



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear RSU 1 Families,

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! We are glad that we were able to celebrate with a normal graduation ceremony for the graduates and their families.

RSU 1 will return next fall at 100% in-person learning at all schools. We are optimistic for next year especially given that the State recently announced that they are lifting all physical distancing requirements for PreK-12 effective for the start of the 2021 school year. In addition, Governor Mills announced that Maine's State of Civil Emergency will end on June 30, 2021. The State's indoor face-covering requirement for preK-12 schools will also cease on June 30. The Maine CDC continues to strongly recommend, but not require, that unvaccinated people - including those under 12 who are not yet eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine - wear face coverings indoors. The district will make decisions soon related to the recommended health and safety measures so that expectations are clear for staff and families and continue to put the safety of our community first.

The district is in the process of hiring additional staff with COVID relief funding to reduce some class sizes, provide academic intervention support, and offer additional mental health services. With these supports as well as the continued positivity and flexibility from our staff, we are hopeful for a smooth and productive 2021-2022 school year right from the start.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and flexibility as we navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to returning to a sense of normalcy next school year. I wish you an enjoyable summer and hope you are able to spend time with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Patrick Manuel  
Superintendent of Schools

Online at [RSU1.org](https://rsu1.org)

@rsu1schools

Download the RSU 1 app!

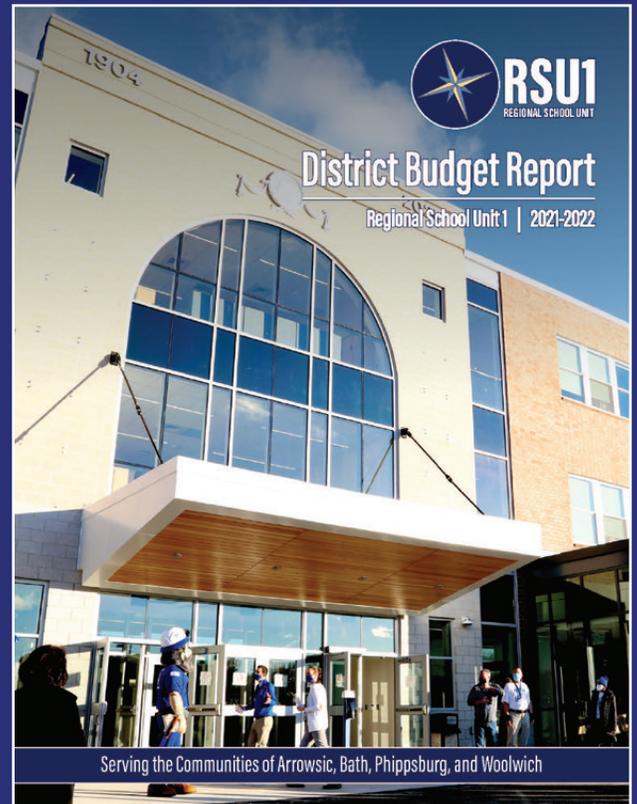


## RSU 1 Voters Approve FY22 Budget

RSU 1 voters approved the FY22 Budget on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, by a vote of 317-69.

Thank you to all who voted for your participation in this important process.

The RSU 1 Annual Budget Report can be viewed online at <https://5il.co/tkz1>



## The RSU 1 Food Service Program is Offering FREE Breakfast this Summer!

RSU 1 will be offering FREE Breakfast to all students in our community this Summer. Breakfast is available to all children, ages 2-18, without charge, and is the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. Breakfast will consist of a choice of cereal and milk or a whole-grain breakfast bar and a choice of fruit or juice. Please take advantage of this opportunity to start your day with a free breakfast.

Breakfast will be served at: Fisher-Mitchell School, 597 High Street in Bath. Service will begin on Tuesday, July 6 and will continue, Mon. - Thurs., until July 29 from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.





## Congratulations Morse High School Graduates!





News From

# MORSE HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Shipbuilders

## Morse High School Graduation

Morse High School held graduation at McMann Field in Bath on Saturday, June 12.

“The Morse Faculty and Staff were excited to invite our graduates and families back to the McMann field complex for a graduation ceremony that was closer to the traditions that we have enjoyed for decades,” said Principal Eric Varney. “I am thankful for the hard work and dedication of the students, staff, and families in getting this class through the unprecedented challenges that they have faced over the past year. Congratulations to the class of 2021!”

## From Valedictorian Eleanor Carrolton:

“Since COVID, every part of high school has felt incredibly new as we attempt to adapt to unprecedented circumstances. This sense of newness reminds me once again what it felt like to be a freshman. To borrow a common saying: we have come full circle. It certainly feels surreal to be nearing a conclusion during what in many ways has been a new beginning, but I am excited to see what’s next. I sincerely hope we will all continue to not only aim high, but also aim forward.”

Carrolton plans to attend the University of Maine Honors College to study microbiology.

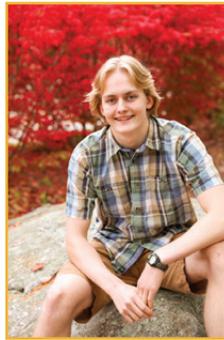
## Morse High School Top Ten Scholars



Eleanor Carrolton



Acadia Morse



Evan Willertz



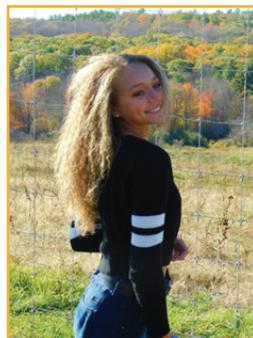
Wylie Jacobs



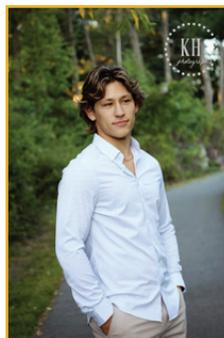
Oscar Hennin



Kathleen Card



Aroura Rock



Ty Knowlton



Meghan Clifford



Tanner Hennin



## Four Morse High School Students Graduate from Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute

On Wednesday, May 26, the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute (Institute) hosted its sixth annual Year End Celebration. During the virtual event, the Institute graduated its fourth class of seniors—comprised of more than 150 young women from high schools in every Maine county, including four from Morse High School.

"Olympia's Leaders," as participants are called, engage in unique programming blending state-wide events, experiential activities in small groups, individual development and reflections, and tailored connections with Maine's business and community leaders.

At Morse High School, graduating Olympia's Leaders included:

**Meghan Harper**—who will be taking a gap year to work and travel (Italy, Kenya, China) before attending Johnson and Wales University

**Mary LaRochelle**—who will be matriculating to Thomas College to study Criminal Justice and Psychology

**Dylan Phenix**—who will be matriculating to St. Lawrence University

**Nina Powers**—who will be matriculating to Emerson College to study Writing, Literature, and Publishing

Principal Eric Varney congratulated Morse's graduating Olympia's Leaders, saying, "We are very proud of these young women. The Morse community has benefited from their work ethic, kindness, persistence, and passion, and those strengths will shine wherever they go."



**MEGHAN HARPER**

GAP YEAR (TRAVELING TO ITALY, KENYA, CHINA)  
JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY



**MARY LAROCHELLE**

HONOR ROLL, CAPTAIN IN BASKETBALL & LACROSSE

THOMAS COLLEGE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PSYCHOLOGY



**DYLAN PHENIX**

HONOR ROLL

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



**NINA POWERS**

TOP 10%, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, DEBATE,  
TEEN LIBRARY COUNCIL, CREATIVE WRITING CLUB,  
TELLING ROOM – YOUNG EMERGING AUTHOR'S FELLOWSHIP

EMERSON COLLEGE  
WRITING, LITERATURE, & PUBLISHING



Students in Woolwich Central School's Life Skills class, grades 3-5, pose with "Shipbuilder," the Morse High School mascot.

## Morse High Schools Hosts Special Olympics Track and Field Event for District

McMann Field in Bath was a flurry of activity on May 27 as RSU1 athletes took to the field to compete in the Maine Track and Field Special Olympics. Morse High School (MHS) decided to host the event for the district when Special Olympics Maine announced their annual Summer Games would be held virtually this year.

MHS physical education teacher and coach Charles "Charlie" Bingham organized the event with support from teacher and coach Rebecca Roak, RSU1 staff, teachers, and a squad of dedicated Morse students.

"I'm grateful that Larry Dyer and Linda Levesque (former RSU1 coaches) could volunteer their time to serve as head officials," said Bingham. "They've dedicated their lives to RSU1."

Nina Ryan, a junior at MHS, lead off the games with the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Athletes then broke off by grade and school to participate in the day's events: standing and running long jumps, shot put, and 50-, 100-, 200-, 400-, and 800-meter dashes. With plenty of water, and a special visit from Morse's mascot, "Shipbuilder," the day rounded out with an award ceremony in the early afternoon.

"I think the highlight of the day was when we had the photo in the middle of the field with Bath Police Department, Fire & Rescue Department, Sagadahoc Sherriff's Department, athletes, and volunteers," said Bingham. "It gave a sense of normalcy during such a strange year, and also created a sense of community pride: all of these people donated their time for such a great cause and a great group of students."

The RSU1 Track and Field Special Olympics were made possible thanks to community support and sponsorship from Access Health in Brunswick.



100-meter dash



Running Long Jump



Softball Toss



# News From BATH TECH

Bath Regional Career & Technical Center



Bath Tech Senior Celebration student speakers Isaiah Genthner (electricity student, left), and Avi Zaslavsky (culinary arts student, right)

## Bath Tech Celebrates the Class of 2021!

Bath Tech celebrated senior students by presenting them with their competency certifications and honoring those who received scholarships and toolships to help them with their future plans. Award ceremonies were recorded and are available to watch on the Bath Tech YouTube channel:

[Bath Tech Senior Celebration](#)

[National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony](#)

[CNA Pinning Ceremony](#)

[Senior Slideshow](#)



## Certified Residential Medication Aides

Paige Davenport (*Wiscasset MHS, left*) and Brooke Thayer (*Wiscasset MHS, right*) for receiving their CRMA. Davenport and Thayer passed four exams and a medical pass in order to earn this license.

## National Technical Honor Society Inductees:

Congratulations to this year's inductees into the National Technical Honor Society:



(Back row, L-R) Jordan Carrier, Riley Faulkingham, Benjamin Leeman, Emilie Crocker, Anthony Pelletier, Lucas Martin, Samuel Cliffe  
(Front row, L-R): Alana Brown, Talyor Rumery, Hailey Talbot, Dae Kent  
(Bottom right): Zachary Rollins

## Certified Nurses Assistants:

Congratulations to our CNA students for completing their training and passing their state exam:



(L-R): Annabelle Benner, Orlane Bognini, Grace Brodeur, Kaylee Garland, Chelsea Hinds, Payson Kaler, Kailah Malcolm, Hailey Talbert



## Eighth Grade Clap Out

On their last day of school, eighth graders at Bath Middle School donned Morse High School t-shirts and made a lap around the school, cheered on by younger students, teachers, and staff.

Congratulations to the BMS Class of 2021!

## End of Year Concert

Mr. Chipman lead an end-of-year concert for students on McMann Field. Our talented musicians showed great progress over the course of the year.



*BMS 8th graders are given an enthusiastic send-off from their peers*



*BMS held their final student concert on McMann Field*

## Second Semester AAA Recipients

Congratulations to our AAA Award Winners for the second semester of 2020-2021! We are very proud of these students, and hope you are as well. [Click Here](#) to watch Principal Ward's speech.

### Reid House

- Peyton Price
- Libby Reblin
- Thadeous Grover

### Acadia House

- Henry Arsenault
- Russell Taylor
- Niesa Wallace

### Popham House

- Elias Sommers
- Casey Wallace
- Natalie Veillette

### Seguin House

- Anthony Benoit
- Emma McCue
- Ellis Vallade

### Katahdin House

- Yuiza Rodriguez-Adorno
- Zoe Nicholson
- Bryce Bustamante



## Bath Middle School 7th Graders Hold the First “Great Food Truck Challenge”

As Bath Middle School returned to full-time in-person learning, ELA teacher Tanya Pomerleau found a way for her 8th grade students to interact safely with one another by developing a cross-disciplinary unit on food trucks.

“I surveyed my students often to get a pulse on what is working for them (in school) and what is not,” Pomerleau said. “Through these conversations I learned how much they loved our Shark Tank learning experience at the start of 7th grade. What better way to end our two years together than coming full circle with a similar-but-different kind of experience?”

During their “Shark Tank” unit, students were asked to invent a product, develop a website and visual aids to promote it, and present their concept to a panel of judges and their peers. Similarly, in Pomerleau’s Food Truck Unit, students were asked to research the local food truck economy and develop their own food truck concept with themed menu. They wrote a commercial, built a shoebox prototype with an accompanying website, and pitched their truck to an audience of their peers.

“Students were very excited to create their shoebox prototypes. They were given a ‘budget’ for supplies



which they used to plan the exterior, interior, and products that they needed to launch their food truck concept,” Pomerleau said. “Several students even interviewed local restaurant owners for input.”

The Great Food Truck Challenge took place on June 15. Trucks and menus ranged from savory (“Straight BBQ”) to sweet (“Sweet Eats”), hot and spicy (“The Ragin’ Taco”) to mild and smooth (“Summertime Smoothie”). When their presentations were done, students were given five tickets to vote for their favorite truck. Students Donovin Green, Bridgett Harmon and Anna Barabe won with their smoothie truck, “Summer Smoothies.”

“The students were super engaged in this unit, which is its own reward when it comes to teaching,” Pomerleau said. “We have a great community here at BMS, and I hope to engage future classes with similar units.”

### Summer Resources Webpage

To help students continue to find success in the upcoming school year, we encourage students and families to explore our Summer Resource Webpage to discover a variety of activities, challenges, and local experiences/resources:

[Summer Resources: Challenge by Choice](#)



News From

# WOOLWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL

*Relationships, Rigor and Perseverance*

## A New Class of Wildcats Graduate

Woolwich Central School held graduation in the new Morse High School auditorium on June 15.

Among the awards distributed to the 37 graduating 8th graders was the Principal's Award, which was given to Helen Robicheaw, and the Secretary of State Award (presented by Rep. Allison Hepler), which was given to Sadie Swenson.

Congratulations to the class of 2021, and good luck in your future endeavors! We will miss you!



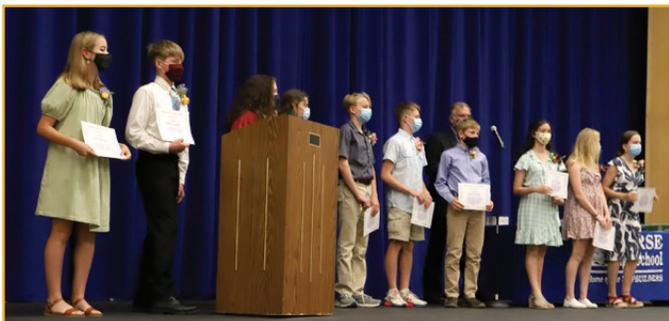
*A successful egg drop earns a student a badge*

## STEAM Olympiad

Students gathered outside Woolwich Central School (WCS) on June 11 to watch Principal Jason Libby drop carefully protected eggs in tissue box capsules with grocery bag parachutes from the roof - the first event in the school's STEAM Olympiad.

WCS students in grades 3-5 participate in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Olympiad annually. In a typical year students partake in 8 - 12 events, but COVID precautions means that students all participated in the same events in their own classrooms: building towers from straws and marshmallows, and launching paper rockets.

"The egg drop is a much anticipated event," said third grade teacher Kari Babcock. "Because we could not gather in the atrium as we usually do, Jason agreed to drop them from the roof, which allowed the whole wing 3-5 to be together for the first time since we left school in March of 2020. It was truly an exciting way to end the year and may actually become a new tradition."



*Academic Honor and High Honor Roll students*



*Habits of Work Honor and High Honor Roll students*



*Students Avery Doak (left) and Bella Nguyen (right) tell their class's history*



## Have a Great Summer, DNS!

From Principal Jennifer McKay: Have a WONDERFUL summer - for those who are moving on to Fisher-Mitchell or other school districts, thank you for spending time with us at Dike-Newell, and being a part of our school community. For those returning in the fall, we cannot wait to see your faces once again!

## First Grade Students Welcomed as Users of the Patten Free Library

This June, Dike-Newell School first grade students received gift bags to welcome them as users of the Patten Free Library.

In a normal year, first grade students would have had a field trip to the library, taken a tour, and then received their library card. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this was not possible, but, under the direction of Patten Free Library Children’s Librarian Katy Dodge, special bags with a Pete the Cat theme were created so that students could still feel welcomed and excited about visiting the library.

Below, students from Mrs. O’Brien’s class explore the contents of their bags!

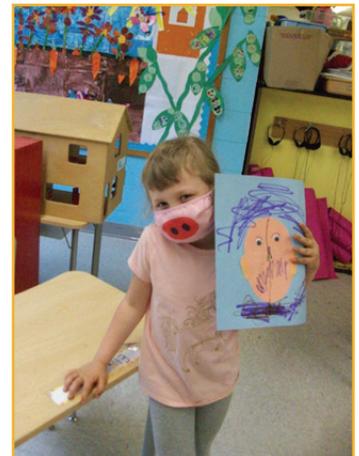
## Library Field Day Photos



Student Braylon



Student Elijah



Student Elizabeth



Student Emilee



## Portland Stage PLAY Program Brings Virtual Performing Arts to Dike-Newell School

The Portland Stage PLAY Program brought performing arts into Dike-Newell School this month through virtual dramatic reading and an acting workshop that had students out of their chairs and exploring their emotions.

Portland Stage actors brought four children's books to life in their dramatic reading performance: *Ambitious Girl* by Meena Harris, *The Happy Book* by Andy Rash, *Kevin the Unicorn: It's not all Rainbows* by Jessika Von Innerebner, and *Boxitects* by Kim Smith.

"All of our PLAY series have a common theme and we pick books surrounding that theme," said Portland Stage Education Director Hannah Cordes.

"This spring, our theme was Big Feelings: Processing & Expressing Emotions. We thought it was an appropriate theme given all the big feelings that students have been holding and handling during the pandemic. These books honor the fact that it is ok to not be ok and helps students think about how they can support each other through all their big feelings!"

After watching the performances, students in Susan Michaud's second grade classroom turned on their laptops and introduced themselves to Portland Stage Education Administrator Julianne Shea and Professional Teaching Artist René Johnson, who portrayed the main character in *Ambitious Girl*.

Shea and Johnson lead the class in a discussion of the performances that began with each student opening their imaginary actor's toolbox. Inside they found "voice candies" that allowed them to talk like the book characters, sunglasses that allowed them

to see different places in the books, and a body suit that allowed them to share the feelings of the characters. With each new tool from their imaginary box, students became more involved, jumping out of their chairs when they felt the success of teamwork in *Boxitects*, and hanging down their heads when they felt the sadness of Clam, a character from *The Happy Book*.

"Elementary school students are in such an important developmental stage where they are figuring out who they are and how they express themselves," said Cordes. "Talking about feelings, how we express them, how they can sometimes be hard and confusing. How we help each other through big feelings is huge steppingstone for their self-discovery."

"This was definitely a big hit for our kids," shared Michaud. "I saw some students who usually don't participate in activities like this fully participating. When I asked them what they thought, they said, 'We love it.'"

Cordes said it has been "a joy and a privilege" to be able to work with students remotely throughout the pandemic. She hopes the PLAY Program helps students feel more connected to storytelling and books, and inspires them to use their voices, bodies, and imaginations to bring characters and stories to life.



Susan Michaud's second grade class explores their emotions with Portland Stage



News From

# FISHER MITCHELL SCHOOL

THINK. CARE. ACT.

## Have a Great Summer, FMS!

*From Principal Ross Berkowitz:* Thank you to everyone who made this year successful. We look forward to seeing our returning 3rd and 4th graders, and we are really excited for our incoming 3rd graders to fill our halls and classrooms with their smiles and energy. To our 5th graders, while you will be missed, you are ready for your next adventure!

## Fourth Graders Try Their Hand at Wabanaki Atlatl

Every year, fourth graders at Fisher-Mitchell School (FMS) study Maine's indigenous people, the Wabanaki. In a typical year, Alicia LaFosse's class takes a field trip to Coastal Rivers Conservation Center (CRCC) in Damariscotta to explore the indigenous people's 12,000 year history, but COVID-19 led to a change in plans.

Today, the four Maine Indian tribes are the Maliseet, Micmac, Penobscot, and Passamaquody, known collectively as the Wabanaki. The CCRC offers field trips on Wabanaki survival skills, like making a reed mat wigwam, identifying edible plants, building shelters, and using an atlatl, a handheld lever used to propel spears.

"This year, [since field trips were not possible], the Center offered an education kit that came with several picture books, and pieces of birch bark that we soaked in water and then etched with a traditional double curved symbol," LaFosse said. "Students then researched and wrote an informational piece. Topics ranged from transportation to food preparation, uses of birch bark, and hunting and fishing practices."



*Payten Petersen prepared to throw a spear with an atlatl.*

LaFosse also wanted her students to experience a hands-on activity like those at CRCC, so the school purchased its own atlatl and spears. Students practiced their throwing technique using a cardboard javelin on a rope tied between two trees and honed their overarm throwing during recess.

"When the day came for actually using the atlatl the kids were very excited," said LaFosse. "With perseverance and many tries, students began to launch the spear further and further and with better accuracy. Even though only one student hit the target, most of the students did not give up. I think that activities like these are perfect opportunities for knowing that, with practice and a growth mindset, everyone can make progress."

LaFosse said the exercise also showcased the ability of ancient societies to improve tools, since spears thrown without the atlatl only went a third of the distance.

"This activity, along with publishing our informational pieces, concluded our Wabanaki studies for the year. I hope, however, that students will retain what they've learned and use it to understand and appreciate current issues facing the tribes in Maine and our country," LaFosse said.



*News From*

# PHIPPSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*THINK. CARE. ACT.*

## End of Year Celebrations at PES

Phippsburg Elementary School made the most of the good weather this month with an outdoor concert, graduation ceremony, and field day.

At graduation, students Addi Tainter and Jackson Perkins shared their favorite PES memories, and Jayden Wight shared his own rap about the school. We wish our 16 graduating 5th graders all the best at Bath Middle School, and hope they will stay in touch!

Our year-end concert was organized by retiring music teacher Louine Gagnon, who brought much joy to our students during her year at PES! Morse High School Valedictorian Eleanor Carrolton, a PES graduate, joined us as a special guest to sing the national anthem. Although students couldn't sing due to COVID-19 precautions, we hope parents enjoyed the creative approach to this concert with lots of color, drums, and sign language.

All of our field day activities were created by our 5th graders based on the theme of COVID-19. We had "Pin the Mask on Dr. Shah," a sanitizer relay race, "Knock Down Corona" bowling, and more. 5th graders did an excellent job overseeing their events and were great coaches for the younger students.

"This was a totally different year so we had a totally different field day," student Addi Tainter shared. "This year was different but it was still awesome."



*Principal Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer speaks at graduation day*



*Louine Gagnon receives flowers at the close of the concert*



*A concert without singing? No problem!*



## Field Day Photos



"Pin the Mask on Dr. Shah" during field day



"Vaccine Race" obstacle course

## RSU1 Elementary School Classrooms Enjoy Virtual Author Visits

Although it's easy to name the ways COVID-19 has kept us apart, advances in virtual communication have actually helped some RSU1 classrooms make connections. Schools like Phippsburg Elementary School (PES) have used the opportunity to invite authors from near and far into their classrooms.

PES teacher Sandi Brann, who is currently working to become a certified librarian, said she has always had a "huge passion" for reading. In total, she has organized virtual visits with 11 different authors this year.

"I wanted to make this year as positive as I could for my kids," she said. "Instead of focusing on all of the ways COVID-19 upended our world, I wanted to focus on things we could do."

Guests included Dan Gemenhart, author of her class's favorite read aloud story, *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*, Christina Soonernvat and Lauren Castillo, author and illustrator of *The Ramble, Shamble Children*, and Dav Pilkey, author of the *Captain Underpants* series.

"Another huge hit was Jarrett Lerner, who talked about his latest activity book, *Give This Book a Title*. The kids are begging me to invite him back," Brann added.

"I hope these visits help light a spark in my students in regard to reading and writing," said Brann. "This year, some of my students have gone from sitting at their desk, just staring at their pencil, to writing pages and pages of material. It's so fun to see them bloom."



Student Camden Nickerson shows his work to author Jarrett Lerner.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**MON**  
**JUN** **28** RSU 1 School Board Meeting  
Morse High School  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



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Thank you for reading!

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