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School Board Meetings

6:30 pm, WMRHS

October 15, 2019 (Tues)

October 28, 2019

November 12, 2019 (Tues)

November 25, 2019

December 9, 2019

December 16, 2019

View Monthly School

Board Meetings Live!

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District Dialogue

The Official Newsletter of White Mountains Regional School District

ISSUE 1, VOL. 2 | Oct 2019

A Message from Dr. Anastasia

Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the WMRSD 2019-2020 school year!

We've been working on major District projects this fall including the Strategic Plan updates, the Blueprint for Tomorrow Recommendations to the Board, and the continuation of the CTE/WMRHS renovation plans.

The Strategic Plan updates are underway; the sub committee needs a few more meetings to finalize the 2019-2020 action plan. This will be posted on our website promptly thereafter! We continue to focus on our 5 main pillars: Structure and Finance; District Culture; Communication; Educational Mission; and Leadership.

The Blueprint for Tomorrow Steering Committee completed their study and made recommendations to the Board at the September 23, 2019 School Board Meeting. The Steering Committee's recommendations will be considered by the board during upcoming Board meetings. None of the recommendations have been adopted at this point in time; we will inform the public and staff if any of the recommendations will be considered for further action. You can find information about the 7 month project on our website! The recommendations are:

1. Consider bringing 7th and 8th grades to the HS
2. Ensure consistent programming and opportunities at WES and LES
3. Reduce the number of sports (evaluation of enrollment and qualified people who can run the programs, cost of transportation, etc); Investigate Athletic programs (Divisions)
4. Development of curriculum to provide hands on, relevant, real life learning opportunities
5. Increase preparedness for college and career (includes-advisories, ELOs, seminars, online courses, etc., and push down to middle- level grades)
6. Consistent SEL across the District and continue efforts for sustainability
7. Expand the pre-k programming

The FY '21 budget season is beginning this month. We use the Strategic Plan Goals as our guide for the budget priorities. We continue to plan with fiscal responsibility to the communities, with our learners' needs first and foremost.

Mr. Scott and Mr. Berry have been traveling to Selectmen meetings to begin to share the CTE/WMRHS renovation plans and process to receive feedback. They will broaden this networking to the community in the upcoming months!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns!

Best,
Marion



Principal's Message, Lancaster Elementary School

Scott Holmes, Principal, Lancaster Elementary School



Greetings Families of Lancaster School,

We are excited to welcome back our students, families, and staff to the 2019/2020 school year. It is an exciting year with a lot of positive energy and forward momentum. Our school theme this year is Space and the motto is “Reach for the STARRs”. The STARRs acronym references the values we believe a student should develop to be successful in a K-8 public education system; Safety, Tolerant, A Team Player, Respect, and Responsibility.

Lancaster school has a number of new staff members and returning staff members who have changed roles; Micah Deventhal-Saffian (Kindergarten), Jamie Colby (1st Grade), Lindsay Dingman (1st Grade), Katherine Belanger (5th Grade), Chris Dupont (5th Grade), Isabelle Kleinschrodt (MS Science), Jessi Vital (Title I), Michaela Roberts (Title 1), Steven Farquharson (Title 1) Heather Eich (MS Math), Erica Scales (Special Education), Alysha Thibault (Elementary Counselor), Tayla Cummings (Student Wellness Center), Katie Burns (Paraeducator), Tiffany Challinor (Paraeducator), Jay Dugan-Henriksen (Paraeducator), Stefan Shapiro (Teacher Residency for Rural Education - TRRE Student Teacher).

We are excited to be part of this educational community and believe that our students deserve the best educational experience possible. We are here to support all of our students and staff to ensure that this is possible each and every day. We are excited to work and collaborate with family members in order to support your child's growth academically, behaviorally, and socially/emotionally. Whenever you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at the school!

With the future in mind,

Scott Holmes
Principal

Chuck Patterson
Assistant Principal



Principal's Message, Whitefield Elementary School

Michael Cronin, Principal, Whitefield Elementary School



Welcome to Whitefield School!

I am continually amazed by what happens during the summer at WES and our district. The days when the building was deserted for ten weeks are long in the past. These days we offer Title I supported tutoring, summer camp programs, and partner with community organizations to support summer enrichment programming. Our staff is in the building frequently to review end of year data, evaluate programs and initiatives, and plan for the coming school year. Our custodial staff, buildings and ground staff, IT staff, and private contractors cram work into every second of the summer window. We are ready!

Ready, Thinker, Connected, and Contributor; these are the core outcomes that we want students to develop during their time at Whitefield School. We believe that elementary and middle school education is an opportunity for students to begin to learn and practice the academic and social-emotional skills to meet with success at the high school, college, and career worlds. As such, we hope to work in partnership with families and the community to provide students with a broad range of learning opportunities and supports when needed.

This year we will be focusing on pacing and intertwining our academic instructional efforts with our SEL supports. Frequent review of our academic, climate, behavioral, and demographic data will drive how, when, and where we provide support to learners. It will also guide in-building professional development. The better we know our students the quicker we can address their needs. Including families in those conversations is a critical part, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your questions, ideas, or concerns.

Throughout the year we also host a number of events that bring our entire school community together. From the Back to School Barbecue to Fall Open House and Parent Teacher Conferences to winter and spring curriculum nights and performances, there is a lot going on at Whitefield School. PTO sponsored events are always a good time. We hope to see you often. The community and PTO are incredible supporters of our work.

We are looking forward to a great year together,

Michael J Cronin, Principal



Principal's Message, White Mountains Regional High School

Michael Berry, Principal, White Mountains Regional High School



As the Fall is upon us and the 2019-2020 school year begins, I would like to welcome the faculty, students, and parents/guardians back to WMRHS for what we intend to be a fun, exciting, and productive school year.

As with most summers, the building has been a busy place. As we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year we will continue to work on our initiatives that will allow us to do more for more students at WMRHS. These actions will require a significant amount of focus throughout the school year. This work will be demanding, meaningful, and beneficial for our students as we prepare them for the next phase of their lives.

We have continued to up the ante in terms of **intellectually challenging work** for our students. Although we have made substantial improvements, we will always have more to learn as we improve the educational experience for our students. The questions in front of us for the 2019-2020 school year: How do we keep our faculty and students on course as they navigate the evolution of White Mountains Regional High School? How do we provide our faculty and staff resources, support, and job-embedded professional development needed to create the educational environments we desire?

A key to moving WMRHS forward is improving professional **relationships** that we have built. As a faculty, we worked to transition from a culture of teaching to a culture of learning, however, the work environment is good for our faculty and in turn the educational environment is good for our students. Our faculty and staff traditionally have been good about caring about and connecting with students to do this type of work.

As outlined, these two elements- **intellectually challenging work and relationships**- are essentially connected. Both must be present in our instructional and professional practices if we are to fulfill our mission of preparing students with the skills and capabilities for success, both presently and throughout their lives.

As we begin the 2019-2020 SY, keep in mind our mission statement that will drive our work. We will be incorporating this more into our school year.

The White Mountains Regional School District uses our collective resources to educate responsible and ethical citizens who are academically, socially, and physically prepared to meet the needs of our community in an ever-changing world.

We look forward to working with you as we all strive to prepare our students for success in college, career, and life.

Best,

Mike Berry



Mike Curtis - Futures Program Summer Camp

Futures Program Director, WMRHS



The Futures Department Enjoyed a Great Summer and Freshmen Orientation Week!

The Futures Summer Camp had a total of 91 campers who attended at least one camp, which is an increase of 18% from the 2018 camp season. The program had a total of 225 camper weeks (over the four week camp season), which is an increase of 22% from 2018.

The WMRHS staff offered 16 individual camps with assistance from the SAU 36 school district and GEAR UP grant. The Futures Camp mission is to: introduce middle school students to a variety of career pathways, stoke their passions, and create a positive and fun learning environment.

What makes this program unique is that SAU 36 is able to provide transportation, snacks, lunch, educational supplies, and more for little to no cost for families.



AMC CLASS OF 2023 FRESHMEN ORIENTATION WEEK

The White Mountains 9th grade transition team just finished its 11th year of programming. The transition team believes this could have been the best yet! With the creation and implementation of Link Crew (a nationally recognized high school orientation program) on September 3rd and the AMC freshmen overnight on September 9th and 10th, the Class of 2023 is off to a great start!

We received student feedback from 55 ninth graders from their first week of high school. The results were tremendous.

The programming was educational and fun at the AMC - **91%** answered with a 4 or 5

How was the food and accommodations for this event? - **87%** answered with a 4 or 5

How excited are you to start your high school career? - **94%** answered with a 4 or 5

This event assisted with my high school transition - **70%** answered with a 4 or 5

How would you rate your first week of high school? - **89%** answered with a 4 or 5



For many students, the 9th grade year is the most difficult. The 9th grade orientation week provides students the tools to transition into high school. It helps them make new friends and discover teacher mentors who can guide them through the first year.



The Spartan Learning Commons is Now Open!

Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle. –Christian D. Larson

The Spartan Learning Commons will interact, tutor, mentor, and provide services to over 200 Spartans this year.



White Mountains Regional High School has implemented the “Spartans Learning Commons” for the 2019-2020 school year. The learning space and “Learning Commons” staff occupy rooms 116, 117, and 118. There are six staff members who currently work in different roles to provide Title I services, on-line learning, VLACS, internships, work-based learning, PSAT and SAT preparation, and directed study skills to over 200 students.



The Learning Commons is a blending of services which are open to all students. You will find students receiving additional support in subjects from math to English and working to meet their ELO requirements. Students also come to the Commons to work together on projects or as a study team. The Learning Commons' overall goal is to develop a common location for all students to work together and eliminate the stigma that NOT all can learn.



Student Services

Shelli Roberts, Director of Student Services



As the new Director of Student Services, I am thrilled to be back working with such a dedicated team of professionals. I have been busy coordinating a Special Education Program Review with hired consultant, Beth Steenwyk. As a result of the review, a work scope and deliverables will be developed to assist in moving forward to create a framework for continuous improvement. The review will examine:

- Overall Student Performance
- Student Access to the General Education Curriculum
- IEP Process
- Special Education Service Delivery
- Identification Rates
- Effective Practices within Special Education

Beth specializes in the area of systems design and effective implementation practices for education and human services. Recognized as having an expertise in the development and implementation of large-scale initiatives, Beth has provided consultative support, technical assistance, and training to 8 (eight) state education agencies, numerous large suburban/urban school districts, and regional educational agencies, a State Community Mental Health Improvement Grant and select national organizations. Previously, Beth has held the positions of Deputy Director of the Office of Special Education for the Michigan Department of Education, Executive Director of all MI IDEA funded initiatives, and Chief Administrator for the State Schools for the Deaf. She has been a local director of Special Education for 5 LEA's, a Special Education Supervisor, a Transition Specialist, and a Special Education classroom teacher.

WMRSD System of Care

Kelly Dussault, Program Director



The System of Care office had a very busy summer supporting our (SEL) social and emotional learning work both through local and national efforts. Our SEL strategic steering committee met this summer to continue work on CASEL's (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) five core SEL competencies and standards for our school district. SOC office staff, along with North Country partners, presented in Nashville, TN on the benefits of rural partnerships (inclusive of SAU 36) supporting regional efforts around social and emotional learning. *Everyday SEL* books were purchased for all classroom staff members at WES and LES and were disseminated to administration teams this summer and will be one of many tools used to support our work and creating SEL supportive environments. WMRHS was also presented *Everyday SEL* books for those staff interested in this tool to support SEL efforts and equally our SOC office is happy to provide financial support for our new freshman transition program, **Link Crew**, including t-shirts and accessories as we begin the 2019-20 school year. Lastly, SEL themed children's/student books will be presented to our school libraries on behalf of our System of Care office as we begin to integrate this work throughout our schools.

Additionally this summer, our System of Care work plan was also reviewed by a subgroup of our community management team (CMT), where we identified many met goals and objectives to date, and prioritized those that will remain in the last year of this grant period. The System of Care mission continues to support family and community engagement activities that expand awareness and education around behavioral health and wellness. This summer we hosted two successful family and community events supporting this mission. Ivy Watts, former NCAA top female athlete presented to over 100 North Country student-athletes, coaches, parents, and athletic directors on the topic of mental health and wellness. Equally, our office hosted an event at the Weathervane Theater offering free tickets to the Patchwork Players production of "*Families are Like Fudge*" along with free popcorn, snowcones, and over 50 backpacks filled with school supplies were given out free of charge to families in need.

Respectfully Submitted-

Kelly L. Dussault, M.Ed.

White Mountains Regional School District



**SYSTEM
OF
CARE**

Health is a state of body. Wellness is a state of being."

- J. Stanford

Information Technology Updates

WMRSD - Welcome Back - Information Technology Updates

Even though there are not as many students in the buildings, summer is a very busy time in the White Mountains Regional School District. The maintenance staff cleans the buildings, many projects take place, and educational leaders prepare for the new school year. In addition, our Information Technology Department does system updates, installs new technology, replaces outdated technology, organizes Chromebooks for students, updates teacher laptops, and much more. This article will outline some of the summer IT accomplishments.

The summer started out by collecting student and staff devices. Student Chromebooks were collected during the last few days of school. The IT department checked the condition of the device and cleaned them with disinfectant wipes. This year, we reassigned the outgoing senior Chromebooks to incoming 6th grade students as part of our grade 6-12 one to one device initiative. The Chromebooks were updated in inventory, re-labeled, and placed back in cases for the start of the school year. Teacher laptops were also cleaned with disinfectant wipes. They went through an imaging process that puts a software image on them with the latest security and software updates. Laptops of teachers who are leaving the District are reassigned to new teachers.

This year we added or replaced 60 security cameras throughout the District. These cameras allow for greater quality for building administration and resource officer use. The District is committed to maintaining safe and secure schools with door access controls and 120 total security cameras.

The phone server at WMRHS was old and had many issues last year. During the summer we replaced it with a modern phone system that allows for greater functionality and reliability. Another big upgrade at WMRHS was the audio/video project in the auditorium. The auditorium had a great makeover this summer with new chairs, stage lighting, flooring, and an upgraded audio/video system. The new system is run from a touch screen panel that lowers the new wide screen and allows presenters to interface with the system. Included are new wireless microphones, a blu ray player, and screencast abilities. The Bose speakers are designed so wherever you sit in the auditorium the sound is uniform.

In eleven of our classrooms we upgraded interactive projectors with 75” Promethean active panel displays. These panels have an onboard android based operating system and feature ten points of interactive touch. We are evaluating these units throughout the year, and if the feedback is good, we plan to replace more projectors in the coming years with this newer technology.

There were many other nuts and bolts type items such as new network switches, server upgrades, uninterruptible power supply unit installations, and much more that went into our typical summer work.

In closing, we are thankful for the support of District Administration, School Board Members, and Taxpayers, as we work to integrate technology into the learning environment. The WMRSD IT Department is dedicated to making sure students and staff are provided with adequate technology, support, and professional development to help engage learners through the use of technology.

Summer Facilities Projects

Lancaster Elementary School

- Installed #2 Heating Oil Water Heater Energy Savings
- Flooring Replacement
- Painted 5 Classrooms
- Heating system efficiency upgrades
- Fire System Evaluation and Certification
- Gym Floor Seal Coating

Whitefield Elementary School

- Gym Roof Replacement
- Flooring Replacement
- Painting
- Gym Floor Seal Coating
- Stage Floor Coating
- Roof Repairs
- Fire System Evaluation and Certification

White Mountains Regional High School

- Roof Replacement for Culinary
- Fire System Evaluation and Certification
- 22 Window Replacements
- New Lighting in Auditorium
- Floor Tile Replacement
- Electric Basketball Hoop Retraction System
- Painting
- Redesign of some Classrooms
- Gym Floor Seal Coating

Did You Know?

Are you a Parent or Caregiver of a child with a disability, delay, IEP, or 504? Are you looking for support and/or more information on resources available? SAU 36 has a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). We are here to support you! For more information, contact Danielle Oakes at 603-837-3832, Anne Iampietro at 603-674-0515, or Stephanie Riff at 603-631-6090.

Years of Service Recognition

The White Mountains Regional School District has a time – honored tradition during its annual Welcome Back – District Staff Development Days which was held August 27th this year. During this time the district recognizes personal achievements, milestones, and professional collaboration. They celebrate what makes the district a great place to learn, grow, and achieve professional goals. It is part of the culture of The White Mountains Regional School District to express their appreciation to their employees for their loyalty and dedication. The district administrative team recognizes that there is no form of recognition as important to the success of any organization than acknowledging their employees for their years of service.

This year they were honored to recognize the following staff members for their years of dedication:

10 Years:

Mike Berry – Principal, WMRHS
SGM Michael Bruno – JROTC, WMRHS
Darcie Call – Paraprofessional, WMRHS
Fran Call – Cook, WES
David Earlywine – Teacher, LES
Christina Fontaine – Secretary, LES
Ellen Gross – Cook, WMRHS
Lisa Miller – School Nurse, WES
Mark Pribbernow – Assistant Principal, LES



15 Years:

Kathy Carlson – Special Education Teacher, WMRHS
Caroline Carr – Teacher, WES
LTC Darrel Gearhart – JROTC, WMRHS
Kyle MacBean – Custodian, WMRHS
Mike Martins – Inst Music Teacher, District
Katrina Noyes – Special Education Teacher, LES
Mark Saffian – Teacher, WMRHS
Amanda Sodergren – Paraprofessional, WMRHS
Marie St Martin – Special Education Teacher, WES
Jody Whiting – Cook, WMRHS



Years of Service Recognition

20 Years:

Cindy Boivin– Paraprofessional, WMRHS

Duane Lawlor– Custodian, WMRHS

David Houle– Teacher, LES

Andrea Roy– School Nurse, WMRHS



25 Years:

Laurie Comings– Specialized Paraprofessional, LES

Debbie Dubois– Special Education Administrative Asst, Central Office

Patsy Ainsworth– Teacher, WMRHS

Sharal Plumley– Assistant Principal, WES



30 Years:

Beth Chase– Administrative Assistant, LES



35 Years:

Karen Locke– Teacher, WMRHS



Welcome!



Shelli Roberts has been a lifelong resident of Lancaster and has spent her profession dedicated to the North Country. As the new **Director of Student Services** she brings with her over 20 years of experience as an educator. Shelli first began her career as a teacher for the SAU #36 school district in 1999. In 2007, she moved into administration for the Stark Village School and in 2012, she moved to SAU #35, accepting the position of Principal for the Bethlehem Elementary School. She is excited to be rejoining the district and looks forward to once again working with such dedicated professionals. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband Michael, two children Cameron and Michaela, grandson Rowan, and many family members at their camp on Maidstone Lake. She also actively participates in promoting finding a cure for Cystic Fibrosis as an active member of the local Hope for Hannah team.

Dr. Steve Nilhas has served as a Superintendent of Schools, High School Principal, Middle School Principal, University Instructor, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, Athletic Director, Speech and Debate Coach, and English Teacher during his 26 years in education. His experience includes living and working in a variety of communities including rural, suburban, urban, and international; and in school systems consisting of enrollments ranging from 180 to more than 10,000 students. His career has taken him from the dry and windy plains of Western Kansas to Lawrence, Kansas a College town near Kansas City. Steve's Kansas experiences were followed by five years in Asuncion, Paraguay and two years in Cartagena, Colombia where he worked as a principal at two US Department of State International Schools. His most recent position as the Superintendent of SAU 84 Littleton School District brought Steve and his family to the rural beauty of Northern New Hampshire. He is married to Elena Nilhas who teaches special education at Whitefield Elementary School. He has five children and four grandchildren. One of his children, Sofia, recently graduated from Littleton High School and is attending the University of Vermont, and two of his grandchildren, Max and Braden, attend Littleton Middle School and Littleton High School. Steve is honored and excited for the opportunity to serve as the **Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Federal Grants** to support teachers and other school staff in the education of children served by the SAU 36 Schools. He will join us in November, 2019.



Jennifer Tetreault is joining WMRSD as the **Purchasing and Accounts Receivable Assistant** as well as the District's **Communications Coordinator**. Jenn grew up in Groveton and received a B.S. in Forensic Accounting from Franklin University as well as an A.S. in Office Technology Management. In her spare time, Jenn can be found playing flute and piccolo in several local community bands as well as pit bands for both Colonel Town Players in Lancaster and Upstage Players in Littleton. She also loves winter and skiing and serves on the Scholarship Committee for Franconia Ski Club, where her daughter ski races. In the off season, Jenn is an accomplished photographer and artist. Jenn and her daughter live in Whitefield.

Chelsea Arsenault is joining us as a **school psychologist**. She completed her undergraduate studies at Castleton University and her graduate coursework at the University of Kentucky. She has worked within schools as well as clinic and hospital settings. Her experiences include: providing academic/behavioral interventions, working within a multidisciplinary team, and providing group and individual counseling to children and adolescents. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, baking, reading, running, kayaking, and watching baseball (Go Sox!).



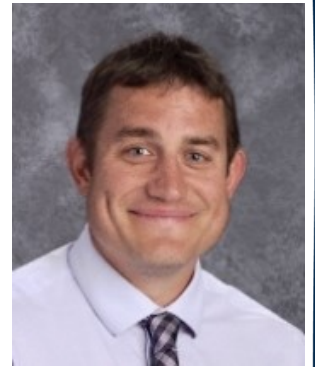
Central Office

Welcome!



Scott Holmes is an energetic and passionate school leader who believes success happens through collaboration and a belief that having a career in education is the best choice somebody can make. Scott has been in the educational field since 2007 working in Maine, Alaska, and New Hampshire. His educational passion is to ensure that students are provided with a world-class education, staff feels valued, and that the community is involved in the education of children. Scott is excited for the opportunity to be in a school that has a rich history of success and community connectedness. Scott is Lancaster Elementary's **School Principal**.

Ryan (Chuck) Patterson grew up and went to school in Colebrook, New Hampshire. After graduating high school, he went to college at UNH, where he majored in geology. After spending a few years in the hospitality field, he decided to go back to school to become a teacher. He enrolled at PSU and received his Master's in Science education. After finishing at Plymouth, Chuck took the opportunity to return to northern New Hampshire and became the Earth Science teacher at White Mountains. After a few years of teaching, he realized that he would like to move into the world of administration, and got the wonderful opportunity to become the **Assistant Principal** at Lancaster School. He is excited for this new challenge and has enjoyed joining the LES family. When Chuck is not working, he enjoys hiking, cooking, reading, and spending time with his wife and dog.



Micah Delventhal Saffian graduated from Plymouth State University and will be teaching **Kindergarten** at LES. She did her student teaching in Kindergarten where she fell in love with the grade and is very excited to start. Outside of school, Micah loves to sing and play music, hike, read, and spend time with her family and friends. She is glad to have the opportunity to be a part of SAU 36, as she grew up here, and is excited to teach alongside many of the teachers from her years in school.

Steve Farquharson just finished the University of New Hampshire's TRRE teaching program. Steve grew up in the Littleton, New Hampshire area and currently resides in Bethlehem, New Hampshire with his wife and two of his sons. He will be working with **Title One** students after having finished a full year of mentoring at Lancaster Elementary school in SAU 36. Steve grew up skiing, hiking, and working in the North Country. He enjoys the area and wants area students to take advantage of the resources available here.



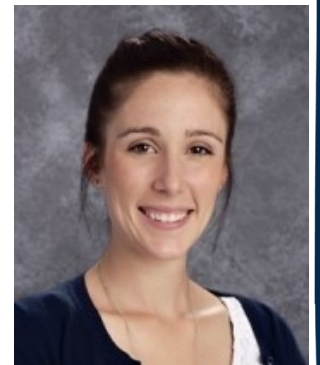
Lancaster Elementary School

Welcome!



Susan Marineau is originally from Rhode Island. She and her husband relocated to the North Country of New Hampshire in 2010 and built their dream home. They have one son, and he and his wife have blessed them with a 4 year old grandson and a 1 year old granddaughter. Sue graduated from Rhode Island College with a B.S. in Nursing. Her early career included Long Term Care, Adult Day Service RN & Case Management, and Home & Hospice Care in RI. In NH, she has recently been employed by The Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Medicine at Weeks Medical Center as well as Profile High School. Sue is excited to be the **Lancaster Elementary School Nurse**.

Michaela Roberts will begin her first year teaching in the Lancaster Elementary School as a **Math and Reading Interventionist**. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Keene State College and recently received her Masters in Elementary Education through the University of New Hampshire. She also hold a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Certification which she utilizes for her personal enjoyment and plans to implement the mindful elements that aid student success into her classroom this school year. She enjoys spending her free time with her son, fiancé, and two dogs. Outside of school you may find her by the water, on a mountain, or admiring gardens.



Erica Scales is thrilled to be back in WMRSD. She grew up in Jefferson, graduated from WMRHS in 1991 then attended U. of Maine Farmington, receiving a Bachelor's of Science in both Special Education with a concentration in Learning Disabilities and in Elementary Education K-8 in 1995. Due to her husband's military career, she went on to teach in several different areas/states and decided to pursue her Master's degree at the U. of Alaska Southeast, receiving her degree in Special Education in 2011. Erica began her teaching career at the Jefferson Elementary School, teaching 2 years before moving out of state. She has enjoyed teaching and living in several different states and regions of the United States. She spent a substantial amount of time in Juneau, Alaska where she worked in the middle school setting. She enjoyed being part of the SpEd Leadership team for 5 years, taught Lego robotics for 3 years, dance team for 2 years, softball boosters and wrestling boosters for 5 years and worked closely with SEALASKA native corp. creating place based, culturally relevant curriculum. Erica now joins WMRSD as a **Special Education teacher**.

Erica is happy to be back, living in the White Mountains and looks forward to being a productive member of this community again. She enjoys hiking, skiing, cooking, crafting and spending time with her family and dogs.

Lancaster Elementary School

Welcome!



Alysha Thibault-Topliffe is the **K-5 Lancaster Elementary School Counselor** this year. She is excited to be back working in New Hampshire. Alysha graduated from Plymouth State University with her Masters of Education in School Counseling in 2017 and has been a School Counselor ever since. Alysha's approach is rooted in mindfulness theory. When she is not at school, she is either adding to her Pokémon collection, hiking, watching TV, or exploring new places.

Jessi Vital lives in Whitefield, NH with her husband and three amazing children. She graduated from Granite State College with a B.A. in English and certification in Special Education. She loves learning and guiding others in discovering new concepts and ideas. Jessi is a **Title One teacher** at LES and can't wait to share her joy, love, and laughter about learning and growing with students, faculty, and community members.



Catherine (Katie) Burns grew up in Lancaster and graduated from WMRHS. After living on Cape Cod and in Maine, she moved back home, married, and had one child who is in college in Alaska. Katie co-own Burns Insurance and Burns Lake Farm with her husband Scott. She also is a 4H leader, a 4H Shooting Sports instructor, and team manager for the Lancaster School's Destination Imagination team. Katie was a sub for about 10 years including several long term sub positions and now joins the District as a **Paraprofessional**.

Tiffany Challinor was raised in Whitefield and graduated from WMRHS in 1997. She was the assistant coach to the Whitefield Lions for 5 years and maintained the books for 2 years prior to that. Tiffany was also the assistant coach for the Whitefield Pirates basketball team in 2018 and assisted the WMRMS softball team in the spring of 2019.

Tiffany resides in Jefferson on a small farm with her husband, 3 daughters (12th grade and 10th grade at the high school and 8th grade at WES), 3 cats, 2 dogs, 3 sheep, 2 goats, 38 chickens, and 10 ducks. She worked as a Community Integrator at Common Ground for 11 years, then took a break and substitute taught for 4 years at SAU 36. Tiffany now joins us as a **Paraprofessional**.



Lancaster Elementary School

Welcome!



Leslie Moore has been in Special Education for 18 years. She's taught in Londonderry, NH at Moose Hill School for 17 years in grades pre-school to Kindergarten. She developed a program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Leslie moved to Bethlehem in June of 2018 and joined Whitefield School as a Paraprofessional. She loves teaching and children and wants to make a difference no matter how small. She enjoys photography, hiking, music, and laughing. Leslie is a **Title 1 Teacher** at the Whitefield School.

Lindsey Spencer is joining WES as a **Special Education Teacher**. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 2009 from Keene State College and her Master's degree in Special Education in 2014 from Southern New Hampshire University. After living and teaching in Vietnam, Vermont, and North Carolina, she decided to come back to New Hampshire. In her free time, Lindsey enjoys being outdoors, reading, crafting, and spending time with friends and family.



Brooke Dubreuil is a **Paraprofessional** at the Whitefield Elementary School. She has worked in the district and primarily in WES since February of 2019. She began as a substitute for the school, which turned into being within WES almost daily. Working with all aspects of students became a passion that has lead her to where she is today. Her own children have always worked with special instruction over their years within the WMRS, so Brooke has become very accustomed to understanding the many different needs that all children may have on a day to day basis. She applies her knowledge to assist students in a way that will benefit them individually. Brooke and her husband live in Lancaster. They have 3 boys, 2 daughters, and 2 grandchildren. They also maintain a small farm with 16 beef cows, 6 pigs, and 3 turkeys. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and love of animals with others. Being a hunting family, Brooke also enjoys the fall, because of the bonding time hunting provides her family. In the winter months, Brooke assists her husband with his taxidermy business.

Rebecca (Grace) Read is a **Paraprofessional** with over six years of experience. She came to Whitefield Elementary from Lakeway Elementary where she worked as a substitute teacher. Prior to that, she was a one-to-one aide at Nassau Boces in New York. During her time at Nassau Boces, she was an active member of the Site Based Management team.

In her free time, Grace enjoys caring for her small farm in Whitefield, hiking, and playing guitar.



Whitefield Elementary School

Welcome!



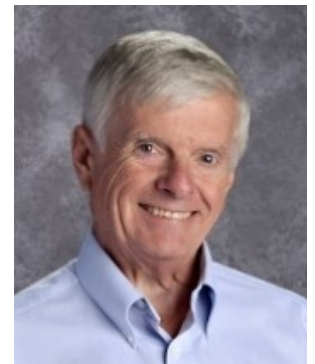
Leslie Claridge is in his first year with White Mountains Regional High School teaching 9th and 11th grade **Humanities**. He earned a B.A. in 2012 from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL where he studied Sociology and Law & Justice. He earned an M.Ed in Secondary Education from the University of New Hampshire in 2019. He is excited to join a dedicated staff and embrace innovative approaches to public education. In his free time he enjoys mountain biking, skiing, and cooking.

Kelsey Liebenson-Morse is delighted to be joining the staff at WMRHS this year. Kelsey will be teaching **Humanities** and hopes to spread her lifelong love of reading and writing with students, staff, and the North Country community. She earned her MFA in Nonfiction Writing from West Virginia University. In her spare time, Kelsey enjoys cooking, running, and spending any time outdoors.



Jessica Russ is looking forward to this year as a **School Counselor** at WMRHS. She graduated with her MA in School Counseling from Assumption College. She worked the last two years in Ludlow, Vermont and previously worked four years in Berlin, New Hampshire. Ms. Russ enjoys hiking and being outdoors with her daughter Sadie.

George (Kit) Carter is a **Special Education department Case Manager** and **Para-educator**. He graduated from WMRHS and served as president of the WMRHS Alumni Association. Kit received a Bachelor of Science in Social Science Education from Plymouth State and Juris Doctor from Franklin Pierce Law Center (now UNH Law). He practiced law for thirty years in the North Country and is active on the Board of the Weathervane Theatre and Colonel Town Players of Lancaster.



White Mountains Regional High School

Welcome!



Aidan Wiggin is excited to begin her first year teaching at WMRHS. She will be teaching **AP Environmental Science, Earth and Space Science**, and the **Ag Science CTE** program. She holds an Environmental Science degree from DVU and an M.Ed from UNH. In her free time you'll find her hiking with her two dogs or riding her horse.

Bill Jones graduated from Gorham High School, Concord Commercial College in Accounting, and NH State Police Academy. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service as Postmaster in 2005 with 32 years of service. Bill has been substituting in SAU 36 for about 13 years. He will now be working full time in the **Media Center**. Bill has two sons who graduated from WMRHS.



Isabella Gaetjens-Oleson is an **Americorps VISTA** volunteer working on branding and marketing at White Mountains. She is a member of the WMRHS class of 2019, and her year of Americorps service will act as a working gap year as she explores different career fields. Isabella is very excited to be able to give back to the school and community that shaped her into who she is today, and she's looking forward to working alongside her former teachers in a place she appreciates so much.

Megan Sheltry is the new **Catering and Culinary Technical Education Facilitator** working with culinary and hospitality CTE students. She completed the Mountain View Academy program at WMRHS in 2015 and then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Business Management from Rivier University. She is currently working towards becoming a licensed Massage Therapist and is enrolled in classes at White Mountains Community College. Megan is excited to be back in the beautiful North Country and have this opportunity to help advance the Spartan Culinary and Hospitality program.



White Mountains Regional High School

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