positivity in their respective schools.

Music and band students performed throughout the area during the school year at events such as the Halloween Parade, the Christmas Stroll and the Memorial Day Parade among others. The immense support of the community for our students is appreciated!

Kindness Crew worked hard throughout the school with student involvement and promoting positive school culture. They hosted a hat, mittens and toy drive in the winter, and painted a mural in the school as well. The Junior Reports continued to collaborate with ORCTV on school happenings. Both of these groups of students assisted in running our All School Meetings throughout the year which include families.

Other school highlights included a Science Fair showcasing student projects, an Art Show showcasing student art work and welcomed artist Bren Bataclan, and numerous Library activities. We also enjoyed Vocabulary Day, Field Day and the Senior parade when ORRHS seniors from Marion returned and walked the building. Some poems from our 6th grade students were featured on the website of the Massachusetts Reading Association's for their annual poetry contest with one winning honorable mention!

District-wide, principals and administration worked together to develop improved communication strategies for families, align initiatives among all the schools and support students at all grade levels. We also began preparations and developing our next strategic plan, Vision 2028. Parents, guardians, teachers and staff, along with administration developed the plan following the Planning for Success model.

Community Connections

Sippican Elementary School continued to be highly supported by the Volunteers At Sippican Elementary (V.A.S.E.) members who tirelessly enhance the student experience. A new "Character Counts" initiative started for all grade levels. Each teacher will be given a designated number of Character Coupons. Over the course of the year students were recognized for demonstrating our school characteristics - respect, responsibility, and kindness - in exceptional ways with a coupon for a book from our Character Counts display. The book options change over the course of the year, and coupons earned are displayed prominently. This project, dedicated to past principal Lyn Rivet, is made possible with initial funding from VASE and the ongoing generosity of the Braitmayer family. VASE also continuously updated our bulletin boards throughout the school, hosted events and experiences for students such as the Halloween Party, the Holiday Shop, Toe Jam Puppet Band, New Bedford ballet, Marion Occupational Program, a family movie night and staff appreciation lunches! VASE also supported a field trip for each grade level.

Fire Safety month welcomed Firefighter Faria who shared safety tips to all grade levels. AnchOR events returned this school year as well. In collaboration with VASE and the Marion Police Department, a fun spaghetti dinner/bingo night was enjoyed by many of our families and district administrators. AnchOR also returned to hosting the annual egg hunt this year.

We are grateful for the on-going support of the larger community in Marion. We have continued to collaborate with ORCTV, the Marion Scholarship Committee, Tabor Academy, the Marion Art Center, Marion Historical Society as well as the library. These groups support our students in many ways throughout the school year.

Conclusion

The 2022-2023 school year brought back a sense of normalcy for our students. We are happy to have helped our students, to think, to learn and to care. As always, we are grateful for the support of the community. We hope you follow our website and facebook page to stay up-to-date with Sippican Elementary School happenings.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sirois, Principal

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Principal's Report

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

The following new staff were added to the Junior High:

Lauren Millette – Director of Guidance
Jennifer Medeiros – 7th Grade Math Teacher
Alisia Cabral – 7th Grade Science Teacher
Leslie Halnen – Special Education Administrative Assistant
Darren Gray – Paraprofessional
Amy MacDonald – Paraprofessional

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

Camryn Kidney – Paraprofessional
Dionne Cozier – Paraprofessional

The following staff retired from the Jr. High School:

Donna Kirk – Special Education Administrative Assistant
Nancy Juvinall – Health Teacher
Maureen Barrett – Grade 7 Math Teacher

The following staff members were reassigned:

Kathryn Gauvin – 7th Grade Science Teacher to Health Teacher

Curriculum and Instruction

- Continued professional development and implementation of project-based learning
- Integration of the 21st century skills focused on collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking
- The social studies department continued to develop and refine curriculum aligned with the 2018 History & Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks
- Piloted OpenSciEd Science Units in Grades 7 & 8
- Conducted multiple Aimsweb+ and IXL Benchmark Assessments
- Advisory curriculum updates
- Continued implementation of Responsive Classroom approach to teaching and learning
- Acceleration Road Map After School Program – tutoring for 6 weeks in ELA and math
- Grade 8 Civics Actions Projects (PBL)
- Grade 8 Financial Literacy Lessons in 8th grade math classes
- Music and Technology Exploratory course transitioned to Music for Life

Afterschool Activities

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School offers many intramural activities. During the 2022/2023 school year, intramural activities included Girls Field Hockey, Dodgeball, Volleyball and Ping Pong. The Boys/Girls Cross Country was offered on an interscholastic basis and Grade 8 Students were eligible to participate at the high school level on the Swim Team, Freshman Football, JV Boys & Girls Soccer, Dance Team, Girls Basketball and Girls Ice Hockey
Sports clinics were held – Volleyball, Girls/Boys Soccer, Arena Football, Girls Basketball

Additionally, many students participated in other after school activities including Student Council, Jazz Band, GSA Club, Engineering Club, Ski Club, Drama Club, Crochet & Knitting Club, Art Club and the Jr. Ambassador's Club.

E-Sports took place for our Grade 7 & Grade 8 students for the first time.

Project 351 Ambassadors for 2022-2023:

Town of Rochester: Elise Modracek

Town of Marion: James Russell

Town of Mattapoisett: Olivia Thompson

The Project 351 Ambassadors met Governor Wu and participated in community service in Boston and they held a Food Drive to benefit the Good Shepherd's Food Pantry.

The Ambassadors also facilitated a clothing drive in partnership with Cradles to Crayons.

Community Service

During 2022-2023 school year, our students were involved in the following projects:

- In collaboration with the High School the JHS Student Council collected food items for 15 turkey dinner food baskets, including the turkey, that were given to those families in need.
- Our Grade 8 Green Team students volunteered their time during a field trip at Gifts to Give in New Bedford.

Survival and S.C.O.P.E.

Grade 7 was able to participate in the Survival Program (74 students attended) and the remainder of Grade 7 participated in the S.C.O.P.E activities

Grade 7 Orientation/Opening Day:

95% of Grade 7 students attended this orientation led by Carol Herrmann and Carla Cafarella. There were over 202 of our 212 Grade 7 students attending the 4th annual orientation. Mrs. Carla Cafarella and Mrs. Carol Herrmann volunteered over the summer to organize this event; 15 teachers and 35 eighth graders volunteered to make this event a success. Students received their schedules, met staff, learned to open lockers, participated in a scavenger hunt and met students from each of the towns.

School Council:

The Old Rochester Regional Junior High School's School Council met once a month from September 2022 through May 2023. The School Council reviewed and/or worked on the following: Budget, 5-Year Strategic Plan, School Improvement Plan and the Student Handbook/Code Conduct.

Grant Recipients

Brian Almeida – Grade 7&8 Tech Teacher – “Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank Grant” – Technology Equipment

Eugenia Tilley - 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)

Student Accomplishment(s)

Booster Bash Fundraiser kick-off assembly took place on September 9. This is our annual fundraiser to support activities. Funds are used for guest speakers, field trips, student supplies, etc. This year \$14,765 was raised. A special “thank you” to all our parents, relatives and friends of our JHS students/community who made this fundraiser such a success. We could not have done it without them!

Congratulations to our E-Sports Teams and Coach Brian Almeida for completing their first season. The Championship was held on March 11 at Uptime E-Sports Arena in Hanover MA. “Team Slippers” Drew Butler, Eric Charron, Velez Vieira and Liam Whittaker came in 1st place in the Rocket League tournament and “Team Sons of Zeus” – Parker Erickson, Kyle Pina, Eamon Perez and Jordan Barrows competed in the “Super Smash Brothers” tournament.

The Jr. Ambassadors are made up of both Grade 7 and Grade 8 students – in FY23 - 50 students were a part of this organization and the role of the Jr. Ambassadors are to fundraise for needy families, provide tours during Grade 6 visits, as well as provide tours for parents/guardians during Open House.

Kyle Cameron was chosen to read the “Proclamation” at the Mattapoisett Veteran’s Day event held at Old Hammondtown School on November 11.

Emma MacLeod, Grade 7, was our Spelling B winner.

Old Rochester Regional Junior High to Senior High Transition

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

The Grade 8 Students participated in a High School Application Process assembly and toured the high school on October 27th.

Vocational School Visits

On October 27th prior to the High School tour, 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.

Grade 6 to 7 Student Transition

In May, Sped Liaisons from Grade 6 meet Jr. High School Sped Liaisons and transition meetings are held with Special Ed Teachers, Guidance Counselors and the Social Workers from each elementary School.

In May, the JHS Guidance Counselor visits each of the elementary schools and meets with the incoming Grade 7 students – Q&A session is held and we have continued with a Q&A session held virtually with Grade 6 parents

In June, Grade 6 students are bussed to the JHS on 3 separate days (one for each school) for a greet and meet of staff, a tour of the building and have a lunchroom experience at the JHS.

Highlights

- Teaching Staff 100% Responsive Classroom Trained
- Promethean Boards for all staff
- TLC Learning Walks
- Atlas Rubicon Curriculum Updates
- 8th Grade Civics and Government Curriculum transition completed
- Implemented Powerschool based behavior reporting system
- Relationship Mapping exercises completed
- 4 Presentations on gender identity given to staff by the HS GSA Leadership Team

- Parent Q&A Sessions were held for Grade 7 parents
- Parent Open House in-person took place – parents had the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and get a quick overview of each class.
- 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 Mattapoisett Police and School Resource Officers, Jr. Cardoso and Laneira Lima, we trained our staff and students in the A.L.I.C.E. program (enhanced lockdown for school intruder emergencies).
 - The ORRJHS Student Junior Ambassador Program has continued.
 - Showcase Night returned – A celebration of learning that included a school-wide art show, academic projects and live music performed by our talented students – “thank you” to our Art Teacher Meghann Bodeau for making the night a special night for the students to show off their projects and skills.
 - Drama Production took place – “Alien Invasion”
 - Annual Grade 6 Visits occurred in June during Survival/S.C.O.P.E week
 - 1:1 Chromebook initiative continued
 - 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.
 - Conducted the annual Spelling Bee
 - Unified Sports Day at Tabor Academy
 - Parents supported “Teacher Appreciation Day” – a special “thank you” to April Nye and Ixia Bongiorno for making this event a great success!
 - Friday Enrichment Activities continued
 - 8th Grade Dinner Dance
 - 2nd Annual 8th Grade Awards & Promotion Ceremony
 - 2nd Annual 8th Grade Breakfast

Student Assemblies

- Annual Grade 8 Jury Presentation took place in April
- Hip Hop Dance PBIS Assembly took place in June

Music Accomplishments

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

Instrumental: Orchestra – Brianna Cabral, Mara Donnelly, Joshua Marcolini, Rebecca Schaefer and Sophie Zhou

Choral: Isabella Perez-Dormitzer and Erin Root

Respectfully Submitted,

Silas D. Coellner, Principal

Old Rochester Regional High School Principal's Report

Our Towns

Our school serves three southeastern Massachusetts towns: Mattapoisett; Marion; and, Rochester. All three towns have maintained their charm through careful and thoughtful community planning. Marion and Mattapoisett are quaint, close-knit seaside communities. Rochester has a more rural landscape surrounded by scenic farms, cranberry bogs, pine forests and freshwater ponds. Residents are proud of their school systems and have been very supportive in passing legislation to ensure its continued success.

Our School

The 2022-2023 school year featured a student body made up of 633 students, including 71 students attending Old Rochester Regional High School through the School Choice Program. Our student body resides in the communities of the Tri-Town: Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Through the School Choice Program, the school was able to welcome residents of the following communities to our school: Acushnet, Fairhaven, Lakeville, New Bedford, and Wareham.

The Class of 2023 saw 168 seniors graduate on June 3, 2023. The hard work and determination of these young scholars will not stop there as they earned themselves 594 college acceptances to 149 universities and colleges across the country. In this graduating class, 73% of the students plan to attend a 4-year college, and 7% plan to attend a 2-year college. Two graduates will be entering the Armed Forces of the United States. Eleven graduates will enter the workforce/engage in apprenticeship. Forty-eight members of this graduating class were inducted into the National Honor Society, sixty-one graduates received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, and 53 of the graduates received scholarships from a variety of 131 state and local organizations.

Graduates will be attending institutions across New England such as Brown University, Boston College, Bentley University, Northeast Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, College of the Holy Cross, Dean College, Curry College, Endicott College, New England Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytech Institute, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, Keene State College, UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell, Emmanuel College, Merrimack College, Mount Holyoke College, Providence College, Suffolk University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, University of New Haven, Vermont State University, Salve Regina University, Rhode Island College, Simmons University, Mass College of Art & Design, Quinnipiac University, Roger Williams University, Smith College, Stonehill College, Western New England University, Plymouth State University, Northeastern University, University of Connecticut, and Sacred Heart University. The most well-attended New England colleges amongst these graduates include the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Bridgewater State University.

Across the country, ORRHS will send graduates to American University, Baylor University, Coastal Carolina University, Colorado School of Mines, Clarkson University, College of Charleston, Florida State University, Florida Institute of Technology, Franklin Pierce University, Rochester Institute of Technology, George Washington University, Iona University, Monmouth University, Montana State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, St. John Fisher College, Hawaii Pacific University, Elon University, The Catholic University of America, University of South Carolina, University of Delaware, North Carolina State University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Utah.

This year, the most popular anticipated college majors include Engineering, Finance, Business, Criminal Justice, Education, Sports Management, and the Health/Science fields including Nursing. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2023 and wish them well as they represent Old Rochester in their future endeavors.

Our Faculty

Of the 61 faculty members at ORRHS, 78% have their Master's degree and 3% have their Doctoral degree. The school has a 14.5 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio.

Accreditation

Principal of Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, Michael Devoll was pleased to report that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, voted for continued accreditation for Old Rochester Regional High School at their April 2019 meeting. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, founded in 1885, is the oldest accrediting agency in the country and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable agency to award accreditation to New England Schools. The Association is a voluntary accrediting agency of more than 2000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities, and vocational, technical, and career institutions. Of these, approximately 630 high schools, middle/high schools, and PreK-12 schools have been accredited through the Association's Commission on Public Schools.

Debate Team

The Old Rochester Regional High School Debate Team had a successful year in 2022-23 within the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League (EMDL). After two years of online "Zoom" debates, debaters were pleased to return to in-person debates. Two tournaments were hoisted at Old Rochester Regional Senior High School. This season the debaters argued the following resolution: Resolved The United States Federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, bio-technology, and cybersecurity.

Strong debate performances were made by juniors Eva Hartley and Jacob Hadley, Jamison Gunschel, and Theo Jacobsen. The Old Rochester Regional Varsity Affirmative Debate Team was the 3rd highest-ranked four-person team in the league in the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League. Jacob Hadley was the highest affirmative speaker in the league. Alden Cole-Viera was a top Varsity Negative Speaker. Novice Debaters Sophia Bouley and Scarlet Sylvia had a highly-ranked first season. In 2022-23 the Debate Team is arguing the following resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income.

Drama Club

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Drama Club produced two main stage performances. In the Fall, we performed *Alice and Wonderland* on November 17- November 20th. With over 60 students involved in the production, it was a fantastic turnout. We had over \$12,000 in ticket sales over the production weekend. In the Spring, we performed *Once Upon A Mattress* on March 30-April 2. With over 60 students in the production, we were able to collect over \$10,000 in ticket sales. Within the musical we had local musicians serving in the pit band during all four performances. With help from the Tri-Town community, both productions raised over \$4,000 in advertising of local businesses. All ORRHS Drama Club performances were well attended and had many returning tri-town community members. For both the fall and spring, the drama club was able to host a Senior Citizens show on the Wednesday of tech week. These shows were well attended by the local community and brought in donations for the local food bank. The Drama Club performs *Romeo and Juliet* in the Fall of 2023 and *Little Shop of Horrors* in Spring of 2024.

Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 made great strides in coming together as evidenced by their work on the homecoming skit. The class anticipates and is planning big for next year's program. Immediately after the homecoming effort, the class held the first of two extremely successful fundraisers. With the generous donation of two tickets to see a Boston Celtics' game, the class sold raffle tickets and was happy to see our own School

Resource Officer win. On the heels of that success, a second very successful fundraiser was held in conjunction with The Inn at Shipyard Park in Mattapoisett. Students and their families dined in and took home meals where a portion of the proceeds benefited the class. The class advisors are working on exciting new plans with class officers.

Mock Trial

The Mock Trial club returned to in-person competitions in January and February while competing in turn as both the plaintiff and defense in a simulated civil case involving a wrongful death lawsuit following an aviation stunt that ended in tragedy. Seniors Caitlin Collier and Sam Williamson returned and gave strong performances as attorneys. Junior Ella Caesar also performed strongly in the attorney role, and the team was joined by junior Liam Yurof, sophomore Eden Dupre, and freshman Austin Scully in the witness roles, as well as freshmen Alex Fiano and Makenzie Crowley, who took on attorney roles. All students performed incredibly well, showing great skill and adaptability throughout the season. This year marked one of the strongest overall performances by the team in recent memory, while just missing advancement to playoff competition. In the 2023-2024 season, the team will return to competitions in Fall River District Court, rather than in school classrooms.

Music

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Music Department had eight students participate in the Southeast District Music Festival. So far in the 2023-2024 school year, we have had five students accepted to and participate in the District Festival, as well as one student recommended to audition for All-State. This past December, the Music Department had a successful Winter Concert and performance trip to Faneuil Hall in Boston. We have already held auditions for the Spring Musical, and rehearsals began before the holiday break.

In May 2023, the Concert Band and Chorus returned to the Great East Music Festival. The Chorus received a Platinum rating and the Concert Band received a Gold rating. We plan to return to the Great East Music Festival this Spring. The 2023 FORM Concerts were well attended and supplied solid funding for our Senior Scholarships.

DECA

ORR DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA is open to all students who want to know more about business and the professional world, as well as those who simply enjoy traveling and meeting new people. The 22-23 school year was a great one for DECA, as our club welcomed many new members, traveled to new places, and reached great levels of competitive success. In January 2023, we took a bus to Hyannis for our first competitive conference of the year. At this competition, our students competed very strongly, with 17 students advancing to the next level of competition—the State Career Development Conference (SCDC) in Boston. At SCDC, our members also competed well, with 6 members making it to the final level of competition at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando. It is worth noting that this year we had the most ICDC competitors in ORR DECA's history. Most recently, in January of 2024, our club traveled to Hyannis again to start the competitive season. Of the 20 members in attendance, 18 will be advancing to SCDC in March, and 7 additional members will proceed directly to SCDC through a written business report. In total, 25 students from ORR will be participating in SCDC this year, with high hopes for competitive success. Overall, ORR DECA has seen membership growth, competitive achievement, and networking opportunities in 2023 and the start of 2024.

National Honor Society

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Old Rochester Regional chapter of the National Honor Society worked to promote the tenets of leadership, scholarship, service, and character both on and off campus. Our tutors have worked with students throughout the district through our virtual tutoring program while our education initiative worked with elementary school students on various creative projects throughout

the year. Our members also came together to collect and deliver much-needed supplies for the New Bedford Women's Center and the Boys and Girls Club.

Through positivity and mental health initiatives, our NHS members also worked to create a positive and supportive atmosphere on campus and within our organization. After competing in the Honor Bowl with other SCC schools, two of our members founded Trivia Thursdays. These popular NHS-sponsored Bulldog Block sessions were open to all students. Our members also took part in the New Bedford United Way Youth Day of Caring during which they worked in Mattapoisett to prepare the Y for summer camps.

Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 continuously pursued fundraising throughout the 2022–2023 academic year in preparation for future senior activities. To begin the year, the class sold Bulldog umbrellas and insulated bags throughout the fall. In November, the class held a Chipotle dine-out night in addition to a cookie dough fundraiser. Moving into the holiday season, the class organized a Parents' Night Out for kids K–6, where the children did winter crafts, played games, ate snacks, and watched *The Grinch*. In the spring, the class organized a student-versus-teacher basketball game. In May, the calendar raffle became an annual event, and the council and class searched for donations from local businesses and families. Overall, the class worked hard to make 2022–2023 a successful year of fundraising.

Environmental Club

Environmental Club meets every Tuesday after school and consists of about 8 students regularly. This year we have done some campus garden maintenance, cleaned up trash around campus, recycled paper, cans, and bottles from classrooms, and cold stratified pollinator seeds for campus gardens and community gardens. A group of Club members also volunteered for the Salty Soiree, helping the Mattapoisett Land Trust offer families a beautiful way to gather. Our BIG project this year has been learning about, and beginning the control/eradication of the invasive Phragmites on campus. We were visited by Colleen Andrews of the Mattapoisett Land Trust and Brandon Faneuf from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Students wrote a plan of eradication and submitted it to the MLT and State. We have begun to understand aspects of the Wetlands Protection Act, and are removing invasive weeds from a retention pond from campus.

Student Newspaper: Paw Prints

Our Paw Prints student newspaper has experienced excellent growth over the course of the last year. We currently have two excellent sophomore editors and a crop of younger writers eager to step up. Our current leadership has found a cost-effective solution to use Canva for the newspaper layout. Not only does it spare extra expense, but the paper has produced some of the most beautiful layouts in recent years. Additionally, we have been able to use some Sophomore project-based writing to supplement the work produced by the regular staff.

Sci Fi and Strategy Club

This year marked additional growth for the Science Fiction Club and a responsible group of student leaders who have worked to make the club open and welcoming to all new members. There are both group and individual activities to meet the needs of each member; we also offer bi-monthly game nights for longer-form Sci-Fi gaming that we are unable to complete during weekly after school meetings.

AFS Club

The AFS Club empowers students to become globally engaged citizens by delivering meaningful intercultural experiences that provide the knowledge and skills needed to help create a more just and peaceful world. AFS is open to all students who enjoy traveling and meeting new people. We were able to kick things off in October with our Annual Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest. In November, we

hosted our Annual International Dinner where we invited the Southeastern Mass International student delegation. The students on the scholarship committee presented slideshows of their countries and educated our club students about their cultures and daily life. The AFS club was able to travel in December to New York City for a visit to The Museum of Natural History, Rockefeller Center, and Times Square. We were able to bring back our domestic Cultural exchange with Rio Vista HS in California. Our club students were able to travel to the San Francisco Bay Area to school and visit local cultural attractions. The ORR AFS students in return hosted 21 students from Rio Vista here at ORR, showing them how our school functions daily, the architecture of the Newport Mansions, our World Champion Patriots/Revolution's Hall of Fame at Gillette Stadium, and several attractions and eateries in Boston.

GSA Club

The ORRHS GSA had a very successful year advocating for education in our district to create a more inclusive community. Over the course of four presentations, our GSA leadership, Alia Cusolito and Nathan Correira, provided JHS staff training on LGBTQ+ issues, including basic education on terms and identities, trans students support, and inclusive curriculum. Throughout the year, the GSA fostered conversations about community care by prioritizing mental health discussions and welcomed school community members to meetings to continue conversations about what is affecting our students. In March, our GSA president, Alia Cusolito, organized and spoke at the March For Queer & Trans Youth Autonomy in Washington DC, and our students also attended workshops hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Community Service Learning

The 2023-24 school year began with the excitement of seeing returning members as well as welcoming MANY new member's energy and commitment to give back to our Tri-Town community. CSL offers yearly volunteer opportunities and always enjoys adding new ones so students can participate on their own. The club meets once a week after school. The CSL co-advisors, Karen Browning and Andrea Moniz, help to advise students as they take on student leadership roles on various community service projects that are new and ongoing. For the 6th year, under the leadership of our students, the CSL Club collected 384 new pairs of socks for their "SOCKTOBER" event in October. It was another huge success and the socks were donated to The Women's Center in New Bedford. As October came to a close, the CSL Club turned its focus to our December group event in collaboration with Toys for Tots and the Tri-Town police departments, for our "Stuff a Cruiser" event. We were pleased this year as all three town police departments were represented and Santa stopped by to greet everyone! The CSL club was able to collect 124 toys for local children. We appreciate the generosity of our Tri-Town residents.

Among these group volunteer activities, CSL has had several individual volunteer opportunities brought to the group by students and led by students, such as volunteering on weekends at Damien's Pantry and the Mattapoissett Museum.

We are very excited about new events that our members have initiated on their own for this school year: Assisting at the East Over Farm for the Buzzards Bay Bike Ride in October; Veteran's Collection Drive for the Veterans Transition Home in New Bedford; "One Warm Coat Project" to be donated to Gifts to Give; and we have collaborated with the Junior High School as well as Sippican School for the first time. Other new programs are visits to Gifts to Give once a month, Kindness Week, and "Women United Wash and Read Program", where we collect children's books to be donated to laundromats.

The CSL Club has also been informed of opportunities brought from the community, such as the Mattapoissett Land Trust (story walks), The Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path (tour de Creme bike ride and "Bikes for All" program - and we now have a student representative on the board), and at the Mattapoissett Library (crafts and used book sales). For our third year, the CSL Club has continued a

wonderful connection with VASE from Sippican School in Marion volunteering in the After Class Enrichment (ACE) Homework Help.

The club will plan a “beach clean up” in the spring, as well as a school-wide clean up outside (trash as well as pruning branches and mulching in the memorial gardens). We will cap off our successful year in May of 2024, where the club will honor students who have submitted their community service hours that have earned them the “President’s Volunteer Service Award”, an award where students earn either a gold, silver, or bronze medallion medal depending on their age and the number of their volunteer hours, along with a signed letter and certificate from the President of the United States, thanking them for their community service.

Class of 2024

As the first “mask-free” year in their high school history, the class of 2024 started the year off by working closely with the Student Council to coordinate the annual Homecoming dance, class skit, and pep rally. As part of the tradition, the junior class decorated their hallway with SpongeBob-themed props and accessories and created a fun skit complete with choreographed dances and music. Throughout the year, the class of 2024 ran several fundraisers including a Spike Ball tournament, a restaurant night at Nicks, making homemade cookies, and selling chocolates from Dorothy Cox. In the spring, The Class of 2024 was the first class to ever host a mattress fundraiser which brought in community members from many local towns and cities. Their efforts raised over \$4000 for the class. In addition, the class participated in the Neediest Family fundraiser and organized the annual Junior semi-formal dance. In June, the class elected new officers and senators and began to plan for senior year.

Student Council

During the 2022-2023 school year, Student Council (STUCO) continued in its mission to promote positive school spirit and support students and activities within the school community. STUCO started the school year by organizing and running elections for the class of 2026. After hosting another very successful Club Hub in the media center for the whole school in October, STUCO E-Board and senators attended the fall SEMASC Leadership Conference at Duxbury High School. Without missing a beat, STUCO once again collaborated with the Community Service Learning Club and their Socktober sock drive while organizing and hosting a well-attended Homecoming Dance.

From the proceeds raised through the Homecoming ticket sales, STUCO was once again able to help various clubs and organizations fund activities and initiatives throughout the school year. Clubs that received funding from STUCO in the 2022-2023 school year included Cultural Club, BIPOC, DECA, Music Appreciation Club, Tea Club, and AFS.

STUCO remained busy throughout the year, including raising over \$1200 for the annual fundraiser for the neediest families and hosting the end-of-year ice cream social for the entire school in December. In February, STUCO members performed random acts of kindness throughout the school community during kindness week and brought back the traditional Class Olympics before February break.

The year culminated with STUCO supporting the Class of 2023 and their Safe Prom initiative and awarding the annual STUCO “Unsung Hero” Scholarships to three deserving seniors from the Class of 2023, who each received a one-time scholarship of \$500 for going above and beyond.

All in all, it was another successful year of student leadership development, community service and giving back to the school community.

Once again, the Old Rochester Regional High School proved to be first-class and continued the school's history of excellence. Students and staff congratulated the following staff members for their work at ORRHS as they moved on at the close of the school year: Becky Okolita and Caroline Cervera

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Devoll, Principal