

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
April 3, 2022**

Staff

- Long-term substitute teacher Julie Brown did an outstanding job teaching 8th grade social studies in Jamie Karaffa's absence. While we are certainly pleased to welcome back Jamie; we are grateful for Julie working the last few months with us.
- I have a medical procedure scheduled for April 6 that will likely keep me out of school for 4-8 weeks. It is certainly difficult to leave school during this time, but we have a great team at Whittier Middle School and I know they will continue to do an excellent job in my absence. I will follow my doctor's orders and return as soon as I am cleared to do so. While I am away, Dean of Students Mrs. Kelly Adams will take on a number of my responsibilities. She has done outstanding work in her position this year, and I have no doubt that she will continue to provide high-quality building leadership.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- At Whittier Middle School, we plan to complete the Through Year Assessment May 2 and May 4. This is an assessment that we have used for 15+ years and have found that it provides useful information for all students. We will provide details about scheduling as we get closer to the date.
- USM CubeSat Design Competition 2023: Congratulations to our 8th grade CubeSat Design Team, *Cosmic Knights*. Their design proposal was one of six selected from middle school competitors across the state. The engineering challenge program requires students to design, build and launch a small satellite capable of going up to 130,000 feet in a high altitude balloon. Judges selected finalists after reviewing each team's design plan and mission statement which identified a problem, their objective and scientific or technological means of examining it. The final competition will be the balloon launch held at the end of May.

Events

- Join us for this year's Whittier play on Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm. The production is a playful spinoff of the original play by William Shakespear, A Midsummer Night's Dream.
- The chorus and band performed in two terrific shows on March 22 and 29, respectively. After a few down years, the music program is well on its way back. Directors Julia Edwards and Larry Williams did a fantastic job preparing the students and putting the concert together.
- The Grade 7 Career Fair was canceled due to snow. However, Ms. Fanus organized an opportunity for students to learn more about their career interests at school. A group of 8th grade students hosted career visitors who have professions in their areas of interest. Visitors met small groups of students either over Zoom or in person. Joining Whittier online we had Aerospace Educator, Brian Swenson; Julia VanSteenberghe, from UMaine, spoke with students about Sports Management degrees and careers; Property Manager, Bernice Ray, discussed real estate, finance and property management and Kristen Diver shared her experience in Hospitality Management. Visiting in person, two former Whittier students and graduates from PRHS, provided information about their education and careers. Erin Brewer is a Civil Engineer with the Maine Department of Transportation and Pilot Ben Wight is seen in the photograph talking with middle school students about his path in becoming a Pilot.