

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
March 1, 2021**

Staff

Teacher Heidi Lachapelle has been nominated for a Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. The **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)** are the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Heidi is an 8th grade math and science teacher at Whittier Middle School. She is also the student council advisor and provides lots of technology support and leadership for her colleagues. Heidi plans to move forward with the nomination and complete the application process.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Most students are in the final phase of their National History Day Projects. All projects are due on March 12th, and projects will be displayed virtually on March 15th. Each type of project requires a different word count. Students who chose to do exhibits are finding it difficult to cut down to the 500 word limit. Some students have switched to the website option to allow them to keep their 1,200 words allowance. It is certainly a lot of work and stress for students and teachers, but there is tremendous value in the development of research skills and designing a finished product.
- The National Assessment of Educational Progress is requiring submission of attendance data from January through the end of the school year. The data is broken down into several subcategories and has the potential to be helpful to us as we determine areas of focus for our work. For example, our total attendance for January was 86.44%. Students who are fully remote logged in 90.32% of school days. Hybrid students attended or logged in 85.97% of school days, and students schedule to attend daily were here 83.8% of the time.
- Wellness students now have the opportunity to participate in Workout Wednesdays during their Wellness class. Teens need physical activity now more than ever, not only for their physical health, but for their mental and emotional health as well. These workouts are individually focused so students can modify as needed, and can see their improvement over time. Staff members have also joined us. Staff look forward to the exercise, and the opportunity to encourage the students on a different level.

Events

- Eighth graders have started their transition process for high school. The high school counselors provided an introductory video about selecting classes and the credit system. Students will bring home a course selection sheet to talk to their parents about their plans. Next week, counselors will meet with the students via Zoom and host an evening Zoom event for parents. Middle school advisors will follow up with families during conferences later in the month.
- Congratulations to 7th grader, Ada Stenhouse. Ada's essay was named one of the top three winners in the Maine Municipal Association's Essay Contest. The contest invited 7th grade Maine students to respond in an essay to the prompt: "If I Led My Community . . ." Ada will be awarded a Certificate from the MMA and a \$250 gift card.