



Happenings @ SAU 70

Important Dates

- Presidents' Day - February 17 - No School & SAU closed
- February Break - February 18 - 21
- Hanover and Dresden Deliberative Sessions, Hanover High School - February 27
- Norwich Annual Town Meeting, Tracy Hall - March 3
- Voting Day - March 4 (both Hanover & Norwich)
- Professional Development Day - March 10 - No School
- April Break - April 14 - 18

[District Calendar](#)

From Our Superintendent

As we enter the second semester of the 2024-25 school year, I am pleased to report that our students continue to perform at the highest levels in terms of citizenship, scholarship, athletics, the arts, and a wide variety of co-curricular activities. A very brief sample of our students' accomplishments - In addition to state testing excellence, the Ray School earned recognition from the US Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School and Marion Cross School achieved a first-place ranking in the state of Vermont from US News and World Report. At Richmond Middle School, our students made significant increases in state test scores in reading, math, and science, and won the NH Championship in Robotics, qualifying to compete in the World Championship for the second year in a row. HHS athletes brought home several championships, while also earning the Special Olympics NH School of Excellence Award, in recognition of the

school's inclusive school climate. Speaking of climate, our HHS Environmental Club has completed an SAU-wide Climate Action Plan that will serve as a roadmap to environmental sustainability for many years to come.

These examples of hard-earned academic and athletic recognition combined with public acknowledgement of beneficial community engagement are tangible affirmations of our aspirational "Portrait of a Learner" that includes the important human competencies of empathy, responsibility, critical thinking, and communication. Our students show themselves to be both driven and kind, competitive and empathetic, independent and collaborative. These traits, more than test scores, help to describe what makes our students so special, and are a reflection of our broader community. This solid grounding in such values bodes well for our kids and our school system at a time when external forces promise change and uncertainty in public education.

The shifting sands of politics in New Hampshire, Vermont, and in our nation, impact our school system both directly and indirectly. Over the past year, legislators in Vermont lurched from one approach to school funding to another causing districts, including ours, to prepare multiple revisions of school budgets primarily to cull what the state considered excessive spending, and the uncertainty persists in the new legislative session. Meanwhile, in New Hampshire, the courts have weighed in on school funding and pressure continues to mount for the state to implement a more equitable funding model. In both states, our leaders decry the rapid growth in public education spending and have floated a wide variety of dramatic and potentially controversial solutions ranging from a more expansive school choice program in NH to a huge governance consolidation down to five school districts in VT. In the wake of our recent presidential election, I anticipate more legislative activity around "culture war" issues and wonder what will be in store for federal education programs. The increasing political and policy divergence of our two states becomes increasingly challenging in the context of our Interstate Compact. Maintaining an even keel through these turbulent seas will be the job of our dedicated educators, support staff, school board members, administrators, and our larger community.

As we approach the culmination of our budget season, Dresden voters will consider a warrant article to establish a middle school sports program. Our intent is to provide our students with the same opportunities that the vast majority of our peer districts already

enjoy, and to collaborate with Hanover Parks and Recreation as they phase out their seventh and eighth grade sports programs.

Warm regards,
Jay Badams
Superintendent of Schools

District News and Information

Voting Location Change

Please be advised that Hanover and Dresden voting on March 4, 2025 will be relocated to the Frances C. Richmond Middle School Gymnasium due to the high school boys basketball playoff game. We appreciate your understanding.

Voter parking will be in the parking lot accessed via Dresden Road at RMS - please follow the signs.

Go Bears!

*There is no change for Norwich voters.

2024-25 School Year Curriculum Updates

During the 2024-25 school year, elementary teachers from MCS and Ray began working on NGSS-aligned science units. Most of the units have been completed, and teachers will pilot these lessons over the next few months. For the second half of the school year, each grade-level team from MCS and Ray will develop one additional science unit. By the end of the year, teachers will have completed three NGSS-aligned science units. This progress is a testament to the hard work of our educators over the last two years, supported by professional development and dedicated release time.



If you've visited our curriculum page on the district website, you may have noticed that we continue to add documents for our courses. Recently, we uploaded materials for middle school and most high school science courses. This remains an ongoing effort to provide comprehensive resources for our community.



Our K-5 ELA Committee has also been hard at work exploring literacy instruction, resources, materials, and professional development opportunities. Composed of teachers and administrators from each elementary school, this committee has been collaborating for nearly a year. Their goal is to define what literacy instruction should look like, identify the materials needed at each grade level, and determine the professional development required to support our educators.

Regards,
Robin Steiner
Assistant Superintendent

From Hanover High School

Spotlight on the NEBP High Altitude Balloon Team: New Heliophysics Project

Our high school's NASA-sponsored Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project (NEBP) team continues to make waves in the world of STEM! Previously, this talented group of

students launched high-altitude balloons during the 2023 annular eclipse in Oregon and the 2024 total eclipse in Vermont, gaining invaluable experience in engineering, data collection, and problem-solving. This year, they have been selected for a new NASA heliophysics project—one of only 21 teams nationwide, and one of just two high schools. Hanover proudly stands out as the only public high school chosen for this groundbreaking research opportunity.

The team's latest challenge focuses on the current solar maximum and its effects on cosmic rays, specifically observing coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and the Forbush Decrease, a phenomenon caused by CMEs disrupting cosmic rays in the Earth's atmosphere. Between January and June 2025, the team will aim to launch 5-6 high-altitude balloons to collect critical data, contributing to NASA's mission of understanding the Sun's influence on Earth. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and can't wait to see how they rise to this exciting new challenge!

Special Olympics New Hampshire School of Excellence Award

Hanover High School received the Special Olympics New Hampshire School of Excellence Award for 2023-2024 - Recognizing an inclusive school climate, displaying a sense of collaboration, engagement and respect for all members, student body and staff!

From MCS

Marion Cross School was selected to participate in the [Upper Valley Super Compost Project](#). The school received funds to construct the Super Compost Palace and the supplies needed to get the program started. Thanks to Chrissy Morley, Experiential and Environmental Education Coordinator and Co-Leader of the MCS Environmental Club, Devin Burke, Co-Leader of the MCS Environmental Club, and the MCS Environmental Club for their work on this project.



MCS students brave the winter blast to kick off the Super Compost Palace.

Policy Updates

The Policy Committee meets monthly at the SAU. Meeting dates and times are available on the [SAU 70 Calendar](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ryanne Schoonover.

Below you will find what was presented to the Boards this month.

SAU 70 Updates

[BoardDocs link to January 28, 2025 meeting.](#)

The Board will do a first reading of policy AE - Sustainability.

Dresden Updates:

There was no policy discussion at the January meeting.

Hanover Updates:

There was no policy discussion at the January meeting.

Norwich Updates:

[BoardDocs link to January 9, 2025 meeting](#)

The Board will review and discuss the following policies:

Fourth Reading:

GJFAB - Admission of District Employee's Non-Resident Student(s)

GJFAB - R