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# Maple Run Unified School District

The Maple Run Unified School District is where inquiring minds, compassionate hearts, creative expression, healthy lives and service to the community develop so all can learn, achieve and succeed.

- Bellows Free Academy
- Collins Perley Sports Center
- Fairfield Center School
- Northwest Technical Center
- St. Albans City School
- St. Albans Town Educational Center
- www.maplerun.org

July 2018



## Celebrating Successes Across Our District

Maple Run Unified School District wrapped up its first full year as a unified district, and in doing so stacked up several great successes. The three elementary schools saw their eighth graders promoted on to high school. BFA's graduation provided the opportunity for teachers and staff from across the district to take extreme pride. Students graduating from high school have been influenced by teachers and staff within our district since pre-K. Our single district allows all administrators, teachers, and staff to work towards the same goals. The bigger picture is becoming more clearly focused. The common goal is complex, but outwardly it may appear to be simple: helping our students become their best.



Educational Equity has been defined and is the backbone of district decisions. The path to educational equity won't happen overnight, but recognition and awareness of what is needed to make it happen for Maple Run is a

giant first step. Working together towards forward progress of the common goal, while each building keeps its own personality, is both challenging and exciting.

Maple Run Unified School District is blessed with dedicated people; from the community, to the volunteer board of directors, to administration, to teachers and staff. Each influences our children daily.

This newsletter covers just a fraction of the successes our district has enjoyed during the final weeks of school. ■

**A picture is, indeed, worth a thousand words.**

An Early Childhood Programs preschool student at city school (SACS) who requires physical support for everything he does received a power car. His previous chair kept his body and head in an upright, seated position. All his mobility depended on family, physical therapists, and teachers.

To improve his life, high school students from Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) adapted a power car called a [WildThing](#) (see linked Messenger article) for this student to use. The chair provides the student with his first form of independent mobility and everyone on his team is excited about it.



A CVU student and instructor came to SACS to fit the chair and recipient. His astonished smile shows what his first experience with mobile independence must feel like. ■

**The Franklin County Art Show** this year was a big success! Students, families, teachers and administrators from eleven area schools came together on May 15 at Collins-Perley Sports Center in St. Albans to celebrate the best artwork from Franklin County. Paintings, drawings, collages, clay mugs and bowls, windsocks, 3D sculptures and more were on display for a week in mid-May. It was a wonderful celebration of all the creativity and art



making that is happening in the Maple Run District and Franklin County. A BIG thank you to all of the art teachers who participated in this event! ■



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**Special Olympics** at UVM started the Summer Games off with the Unified Bocce Tournament. Athletes and Partners from around the state spent the weekend enjoying Bocce and Basketball. This link is a nice interview that aired featuring BFA's Grace Brooks, Unified Partner of the Year, and Marleigh Lamothe.



Watch the interview from the link below. [http://www.mychamplainvalley.com/video/special-olympics-vermont-kicks-off-at-uvvm\\_20180602031251/1213956558](http://www.mychamplainvalley.com/video/special-olympics-vermont-kicks-off-at-uvvm_20180602031251/1213956558) ■

**SACS Graduation's Trombone Ensemble** which was made up of students and adults. Galen Schad and Dakota Hoague are 6th graders at the City School. Ethan Zawisza and Chris Comstock are music teachers and former SACS alumni. Sam Handy is a junior at BFA, Camille Gunther is a senior at BFA and Nate Gunther just graduated. Frank Mehaffey, Band Director at SACS and Kevin Dirth, Superintendent of Schools. A video is posted here: <https://youtu.be/JL1kEsMGoCO>. ■

**BFA Senior Wins at Student Innovation Fair**

Pictured here is Alek Wolfe at Dynamic Landscapes Student Innovation Fair. His Live Radio Show, The Mixdown, was awarded "Most Engaging Presentation". Congrats Alek! ■



**The Greater St. Albans Middle School Band** (GSAMSB) performed a concert on Thursday morning, June 21, at the Hirshhorn/Smithsonian Museum of Modern Art.



The museum is located on the National Mall in Washington, DC. 100 band students from St. Albans City, SATEC and Fairfield performed next to the fountain on the museum complex. A total of 200 people spent 4 days, June 20-23, in our nations capitol, visiting the Smithsonian Museums, seeing a Washington Nationals baseball game, attending a concert by the US Army Band on the US Capitol steps, and visiting the monuments and memorials around the city. This is the 14th concert and tour of Washington or New York City by the GSAMSB since 1991, under the direction of Frank Mehaffey. The band spent 7 hours in rehearsals on Saturday prior to performing at 10 am Thursday morning. The other music teachers in the district, Andrew Palumbo, Joanne Scott and the new band director at City School, Zachary Kelly, prepared the students for their concert. Thank-you to all involved! ■



*Band Practice*

**Northwest Tech Center Appreciation Night** was held on June 9. Great food, great fun, great people!



*Jasmine and Aaron, past Culinary Arts students*

*It was wonderful to have* alumni come to visit! Jasmine and Aaron, past Culinary Arts students, are both recent graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (Baking and Pastry). We are so proud of them! And speaking of pride, congratulations to another Culinary Arts alumnus, Joe Rock, on his appointment as Head Chef at Ranch Camp in Stowe. Read more about the endeavor that combines mountain bike sales & service with casual grab-and-go foods in the Seven Days article here: <https://m.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/stowes-ranch-camp-combines-bikes-beer-and-burritos/Content?oid=16089933> ■

### SATEC's Annual Cat Tales Published



SATEC students received their copy of the *Cat Tales* annual featuring student-created literature and artwork. The hard work of the students, Mr. Flanagan and many others helped make this magazine possible. ■





### School Mall Prompts Award

St. Albans City School has been immersed in digital based, project-based learning including the latest initiative - a schoolwide, PreK-8 project-based learning unit on economics, community, and business. Teams created their own business that included a business plan, safety plan, product, packaging, product story, logo, jingle, commercial, and a storefront and website. The school hosted a community night, so families could buy local student-made gifts and most groups donated part of their proceeds to local non-profits. Two groups sought to raise awareness around local environmental issues such as the pollution in St. Albans Bay and taking care of the local wetlands.

Every team utilized digital tools to plan and execute their project and each group used the school's Makerspace for at least one part of their project. Most importantly, students realized the same skills they learned during this project could be applied in new ways to various content areas. Check out the website [https://fcsuvt.learning.powerschool.com/carling/sacsschoolmall/cms\\_page/view](https://fcsuvt.learning.powerschool.com/carling/sacsschoolmall/cms_page/view)

From a press release: July 9, 2018 (Washington, D.C.) – SETDA, the principal membership association representing U.S. state and territorial digital learning leaders, announced St. Albans City School as the 2018 Student Voices Award Winner. SETDA recognized St. Albans City School for leveraging technology to dramatically



improve educational experiences and achievement for their students.

In addition to this honor, SETDA awarded St. Albans City School the Elsie Brumback Scholarship, which supports sending a delegation of students & staff to present during the Education Forum at the annual SETDA Leadership Summit on November 5 in Washington, DC.

For the past eleven years, SETDA has honored one school annually across the USA; this is the first time a Vermont school has received the award and the first PreK-8 school to win the award. Five finalists were selected from a large slate of innovative programs from across the country including:

- Armorer High School, Arkansas
- Effingham County CEO Program, Illinois
- Noblesville High School, Indiana
- Meadow Park Middle School, Oregon
- St. Albans City School, Vermont (Winner)

“St. Albans City School is thrilled to be recognized for the impact technology, specifically our maker-inspired project, has brought to our student’s education. The opportunity to present our story at the SETDA Leadership Summit will provide our students an authentic audience where they can demonstrate the transferable skills that are the focus of our learning and share their knowledge and inspiration for the School Mall, a project that has opened many new doors,” said Joan Cavallo, Principal, St. Albans City School. Read the full [press release](#). ■



### Central Office Staffing

Central Office has created a “map” of the office showing where staff is located, along with a chart of duties indicating who to go to for those areas people most often seek answers. This project started out as a way to help orient the three new staff joining Central Office. Making it more useful for everyone in the district made sense. So, to figure out who to call on in specific areas, central office staff added those areas that they believe people most often look for.

The “maps” are posted in the staff section of the district website, and in the employee portal. Here are links to the documents: [Staff Map](#) and [Chart of Duties](#).

These are living documents and are adjusted as changes are made. There will be an update when the new phone system is installed reflecting changes in extensions. ■