



Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year

We are thrilled to welcome everyone back for the 2025–2026 school year, and it has been wonderful to see our students once again filling the hallways and our teachers back in their classrooms doing what they do best—engaging and inspiring young minds. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our custodians and maintenance crews, IT staff, and food service teams for their tireless work throughout the summer to ensure a sparkling clean, fully prepared start to the year. Our athletes have already been making great use of the new turf since August 18th, and our elementary schools held very well-attended meet-and-greet events last week. The high school also had a highly successful Jumpstart program on August 28th. Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome families into our schools during upcoming open houses: the Middle School on September 10th, Effingham on September 17th, the High School and LRTC on September 18th, New Durham School on September 24th, and Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Carpenter, and Crescent Lake on September 2nd at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. respectively. The year is off to an energetic start, and we are only just beginning!

Kingswood Field Maintenance

In addition to the excitement around the new artificial turf, our grass fields at the Kingswood complex are also seeing strong use this fall as teams practice and compete. With the season well underway, we are working closely with our contracted service providers and our dedicated staff to bolster the health and longevity of these natural playing surfaces. Careful scheduling and staggered use are being coordinated to allow the grass time to recover and grow, and we have increased treatment and irrigation efforts to offset the challenges posed by this summer’s low rainfall. We are confident that with this heightened attention and continued collaboration, the fields will remain healthy and fully capable of supporting our student-athletes throughout the fall season.

Strategic Plan Update

On August 18th, Dr. Hills and Dr. Arakelian were proud to present a comprehensive update on the district’s Strategic Plan during the Board’s workshop. The presentation outlined the progress made since the plan’s inception, beginning with the identification of focus areas, community and staff surveys, and direct student input from grades 4–12. The Strategic Plan Committee, led by district administrators and staff, continues to guide this important work. Highlights include progress in Academic Achievement, where a task force will be established this year to drive initiatives tied to our theory of action, goals, and success measures; expansion of multiple career pathways, including a new course for all 8th graders; and the continued development of the Portrait of a Learner framework. In Student Wellness, data from the YRBS, nurse input, and expanded meal access are helping shape next steps, while planning continues for a wellness coordinator position, drug and alcohol prevention efforts, and targeted support strategies. Our Culture of Belonging work is anchored by the Equity Task Force, the district-wide equity plan, professional development for staff, student focus groups, and ongoing efforts to ensure an aligned response to hate speech while celebrating all students. Finally, in Parent and Community Engagement, we are implementing recommendations from the communication audit, strengthening the parent advisory group, developing a district communication plan, and enhancing staff professional learning in cultural

competence. The Board will continue to receive monthly updates on strategic plan progress, with particular attention this year to the equity plan, communication plan, and the technology task force.

Carpenter School Update

At Carpenter School, we are pleased to share significant progress as the year gets underway. Thanks to the efforts of many contributors, we secured all necessary approvals from the state and local fire departments as well as the Wolfeboro Town Code Officer to occupy the modular classrooms. Utilities were connected on schedule, with water, electricity, HVAC, and technology systems all fully operational. A special acknowledgement goes to our dedicated teachers, who worked tirelessly to move and thoughtfully set up their classrooms with care, ensuring a warm and welcoming environment for students. This entire effort was led with confidence and grace by Principal Corinne Rowe, whose leadership has been instrumental in guiding the transition. We hosted a successful kindergarten meet-and-greet on Wednesday evening, followed by grades 1–2 on Thursday, held outdoors to allow classrooms a few additional days for setup. Feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive. Bus loops are finalized, and lunches are being delivered so that students can eat in their classrooms. We are also deeply grateful for the generous support of community partners, including Brewster Academy for providing access to fields and gym space, and the church for indoor assemblies and workspaces—with the additional option of applying to use the Great Hall if needed.

On the construction side, we have received the full bid package, which will go out for a three-week bid process and be posted on the district website. In addition to notifying two firms recommended by our insurance carrier, we will also contact other reputable contractors. Our team has worked closely with the architect on this proposal, and we remain committed to keeping the Board and community fully informed as the project advances.