

SAU #93

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Upcoming Schedule

3/11 No School
4/22-26 April Break
5/26 Memorial Day
6/13 Last Day Students



Monadnock Education Matters

The Official Newsletter of MRSD

SPRING 2025

Dear Monadnock Community,

Each year brings new challenges and achievements, and I am continually inspired by the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and community. This report reflects our collective efforts and commitment to providing a strong foundation for learning and growth.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the significant progress on our ongoing building project. Both MTC and Emerson are at the (almost) halfway point. Driving by either school allows you to see the progress that has been made and a good idea of what these schools will look like when complete. The Troy and Gilsum projects are not far behind! Final preparations are just about complete and Troy is expected to go out to bid any day now. As we move forward, we remain committed to completing our building project on time and within budget. These improvements will provide our students with a modern, safe, and engaging learning environment for years to come.

To our students, you are the reason why we are all here. Every day we are inspired by the curiosity, resilience, and creativity that you bring to our schools. As superintendent, my top priority is ensuring that your voices are heard and that we create a learning environment that not only supports but encourages you to chase after your goals and dreams.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our remarkable teachers, staff, and administrators who make it their mission to create an environment in which students can thrive. I assure you that your dedication day in and day out to our students is seen and very much appreciated. I often find myself in awe of your steadfast commitment to the success and well-being of every child and I am honored to work alongside each of you.

And finally, I need to acknowledge the support of our families and community members. Your partnership is essential to the success of our schools. I am dedicated to continuously finding new ways to communicate with you and I value the feedback and input that you provide. I welcome the emails and calls that I receive regularly and look forward to talking with you all whenever we have the chance.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our schools, our teachers and staff, and most importantly, our students.

Respectfully,
Jeremy Rathbun
Superintendent of Schools

Building for the Future

Melissa Suarez, MT Caesar Principal

Brett Gottheimer, Cutler Principal

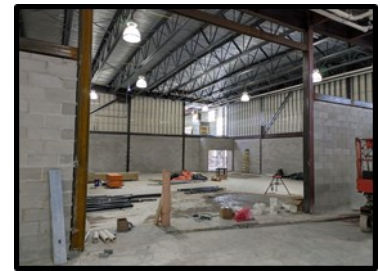
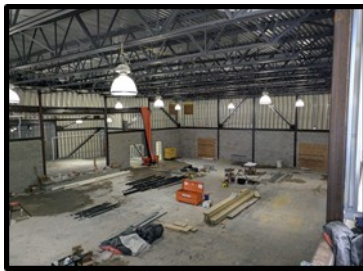
MT CAESAR/CUTLER



This year has been an exciting one for Mount Caesar, with construction on our building expansion continuing to progress. We kicked off the school year by unveiling our brand-new playground, a much-anticipated addition that has brought joy and energy to our outdoor space.

As we continue to watch our school grow, we are filled with excitement knowing these improvements will open up even more opportunities for both our students and staff.

Looking ahead to our merger with Cutler Elementary, the expansion of our building takes on even greater importance. These updates will ensure that our newly combined school community has the space and resources necessary to thrive. We are eagerly anticipating what's ahead and are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our families and community as we work together to build a stronger future for our students.



Coming Together as One School

We are thrilled to share how the students and staff of Mount Caesar and Cutler are coming together as part of our transition into one unified school community! One of the highlights has been our Buddy Classroom program, which has allowed classrooms from both schools to collaborate on fun activities designed to help students make new friends and feel excited about uniting as one school family. Some classrooms have enjoyed reading together over Zoom, while others have worked on creating thoughtful holiday gifts for their buddies.

The staff at both Mount Caesar and Cutler have also been working hard to ensure a smooth and positive transition. Over the summer, educators from both schools came together to begin planning the many important decisions involved in merging our communities. Additional meetings are planned as we continue to grow, share our unique cultures, and strengthen our connections. Staff members have also participated in social events, both at the start of the school year and after the holidays, to build relationships and camaraderie. Moreover, a group of staff members from both schools will be attending an upcoming literacy conference to continue their professional growth as a team..

Mr. Gottheimer and Mrs. Suarez have spent time at both Mount Caesar and Cutler, immersing themselves in each community to learn what makes each school unique. Videos about the construction progress have been shared with Cutler students, giving them a glimpse into the excitement Mount Caesar students experience daily from their classrooms.

Together, we are working hard to make this transition a positive and exciting experience for everyone.



CUTLER (continued)

Cutler's theme this year has been "**Cutler Strong.**" Our school-wide community (assembly) meetings have consistently reinforced this theme, with related lessons on Citizenship, Gratitude, and Courage (including academic and social courage), followed by classroom lessons. Multiple students volunteer at each community meeting to share their own experiences related to these ideas and how they have overcome struggles and tried new and difficult things.



Students and staff are refining their use of the **Illustrative Math** program and the new **95% Phonics** program. Illustrative Math encourages mathematical discourse, with teachers facilitating student learning through exploration and real-world problem-solving. The 95% Phonics program has strengthened students' foundational reading skills, leading to noticeable improvements in reading fluency. This, in turn, supports continued opportunities for growth in comprehension and vocabulary development.

Last year, we saw noticeable student academic growth in classroom and state assessments. Cutler staff are building upon this growth by continuing to engage in professional development. Many Cutler teachers have completed or are currently participating in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training. Some will attend a literacy conference this spring, along with Mt. Caesar staff. Those teachers plan to come back together and share their learning with both school's staff at upcoming meetings.

Our Unified Arts classes, including Art, Wellness, PE, Music, and Library/Makerspace, continue to expand our students' horizons through various outlets. We emphasize their overall well-being, deep thinking, aesthetic sense, self-awareness, and understanding of the world around them. We encourage you to attend one of our concerts or see exciting work from our classes shared in our newsletters or Facebook page!



Emerson Elementary School Lori Stevens, Principal

EMERSON

What an amazing year it's been so far! The students have had so much fun watching the construction and seeing all the progress. Our first and second graders worked together on a project about Fitzwilliam, which they were able to showcase to their families. They built replicas of key landmarks using boxes and shared the town's history with visitors.

In 3rd and 4th grade, the students just wrapped up a unit on weather! They presented their findings to their families, discussing different weather conditions, and even built cars to test if they could withstand various weather scenarios. It was so exciting to see them so proud of their work!

The 5th and 6th grade students recently completed a unit on the Roaring 20's and the Great Depression. They loved exploring this period of history and ended the unit by building Hoovervilles out of boxes. They also created suitcases at home with items they would take if they had to leave unexpectedly. It was a memorable experience for them!

Our preschool and kindergarten students have been growing so much! It's been wonderful to see their development. In kindergarten, they're working on sight words and reading. In preschool, they're continuing to focus on circle time and being kind friends to one another.

We're excited to see what the next few months bring and can't wait to continue watching our students grow!

Introduction to New Staff Kevin Stone, Principal



Emily Johnson is excited to introduce herself as a first-year teacher at Troy. She has the joy of teaching preschool, an age group she has worked with in daycares since 2015. Emily is qualified to teach both early childhood education and elementary education up to 6th grade.

In addition to teaching, Emily serves as a Chemical Specialist in the New Hampshire Army National Guard and has been proudly serving since November of 2020.

Outside of work, Emily is an adventurous soul who loves hiking, camping, running, and reading. She is excited to be part of the Troy School community!



Gretchen Hoefler joined the Troy teaching staff this year as a sixth grade teacher. Prior to this year, she taught fifth grade for twelve years, third grade for one year in Keene, and fifth grade for three years in Brattleboro, VT. She worked at several outdoor centers in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Florida before becoming a classroom teacher. Gretchen's love of kids, the outdoors, and teaching started when she spent her first summer at Camp Takodah in Richmond, NH, as a cabin leader. She went on to work at Takodah for eleven summers in a variety of roles. When not teaching, you can find Gretchen spending time with her family, biking on the Rail Trail, kayaking, gardening, playing with her dog, or reading all kinds of books.



Madison Burroughs also known as "Mrs. B", is thrilled to have joined the Troy Team! Madison has taught first grade for six years, followed by a year as a math focused instructional coach in Pueblo, Colorado. Both of her undergraduate degrees, in Elementary Education and Studio Art, were earned with honors from Keene State College. Madison's Masters in Curriculum and Instruction was received through Western Governors University. This education has provided her with some wonderful tools to create an effective and creative classroom where all students are able to learn. Madison loves to bring art into learning whenever she can, particularly to enhance reading activities. She also LOVES teaching math! Madison was proudly a building math lead for five years where she helped not only students love math, but teachers too! Madison and her husband have decided to return back home to New Hampshire with our newest addition - their son. They love New Hampshire and know what an incredible place it is. In her free time, Madison loves to be outdoors, doing anything creative, cook, and spend time with family.

Monadnock Huskies Special Olympics 2024-2025



Special Olympics is a global sports organization that offers year-round training and competitions for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism. Special Olympics offers levels of competition which may include inclusionary unified peers on teams or supporting individual athletes as they train and compete. Special Olympics supports over 5 million athletes, unified partners, coaches and volunteers with 32 Olympic-type sports.

The Monadnock Huskies Special Olympics team roster consists of 21 athletes; 3 MRHS current students and 18 alumni athletes. Additionally, we have 3 unified partners, 7 volunteers and 3 coaches. One example of the success of the Special Olympics and the engagement and heart of our Special Olympics athletes and family members fan club. We have athletes who have competed in bowling, basketball, individual skills, athletics (track and field), bocce and weight lifting. We are in the process of adding all age bocce and corn hole sports as well.



One goal of Special Olympics is to promote and support individuals with intellectual disabilities to learn skills that help become leaders. Special Olympics International strives to unleash leadership potential in people of all abilities. This starts with building advocacy skills into training, practices and competitions. It grows to promote leadership responsibilities. It is heartwarming to see our experienced athletes mentor athletes new to the team, celebrate each other's successes and grow to take on leadership roles at practices and events.

Further benefits of Special Olympics include improving the health and well-being of people with intellectual disabilities. At summer games athletes can attend health check sessions. During COVID shut down athletes were able to join Fitness teams to track their physical activity and earn rewards for being active. Several Huskies participated, hitting goals and earning swag.

***Let me win.
But if I cannot win
Let me be brave
In the attempt.***

These are the words of the Special Olympics oath, recited by all participants at the start of competition. Our athletes take this oath to heart each time they practice or compete at an event. It is a pleasure to see them reach or exceed their personal goals and push themselves. Their efforts get results. This past fall, all sixteen athletes who participated in the bowling season, medaled at the NH State Bowling Tournament earning first, second or third place honors. This is the highest competition rate we have ever reached. Their pride was visible on their faces as each took their place on the awards platform and received their medal. None were prouder than the many support family members, volunteers, our traveling fan club and the coaches. Thanks to the many who support us to make this opportunity possible.



If you are interested in learning more or sharing your sports enthusiasm as a volunteer or coach, please reach out. There are over 22 possible sporting events sanctioned through the Special Olympics and our athletes are often looking for a new sport to try. Their enthusiasm is contagious.

You can learn more about Special Olympics at www.sonh.org

Our Facebook team page: [Monadnock Special Olympics Huskies | Facebook](#)

Mary Shepardson

Monadnock Huskies program coordinator, coach

shepardson.mary@yahoo.com

Monadnock Education Matters

2025-2026 MRS D Warrant Articles(Ballot Version)

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, totaling \$39,199,676 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$38,819,434 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock District Educators Association of SAU 93 for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing level. The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year	Estimated Increase
2025/26	\$524,604 Salaries
	\$141,118 Wage associated costs
	\$59,500 Increases in various stipends and professional development
	\$725,222
2026/27	\$365,602 Salaries
	\$98,273 Wage associated costs
	\$463,875
2027/28	\$362,333 Salaries
	\$97,395 Wage associated costs
	\$459,728

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$725,222 for the 2025-26 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wage and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the 2024-25 year. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 to renovate a portion of the roof at the Monadnock Regional Middle High School. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the renovation projects are complete, or June 30, 2028, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2025 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the District Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2025 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2025, to fund this appropriation and the appropriation in Article Four, then Article Four will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the School Grounds Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2025 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2025, to fund this appropriation and the appropriations in Articles Four and Five, Four and Five will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the School Bldg. Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2025 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2025, to fund this appropriation and the appropriations in Articles Four, Five, and Six, then Four, Five, and Six will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to authorize the School Board to convey the parcel of land with the buildings thereon located at 31 South Winchester Street in West Swanzey, as identified on the Town of Swanzey's tax records as Tax Map 109, Lot 22 (current location of the Cutler School), and to further authorize the School Board to take such additional action as necessary to facilitate and/or consummate such conveyance, including securing the necessary approvals and the execution of any documents necessary or attendant thereto. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE NINE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees, and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required)

2025-26 MRSD Warrant Articles(Plain Language Version)

Article One Plain Language:

Each year a default budget is identified using the actual expenses of the prior school year plus contractual obligations, and then minus any one-time expenditures. This year's default budget is \$38,819,434. The budget proposed by the district's Budget Committee was \$39,199,676. That amount was amended to \$36,000,000 by the voters attending the Deliberative Session on February 1st. This new proposed budget is \$3,199,676 less than the original proposal, and \$2,819,434 less than the default budget.

If the proposed budget passes (a YES vote), the district will be funded at \$36,000,000. If the proposed budget fails (a NO vote), the district would be funded at the default budget level \$38,819,434.

Article Two Plain Language:

The current agreement with the Monadnock District Education Association ends in June 2025. This association includes certified teachers, school counselors, social workers, and nurses. School Board representatives and representatives from the association have negotiated a new three-year agreement. This contract includes wage increases to allow the district to compete for these employees and a few language changes around working conditions and time off. A summary of the changes can be found on the District webpage www.mrsd.org under the heading "Budget & Voting" subheading "2025 Deliberative & Election Information". Only the 2025-26 costs of \$725,222 are included in this article. The cost for years 2026-27 and 2027-28 are displayed because if this article passes in the first year, the district is obligated to fund the next two years of the agreement.

Article Three Plain Language:

This warrant article allows for replacement of the roof over the boys' locker room at MRMHS. The District intends to complete the work over the summer break of 2025, but will have until June 30, 2028 to complete the work if necessary.

Article Four Plain Language:

The Special Education Expendable Trust Fund is designed to give the district financial resources should there be unexpected special education costs. This article will not raise funds from new taxation. If this article passes, and ONLY if unallocated funds are available at the end of June 30, 2025, then up to \$1.00 will be added to this trust fund. This article was a placeholder for the February 1st Deliberative Session. Although the amount was not increased, once an article is created it cannot be removed from the warrant.

Article Five Plain Language:

The District Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund is designed to give the district financial resources should the need for a new vehicle arise. The district owns and operates various vehicles such as shuttle vans, plow trucks, etc. This article will not raise funds from new taxation. If this article passes, and ONLY if unallocated funds are available at the end of June 30, 2025, then up to \$25,000 will be added to this trust fund.

Article Six Plain Language:

The School Grounds Expendable Trust Fund is designed to give the district financial resources to address the need for repairs and maintenance on school grounds and school parking lots. This article will not raise funds from new taxation. If this article passes, and ONLY if unallocated funds are available at the end of June 30, 2025, then up to \$100,000 will be added to this trust fund.

Article Seven Plain Language:

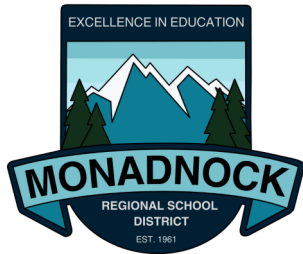
The School Bldg. Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund is designed to give the district financial resources should there be a need for unexpected major repairs to district buildings. This article will not raise funds from new taxation. If this article passes, and ONLY if unallocated funds are available at the end of June 30, 2025, then up to \$1.00 will be added to this trust fund. This article was a placeholder for the February 1st Deliberative Session. Although the amount was not increased, once an article is created it cannot be removed from the warrant.

Article Eight Plain Language:

This article asks the voters of the district to give the School Board permission to offer the Cutler School building and property for sale, negotiate terms of the sale, and complete the sales transaction should an appropriate buyer emerge.

Article Nine Plain Language:

This article is for housekeeping, and does not require funding.



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Swanzey, NH
Permit #8

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Gilsum

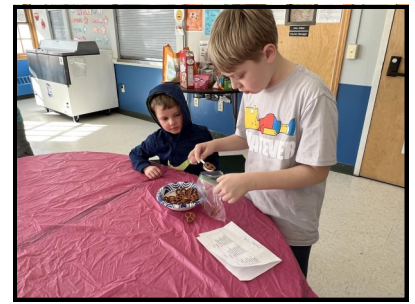
For the Love of STEAM
Taylene Givetz, Teaching Principal



Valentine's Day is a great opportunity to integrate STEAM here at GSA. Students are grouped in multi age groups to travel to stations. At Each station a task is given. Older students and younger students partner together to navigate



the task. At station 1 students are asked to predict what will happen to conversation hearts placed in different liquids. Students discuss with their partner and share their predictions with the group. At station 2 students



made heart shaped sun catchers. In this station students learned that light passes through tissue paper, but does not pass through black construction paper. At station 3 students were given the task to create a trail mix



using various ingredients. Students were asked to take different amounts of each item in order to practice direction following, a very important skill when conducting experiments. Here at GSA everyday is a good day to work together on STEAM projects!