

**RSU #16 School Board  
Administrative Report  
Shawn Vincent  
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School  
February 6, 2022**

**Staff**

- We were very fortunate to have certified teacher Julie Brown join our staff as a long-term substitute at the end of December. She is teaching 8th grade social studies while Jamie Karaffa is away on maternity leave. Congratulations to both Jamie and ed tech Susanna Johnson on the birth of their children over winter break.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

- Whittier History Day is approaching: **Wednesday, February 15th**. This will be Whittier's eleventh year participating in the National History Day program. The theme this year is *Frontiers: People, Places, Ideas*, and our students have chosen a variety of topics to research. This is an important year for us as we return to ***in-person interviews***. We are so excited to bring this format back and welcome our judges into the building to talk directly with our young historians. We'd love to have you join us that day as a judge; please contact Sean Galipeau-Eldridge (sgalipeau@rsu16.org), if you are interested. Open House is 8:15am-9:15am.
- We had a very productive day on our January workshop day. The morning was focused on curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Amy Hediger facilitated a session with middle school and high school teachers to engage in a process for reviewing units and the content and skills students should master while participating in those units. After meeting with Amy, teachers broke into their learning area groups to start reviewing their units. Even with Wednesday release time, teachers struggle to find enough time to work with colleagues; this was a great opportunity to collaborate and move the curriculum forward. The next step was for individuals to meet with teachers outside their learning areas to receive feedback on the units they had reviewed with their teams. This feedback led to edits and important conversation when teachers reconvened with their learning area teams. We wrapped up the day discussing the second chapter of the book Teach Like a Champion 3.0 and watching a video of a teacher in action, using techniques highlighted in the book.
- As part of the mental and emotional health unit, wellness students will participate in 1-2 lessons on suicide prevention. The main purpose is to understand depression and anxiety, provide suicide prevention information, and learn how to help a friend they may be worried about. Mrs. Yorkey will encourage students to discuss this lesson with parents, and share insights and coping devices that work for both adults and students or youth.

**Events**

- Olivia Snowman, Scarlett Quimi, and Bella Hartman represented Whittier Middle School at the District II Honors Chorus Festival on January 27.
- Congratulations to Aliyah Morgan and Bella Hartman! They finished 1st and 2nd in the Whittier Middle School Spelling Bee and will have the opportunity to represent our school at the Androscoggin County Bee. All participants did an outstanding job. It took us 13 rounds and some tricky words to name our school champion.
- Congratulations to our MMEA District II Honors Musicians - Cameron Cunningham, Eli Cullerton and Kaleb Christner. They attended the MMEA District II Instrumental Honors Music Festival on February 3-4, 2023 at Deering High School, Portland.