

**THE SCHOOL DIRECTORY
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Members	Term Expires
Dr. Shannon Jenkins	2024
Mr. John Nunes	2025
Mr. Christopher Oliver	2025
Ms. Elizabeth Coughlin	2026
Ms. Kathleen Amaral	2026

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Chairperson..... Ms. Kathleen Amaral
Secretary..... Dr. June Saba-Maguire

Regular meetings of the School Committee are usually held once or twice each month on Mondays throughout the school year. (They are held once monthly during the summer months.) The meetings are usually held at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center at the Dartmouth High School, 555 Bakerville Road, Dartmouth, MA. Meetings are typically held at 5:00 p.m. during the summer months.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. June Saba-Maguire

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

James A. Kiely

Office Telephone 508-997-3391

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (during school vacations and summer months)

Monday through Friday

Year-Round

**Dartmouth Public Schools
2023 Annual Report**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FISCAL YEAR 2023
July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023**

School Appropriation	\$ 49,383,406.00	
FY22 Certified Funds	<u>\$ 263,928.44</u>	
Total Dollars Available		\$ 49,647,334.44
Expenditures:		
School Appropriation	\$ 49,296,441.69	
FY22 Certified Funds	<u>\$ 254,916.44</u>	
Total Expended 6/30/23		<u>\$ 49,551,358.13</u>
Balance 6/30/23		\$ 95,976.31
Less FY23 Certified Funds		<u>\$ -86,961.30</u>
Unexpended Funds 6/30/23		\$ 9,015.01

**STATE AID
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Including unexpended funds and other reimbursements which were remitted to the Town and in effect, reduced the Town's share of the cost of education:

State Aid:		
General - Chapter 70	\$ 10,251,151.00	
Pupil Trans. Ch. 71,71A,71B & 74	<u>\$ -</u>	
Total State Aid		<u>\$ 10,251,151.00</u>
FY23 Cost of Education		<u>\$ 49,551,358.13</u>
Town's Cost of Education		\$ 39,300,207.13

TOWN AGENCY ACCOUNTS

Student Book Agency Account - Middle School

Balance 7/1/22	\$	9,927.12	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	-	
Total Available			\$ 9,927.12
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 9,927.12

Student Book Agency Account - High School

Balance 7/1/22	\$	13,675.51	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	560.04	
Total Available			\$ 14,235.55
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 14,235.55

Student Book Agency Account - DeMello School

Balance 7/1/22	\$	199.34	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	60.00	
Total Available			\$ 259.34
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 259.34

Insurance Recovery

Balance 7/1/22	\$	0.00	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	0.00	
Total Available			\$ 0.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 0.00

Resident Tuition

Balance 7/1/22	\$	41,456.00	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	27,321.63	
Total Available			\$ 68,777.63
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 68,777.63

Restitution Middle School

Balance 7/1/22	\$	1,517.38
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	-

Total Available	\$	1,517.38
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	-
Balance 6/30/23	\$	1,517.38

Restitution High School

Balance 7/1/22	\$	2,908.17	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	-	
Total Available	\$	2,908.17	
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	-	
Balance 6/30/23	\$	2,908.17	

**FEDERAL GRANTS
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Sped 94-142Allocation FY22

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	171,925.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	61,898.64
Balance 6/30/23	\$	110,026.36

Sped 94-142Allocation FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	988,849.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	990,882.96
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-2,033.96

Sped Early Childhood FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	20,023.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	19,894.85
Balance 6/30/23	\$	128.15

Teacher Quality FY22

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	24,827.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	24,827.00
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Title III FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	1,654.64
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	1,654.64
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Title Ii FY22

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	11,012.51
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	11,012.51
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Title I FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	364,839.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	364,839.00
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Title II FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	28,469.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	28,469.00
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Title IV FY22

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	20,368.90
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	20,368.90
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Title IV FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	12,927.12
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	12,927.12
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

School Nutrition Grant FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	19,577.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	19,577.00
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

Mass Agriculture in Classroom FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	600.00
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	-
Balance 6/30/23	\$	600.00

Summer Acceleration FY23

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	66,689.82
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	66,689.82
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-

ESSER I

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	29,577.00	
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	23,222.11	
Balance 6/30/23	\$	6,354.89	

ESSER II

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	365,718.00	
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	289,194.08	
Balance 6/30/23	\$	76,523.92	

ESSER III

Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	1,371,382.51	
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	1,371,382.51	
Balance 6/30/23	\$	-	

**TRUST FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Potter Fund

"To be used to promote music in the Dartmouth Public Schools"
At the discretion of the School Committee

Principal	\$	10,000.00	
Expendable Balance 7/1/22	\$	19,534.37	
Interest Income through 6/30/23	\$	1,035.50	
Total Available	\$	20,569.87	
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	19,606.00	
Expendable Balance 6/30/23	\$	663.87	

Crapo Fund

"To be used for the benefit of public schools and children attending public schools"
At the discretion of the Board of Selectmen

Principal	\$	2,000.00	
Expendable Balance 7/1/22	\$	11,800.54	
Interest Income through 6/30/23	\$	606.59	
Total Available	\$	12,407.13	
Expenditures through 6/30/23	\$	-	
Expendable Balance 6/30/23	\$	12,407.13	

Dartmouth Scholarship Trust Fund

To be used for student scholarship awards and for faculty performance awards -
Under the administration of the Superintendent of Schools - as prescribed in the
Trust documentation

Principal	\$	229,500.00	
Expendable Balance 7/1/22	\$	38,105.81	
Interest Income through 6/30/23	\$	11,690.10	
Total Available			\$ 49,795.91
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 5,500.00
Expendable Balance 6/30/23			\$ 44,295.91

Dartmouth Enrichment Fund

Principal	\$	119,000.00	
Expendable Balance 7/1/22	\$	144,420.71	
Interest Income through 6/30/23	\$	6,347.84	
Total Available			\$ 150,768.55
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Expendable Balance 6/30/23			\$ 150,768.55

**REVOLVING ACCOUNTS
FISCAL YEAR 2023*****School Department Gift Account***

Balance 7/1/22	\$	95,718.14	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	87,242.98	
Total Available			\$ 182,961.12
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 69,438.07
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 113,523.05

School Department-After School Program-DMS

Balance 7/1/22	\$	87,942.81	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	16,305.00	
Total Available			\$ 104,247.81
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -

Balance 6/30/23	\$	104,247.81
-----------------	----	------------

High School Activity User Fees

Balance 7/1/22	\$	10,688.50	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	4,435.00	
Total Available			\$ 15,123.50
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 15,123.50

High School Athletic Account

Balance 7/1/22	\$	93,940.54	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	75,269.00	
Total Available			\$ 169,209.54
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 26,122.43
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 143,087.11

High School Stadium Concessions

Balance 7/1/22	\$	14,395.99	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	21,031.08	
Total Available			\$ 35,427.07
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 27,442.53
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 7,984.54

High School Music Fees

Balance 7/1/22	\$	19,584.50	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	7,650.00	
Total Available			\$ 27,234.50
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 27,234.50

High School Transportation Fees

Balance 7/1/22	\$	4,054.28	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	-	
Total Available			\$ 4,054.28
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 4,054.28

Sped - Circuit Breaker

Balance 7/1/22	\$	1,139,794.13
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	1,984,784.00

Total Available		\$	3,124,578.13
Expenditures through 6/30/23		\$	1,149,332.34
Balance 6/30/23		\$	1,975,245.79

Student Enrichment Revolving Fund

Balance 7/1/22	\$	72,757.35	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	29,055.00	
Total Available			\$ 101,812.35
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 34,018.34
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 67,794.01

Cushman Pre-School Program

Balance 7/1/22	\$	505,084.05	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	251,506.73	
Total Available			\$ 756,590.78
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 48,910.00
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 707,680.78

School Transportation - Homeless

Balance 7/1/22	\$	172,255.06	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	-	
Total Available			\$ 172,255.06
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 150,000.00
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 22,255.06

Town Tax Gift Account

Balance 7/1/22	\$	8,698.15	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	548.00	
Total Available			\$ 9,246.15
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ -
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 9,246.15

School Choice Tuition

Balance 7/1/22	\$	1,667,474.05	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	780,088.00	
Total Available			\$ 2,447,562.05
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 97,392.79
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 2,350,169.26

School Cafeteria Revolving Account

Balance 7/1/22	\$	1,691,090.84	
Receipts through 6/30/23	\$	2,089,622.22	
Total Available			\$ 3,780,713.06
Expenditures through 6/30/23			\$ 2,203,138.07
Balance 6/30/23			\$ 1,577,574.99

Dartmouth Public Schools 2023 Annual Report

June Saba-Maguire, Ed. D., Superintendent

The Dartmouth Public School has much to celebrate regarding progress, achievements, and future aspirations. We take this valuable opportunity to reflect on our journey, celebrate accomplishments, and chart the course for the future. This past year has been a journey of collaboration and a commitment to excellence. Our students, educators, support staff, and community partners have worked tirelessly to navigate challenges and take advantage of growth opportunities. As we delve into the state of our schools, let us celebrate the accomplishments that define us and acknowledge the areas where we continue to strive for improvement.

Academic Excellence: Our commitment to academic excellence remains unwavering. Our students have showcased remarkable achievements in various academic disciplines, demonstrating their intellectual capability and passion for learning. Our dedicated educators have implemented innovative teaching methods to foster a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

Social Emotional Development: At Dartmouth Schools, we understand that education goes beyond textbooks. We are proud of the emphasis placed on the holistic development of our students. From arts and athletics to community service, our students demonstrate a well-rounded approach to personal and academic growth—our athletics teams, robotics teams, TV Studio, clubs, and activities provide the Dartmouth Community with pride. Our young people continue to shine amongst their peers.

Community Engagement: Our schools are an integral part of the broader Dartmouth community, and we cherish the partnerships we have formed. This year, we have seen increased collaboration and engagement between parents, staff, and local organizations. Together, we are building a solid support network that contributes to the overall well-being of our students and community.

Adaptability and Innovation: The education landscape is ever-evolving, and Dartmouth Schools are dedicated to embracing change. Our commitment to adaptability and innovation ensures that we provide a forward-thinking education that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Looking Forward: Anticipating the Future: Our vision for Dartmouth Schools is continued progress and excellence. We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning environment that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As such, we look forward to the process of Strategic Planning. This inclusive process will yield a clear plan for the future of Dartmouth Public Schools.

Your insights, feedback, and support are invaluable as we collectively support the young people in our community. Let us continue this journey together to shape our students' bright and promising future.

Curriculum, Instruction & Student Achievement

Catherine Pavao, Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary Level

Ross Thibault, Director of Teaching and Learning/Secondary Level

The Office of Teaching and Learning is committed to supporting high quality instruction across Dartmouth Public Schools, Pre-K through Grade 12, for all learners. Toward that end, a number of improvement initiatives were successfully implemented across the district during 2023. Such initiatives included professional development and implementation of a new phonics curriculum, Foundations in grades K-2, the development of an initial draft of a Portrait of a Learner which will serve as the district's north star and provide direction for strategic planning work that will be completed in 2024, the revision and implementation of an updated District Curriculum Accommodation Plan to better support all learners, the establishment of a district curriculum revision cycle and the pilot of instructional materials in Algebra 1 and English 9 at Dartmouth High School. Additionally, the district underwent a Tiered-Focused Monitoring review conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Office of Language Acquisition which reviews the district's practices related to supporting multi-lingual learners. This routine, five-year review, highlighted the district's full compliance on most standards and identified three areas for improvement which were addressed throughout the summer and fall of 2023. Finally, in the fall of 2023, Dartmouth Public Schools was selected to participate in the Playbook Initiative, a collaborative partnership between the Boston Celtics, Project 351, and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents aimed at building more inclusive communities by empowering students to take an active role against hate and discrimination.

Implementation of Foundations

As we continually analyze student achievement data, a trend across the Commonwealth in post-pandemic testing revealed that reading achievement continued to be an area of need. In looking at local data and programming, the elementary L3 team (Leveled Literacy Leaders) identified a need for revision of the phonics curriculum. To that end, a group of teachers from that team piloted Foundations, which utilizes a structured literacy approach grounded in the science of reading to make learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. The program's research-based approach allows teachers to present a carefully structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum using engaging, multisensory techniques. Foundations is aligned with the science of reading and guides teachers to provide effective instructional practices which occur in a systematic, cumulative, explicit, diagnostic, and integrated manner, allowing students to experience greater gains in the skills required for independent reading and spelling. After a successful pilot, all teachers in grades K-2 implemented Foundations in their classrooms for the 23-24 school year with a grade 3 implementation planned for the fall of 2024.

Portrait of a Learner

Dartmouth Public Schools partnered with Envision Learning Partners to develop a draft Portrait of a Learner throughout 2023. The first step in the development process was to form a District Strategic Planning Team (DSPT). Team members included administrative and teacher representation from each building across the district. Members of the DSPT included the following Dartmouth Public School educators:

- Rachel Chavier, Associate Principal Dartmouth High School
- Justine Dale, Early Childhood Director Cushman Elementary School
- Sarah Decas, Associate Principal Dartmouth Middle School
- Dana Doucette, Mathematics Instructional Coach Potter Elementary School
- William Garcia, School Social Worker Dartmouth Middle School
- Bonny Gifford, Superintendent of Schools (retired March 1, 2023)
- Wilbur Higgins, English Lead Teacher/Instructional Coach Dartmouth High School
- Adam Hill, Assistant Principal DeMello Elementary School
- Dan Lefebvre, Literacy Instructional Coach Dartmouth Middle School
- Melissa McHenry, Assistant Principal Potter Elementary School
- Lori O'Neil, Literacy Instructional Coach Cushman Elementary School
- Catherine Pavao, Director of Teaching and Learning Elementary Education
- Jessica Pratt, ELA & Social Studies Teacher Dartmouth Middle School
- June Saba-Maguire, Superintendent of Schools (July 1, 2023)
- Janine Tavares, Literacy Instructional Coach Quinn Elementary School
- Ross Thibault, Director of Teaching and Learning Secondary Education
- Liz Voci, Instructional Technology Specialist DeMello Elementary School
- Stephanie Yermalovich, Assistant Principal Quinn Elementary School

The process of developing the Portrait of a Learner included collecting input from a variety of stakeholders across the Dartmouth community. Parents, community members, elected town officials, and Dartmouth High School students were all surveyed in order to prioritize the skills and competencies that the Dartmouth community believe are important to providing a quality education for all students. In December of 2023 the DSPT completed its initial draft of the Dartmouth Public Schools Portrait of a Learner which centers around supporting Dartmouth learners in becoming effective communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers and problem solvers, continuous learners and contributing citizens.

District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP)

The Curriculum Council, with input from members of the Dartmouth District Leadership Team, reviewed the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) throughout the winter and spring of 2023. Required by Massachusetts General Law, all school districts must have a DCAP which outlines the district's commitment to supporting all students in accessing the curriculum in the general education setting in addition to outlining a systemic approach to reading instruction. The newly revised and implemented DCAP is modeled after the Massachusetts Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) identifying effective strategies to support all learners in the general education setting. Additionally, the DCAP details the Student Support Team structure employed throughout the district and will serve as a roadmap for future work to strengthen the systems of support available to ensure all students are able to meet rigorous grade level expectations.

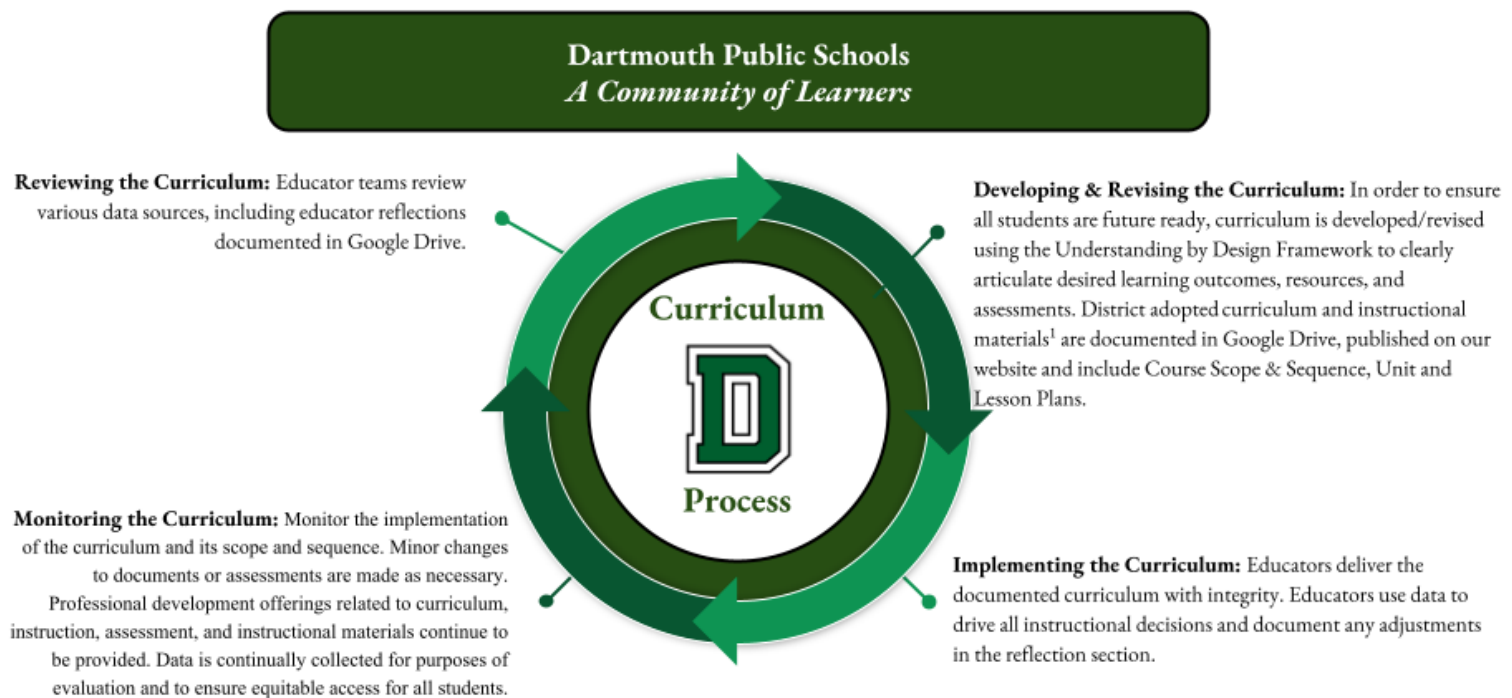
District Curriculum Revision Cycle

The Curriculum Council also engaged in the development of a curriculum review cycle during 2023. The curriculum review process is designed to ensure that the district has a clearly

articulated curriculum that is well coordinated PreK-12 resulting in improved instruction that will elevate the student experience. A consistent curriculum review:

- Provides for an ongoing review and revision of curriculum
- Supports the ongoing use of assessment data to inform and improve curriculum and instructional practices
- Ensures that revisions and updates to curriculum, instruction, and assessment take place to maintain adherence to changes in state and federal mandates, as well as MA Curriculum Frameworks
- Ensures that curriculum is culturally responsive, unbiased, inclusive, and promotes a sense of belonging for all students and staff
- Outlines a planned approach towards researching and budgeting for expenditures in curricular materials and professional development
- Evaluates potential needs for curricular or programmatic changes to support student learning

The curriculum review cycle is comprised of 4 main components in a cyclical nature as outlined below.



¹The district has a [defined process](#) for adopting textbooks, instructional, and supplementary materials related to the district's curriculum.

Instructional Materials Pilot at Dartmouth High School

During 2023, two pilots were launched to introduce and determine the effectiveness of high-quality instructional materials at Dartmouth High School. Those pilots included the College Board's Pre-AP English 1 materials as well as HMH's Into Algebra 1. In each case, collaborative teams of educators and administrators worked throughout the early months to ready for implementation in the fall of 2023. At present, both pilots remain in full-swing and will be evaluated to determine whether to adopt, adapt, or abandon the implementation and adoption process.

The Playbook Initiative

Thanks in part to the excellent work of Dartmouth High School students Tia Raad and Jesse Walker, Dartmouth Public Schools was selected in November of 2023 to participate in the Playbook Initiative. The Playbook Initiative is a curriculum that empowers middle school students to address issues of hate and discrimination related to race, ethnicity, culture and religion, gender and orientation. Dartmouth's Playbook Initiative Team includes Dartmouth High School World Language Teacher Ms. Lili Chamberlain, Dartmouth High School students Jesse Walker and Tia Raad, and Dartmouth Director of Teaching and Learning for Secondary Education Mr. Ross Thibault. The team attended a day-long training in Boston led by Project 351 and the Boston Celtics. During the training students had an opportunity to share their reason for wanting to be part of the Playbook Initiative and got to meet members of the Boston Celtics as well as the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts as they learned about ways to build more inclusive communities. Jesse and Tia will apply their training when they lead two workshops for 30 Dartmouth Middle School students in February of 2024.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2024, the Office of Teaching and Learning is excited to continue leading the District Strategic Planning work as we thoughtfully plan to move from prototype to practice with respect to embedding the Portrait of a Learner throughout our district. Additionally, as part of the budget process, additional funds have been requested to support the implementation of high-quality instructional materials as research demonstrates the connection between high quality instructional materials and student achievement. We remain appreciative of the support the town has continued to provide to allow teaching and learning to thrive within the Dartmouth community.

Finance and Facilities

James A. Kiely, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Finance

The Dartmouth Public Schools is committed to providing a quality education for all learners. To support this mission, the fiscal year 2024 budget was aligned with the District Strategic Improvement Plan and prepared based on need and maximizing impact on student achievement. This budget incorporated a 4.5% increase over the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Per pupil spending is currently 14% below the state average and is 266th of 322 districts statewide. Spending on Teachers is 5% below the state average and is 196th of 322 districts statewide. Spending on Insurance and Benefits is 46% below the state average and is 316th of 322 districts statewide. Spending on Administration is 32% below the state average and is 288th of 322 districts statewide. Spending on Operations and Maintenance is 35% below the state average and is 307th of 322 districts statewide. Spending on Pupil Services is 4% below the state average and is 153rd of 322 districts statewide. Staffing per 100 students is below statewide average in all categories, including teachers, paraprofessionals, leadership, student support and clerical.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic created increased needs for students and unanticipated costs in many areas of our operation. Students with high needs increased from 29.3% of students in 2014-15 to 43.2% in 2023-24. Low income students increased from 17.6% in 2014-15 to 30.4% in 2023-24. Students with disabilities increased from 12.5% in 2014-15 to 19.8% in 2023-24. Federal funding has been utilized to minimize the impact to our operating budget. The expiration of those funds has had financial implications on the fiscal year 2025 budget and beyond.

The fiscal year 2025 budget process is currently underway. The proposed level service budget has been prepared in an effort to balance increasing student needs with fiscal constraints. To meet these needs, funding from one-time school choice revolving account savings will be used to supplement the operating budget in fiscal year 2025. Once one-time reserves have been exhausted, it will be necessary to communicate the ongoing needs of the Dartmouth Public Schools and seek the necessary community support for education.

Facilities

The Dartmouth Public Schools is committed to providing an effective and appropriate learning environment for all students. The average age of Dartmouth's schools is 64 years. The Andrew B. Cushman School was built in 1922, the Joseph DeMello School was built in 1955, The George H. Potter School was built in 1955, the James M. Quinn School was built in 1967, The Dartmouth Middle School was built in 1956, and the Dartmouth High School was built in 2002.

The Town of Dartmouth has begun a long-term capital planning effort to address facilities needs over the next forty years. To accomplish this a plan is being developed to replace and/or renovate our aging school buildings in a strategic way over that time period. During 2023, the Dartmouth Public Schools undertook capital improvement projects including telephone and intercom system upgrades, and flooring replacement. The Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Committee and Finance Committee recommended and Town Meeting approved funding for one project at the spring Town Meeting: flooring replacement at several schools. No capital improvements were supported at the fall Town Meeting.

STUDENT SERVICES

Laurie Dionisio, Director of Student Services

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Special Education Department provided quality education for all students with disabilities, focusing on students' social-emotional growth as well as their academic progress.

As a department, quarterly staff meetings were held focusing on important special education procedures within the district. Staff also worked to make Individualized Education Plan Team meetings more accessible for parents by using technology to present information. These meetings continue to be held either virtually or in-person per parent request.

The Special Education department participated in a Tiered Focus Monitoring visit by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on March 28th and 29th. This Tiered Focused Monitoring included sight visits to our schools, interviews with staff and records review to ensure compliance with IDEA regulations. Two standards assessed were in need of review through a Continuous Improvement Monitoring Plan. All other areas assessed were proficient.

In the winter of 2023, the School Committee approved plans to implement a transition program for students 18-22 at Dartmouth Public Schools. This program, entitled Advancing Towards Life After School (ATLAS), began ambitious renovations at the high school, turning a former teacher work space into an apartment. Thanks to generous donations from Cardi's Furniture, Regal House, Ocean State Job Lot and Stan and Paul's, this space was furnished beautifully! Three students began this program in September. The next step for this program will be to secure a van to increase the student's ability to participate in their community.

Our extended school year program was once again held at Dartmouth High School from July 10th to August 4th with 155 students participating. The purpose of extended school year is to prevent substantial regression over the summer break. The students had access to speech, occupational and physical therapy as part of their school day. They even had time for water fun when the weather got hot!

The 2023 school year brought with it many changes to leadership in Special Education at Dartmouth Public Schools. Laurie Dionisio was named Executive Director of Student Services in April of 2023 and began this position on July 1. Kimberly Redlon was hired as Assistant Director of Student Services in November of 2023.

The field of Special Education is a challenging but rewarding career. Teachers, related service providers and support staff are to be commended for their work during the 2022-2023 school year. Because of their commitment and dedication, students with disabilities in our schools are thriving and continue to make progress.

Health, Physical Education & Athletics

Andrew Crisafulli, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

Athletics

The philosophy of athletics at Dartmouth High School is to teach our student-athletes the proper values that can be derived from competing in an interscholastic contest. These include patience, courage, integrity and inner strength. Our athletic programs also teach the ability to handle victory in an appropriate manner and to cope with the adversity when unsuccessful. We also work to develop an awareness of teamwork, sportsmanship, and selflessness as goals of all of our interscholastic teams.

Dartmouth High School is a member of the Southeast Conference (SEC); 21 of our 24 sports programs compete as a member of the SEC against Bridgewater – Raynham Regional High School, New Bedford High School, BMC Durfee High School and Brockton High School.

Overall in 2022-23, Dartmouth High School Athletics offered 27 varsity programs, with all competing at the interscholastic level in the Southeast Conference. These programs are made up of 29 teams and compete at the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman levels. These athletic teams served over 530 students and these teams participated in over 700 athletic contests.

Present Sports and Levels at Dartmouth High School

Winter Sports

Boys Basketball – Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Girls Basketball - Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Boys Ice Hockey - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Ice Hockey (co-op with Bishop Stang) - Varsity
Girls Indoor Track - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Indoor Track - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Swimming (co-op with Bishop Stang) - Varsity
Boys Swimming (co-op with Bishop Stang) - Varsity

Spring Sports

Baseball – Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Softball - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Lacrosse – Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Lacrosse - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Tennis - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Tennis - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Outdoor Track - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Outdoor Track - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Unified Outdoor Track - Varsity
Sailing - Varsity, Junior Varsity

Fall Sports

Boys Cross Country - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Girls Cross Country - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Field Hockey - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Football - Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Golf – Varsity, Junior Varsity
Boys Soccer - Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Girls Soccer - Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Volleyball - Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman
Cheerleading - Varsity, Junior Varsity
Unified Basketball - Varsity

Synopsis of Sport Seasons

Winter 2022-2023

The Boys Basketball team finished the season with a 17-5 overall record (6-2 SEC) and was SEC Co-Champions. The boys earned a #12 seed in the MIAA D2 statewide tournament, hosting and defeating Bedford High School before succumbing to Charlestown High School. Dylan Gomes was the team's Dave Cowens Award nominee. Hunter Matteson was named a Boston Herald All-Scholastic and Head Coach Nick Simonetti (1st year coach) was named D2 Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts High School Basketball Coaches Association. Hunter Matteson scored his 1,000 point during the last game of the regular season vs Dennis-Yarmouth

The Girls Basketball Team posted a 12-10 overall season record (2-6 SEC) and qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #29 seed. The team hosted and defeated Middleboro High School (58-41) before being eliminated by Westwood High School (46-45). Abbie Zuber was the team's Dave Cowens Award nominee.

Our Ice Hockey Team finished the season 11-11 overall record and qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #12 seed, hosted and defeated Diman (6-4) before being defeated by Duxbury (11-0). Mark Rossi replaced Mike Cappello as head coach.

The Girls Winter Track finished the season 4-0 overall and were SEC Regular Season and Conference Championship Champions. Madison Stott broke the DHS Girls 300 meter record and finished 3rd overall in DHS history in the 600 meter. Freshman Sydney Almeida broke the DHS Freshman record in the 55 dash. Many student-athletes were state qualifiers, highlighted by Madison Stott competing at All-States.

The Boys Winter Track finished the season 4-0 overall and were SEC Regular Season Champions. Tyler Medeiros broke the DHS Boys 1,000 meter record. Will Fairfax, Braden Medeiros, Tyler Medeiros and Luke Bloom-Glover were individual event league champs. Many student-athletes were state qualifiers.

The Dartmouth High School students chosen as Winter 2022-23 SEC All-Stars were:

Boys Basketball – Hunter Matteson, Aiden Smith

Girls Basketball – Katherine Cheesebro

Ice Hockey – Independent

Boys Indoor Track - Tyler Medeiros, Will Fairfax, Braden Medeiros, Tyler Medeiros and Luke Bloom-Glover

Girls Indoor Track - Serena Carnes, Lauren Kelly, Madison Stott, Shelby Wheaton and Haley Zexter

Spring 2023

Our Boys Tennis team finished with an overall record of 16-2 (8-0 SEC) and were deemed SEC League Champions. The team qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #18 seed and defeated Plymouth North 4-1 before losing to state champion Westborough High School. Luke Bloom-Glover was named SEC MVP.

Our Girls Tennis team finished with an overall record of 14-6 (7-1 SEC) and were deemed SEC Co-Champions. The girls qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #27 seed, defeated Somerville (5-0) before losing to Sharon (1-4). Maggie Frye completed her 1st year as head coach.

Our Softball team finished with a 13-7 overall record (5-3 SEC) and qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #14 seed. The girls hosted and defeated Danvers before being eliminated in the second round in a very competitive game vs Grafton 5-4.

Our Baseball team finished with a 14-7 overall record (5-3 SEC) and qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #13th seed. The team was eliminated in the first round by Westfield in extra innings (9 innings).

Our Boys Lacrosse team finished with a 5-13 overall record (Independent). The team didn't qualify for the state tournament but did score wins against rivals GNBVT and New Bedford High School. Mark Rossi was our new head coach.

Our Girls Lacrosse team finished with a 14-4 overall record (4-0 SEC) and were SEC Champions. The girls earned the #14 seed in MIAA D2 statewide tournament, hosted and were defeated by Bedford in the 1st Round (16-10). Ava Crane and Grace Haskell both scored their 100th career goal. Grace Haskell was named the SEC league MVP.

Our Girls Outdoor Track team finished with a 2-2 SEC League record and second in the SEC Outdoor Track Championship. Madison Stott set a new school record in the 600 and placed 5th overall at the MIAA D3 State Meet. Stott also competed at the Meet of Champions.

Our Boys Outdoor Track team finished with a 2-2 SEC League record and third in the SEC Outdoor Track Championship. Tyler Medeiros and Elaijah Monteiro qualified for the MIAA D3 State Meet

The Unified Track team competed in a total of five meets, including finishing 2nd in the MIAA South Sectional Meet and competed in the State Championship. The program had 13 qualifiers for the State Championship and were also voted the MIAA Team Sportsmanship Award!

Our Sailing Team finished with an overall record of 13-11 with impressive wins vs BC High, Moses Brown and North Kingstown. The team was ranked 16th in New England and competed in the NE Girls Championship (12th place).

The Dartmouth High School students chosen as Spring 2022-23 SEC All-Stars were:

Boys Tennis - Luke Bloom-Glover, Kevin Leong, Charlie Camisa, Owen Neilson, Shreyas Rathod, Will Harrington, Shafer Marcovici

Girls Tennis - Nayan Bala, Julia Caron, Adeline Ablett, Bronte Massucco, Annica Dupre

Softball - Megan Arruda, Aubrey Carberry, Olivia Rapoza

Baseball - Matt Lariviere, Luke Aaronson, Chase Lackie, Donovan Burgo

Boys Lacrosse - Independent

Girls Lacrosse - Ava Crane, Grace Haskell, Courtney Cabral, Sarah Kelly and Kayla McGee

Girls Outdoor Track - Madison Stott, Haley Zexter, Ava-Michelle Fraga, Sydney Almeida

Boys Outdoor Track - Will Fairfax, Branden Medeiros, Tyler Medeiros, Aiden Mello, Elijah Monteiro

Sailing - Maisy Sperry and Phoebe Murray

Fall 2023

Our Girls Soccer Team finished the season with an overall record of 11-6-2 (4-3-1 SEC). The team earned the #16 seed in the MIAA D2 statewide tournament, hosted and lost to Whitman-Hanson in the Round of 32.

Our Volleyball Team finished the season with a 17-5 overall season record (8-0 SEC) and were SEC league champions. The team earned the #9 seed in the MIAA D2 statewide tournament, defeating first round opponents Hingham (3-0) before succumbing to Oliver Ames (2-3). Gabriella Velazquez was voted MVP of the SEC.

Our Boys Cross Country Team posted a 4-1 overall record (3-1 SEC) and won the SEC Championship Race at the Wrentham Development Center. In addition to the SEC Championship, many student-athletes qualified for MSTCA and MIAA events/championships.

The Girls Cross Country Team posted a 4-1 overall record (3-1 SEC) and competed in the SEC League Championship at Wrentham Development Center. In addition to the SEC Championship, many student-athletes qualified for MSTCA and MIAA events/championships.

Our Field Hockey Team finished the season with a 19-1 overall record (8-0 SEC). The team won the SEC Championship and earned the #6 seed in the MIAA D2 statewide tournament, defeating Longmeadow 2-0 before losing to Somerset-Berkley 4-2. Grace Haskell was voted league MVP of the SEC.

Our Golf Team finished the season with a 15-1 overall record (7-1 SEC), won both the regular season and championship SEC titles! The team qualified for and competed in the MIAA D2 State Sectionals at Easton Country Club (8th place finish).

Our Boys Soccer Team finished this year with a 8-7-2 season record (3-4-1 SEC). The team qualified for the MIAA D2 statewide tournament as the #15 seed, hosted and lost to Westboro.

Our Football Team finished the year with a 9-2 overall record while playing an independent schedule. The team qualified as the #6 seed for the MIAA D3 statewide tournament, hosted and defeated Doherty Memorial in the “Round of 16” and lost at Milton High School in the “Elite Eight”. Jason Martin was the team’s Otto Graham nominee.

Our Unified Basketball Team finished the year with a 3-5 overall record, hosted and competed in the MIAA South Regional Tournament. The program had a total of 27 participants.

Our Cheerleading Team competed in 5 cheer competitions this season; (SEC Championship (1st place), Patriot Invitational (1st place), Norton Invitational (5th place), Durfee Invitational (3rd place) and MSAA South Regional Championship at Marshfield (13th place)

The Dartmouth High School students chosen to Fall 2023 SEC All-Stars by Sport were:

Boys’ Cross-Country – Elaijah Monteiro, Luke Bloom-Glover, Tyler Amaral, Jared Mendonca

Girls Cross Country - Lauren Kelly, Amya Moura

Field Hockey - Abbie Zuber, Samantha Souza, Grace Haskell, Kallie Rose

Golf - Will Gangi, Ian Emery, Tom Moreira

Boys Soccer – Landon Raposa, Nick Silvia

Girls Soccer- Lindsey Klein, Hailey Martins, Isabelle Sequin, Katherine Cheesebro

Volleyball - Adeline Ablett, Gaby Velazquez, Brooke Davis, Haley Jenkins, Alaina Strozik

Football - Independent

2022-2023 Athletic Department Awards

Student Athlete Award

Male - Madison Stott

Female - Graham White

Athlete for All Seasons

Serena Carnes

Aidan Carreiro

James Charrier

Alexandra Cojocararu

Ava Crane

Isabel Fera

Nadia Garriga

Samir Hijazi
Christopher Hughes
Jillian Hughes
Kevin Leong
Morgan Melo
Connor Murphy
Madison Stott

Health and Physical Education

Elementary Schools:

- Our elementary health and physical education teachers are Peter Lavin, Katie Schmich, Paul Pavao, Robin Mayo, Mary Beth Richardson, Meghan Phillips, and Matthew Beauparland. The staff worked diligently during the school year, delivering instruction and meaningful lessons. Teachers continued to adjust the curriculum in an effort to enable students to partake in appropriate activities, while aligning with health and safety guidelines.

Dartmouth Middle School:

- Our middle school staff consists of teachers Jeff Kocur, Tyler Tavares, Rachel Lassey and Chris Tullson. The staff worked diligently during the school year, delivering instruction and meaningful lessons. Teachers continued to adjust the curriculum in an effort to enable students to partake in appropriate activities, while aligning with health and safety guidelines.

Dartmouth High School:

- At our high school level, we have five teachers: Mike Frates, Mark Gaffney, Scott Richards, Nicole Simas and Tayler Travis. The staff worked diligently during the school year, delivering instruction and meaningful lessons. Teachers continued to adjust the curriculum in an effort to enable students to partake in appropriate activities, while aligning with health and safety guidelines.

MUSIC

Ian Flint, Director of Music

2023 Music Department Annual Report

Elementary

Cameron Siegal, music teacher at George H. Potter Elementary School and the Andrew B. Cushman School, teaches music classes at Potter on the stage. Potter School is entering the second year of its ukulele program. Students in grades 1–5 are regularly engaged in ukulele, Orff instruments, vocal music, and percussion. The PBIS system implemented in music class supports engagement and positive outcomes in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of learning. Music offerings at Quinn Elementary School have expanded to offer adaptive music

classes for PALS and PASS students. This year Dr. Siegal presented the Keynote Address and a session at the Vermont Music Educators Association 2023 Conference and a session at the Pan African Society for Musical Arts Education (PASMAE) 2023 Conference. His research article *Situational Belonging in High School Band Ensembles and High Schools* was accepted for publication in the journal Psychology of Music. Dr. Siegal's practitioners article *Strategies to Capture the Attention of Your PreK Learners* was accepted for publication in the Massachusetts Music Educators Journal. He is also serving on the Percussive Arts Society Scholarly Research Committee and the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Bylaws Committee.

Monique Cellemme, music teacher at DeMello School organized and directed DeMello 4th grade winter concert, including writing a script for students to narrate, auditioning solos, and creating an "informance" demonstrating games played in class. In the spring she organized and directed DeMello 5th grade spring concert, including writing a script for students to narrate, auditioning solos, and creating an "informance" demonstrating games played in class. She also directed the musical portion of DeMello 1st Grade Patriotic Performance for in-school assembly and for parents. Ms.Cellemme also served as an adjudicator for Rhode Island All-State Chorus auditions.

Shirley Byers, music teacher at Quinn Elementary School, programmed the 5th grade Chorus Concert in May. She also served as the Musical Director for Dartmouth High Theatre Company's Production of Mama Mia! In December she was the Musical Director for Dartmouth High Theatre Company's production of "Freaky Friday". Beyond the elementary duties she accompanied the Chorus and Orchestra at DHS Winter Pops concert in December and also the spring concerts in May. She served as a Mentor for Project Time to new elementary music teacher to our district Cameron Siegal.

Middle School

The Music Department continues to offer General Music, Chorus, Strings, and Band (Wind and Brass, Percussion instruments) as options for students to meet the music requirement as part of their yearly DMS course load. The program has made some recent adjustments with the instrumental program now starting in 6th grade.

Our General Music instructor, John Furtado, continues to make subtle changes to the post COVID and "back to normal" middle school general music curriculum. He continues to provide engaging instruction to a wide range of learners, with lesson topics ranging from the Baroque period to contemporary pop/rock music and musicians; from Bach to The Beatles, Vivaldi to Van Halen, and Tchaikovsky to Taylor Swift. John is also the conductor of the Dartmouth Community Band, which has amongst its musicians past and present members of our middle and high school bands.

Some of their performances this year included:

- Dartmouth Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies
- The Residence at Cedar Dell
- The Dartmouth Historical and Arts Society
- Korean War 70th Anniversary Ceremony at the Dartmouth Memorial Grove
- Tuesday evening concerts at Apponagansett Park
- Veterans Day Ceremony at the Dartmouth Council on Aging

-Padanaram Holiday Stroll and buoy tree lighting

In the String program, Ms. Church and Mr. Daniels have continued instruction and presented a May and December concert. They have compounded their efforts in remotely supporting students with the addition of “Essential Elements Interactive” which is a supplemental online resource to go along with the coursework currently utilized by their students. While many local programs have struggled to continue offering instrumental music during the school day, the DMS strings program continues to grow. The string program developed a new after school program open to all students in 7th and 8th grade to supplement classroom instruction through a rehearsal and performance model.

The four DMS Band teachers Mr. John Sousa (Flute, Clarinet); Mr. Tyler Kingsland (Low/Mid Brass, Saxophones); Mr. John Furtado (Trumpet) and Mr. Thomas Aungst (percussion) have continued to provide instruction and support at a level congruent with previous years. Through the pandemic, they provided regular group and individual instruction. The band program presented both May and December concerts. Several of our middle school students took part in our Fall 2023 competitive Marching Band program. Mr. Sousa and Mr. Kingsland continued to offer a comprehensive middle school jazz program that performs in a spring concert. The middle school bands also participated in the Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Day Parade.

The choral program is under the direction of Tara Thomas. Some highlights of the year included spring concerts for the 6th and 7th grade choruses, the 8th grade chorus combined with the high school chorus for their spring concert. Mrs. Thomas also conducted the spring musical, “Newsies”.

Southeast Junior District Festival

The following students have auditioned and were accepted to the Festival for the Southeast District Chorus, Orchestra, or Band:

High School Students

Seth Gates, Vincent Lam & Julian Yarmac

Middle School Students

Owen Avila-Martins, Maiya Barry, Aja Crockett, Mia DeRossi-Goldberg,

Maya Gouveia-Furtado, Amber Jia, Olivia Scott & Milanie Veloso

High School

The Marching Band was once again USBands National Champions. They also participated in the Bands of America Regional and took first place in both Division AA and the overall champions. For the first time ever, the band attended BOA Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana. The band placed 20th overall in the preliminary competition and were semi-finalists. They were the first band in over 20 years from New England to make semi-finals at BOA Grand Nationals.

Our indoor performing groups, Winter Color Guard (JV and Varsity), Indoor Winds and Indoor Percussion, participated in a full season of competition culminating in participation at the WGI World Championships. The Color Guard were Semi-Finalists in the Scholastic Open division,

the Indoor Winds were Bronze Medalists in the Scholastic Open division and the Indoor Percussion were Finalists in the Scholastic World division.

In March, the High School ensembles performed in the Annual Spring Pops Concert. Dr. Bonny Gifford was the honoree for that event. In April, the High School Concert Band and Orchestra performed in the MICCA Concert Festival. The band received a gold rating and the orchestra received a silver rating. In May, the high school ensembles had their spring concerts to end the school year. In December, once again all high school ensembles performed in our Winter Pops concert.

The Band program is under the leadership of Ian Flint. Thomas Aungst, Tyler Kingsland and John Sousa assist the band program. Michael Rayner is the drill designer. Other fall staff include Brandon Carrita, David Mills, Jocelyn Jerome, Mark McGuire and Daniel Monte. The color guard is directed by Addison Kaeterle and assisted by Anthony Cabral and Samantha Hussey. Additional color guard staff include Marla Cohen, Courtney Felix, Hailey McGuire and Katherine McKinnon.

The choral program is under the direction of Sam Bianco. This past year there were again three choral ensembles: the curricular Chorus, the a cappella choir Harmonix, and the brand-new show choir Dynamix. Chorus performed in the spring pops night "80's" concert. They sang mega hits from the 80's and the concert featured numerous soloists. In May, the chorus put on a "Choral Festival" along with Ms. Tara Thomas and the 8th grade choirs at the DHS auditorium. The concert was a great success and the combined finale "Give Us Hope" featuring the 8th grade and high school choirs was a showstopper. In the fall, the chorus prepared to perform in the Holiday Pops concert at DHS on Tuesday December 19th. Harmonix, the 12-member audition-only a cappella group, joined with the chorus in both March and May to put together and host the spring pops and the choral festival concerts with the middle school choirs. The group put together multiple, high level songs for each performance. Dynamix is the brand-new show choir program at DHS. It is under the direction of Sam Bianco and Assistant Director Taiylor Medina. This past year the group had a very successful first competition season. They competed in 3 competitions including the Shepherd Hill Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival, The Bishop Hendricken "Lil' Rhody Rumble", and the Waltham Eastern Show Choir Finals. The group earned 2 Bronze Medals, 1 Silver Medal, 3 "Outstanding Performer" Awards for Robbie Sioch, and was named "Rookie Choir of The Year " in a nationwide competition through Barstool Show Choir! Over the summer 3 show choir students attended the Show Choir Camps of America weeklong intensive in Tiffin, Ohio with Mr. Bianco. They worked with the top vocal, dance, and show choir educators in the country for an amazing week where the students grew leaps and bounds. This fall the group had their first performance at the Baystate Show Choir Festival at Oliver Ames High School in Easton, MA in November. This year's show is the Odyssey and we are very excited to put it together and compete this spring.

The Orchestra program is under the direction of Heather Church and Michael Daniels. This program includes our String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Strings ensembles. They have worked this year to become a more united program with additional collaboration across the music department and through furthering their involvement with the DSMA. The orchestra traveled to Washington, D.C. for a performance tour to work with college professors from Howard University for a clinic and also prepared and led students to compete in two

adjudications, the MICCA Festival and the WorldStrides Performing Groups Music Festival in Washington, D.C. The Orchestra won first place in their division at WorldStrides and won Outstanding Orchestra Group as the highest overall scoring orchestra. At MICCA they earned a high Silver ranking, less than one point away from Gold their first year competing and are looking forward to competing again in the Spring of 2024.

Senior District Festival

The following students were accepted based on their audition score to the Southeast Senior District Festival Chorus, Band, or Orchestra:

Jonas Chen, Brady Edgcomb, Colby Edgcomb, Asher Gelinis & Siena Parsons

Massachusetts All State

This student was selected to audition for the Massachusetts All State Festival. This was based on their high District score:

Jonas Chen

Dartmouth School Music Association

The Dartmouth School Music Association (DSMA) continues to be the major support group for the music department, especially the band who assumes the most active role. They provide support for most of our concerts and invitational events. The DSMA sponsors the operational budget for the Indoor Color Guard, Indoor Winds and Indoor Percussion. They maintain a tractor trailer and box truck to move equipment to local and national events and pay all expenses for fuel, repairs, and insurance. The DSMA also organizes most of our fundraising as well as staffing a large concession stand at Dartmouth Memorial Stadium and at Gillette Stadium. The DSMA helps fund travel expenses for students in need and provides scholarships to senior member students. Mrs. Amy Dion is the president of the DSMA.

Dartmouth High School

Ryan Shea., Principal

Rachel Chavier, Associate Principal

Michael Martin and Graham Coogan, Assistant Principals

Dartmouth High School is a special place filled with staff and students who understand the mission of a “quality education for all.” As a school this year, we focused on student relationships and communication. At DHS, the students are buying into the motto that the school day does not end at 2:03. This has led to the formation of new clubs, including the Black Student Union. This club hosted the first annual “Day of No Hate” which was a resounding success receiving widespread support from all students.

The Athletic Program continues to thrive under the direction of Andrew Crisafulli. Our student-athletes represent the school and Dartmouth community with class and sportsmanship. On the fields, they represent the best of Dartmouth. In the fall of 2023, every sports team qualified for the postseason. The hard work and success of our coaches and athletes are a shining example of the strong connection between our students and the high school with more than 50% of our students participating on at least 1 athletic team. Similarly, in band, the students had a successful winter season, winning many competitions, hosting a home show, and representing the school district with pride when competing in Dayton, Ohio.

As the school year wrapped up in June of 2023, the focus shifted to celebrating our seniors and their accomplishments. Senior week is always a reminder to staff and families of how far our students have come. One tradition started by the Class of 2020 during the pandemic which continued this year was the senior stroll. Members of the senior class got the opportunity to say thank you to former teachers while providing our younger students role models to look up to as they donned their caps and gowns to stroll through the halls of their elementary and middle school. In addition to the senior stroll the Class of 2023 celebrated their Senior Prom at the Atlantic Beach Club in Middletown, Rhode Island before returning to Dartmouth High School for the annual After-Prom Party.

Sunday, June 4, 2023, marked the traditional rite of passage as more than 250 students participated in the Commencement Exercises held in the Carlin Lynch Activities Center at Dartmouth High School. The Class of 2023 (listed below) gathered to mark the end of their journey as Dartmouth Public School students. The Class was addressed by Dartmouth High School Principal, Mr. Ryan Shea, Class Valedictorian and Class President, Mr. Sean Martin, Interim Superintendent of Schools Mr. James Kiely, and keynote speaker, Special Education Lead Teacher, Mr. John Breault. A consistent theme in each address was the perseverance the class demonstrated in reaching their high school graduation despite the myriad of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dartmouth High School
Class of 2023

Luke Aaronson
Jared Abreu
Kendal Adams
Hannah Albernaz
Sean Allen
Kelcey Almeida
Ian Alves
Avary Amaral
Ethan Amaral
Mia Amaral
Quincy Antunes
Trinity Anunciacao
Lex Arruda
Ryan Arruda
Zakary Arruda
Alexia Ashe
Kendall Atkinson
Lauren Augusto
Adam Avila
Benjamin Azevedo
Nayan Bala
Rishi Bala
Marissa Barnhart
Michael Blaser
Conner Bok
Hunter Bolarinho
Matthew Borges
William Bouvier
Samarah Bruce
Alison Brunette
Logyn Buonavolonta
Cameron Cabral
Courtney Cabral
Giada Cabral
Phoenix Campbell
Christopher Canario
Serena Carnes
Aidan Carreiro
Olivia Castro
James Charrier
Allie Chester
Jake Chiquito
Ethan Church

Lesley Cisneros
Alexandra Cojocarú
Yamil Colon
Yareli Colon
Malacky Colso
Ryan Coppola
Jonah Correia
Logan Correia
Everett Costa
Leah Costa
Hannah Couto
Ava Crane
Ryon Crowell
Nina Cunha
Andre DaCosta
Emily Daggett
Jessica Daggett
Phoenix Dalla Costa
Summer Daniels
Jessica DaSilva
Karissa DaSilva
Madison De Sousa
Ayah DeBarros Andrade
Nariah DeBortoli
Nolan Dennehy
Amber Devlin
Sofia Dias
Coby Diggins
Edward Diogenes
Jordan Dos Anjos
Sydney Downs
Caleb Dragon
Shubhangi Dubey
Angelina Ducharme
Ryan Duggan
John Paul Emile
Megan Emin
Ryan Falcon
Julia Farias
Isabel Fera
Benjamin Fernandes
Lance Fernandes
Amber Ferreira

Evan Ferreira
Jaryel Figueroa
Michael Foley
Matthew Furtado
Zachariah Furtado
Bronson Garriga
Nadia Garriga
Ella Gibson
Sophia Gioiosa
Lyn Gippo
Dylan Gomes
Ava Gomez
Eleanor Gonsalves
Chase Guilherme
Tahlia Guillette
Ian Hamlet
Piper Harrison
Samir Hijazi
Ava Hopps
Aiden Howell
Christopher Hughes
Jillian Hughes
Nathaniel Jacquart
Erynn Jaspardo
Sean Jenkins
Jack Joaquin
Eli Johnson
Kayla Kalamajka
Jacob Kerney
Adam Khan
Jayden Klein
Chase Lackie
Jacob Lancaster
Matthew Lariviere
Andre Laslo
Dylan Lavoie
Isabel Lavoie
Trina Le
Regan Leconte
Kevin Leong
Hannah Lima
Lauren Lima
Kevin Lin

Sydney Lopes
Aniah Lopez
Avery MacGregor
Joseph Machado
Robert Magner
Gary Magnett
Jacob Maitoza
Shafer Marcovici
Julia Martin
Sean Martin
Jaiden Martinez
Bronte Massucco
Nicholas Mastrangelo
Logan Matos
Brendan McGowan
Alex Medeiros
Braden Medeiros
Aiden Medeiros-Argy
Aiden Mello
Corey Melo
Kaitlyn Melo
Morgan Melo
Evan Moniz
Kayden Monteiro
Connor Murphy
Myles Neto
Phong Nguyen
Phu Nguyen
Lexi-Bella Nicolosi
Sarah Nunes
Modupeola Ojuri
Elijah Olavarria
Ana Oliveira
Leila Oliveira
Brandyn O'Neil
Aidan O'Reilly
Maxwell Orlacchio
Ethan Pacheco
Selena Pacheco
Molly Palmer
Carlton Parke
Hannah Pavao
Gabriela Pereira

Rosanaïs Pereyra
Jordan Perez
Izzac Pimentel
Julia Pinto
Steven Pullin
Victoria Purcell
Madison Pyne
Isis Ramos
Hollie Raposo
Avery Reid
Skye Roach
Hannah Rosa
Sovannarith Sam
Tate Sanchez
Sabrina Santiago
Ava Santos
Olivia Santos
Jackie Sassin
Owen Scieszka
Lauren Senra
Civen Shrestha
Samuel Shrestha
Christian Silva
Collin Silva
Kyle Silva
Marquise Silva
Derek Simoes
Isabella Skorjanc
Emma Smola
Deron Smoot
Adam Sousa
Jacob Sousa
Sidney Sousa
Bryanna Souza
Evan Souza
Kodie Spotts
Addison Stanley-Moore
Madison Stott
Owen Strecker
Lauren Sullivan
Sarah Sylvia
Korissa Tabicas
Amanda Taylor

Caroline Tennyson
Erin Thatcher
Madison Tiburtino
Benjamin Valente
Victoria Vasquez
Joneris Velez
Ethan Violet
Cohen Walsh
Madyn Waskiewicz
Casey Watkins
Curtis Whalen
Julie Wheaton
Shelby Wheaton
Graham White
Ciara Willette
Devan Wilson
Tayla Wood
Amanda Zatir
Logan Ziegler
Abbie Zuber

While the 2022-2023 school year officially closed on June 14, 2023 Dartmouth High School remained extremely busy as it served as the center for summer programs throughout the district. Programs offered at Dartmouth High School included traditional summer school coursework as well as a Literacy and Math Acceleration Academy to address the learning loss attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, enrichment opportunities were also provided for Dartmouth students and included a student-led Robotics camp as well as athletic camps. Also, through the summer, an average of 10 teachers volunteered their Tuesdays to discuss topics of concern and support needed for the students at Dartmouth High School.

Following a busy summer, the 2023-2024 school year kicked off with all faculty and staff reporting on August 28, 2023. This school year marked minor changes to the school schedule with a switch of the PASE time and adjusting teacher preps to allow for more flexibility within the schedule and give teachers the opportunity to see other teachers in practice. The start of the school year was marked by the annual “Back to School Bash” which was held on the lower field behind Dartmouth Middle School just prior to kickoff of the first home football game of the 2023 season.

The Dartmouth High School Marching Band and Color Guard once again inspired the community during their fall competition season. The Marching Band and Color Guard hosted two home shows at Dartmouth Memorial Stadium, finished first in each competition that they entered, and earned their 7th consecutive US Bands National Championship at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. This year, the main focus of the Marching Band was on competing at grand nationals at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indiana. Their amazing show impressed everyone.

Business Information and Technology (BIT)

The Business, Information, and Technology Department at Dartmouth High School had another successful year in 2023 as the department continued to build on recent progress. Noteworthy accomplishments in 2023 included:

Computer Science:

- Two new computer science teachers were hired to fill vacancies within the department.
- Opened a brand-new lab of new gaming design computers.
- Updated our curriculum.

Business:

- Launched our use of the ImBlaze app for our redesigned internship program which placed over 100 seniors in internships around the community.
- We continue outreach to programs and businesses in Dartmouth and our surrounding community for additional internship opportunities.
- Planning has begun to host a Credit-For-Life fair this April which exposes junior students to the "real world" aspects of managing their finances.

Media:

- Thanks to a generous DEF Grant award, we updated our studio with a new control room switcher allowing us to now film all of our programs in 4K quality.

- Our students took a 2nd place award in the MIAA Annual Sportsmanship Video Contest
- Thanks to the generosity of our community members we have raised over \$31,000 to upgrade our studio program through DonorsChoose
- On December 16, 2023 our media students collaborated with DCTV and the Dartmouth Police Department to host another very successful telethon broadcast as part of the annual Fill-A-Bus toy drive telethon. We helped fill over 2 school buses with new toys for children and families in need.

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts Department had another successful year of growth, learning, and student achievement. Here are some highlights from the department this year:

- Hosted our annual Poetry Out Loud competition and our winner, Charlotte French, progressed all the way to the MA State Finals where she placed second.
- After a year-long self-study regarding the research on reading at the secondary level, the department purchased 24 new books as part of our book club/independent reading initiative with the goal of increasing reading comprehension and reading for pleasure. This initiative is for all grades and all levels of English
- An unprecedented demand for AP English Literature and Composition (111 students) and AP Seminar (58 students). More students than ever are engaging in advanced course work.
- Instituted a pilot program for DHS freshmen centered around Pre-AP English 1, a new class with two sections of mixed-ability students chosen from a random sample of 8th graders. Working towards making advanced coursework a real option for all students.
- Began a self-study of our writing curriculum with an eye towards change and revision to more carefully scaffold our students to the senior capstone project.
- Piloted a new Senior English Capstone Project in lieu of the traditional senior research paper that asks all students to choose something they are passionate about and study it, experience it, and write about it for the senior year culminating in capstone presentations in May. The pilot was so successful that we have rolled it out to all seniors this year.
- Created a Text Advisory Council composed of administrators, teachers, and students who had critical discussions around culturally responsive teaching and reading.
- Continued to offer our Faculty and Student-sponsored Summer Reading program that is centered in our English Department. Almost 20 students sponsored books alongside faculty and staff.

Mathematics

A team of math educators from Dartmouth Middle and High School as well as the Director of Teaching and Learning met regularly throughout the winter and spring of 2023 to explore high quality instructional materials to be utilized in Algebra 1. The team used the district text adoption rubric as well as CURATE and Ed Reports to narrow choices to two potential resources. To

ensure the students of Dartmouth public schools receive the best possible supplies the team determined it was best to pilot and compare Into Algebra by HMH and Algebra 1 by Math Medic. The two texts are currently in the middle of their pilots. The team will use benchmarks, student performance, and teacher observations to determine the next steps.

Science and Engineering

The Science and Engineering Department had a successful 2023, continuing to build on developing their course offering and continued progress, noteworthy accomplishments included:

- The department staff came together as a cohesive unit to provide above and beyond support and inclusion for new-comer students. Especially with working to provide supports in multiple languages.
- The engineering students and interns are Samsung Solve for Tomorrow State Finalists. They have already secured \$2,500 for the classroom with the potential to receive 12,000 as a state winner in the spring.
- The department established the Women in STEM club, in which they already have had guest speakers from women in the field.
- Expansion of AP Program to include AP Physics C as another option for our students to be competitive in the field of Physics.
- In providing additional support to students the department now offers Biology MCAS tutoring during PASE.
- The department under the leadership of Arlyn Larson has become a data-driven dialogue CPT.
- The Anatomage table was updated to ensure it remains a viable instructional tool, particularly in courses such as Biology and Anatomy.
- The Medical Careers Club once again partnered with the American Red Cross to collect life-saving supplies of blood. As a result, our students were once again eligible to apply for scholarships which will help offset the cost of college for two students.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Department had a busy year in 2023, continuing past traditions while also providing students with many new experiences and opportunities.

Numerous enrichment activities connected our students to the outside world. Guest speakers visited our classes, sharing their knowledge and experiences with our students. Select Board Committee Chair David Tatelbaum was a guest lecturer about the life and impact of Abraham Lincoln. Youth and Law students welcomed attorneys, a probation officer, and an FBI agent into their classes to share how the criminal justice system works. AP World students, to better understand global cultures, visited 4 houses of worship. Mrs. True and the World Language Lead Teacher, Ms. Hilaria Souza once again supported students speakers who delivered riveting TedxDHS presentations.

Our students engaged in numerous simulations throughout the year. Freshmen took the role of immigrants at Ellis Island in an effort to enter the United States. In another activity, freshmen created their own “factories” and grappled with issues of working conditions and labor relations. Sophomores experienced the highs and lows of the stock market in another simulation designed to educate students about the causes of the Great Depression. Juniors developed their own cities to better understand the challenges of rapid urbanization. Junior and senior AP World students conducted a mock trial, placing the Mongols on trial for crimes against humanity. AP Human Geography students conducted a “miracle grain” simulation to better understand the impact of genetically modified seed on the agriculture industry. Youth and Law students conducted a mock trial to show their understanding of the criminal justice system.

The Social Studies Department added a new course in the fall, Human Geography CCR. While an advanced placement of the course has been offered for years, teachers felt it was important to create a version of the course accessible to more students. Students will study patterns of population and migration, culture, politics, industrialization, agriculture and urbanization. 2023 was another successful year for the 5 Social Studies Advanced Placement courses. Of the 124 students that took an AP exam, 86 percent passed, earning college credit and/or advanced standing. Additionally, in the 2023-2024 school year Social Studies AP enrollment increased by 33 percent.

Special Education

The 2023 school year was unparalleled filled with milestone achievements and advancements at Dartmouth High School. The Special Education Department certainly had its share of notable achievements, beginning with addition of several new staff and the opening of our brand-new ATLAS Program.

The PALS program, which is led by Mrs. Ashley Kocur-Pierpont and supporting staff members, has had an incredible impact on the changing culture at Dartmouth High School over the last few years. Together with Mr. Frates and Mr. Cappello they have enhanced their Unified PE class to include more students and expanded curriculum. The impact of Unified PE has helped carry on the inclusivity and acceptance established through after school Unified Sports programs and continue that culture during the school day. We also worked with the Guidance Department to shift our Academic Support course to a half-year offering which creates greater flexibility for students to engage in other elective and graduation requirements while still having the ability to garner their needed support. The Special Education department continued to grow their partnership with Community Connections. This is a vendor that provides Pre-ETS vocational training and skill building to interested students that helps prepare them for their post-secondary transition. The success of this program has even helped some of our special education students land internships and job placements.

Our Unified Sports and Clubs have continued to grow and exhibit success as last year the school celebrated becoming a two-time Special Olympics National Unified Champion School. Dartmouth is one of only 12 school districts in the state of Massachusetts and one of less than 160 nationwide to have now earned this prestigious award twice. The Best Buddies program has also helped our school continue to value acceptance and inclusion and as a group held many

successful events throughout the year during PASE and even afterschool whether it was Karaoke or their Best Buddies Ball.

Lastly, our department proudly opened the Advancing Towards Life After School (ATLAS) Program which will service students who progress through the PALS program from the ages of 18-22. The program led by Mrs. Stephanie Church helps prepare our students for life after DHS by teaching them vocational and life skills, as well as providing them opportunities to immerse into the community. Thus far the class has made trips out into the community to purchase groceries for their café program, volunteer at Gifts to Give, and even visit local restaurants to practice ordering and communication skills. The newly renovated space in the previous A-Floor Teacher's Lounge is equipped with a kitchen, bedroom, living room space, and vocational space all of which will help our students develop the necessary life skills to work towards independence. Mrs. Church has done a fantastic job working with community vendors to outfit the space with furniture and supplies, as well as provide opportunities in the community for her students to get involved. Here at DHS the class has a copy center in which teachers can submit orders for copying and printing, a café serving coffee, tea, smoothies, and treats which are teaching the handling of money, communication, cooking, and cleaning skills. We are elated at the new opportunity for families to choose for their students to remain here in the Dartmouth Public Schools as they further prepare for their life after school.

Unified Arts

The Unified Arts Department continues to offer a wide range of course offerings that set us apart from area schools. The department offers courses in Studio Art (Intro, Art Two Drawing and Painting, Art Two Color and Design, Adv. Studio Art, and AP Studio Art), Jewelry, Ceramics, Fashion, Darkroom Photography, Digital Photography, and Graphic Design. Along with these are courses we also offer courses in Early Childhood Education.

This year the Unified Arts Department has been focused on getting our students back out into the community through field trips, exhibitions, and internships. Field trips to RISD Museum, MFA Boston, Newport Mansions, Newport Car Museum, as well as college tours to Mass College of Art and Design and UMass Dartmouth were enriching parts of the curriculum this year.

Students participated in exhibitions in our greater community at the Westport Art Group in April and Gallery X in November. Participation in the Gallery X show also included a \$500 grant for the UAD for enrichment.

Students also participated in a number of competitions, namely, Scholastic Art and Writing Award where senior Megan Emin was awarded a Silver Key, and senior Quincy Antunes was awarded an Honorable Mention. In the Emerging Young Artists 2023 Juried Exhibition, senior Emma Smola's work was accepted and exhibited.

We had sophomore Jenna Rock participate in the Teen Art Internship Program where she worked with a professional artist in our community, her work was exhibited in a show alongside her mentor.

The AP Studio Art Show was held at the Dartmouth Cultural Center in March of this year, there were 15 students in the class and the show was well received. In this group, twelve students took the AP exam and all passed with the following grade distribution; four students scored a 3, seven students scored a 4, and one student scored a 5.

The Early Childhood Education classes continue to work with the teachers and students of Quinn School in the Kindergarten classrooms to earn contact hours working with children for Mass. Early Education and Care Preschool Certification. To obtain more contact hours with the children the class added a new community partnership with The Learning House Preschool where they work with preschool classes in the morning. There were fourteen students who became eligible for the Preschool Certification through these classes. These classes also have an articulation agreement with B.C.C. for a three-credit course in the Early Childhood Education Program.

The Art Club has been busy with two community service projects. In January and February they worked with the BSU to create a mural, “Hate Has No Home Here”, and they have been working in collaboration with the English department on a mural to be displayed on the wall in their hallway.

The hard work of all our students was once again celebrated at the Annual Art Show in the Carlin Lynch Activity Center in May.

Wellness

The Wellness Department is in the middle of an examination process of the new curriculum standards which will be implemented in the following year. The department also welcomed a new member of the staff in Tayler Travis coming from Global Charter school. The department also has seen a huge success in the Unified P.E. program.

World Language Department

The World Language Department continues to evolve and adapt to a new Proficiency -Based Curriculum with the DESE New World Language Standards and ACTFL National Standards.

The World Language Department continues to implement the Seal of Biliteracy Program offered by DESE. The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to students who demonstrate literacy in two or more languages, a target language as well as English. To measure proficiency in English, students must earn a qualifying score on the ELA MCAS. To measure proficiency in the target language, students must earn a qualifying score on a state-approved assessment. Since introducing the program at Dartmouth High School (2020) **38 students** have earned the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy, **17 with Distinction**. Students have earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese and Hindi.

The following Seniors were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy at graduation.

Shubhangi	Dubey	Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction	Hindi
Amber	Ferreira	Seal of Biliteracy	Portuguese

Ava	Santos	Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction	Portuguese
Cameron	Cabral	Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction	Portuguese
Julia	Farias	Seal of Biliteracy	Portuguese
Lauren	Augusto	Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction	Portuguese
Ryan	Arruda	Seal of Biliteracy	Portuguese
Sofia	Dias	Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction	Portuguese

In addition, a small number of Portuguese students participated in the NEWL Portuguese Exam which is endorsed by the College Board and met the requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy.

The World Language Department would like to recognize World Language students and their accomplishments. The following seniors received the Outstanding Student awards in the past year: Outstanding Portuguese Student-Hannah Rosa and Outstanding Spanish Student-Alexandra Cojocarú

The World Language Department and the Multi-Cultural Club celebrated National World Language Week (March 4-8) with a variety of cultural activities that focused on Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese language and culture.

The Multi-Cultural Club, under the advisorship of Lili Chamberlain hosted a variety of cultural celebrations throughout the year that promoted a variety of activities and multicultural experiences such as Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, Day of Portugal, Day of the Dead and Holidays Around the World.

World Language Teachers continue to enroll in professional development opportunities for the enrichment of their curriculum and instruction through coursework, workshops, and conferences. The Department continues to align curriculum with national frameworks. The entire staff of the World Language Department and DMS World Language Department participated in a Workshop at DHS with Joshua Cabral- Proficiency Based Strategies. Teachers have implemented these new pedagogies in World Languages classes and continued to have a special focus on proficiency and a variety of formative and summative assessments. Furthermore, World Language Teachers participated in the Portuguese Conference at DHS, the District's Curriculum Summit in June 2023 and also enrolled in graduate courses to further their professional development and re-licensure.

The World Language department will continue to dedicate their teaching skills to each individual student throughout the 2023-2024 school year and looks forward to introduce advanced pedagogical methods and research that maximizes each student's capabilities.

Dartmouth Middle School

Peter Rossi, Principal

Sarah Decas, Associate Principal

C. Marc Hayes and W. Sam Madden, Assistant Principals

Dartmouth Middle School is certainly a R.A.R.E. place to be, where our students' academic, social, and developmental growth is at the forefront.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

In the area of curriculum and instruction, our staff continues to use best practices in implementing the standards-based curriculum guided by Massachusetts's Curriculum Frameworks. At DMS, academic teams have collaboratively crafted interactive scopes and sequences for each unit of study, complete with pacing calendars, shared resources, and assessments, all subject to regular review. Vertical teams convene 2-3 times a year to ensure alignment with district and state curriculum, addressing any academic gaps, redundancies, or misalignments. Teachers engage in weekly curriculum meetings to facilitate collaboration, sharing student work, data analysis, and instructional adjustments. Our assessment framework involves both formative and summative evaluations of the standards-based curriculum. Benchmark tests, designed by teacher teams for each academic area and grade level, are administered three times a year. These assessments guide targeted reinforcement or challenges for specific standards, enabling the identification of ways to enhance student engagement and achievement. Classroom visits to conduct peer observation were introduced during curriculum planning time, allowing teachers to engage in peer walks, observe colleagues, and collectively reflect on instructional practices.

The DMS schedule for students is comprised of a six-period day, with each period lasting 55 minutes with daily instruction in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and two special areas. We continue to offer the following special areas for two periods per day:

- All three grades have Digital Literacy, Computer Science, Art, Engineering Education, Physical Education, and Health
- Students explore Portuguese or Spanish in seventh and eighth grade, and Introduction to World Languages in grade six.
- Academic or Instructional Support (This is time for students to receive instructional support from their block teachers.) Students requiring additional support in math or literacy skills may also have one of these courses three times a cycle.
- All students have the opportunity to participate in music: Band, Orchestra, Chorus, or General Music

We administer the STAR Reading and Math assessments to all students three times a year to closely monitor student growth and learning gaps. The STAR assessments provide immediate results to assess student progress on grade-level Math and Reading standards. In addition, STAR data helps us to predict which students are on track to achieve a proficiency rating on the MCAS exams. STAR is used as one data point for progress monitoring of academically at-risk and special needs students.

DMS staff were members of the District Strategic Planning team working on the development of the Portrait of a Learner. They gathered several times over the year working as a team, soliciting feedback from the community, staff, parents, and students, to create Dartmouth's Portrait of a

Learner. The work has continued this year as we continue to refine our Portrait of a Learner to inform the overall district strategic plan.

Small group instruction and innovative approaches such as blogs, technology-based projects, and partner work continue as a supplement alongside more traditional instructional practices. Mrs. Temple Mitchell, our Instructional Technology Specialist, continues to play a pivotal role in supporting all staff with the integration of technology into classrooms, facilitating professional development, and keeping us abreast of the latest technological advancements.

Our Literacy Committee, comprised of our literacy coach, school librarian, reading specialists, our ELA lab teacher, and the Associate Principal, reviewed and developed the list of books for the summer reading program. Our summer reading program once again featured choices of popular, high-interest books that are purchased for students before the school year ends. The program was once again highly successful resulting in a participation rate of more than 90%.

Additionally, the Literacy Committee sponsored several other initiatives which included summer checkout which resulted in a high number of students who checked out multiple books for the summer; Literacy Night which featured original works of student poetry, the Reading Wall of Fame which highlight our students who excel or make growth in reading throughout the year. The Literacy Committee also promoted several writing challenges throughout the year including our annual Scary Story Contest, (in conjunction with youngwritersusa.com), the Patriot's Pen (My Pledge to Our Veterans) essay contest hosted by our local VFW post, and several other in-house writing challenges.

Our Response to Intervention team (RTI) provided comprehensive support throughout the school. The RTI team met regularly throughout the year to discuss students in need of tiered intervention, behavioral supports, and/or attendance concerns. Additionally, the team monitored multiple data points (STAR, MCAS, benchmarks, grades, and attendance) to ensure that students are receiving the services and support they need to meet with success. Students identified as needing intervention in Literacy or Math receive small-group instruction three times per cycle. With a renewed focus on the DCAP (District Curriculum Accommodation Plan), the RTI team has also been closely monitoring the implementation of Tier 1 strategies for all students. We have continued to provide students access to the Student Success Center operated by our Accelerated Learning Instructor. Staff members can refer a student in need for additional support such as reteaching, assistance on projects, error logs, development of organizational skills, or make-up work due to extended absences, etc. The RTI team worked with the administration to provide professional development and support to teachers to assist with the development of intervention plans for students using newly implemented progress monitoring forms.

Teacher Quality

Teacher quality remains a priority, with staff engaging in diverse professional development activities focused on curriculum, instruction, technology use, and fostering a positive school culture. At DMS, we continue to focus on improving staff collaboration on best teaching practices to increase student achievement and social-emotional learning.

Listed below are some examples of professional development topics staff participated in last year:

- Technology training: Google Apps, Google Classroom, Hyperdocs, Aspen, Ed Puzzles, Edulastic, Go Guardian, WeVideo, Clear Touch boards, Canva, etc.
- DESE SPA training for new STEM MCAS
- DESE PD for new Civics MCAS
- Peer walks and modeling
- Supporting students of the LGBTQ+ community with representatives from DESE (Safe & Supportive Schools Initiative)
- Ongoing workshops on the PBIS and RTI programs
- Portrait of a Learner
- Kindness
- PD through Master Teacher Professional Learning site (Spring 23)
- PD on Sense of Belonging with Learn Launch, and in-house staff
- District ERD PD standards, ELL, SEL, Tech, ELL, Special Education
- Strategies for students with trauma and anxiety (Dr. Carolyn McKearney)
- New staff participated in Project TIME
- Promoted out-of-district professional development regarding best practices

Student Support Programs & Services

Through the ongoing collaborative efforts of middle school staff, students, and community members during the holidays, our entire school remains actively engaged in the Neediest Families Program. This year, with the support of St. Peter's Church, we were able to provide full Thanksgiving dinners to 27 identified families. During our winter holiday initiative, we continued to assist these same families by offering \$75.00 gift cards.

Furthermore, we extended our support to three newcomer students, providing them with essential resources such as clothing, translation services, transportation, and gift cards. Additionally, our commitment to the community is evident through regular clothing drives for items like gloves, hats, and socks, which are then distributed to local shelters.

In our dedication to addressing broader needs, we organized fundraising activities to further assist and uplift our families and community. Some of the activities included:

- Pink Day (raises money for American Cancer Society)
- Holiday Dress Up Day
- Hat Days
- SOCTOBER - Clothing Drive
- Dartmouth Strong Day
- Spirit Week in March
- Spooky relays

Our PALs program continued to operate the Kindness Cafe on a weekly basis. The Kindness Café provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn valuable life skills while interacting with a variety of staff throughout the building.

Our National Junior Honor Society students, as part of their membership requirements, continued to participate in a wide variety of school and community service projects. The gestures of kindness and service initiatives allow each member to make a positive difference in the community. The students are the force that drive these acts of kindness and they are what make Dartmouth Middle School a great place to be a part of. The NJHS partnered with the New Bedford Half marathon and ran a water stop at mile 9 over the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

The volunteer committee of the National Junior Honor Society comprises Laura Gardner, Kathy Souza-Pontes, Mary Lynch, Daniel Lefebvre, and Maureen Boyle. They convene periodically to deliberate on entry standards, and Ms. Gardner conducts monthly meetings with NJHS members. Stringent criteria outlined in the society's by-laws have been established and are regularly reviewed.

In alignment with the by-laws, member students are required to fulfill ten hours of community service annually, demonstrating a commitment to both academic excellence and community engagement.

Teachers continued to volunteer on the PBIS/R.A.R.E. Committee. This committee promotes the ideals associated with our PBIS/R.A.R.E. Program. R.A.R.E. is an acronym for respect, accountability, responsibility, and esteem. We presently have 27 faculty members who make up two teams. Team one develops tier 1 celebrations, team two supports our CICO program. Over the course of the year, students were exposed to a variety of activities associated with our R.A.R.E. expectations. The committee planned and held the following activities in celebration of our students' academic and behavioral success:

- R.A.R.E. Celebrations
- Be a Difference Maker
- Dartmouth Strong Day
- PBIS Teacher/Student of the Month
- R.A.R.E. Cards
- R.A.R.E Postcards
- R.A.R.E Service Program
- Bi-weekly R.A.R.E Raffle
- R.A.R.E FAIR
- Project 351 Program

The District is in year Fourteen of an international behavioral program called PBIS. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior-based on the Responses to Intervention (RTI) model. PBIS applies evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture.

PBIS is a major part of our culture. Our PBIS team is one of our higher functioning staff teams here at DMS and consists of over 25 staff members. Sarah Decas, Elizabeth Dufault, Rachel Lassey, Temple Mitchell, Nick Bolger, Sue Tullson, and Sam Madden were very strong coordinators and leaders of the PBIS team which focused on building a sense of belonging this year.

Our Step-Up program continues to provide a significant level of support to our students most in need in order for them to be successful in the classroom. Elizabeth Dufault and school administrators work collaboratively to help students achieve, both academically and socially. The Step-Up program supported 11 students throughout 2023. The Step-Up program has and continues to be, invaluable to DMS, as it provides a proactive way to support our students.

School Resource Officer Dave Tavares continued to be an important part of Dartmouth Middle School's focus on the social-emotional wellbeing of our students. Officer Tavares remained a crucial asset to students and staff alike and provided high-level of security and safety measures. Particularly, Officer Tavares proved invaluable in aiding us with off-campus cyber harassment issues. We deeply appreciate and rely on his dedicated efforts and resources in ensuring the well-being of our school community.

At Dartmouth Middle School, we were able to continue after-school enrichment programs for our students. Enrichment programs offered throughout 2023 included:

- After School Programs offered throughout the year may include:
- Sports
- Homework Club, in person and virtually with Online Support Center
- Chess Club
- Fitness and Weight Lifting
- Robotics
- First Lego League Club
- Star Wars Club
- Taylor Swift Fan Club
- Jewelry
- Sole Survivors Running Club
- Kindness Crafting Club
- Manga/Anime
- Creative Writing
- Drama (Newsies, Cinderella productions)
- Makerspace and Game Club
- Dungeons and Dragons Club
- Building a Garden
- Magic the Gathering and other trading card games
- Makerspace/Board Game Club
- Orchestra Club
- Pop Choir
- Unified sports programs (Basketball in the spring, BOCCE in the Fall)

The Dartmouth Middle School Parent Group once again played a pivotal role in our school community. Their highly successful fundraising campaigns generated funds that contributed to essential areas which included after-school programs, the library collection, field trips, teacher expenditures, R.A.R.E activities, and our 8th grade class party. In addition to financial support, our parent group generously provided Dartmouth t-shirts and other items to welcome new students to Dartmouth Middle School.

Additionally, our parent group enhanced events such as the R.A.R.E Fair by covering the cost of a DJ. The parent group actively participated in organizing and supporting activities beyond the regular school day which included dances and family nights. Furthermore, dedicated parent and community volunteers collaborated on fundraising activities to assist Dartmouth families in need.

To facilitate communication, parents sign up to receive email messages throughout the school year. The ongoing dedication of these volunteers significantly benefit Dartmouth Middle School staff and students. Amid leadership transitions within the PTO over the past year, Jenn Reid, Amanda Silva, and Mary Francisco have admirably stepped up to fill crucial roles, ensuring the continued success of the Parent Group's contributions.

Leadership and Governance

The leadership and governance structure at DMS defined by collaborative efforts, included monthly meetings with the Dartmouth Middle School Council. The council comprised of teachers, parents and a community member provided support and direction to our staff and students. The council shared perspectives on a variety of issues (i.e., school improvement plan, student handbook, budget, etc.) and their service is appreciated.

Management

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) was reviewed by the middle school faculty in September. Throughout the school year a number of emergency preparation drills were held. During the drills, Dartmouth Police Officer Craig Pimental as well as SRO Dave Tavares observed and offered feedback to the Dartmouth Middle School administrative team to inform our safety and security practices.

Our leadership team continued our practice of holding “Day C” meetings with guidance, SRO, adjustment counselor, technology coordinator, nurses, and step-up coordinator. These meetings are vital as they provide a global perspective within our building and help inform our day-to-day operation.

Dartmouth Middle School updated its School Improvement Plan (SIP) aligned with the principles outlined in the DESE’s Acceleration Roadmap. The roadmap focused on continuing to address learning loss attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the plan focused on providing grade-level instruction with just-in time scaffolds while focusing on promoting a sense of belonging for all students. A vitally important aspect of our school improvement work continued to be our laser-like focus on addressing the social, emotional, and intellectual development of our students. Our Student Support Team met on a weekly basis to monitor the progress of our students and to identify and implement necessary intervention when necessary.

ANDREW B. CUSHMAN SCHOOL

Justine M. Dale, Ph.D., Early Childhood Director

Andrew B. Cushman Elementary continued to be recognized as an Alan Shawn Feinstein Leadership School this year! Four kindergarten classrooms along with six preschool classrooms worked diligently in fulfilling our efforts to work and play together with a focus on kindness. In the Fall of 2023, we increased the sections of PK by one and decreased kindergarten by one section. However, in the Fall, we were surprised with a larger than expected Kindergarten enrollment creating larger class sizes in K. To support this, each Kindergarten classroom was provided with an Educational Support Professional.

Our school continued to hold special monthly community meetings of students and staff. We recognized the continued efforts to teach kindness and positive behaviors to our young students. True to our motto of “Take care of yourself, Take care of others, and Take care of our school” our staff and students recognized Bucket Fillers among our school community and had a year filled with activity and learning. As part of our Feinstein outreach we acknowledged “good deeds” through recognition on a “Kindness Tree” in the front lobby. We also maintained a Feinstein Food Pantry for our families that might be in need of extra food or snacks for their children. We were fortunate to once again win another \$5,000 Feinstein grant by having one of our kindergartener’s Golden Tickets being pulled! We also received a \$2,000 Feinstein grant to build a Mobile Kindness Cart that houses books with themes related to kindness for the school’s use.

A continued focus on play has been an important part of Early Education and through the grants provided by the Feinstein Foundation, this year we have been able to add outdoor sensory toys for our young learners. Our attention to the importance of sensory needs together with play needs continues to see yearly improvements to our outside learning areas and within classroom settings through a variety of sensory tools and seating systems.

Technology improvements were made to each of the classrooms with updated Smart Boards and classroom iPads that had a communication application called “Go Talk” loaded to assist any nonverbal student. A new electronic communications platform “Parent Square” was introduced to the staff and it continues to be a focus for many as part of their evaluation goals. This platform provides a consistent communication tool for 2-way communications between home and school.

New literacy components Foundations and Heggerty were introduced this year to Kindergarten. “Foundations utilizes a structured literacy approach grounded in the science of reading to make learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. The program’s research-based approach and extensive materials allow K-3 teachers to confidently present a carefully structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum using engaging, multisensory techniques (Wilson Language Program Description/Foundations). The Foundations program also has a PK Activity Set that is being used this year as a component to our literacy instruction to assist with letter-sound association. Heggerty is a phonemic awareness program that provides kindergarteners with lessons focusing on phonemic awareness skills.

Our Cushman/DeMello PTO continues to support our students and teachers and this year provided monthly ways to show our teachers appreciation with treats in the staff lounge. We had a great turnout for our Fall Festival, Spring Boosterthon Run, and Literacy Night. We were also entertained by the ZuZu Acrobats which our PTO sponsored for us. It has been such a pleasure inviting our families and volunteers back into the school's activities post COVID!

Finally, staffing changes included the addition of another preschool section taught by Mrs. Jillian Callahan. This section provided peers with a half- day opportunity while providing our students with more significant needs a full day opportunity with direct services both within the classroom setting and outside of it. We also welcomed the following staff to our school: Hailey Perry (PK Teacher), Matt Beauparland (PE teacher), Michelle Ouellette (Special Education Teacher), Anna Zembo (Speech and Language Pathologist), Diane Suneson (Physical Therapist, Sarah Collier (OT), Patrick Makin, Tina Shanahan and Any Crowell (ESPs), Lily Rannacher (SLPA), Lisandre Relejo - (Cafeteria Manager) and John Amaral (monitor).

JOSEPH DEMELLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Correia, Principal

Adam Hill, Assistant Principal

Mission

The Joseph DeMello School is an educational and social community where all children will experience a quality education in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation.

School Vision

The Joseph DeMello School, in partnership with parents and the community, will ensure that all students receive quality educational experiences that foster academic, physical, social, and emotional development. We will provide specific instructional strategies to empower students to think critically, solve problems and become respectful, responsible, contributing citizens. Students will demonstrate responsibility for their learning. We will assure that all students will receive high quality, standards-based instruction which will allow them to meet or exceed standards in all subject areas; students will acquire the necessary skills to succeed in middle school; the school community will model and encourage values, excellence, and mutual respect.

School Motto

"DeMello Students are Respectful, Responsible and Safe."

School Demographics

As of January 2024, we have an enrollment of 340 students. At this time, we have three classrooms at grade one, and four at each level 2-5. Class sizes range from 15 to 20 students.

New Personnel

For the first time in several years, DeMello School had no teaching or staff vacancies to fill in 2023. That said, we were very happy to welcome the return of Mrs. Marianne Aguiar, Mrs. Amanda Depin and Mrs. Sara Sand to DeMello after their maternity leaves last year.

Curriculum and Instruction:

As we begin 2024, the DeMello School remains focused on providing all students with rigorous, high quality instruction as we address the lingering issue of pandemic-related learning loss as well as an increase in the social and emotional needs of our students.

We continue to use data to gauge and monitor our students' progress and provide them with strategic and timely supports, interventions and enrichment. In the summer of 2023, administration met with a newly reformed school instructional leadership team (SILT) to review and analyze SY 22/23 end-of-year reading and math data as well as the 2023 ELA and math MCAS scores. The SILT meeting led to a presentation of this data at the first curriculum meeting of the school year where staff engaged in discussions centered on strengths in teaching and learning as well as areas for improvement. While we agreed that math instruction and student performance in this area were improving, teachers concluded that students' reading remained a concern. The data revealed that our students needed in depth vocabulary instruction as well as deeper work across literary genres and in knowledge building. As a result, we chose to focus on these areas across all grade levels over SY 23/24. Between September and December, all classroom teachers, special educators and reading and math specialists received school-based professional development in explicit vocabulary instruction and planning and delivering structured read alouds encompassing various genres and including requisite knowledge building across content areas.

After a successful pilot in the 22/23 school year, the Foundations phonics program was fully implemented in all first and second grade classrooms in September. The teachers have embraced this program and the students are showing promising growth in phonics and reading. Because there is no phonics program currently in 3rd grade, we adopted and implemented UFLI, a highly effective phonics program, to meet the diverse needs of our 3rd graders for SY 23/24. Foundations will be rolled out at this grade level in the fall of 2024. Finally, in September, our teachers joined the newly formed district science, social studies, literacy and math curriculum committees which are tasked with reviewing, evaluating and enhancing curricula and materials.

This fall, we entered our third year of the Bridges math program. While our teachers have developed confidence in teaching math using Bridges, our math coach continued to model Number Corner and daily lessons for individual teachers as well as grade level teams in 2023. Our students also continued to participate daily in ST Math, an online program that promotes deep conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts through solving complex puzzles. Since September, all DeMello students have engaged in completing close to 340,000 puzzles as they work toward our school-wide goal of achieving 80% proficiency by the end of the 23/24 year.

Extending the Curriculum:

Each year, we take time to examine and reflect upon the initiatives we've implemented to further strengthen our school culture and foster our continued growth as a strong, safe and nurturing community.

Throughout the year, our Literacy Committee, in partnership with our PTO, brought both in-person and virtual guest readers and children's authors from the South Coast and beyond to spend time in classrooms reading and discussing books with our students. In the spring, we hosted renowned storyteller, Len Cabral to DeMello to captivate our students with folktales and fables from around the world. Our Literacy Committee also organized a DeMello Dress as Your Favorite Book Character Day and well as a Bingo for Books family night. Last fall, we held our first Pumpkin Book Character Contest and brought back our Bookmark Design Contest.

Our DeMello Math Committee also brought math fun and learning into every classroom throughout the year. During February, the Committee launched the "ST Math Share the Love" initiative which challenged each classroom to complete 500 ST Math puzzles each week to earn a personal visit from their favorite penguin and ST Math mascot, JiJi. Students tracked their puzzles throughout the month, posting hearts on a display in the building for every 25 puzzles they completed. By the end of the month our students had FAR exceeded their goals, completing over 60,000 puzzles exceeding the month's goal by 20,000! The entire school earned a much anticipated visit from Jiji, who danced through the school in celebration of our students' achievement. In March, we jumped into "March Math-ness," engaging classes in a bracket competition to see which class could complete the most puzzles. In the spring, the committee invited DPS teachers, staff and administrators to DeMello to read math picture books to grade levels during lunch. The Committee also launched another successful Math May-hem--devoting the month of May to exploring math as a school through math games and activities.

Throughout the year, all students participated in "STEM Fridays." Organized and run by our instructional technology coach, STEM Fridays provide our students with the opportunity to collaborate in teams with older and younger peers on various STEM challenges that also develop and build 21st century soft skills including creativity, leadership, communication, adaptability and flexibility. In December, we invited members of the DHS Robotics Team to work with our students on designing, testing and enhancing paper airplanes. All participants enjoyed this experience immensely and we hope to continue this partnership with students from DHS in the future.

In April, DeMello partnered with the Dartmouth Tree Committee, Dartmouth YMCA and Eversource to educate our students on the importance of trees through an Arbor Day celebration. Our students researched trees and their importance and our 5th graders organized and presented an Arbor Day assembly for the entire school. Our 4th and 5th graders then planted 4 trees on school grounds and were given tree saplings to plant in their own yards. The assembly and tree planting enriched our students' understanding of trees and the environment. We hope to make Arbor Day celebrations a new tradition at DeMello.

Field trips returned in full force at DeMello School last year, with classes visiting the Lloyd Center, Dartmouth YMCA, Zeiterion, Chamberlain Farms, Plimoth Patuxet, and New Bedford

Whaling Museum. Our 4th graders took a virtual visit to the Peabody Museum to investigate earth science.

In 2023, we invited the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra back to DeMello for a new "Learning In Concert" program. This time, NBSO musicians presented "Adaptations in Motion: Animal and Musical." Members of the NBSO returned shortly thereafter to work with individual classes on how animals and music have adapted over time.

As always, we believe that establishing clear expectations for our students, recognizing them for positive choices and providing struggling students with tiered supports and interventions is paramount, especially as we continue to address their growing social and emotional needs. In 2023, we continued our weekly recognition of DeMello "Leaders of the Pack," proudly celebrating student role models with a peer-created "paw print" poster detailing the qualities that they admire in the selected classmate. We also maintained our "Caught Being Good" coin reward system, which allows students to earn coins for exemplifying our core values throughout the building, at recess and on the buses. Once a class reaches a preset goal for earning coins, all students are rewarded with a fun activity of their choosing. We also continued to hold "Student of the Month" assemblies, at which we recognize a student from each classroom who excels in demonstrating a trait such as kindness, perseverance, positivity, grit, etc.

To enhance our students' school experience and encourage them to become responsible and civic-minded individuals, we continued to provide them with opportunities to contribute to the school and community in 2023. Our 4th and 5th grade student councils organized clothing and sports equipment drives to benefit local charities. Once again, our 5th graders adopted local families in need of support during the New Bedford Child and Family Services Holiday Hope campaign. We believe that involving our students in the school and local communities provides opportunities for them to demonstrate their talents, skills and interests while developing leadership skills.

At DeMello School, we strive to maintain a strong home-school connection. We continued to send out a weekly "Electronic Backpack" newsletter through which we sent families information on all school-related events via email each Friday. Parents/guardians also participate in our Parent Teacher Organization, reinforcing valuable partnerships we work to develop.

As always, the PTO works tirelessly to raise money to fund and support our academic and cultural enrichment programs, family fun nights, scholarships, reading initiatives, courtyard maintenance and numerous other special activities and school programs. In 2023, they were able to fund field trips, sponsor author visits as well as support our DeMello Bingo for Books night. We remain grateful for the endless work the PTO volunteers put into providing such wonderful experiences for the students and families of DeMello School.

As 2024 unfolds, we welcome opportunities to build upon our successes as we work towards continually improving academic achievement and meeting the diverse needs of our student population. We remain completely committed to nurturing a positive, caring atmosphere where all children and adults feel respected and valued as members of the DeMello Community.

GEORGE H. POTTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Richard Porter, Principal

Melissa McHenry, Assistant Principal

In reflecting on the work that our staff and students have accomplished related to carrying out the mission of the Dartmouth Public Schools, we recognize the importance of our partnerships with parents and the community. In 2023 our work continued to center on the academic, physical, social and emotional development of our students. This report communicates to the town of Dartmouth the highlights of this very important work by month.

JANUARY: What better way to kick off 2023 than with music! On January 10th our Grade 4 students held their winter concert for parents and families at Dartmouth Middle School. Dr. Cameron Siegal, our music teacher, directed the concert and helped to provide a wonderful opportunity for students to show off their many singing and dancing talents. We continued our partnership with the Junior Scholar's Feinstein Foundation again this year. The mission of the Feinstein Foundation is to help others in need and to give back to your community. As a Junior Scholar's school, we participated in their Golden Ticket program. These Feinstein Jr. Scholar Golden Tickets gave our Jr. Scholars a chance to win money for their school, money for a non-profit of their choice AND other special prizes! In January, one of our students' golden tickets was selected and Potter School received a \$5,000 donation. Through this donation, we were able to buy more metal picnic tables to support outdoor learning at Potter. The student who was selected also had an opportunity to select a charity to receive a \$500 donation. He chose St. Vincent's Home for Children in Fall River. We ended this month with the Great Kindness Challenge. The whole school participated in activities that included writing a kind act they completed on a "kindness star" that was hung on a *Light Up the Darkness* school-wide bulletin board, receiving either a kindness coin or pencil when caught in an act of kindness, decorating their classroom door to display what kindness meant to their class and lastly participate in themed dress up days. The themed dress up days included "Kindness is my Superpower"-dress like a superhero and "Being Kind is No Sweat"-wear your favorite sweatshirt or workout gear.

FEBRUARY: Once again this month we carried out the Potter tradition of the "SOUP-er Bowl". Students donated canned goods which were given to the Council on Aging. During our whole school SOUP-er Bowl assembly we announced how many canned goods were collected from each classroom. The classroom with the most cans collected was given the Potter SOUP-er Bowl trophy. This year's winner was Mrs. Pimental's class!

MARCH: This month our PTO organized many family nights for the Potter community. These included a movie night on March 3rd, a paint night on March 10th led by Beth Neto, our art teacher, and a bingo night on March 30th. These events were all very well attended and we received much positive feedback from students and families. On March 13th we kicked off our whole school fundraising event with BoosterThon. We have collaborated with the BoosterThon staff for many years now. It is a wonderful partnership that not only helps to provide funds for school-wide field trips and cultural events, but also incorporates the teaching of character traits. The event concluded on March 22nd with the Fun Run. Families were welcomed to come to Potter and enjoy the event by viewing their child run with their classroom and grade level mates.

This event was once again very well attended and really brought our Potter Community together! In other news, in anticipation of the upcoming MCAS assessment for students in grades 3-5, on March 27th we held an MCAS stroll throughout the building where the students who would be participating in the assessment were greeted by cheering students in grades preK-2 holding signs of encouragement.

APRIL: With the encouragement provided by their friends in grades preK-2, the students in grades 3-5 began the MCAS Assessment this month. On April 12th school administrators Rick Porter and Melissa McHenry, school nurse Paula Lassey, math coach Dana Doucette, 5th grade teacher Anne Goodman, school counselor Carrie Gregoire, preschool teacher Tricia Weaver, 4th grade teacher Nancy Ferreira and educational support professional Kim Morin participated in the annual Dartmouth Education Foundation's Spelling Bee Fundraiser which is always a fun event! Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated PTO, on April 13th we were able to provide a "Mad Science" program to all of our students. This program provided many visual, hands-on demonstrations on a variety of science topics led by a scientist who helped create an atmosphere of wonder and surprise as science came to life in our school. At the conclusion of the month, on April 27th, our grade 2 students took part in their annual Coastal Studies field trip to the Lloyd Center. Our partnership with the Lloyd Center provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn from local experts whose mission is to instill a life-long respect and affection for nature in people of all ages.

MAY: Once again in May, due to the endless support of our generous PTO, we were able to provide programs to our students to support and enrich their in-class learning experiences. These included the Barn Babies Program for our youngest learners. Barn Babies is a locally owned family business that brings a traveling petting zoo to students. This program is always a huge hit with our students but I think many of our staff get just as excited, if not more, when Barn Babies makes a trip to Potter! In addition to Barn Babies we were also lucky enough to bring the Bwana Iguana Reptile Adventure Show to our students. This program educated our students on a variety of reptiles but also helped spread a message of doing good deeds and the importance of teamwork and unity. On top of these programs, we also paired our annual Art Show, under the direction of our talented and dedicated art teacher, Beth Neto, with a PTO led game night. Students showed off their impressive artistic creations and then headed into the cafeteria to play a few games with their families. At the end of the month, we also kicked off our summer reading program where students received a summer reading book of their choice purchased by our PTO. This book was just a small part of the district organized summer reading program that also included a "Racetrack Reading Log" and other activities on the district website to support summer learning in both reading and math.

In addition to the programs listed above, May also brought the excitement of starting school in the Fall to our littlest learners, our incoming Kindergarten students. On May 17th we welcomed families and students into the Potter School for our Kindergarten Orientation. On this night parents and students heard an overview of the Kindergarten program, got to meet some of our staff, took a tour of the school and the most exciting part for the students...took a ride on the bus! We ended the month with the Dartmouth High Senior Stroll. This was a heartwarming event that welcomed graduating seniors back to the Potter School. All our Potter students and staff

cheered on the seniors as they paraded around the school welcomed by their previous teachers. There certainly was a tear or two shed on this day!

JUNE: June is always such a special month filled with celebrations as we mark the end of the school year. We started celebrating with the annual Gr. 2 Geography Play. This play brought our school and family community together to view the hard work our grade 2 students have done learning about countries, continents, rivers, oceans and more! Many find themselves singing the songs days after the play! Once again, this year our 5th grade students held their Greek Mythology Day filled with costumes and games. Our other end of year traditions such as Gr. 5 Day, Recognition Night, preschool graduation and Field Day were all held. These traditions provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the year's learning experiences with families and friends and most importantly to have fun!

JULY/AUGUST: Although school is out for the summer, July and August are always busy as we get ready for the upcoming school year. Our amazing custodians work hard to give the building a deep clean to provide the students a welcoming, clean learning environment to start off the new school year. Summer sometimes includes the addition of some new staff. With the retirement of our literacy coach, Lisa Medeiros, we were excited to welcome Jennifer Clune as our literacy coach. In addition, Meagan Phillips joined us as our new physical education teacher and Olivia Carreiro as our ELL specialist. On Thursday, August 17th, we welcomed families back by hosting our third annual, "Playtime @ Potter" event. This special night gave families an opportunity to meet and play with other families on our playground just before the start of school. On Monday, August 28th the annual preschool open house was held. This provided our littlest learners and their families an opportunity to see the classroom before school officially started. We welcomed students on Wednesday, August 30th for their first day of school.

SEPTEMBER: As we began the new school year, we were excited to have school-wide implementation of two new programs, Heggerty and Foundations, in our early elementary grades. The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum provides students with daily oral and auditory lessons to develop early reading skills. The Foundations curriculum teaches students accuracy of decoding, spelling and handwriting. With these new programs in place, we also refined our practices and procedures related to "Response to Intervention" (RTI) and how we provide targeted interventions to students of all grade levels. This work developed into the establishment of our MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) team which includes Melissa McHenry, Assistant Principal, Katelyn Kaulback, School Psychologist, Jennifer Clune, Literacy Coach and Dana Doucette, Math Coach. This team meets regularly with teachers and interventionists to analyze student data and establish tiered levels of support. At the district level, curriculum opportunities for teachers and staff were expanded to include four separate teams focused on each of the core academic areas, ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science. Each team began meeting throughout the year in a hybrid model of both after school and in-school ½ day sessions. Along with this work, in September we always focus on our school-wide expectations of *Pawsing to be Kind, Pawsing to be Safe, and Pawsing to be a Learner*. Each week we highlighted one of these expectations through morning and afternoon announcements and the passing out of "Catch Me At My Best" slips. This review culminated with a school-wide assembly at the end of the month. On September 14th, we welcomed all families into Potter

School for our annual open house. This night provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to “show off” their classrooms and the school to their parents and families.

OCTOBER: Continuing with our partnership with the Feinstein Foundation, we celebrated “Sock-tober” this month. Students donated new or gently used socks. These socks were then given to a local women’s shelter. During the week of October 23rd, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week with a variety of activities and themed days. Red Ribbon Week was established by the National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, as a way for parents to play a leadership role in drug prevention. The focus of the week is to keep kids drug-free and encourage them to be kind and happy. Some of our themed days included: *Be Kind to Yourself-Wear Red, Be Kind to Your Mind-Wear a Hat, Unity Day-Wear Orange, Be Kind to Your Body-Wear Exercise Clothes and Be Kind to Your School-Wear Potter Purple or Dartmouth Green.* We ended the month with some Halloween celebrations that included our very well-attended Table and Treat Event on October 27th and our Halloween Parade on October 31st. Both events bring the Potter community together for some fun with students and their families.

NOVEMBER: In November students donated canned goods or non-perishable items to be passed out to Potter families in need for the holiday season. We collected so many canned goods as part of this event, that we were able to donate some of them to DHS students who partnered with the Dartmouth YMCA’s Full Plate Project. Because keeping Potter safe is our top priority and we want our students to be prepared, instead of scared, on Friday, November 17th, we held a School Safety Day. We started the day with a fire drill. After the fire drill, we went on the intercom to give some safety scenarios so that the teachers could then discuss these scenarios with their students. Discussions were centered around: *What to do if someone in the building was having a medical emergency? And what to do if there was an intruder in the building?* We also talked to them about what an evacuation would look like if it happened during lunch and a reverse evacuation (if we had to immediately leave the recess playground and come inside the building). It was a very productive day and we encouraged families to talk to their children about their experience. In other news, as always in November in preparation for the Thanksgiving break, we held the annual Potter tradition of a Thanksgiving Assembly featuring the one and only Albuquerque Turkey!

DECEMBER: To kick off the spirit of giving this month, Potter School continued to work together to help support our Potter community and families who may be in need for the holidays. Through our “Kindness Kards” program, families were able to donate a gift card or specific items such as pajamas, hats, mittens, toys, etc. for a student in need. The end of the year also brought the end of trimester one. Parent-teacher conferences were held during the Early Release Days in December. These conferences provided parents with 1:1 time with their child’s teacher to discuss their child’s progress in the classroom. During the month of December also came the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Along with some of the holiday traditions like Grinch Day, Reindeer Day and Polar Express Day, we were also excited to bring some music to Potter School. On Friday, December 15th Heather Church and the DMS string students held an in-school assembly in our cafeteria filled with beautiful holiday music by the very talented middle school students. On Thursday, December 21st, we were able to once again, thanks to our generous PTO, send the whole school down to DHS for a holiday concert put on by the DHS

strings, band and acapella students. It was a wonderful way to not only see the amazing musical accomplishment of Potter alumni but also a great way to kick off the holiday season! In writing this annual report, we are appreciative of the opportunity to reflect on our year's work and accomplishments. We look forward to continuing this work into 2024 to provide our students and families with the best educational experience at the George H. Potter School.

JAMES M. QUINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kyle Grandfield, Principal

Audra Thomas and Stephanie Yermalovich, Assistant Principals

Our Mission

The mission of the Dartmouth Public Schools is to provide a quality education for all learners.

As we look back on the academic year 2022-2023 we were finally able to move back to a typical school year after years of battling COVID restrictions. We are able to reflect on our work as it relates to not only our mission statement but also the District's Theory of Action: "If we instruct each student with clear learning targets, assess achievement, and adjust instruction according to need; if we are continually collaborative, reflective, and purposeful; and if we engage families and the community in student learning, then student achievement will improve." This year's annual report will reflect how we are moving back to getting parents back in the building and creating a new vision for including the community back into the daily happenings of Quinn.

QUINN- As of December 2022 we had an enrollment of 710 students. We had 6 kindergarten classrooms, 6 first grade classrooms, 5 second grade classrooms, 6 third grade classrooms, 5 fourth grade classrooms and 5 fifth grade classrooms.

The 2022-2023 school year did not leave us with any retirements although we did have movement throughout certain grade levels. Keisha Julian left her 5th grade position and moved to first grade. We also had Mary Boulton and Desiree Metta resign as they moved out of state. In school year 2022-2023 the Quinn staff welcomed the following new teachers to the Quinn staff: Lindsay Perry as a grade 2 teacher, Deanna McCoy as a grade 3 special education teacher, Dr. Nicole Pacheco as a grade 3 teacher, Donna DeTerra and Katelyn Melo as grade 5 teachers, Erin Munafo as an OT and finally Lauren Dunn as an SLP. We are especially confident that the work and efforts of these new staff members will have a positive effect on student achievement.

Quinn continued its work on the following initiatives:

Co-Teaching Strategies: Administration and staff participated in various book talks and workshops related to the different co-teaching models. We have continued the implementation of the Co-Teaching model in all grade levels to improve differentiation. In June, August, and throughout the school year, we addressed class placement to ensure students are placed

appropriately. A common planning schedule was created to support regular education teachers and special education teachers working as co-teachers.

Close Reading Strategies: The district provided a professional development opportunity for our teachers on how to incorporate close reading strategies as part of their literacy instruction.

We continue to increase the use of Higher-Order Thinking Skills (Bloom's Taxonomy) in all of the curriculum by identifying and collating assignments.

Fountas and Pinnell Leveling System: Teachers continued their professional development and use of this guided reading leveling system to help evaluate and support students in their literacy development.

In the area of literacy, the members of our "Quinn Literacy Team", continue to focus on creating a comprehensive and systematic Literacy Program. In September, the Literacy Team concentrated on classroom libraries. Members of the committee are taking an inventory of books within the building as well as having teachers do the same within their classroom. Teachers are making wish lists of books and genres that they do not currently have and would like to see their students reading. Lists of books are being converted to a google doc where teachers have access.

Our classroom teachers continued to utilize Fountas and Pinnell, DIBELS, Star, and Lucy Calkins to drive their instruction and provide targeted interventions for our students. PLC's (Professional Learning Time) discussions took place once a week with grade level teams to discuss this data and make instructional decisions.

PBIS Rallies: After needing to have virtual rallies due to COVID, in 2022-2023 we were able to go back to in person PBIS grade level rallies! During these rallies we make connections to our Second Step Curriculum that is taught weekly in our classrooms. Students are also recognized in each classroom as models of our school-wide expectations of Respecting Others, Respecting Self, and Respecting Property. Each classroom teacher wrote a small acknowledgement for each student as to why they were recognized as a role model in our schools. The students were then asked to sign our "Quinn Pride Book". This past year was the second year that parents were invited into the rallies to see their child that was chosen as the role model. Emails were sent out to each family with information as far as date and time as well as which trait their child was being recognized for. It also asked the parents to keep it a secret to surprise their children.

This was also our first full year with our new school mascot. Up until this point, the Quinn mascot was the Rocket. In the previous May, students and staff were given four choices to vote on: Quinn School Rockets, Quinn School Captains, Quinn School Lions, and Quinn School Stars. With over 300 votes, the students and staff voted on the Quinn School Lions. On the last

day of school, a virtual video was sent out to classes with the winning mascot. As a school we were able to decorate the school with our Lion Expectations and new implementation of incentives.

In October, Quinn School celebrated Unity Day. Unity Day is a day when people across America show their care and concern about creating safe and supportive schools and communities who are committed to stop bullying by wearing the color orange. It's the day everyone can come together in schools, communities, and online, to send one large orange message of support, hope, and unity. Orange construction paper was given to each classroom to sign and create their own unity poster. The posters were hung outside of each classroom. The school was filled with students wearing the color orange.

In October we also held Mix It Up Day. This was our 17th year honoring this national event that breaks down social barriers and enhances school climate. As in past years, everyone is invited to mix up their clothing and spend their lunch eating with new friends. Music, decorations, and a mural for all students to sign, are incorporated into the event. Parent volunteers encouraged discussion topics with students while they are eating. A big thank you goes out to Tiffany Martin, Kelly Bloom and Erin Gomes, for organizing this event.

The 2022-2023 school year brought back the true feeling of school with COVID Protocols no longer instituted. It was great having all in person events as previous and getting back to how things had always been!

Respectfully submitted,



June Saba-Maguire, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Dartmouth Public Schools