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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
- December 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Celebrating Successes Across Our District

REVIEW OF 2018

In review of the Maple Run Unified School District’s (MRUSD) year as we near the end of 2018, there are mixed emotions. There is definitely pride – in the students for some impressive accomplishments; teachers and staff for coming together to work towards equity in this new district; in the community for their continued support.



On the flip side, 2018 has been particularly harsh on the district, the high school in particular, with the untimely loss of a paraeducator; a teacher; and two high school students. During these most difficult times we must stay strong and support each other.

Central Office has reached RiseVT gold level. They were awarded this honor at a recent luncheon, where they were recognized and given a plaque “in recognition your leadership and innovation in accomplishing RiseVT gold standards in wellness policies and practices.” Two of our schools have previously reached this level.

MRUSD students and staff have been honored in a variety of ways, some of which are listed below:

- Jamilah Vogel was published in Professional School Counseling
- Alek Wolfe’s live radio show received an award at the Student Innovation Fair
- Susan Palmer’s Arts program featured in the Agency of Ed Arts Newsletter
- Robbie Maher received a VT-NEA Scholarship

- Jim Naylor and Randi Lynch were given “Rockstar” Designations for wellness
- Ten NWTC students won Gold at Skills USA
- Jared Sparr and Joseph Willis received nominations into Presidential Scholars program
- Dan Marlow presented with the Rick Manahan Civic Involvement Award
- SATEC’s Spelling Bee Team were finalists
- Julie Remillard was Poetry Out Loud Champion
- A MRUSD/SATEC Odyssey of the Mind Team went to World’s State Championships in Girls Hockey and Snowboarding
- SETDA named St. Albans City School as the 2018 Student Voices Award Winner
- McCarthy Kennedy is the recipient of the UVM Green and Gold scholarship
- Karla Kane was recognized at the 38th Vermont Outstanding Teachers’ Recognition Day

Additionally:

- MRUSD SpeakChorus performed to standing ovations at Convocation
- A BFA Junior was appointed to the Vermont Board of Education
- The Governor visited SACS
- Top AOE officials visited NWTC
- The Greater St. Albans Middle School Band performed a concert at the Hirshhorn/Smithsonian Museum of Modern Art
- BFA hosted a State Board of Education meeting
 - ACT 46 mergers were finalized
 - MRUSD SpeakChorus performed, again to standing ovations
- Maple Run Unified School District adopted a Definition of Equity:
 - Educational equity means that each student receives the resources and educational opportunities they need to learn and thrive.
 - Equity means that a student’s success is not predicted nor predetermined by characteristics such as race, ethnicity, religion, family economics, class, geography, disability, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or initial proficiencies.
 - Equity means that every school provides high quality curriculum, programs, teachers and administrators, extracurricular activities and support services.
 - Equity goes beyond formal equality where all students are treated the same. Achieving equity may require an unequal distribution of resources and services.
 - Equity involves disrupting inequitable practices, acknowledging biases, employing practices that reflect the reality that all students will learn, and creating inclusive multicultural school environments for adults and children

Apologies for those that were missed, but as you can see, there were many! Below is a bit more information about the most recent accomplishments.



Dan French (@danfrench) 11/28/18. 1:09 PM

Very inspired by the Maple Run Speak Chorus. Great ending for a #vted SBOE meeting
pic.twitter.com/TCHXrD2bRE

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AT BFA

The State Board of Education held their last meeting before the deadline on final Act 46 decisions at BFA on November 28.

The Board approved a default Articles of Agreement to be used with the districts who had not yet chosen to merge. Then they reviewed their Final Report of Decisions and Order on Statewide District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46. After primarily editing corrections, the Final Report was adopted. The report affirmed current governance structures and approved the Secretary’s proposals on those districts that required merger. At the conclusion of the meeting, MRUSD SpeakChorus performed for the group. Secretary French’s tweet is noted above. SpeakChorus can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/JNl8pAih5-o>

SACS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON DC



Six of our St. Albans City School students travelled to Washington DC on November 14th representing the winners of the 2018 Student Voices Award. Above they are pictured with Sec. of Education, Betsy DeVos.

This is the **first time a Vermont School has received the award - and the FIRST PreK-8 SCHOOL in the NATION to EVER receive this award.** Now, take a moment; be proud. Then brag to all of your friends!

St. Albans City School students presented to an audience of state leaders and guests from national education organizations, the U.S. Department of Education, policy makers and corporate partners. The students highlighted specific examples of how technology tools and resources provided them with

personalized learning opportunities infused with innovative, project-based learning. Students led a presentation about their projects, demonstrating pride and caring for their school community and environment, while emphasizing the role technology had in making those projects possible. They also shared the e-portfolio system that captures the many dimensions of each child’s learning pathway through their years from pre k-12.

Secretary DeVos said to the St. Albans students, “Learning is fun, and it can be interesting and exciting. School should be too. We want to empower you to make it so. You are 100 percent of our future; you deserve 100 percent of our effort.”

Vermont Education Secretary Dan French said "I am pleased and proud that St. Albans City School has been recognized as both the first Vermont school and the first PreK-8 school nationwide to receive the SETDA Student Voices Award. It’s a testament to the innovative spirit of #vted educators, who are constantly finding new ways to integrate technology into the classroom at every level. It’s just one of the many ways we are building a world-class education system that guarantees quality and equity for all Vermont learners. St. Albans’ method, incorporating technology at the core of the student experience, is outstanding and worthy of emulation".

Read the full newsletter here: <https://www.setda.org/outreach/press-releases/press-release-2018/pressreleasestudentsfromstalbans/>

TOP TEN SCHOLAR ATHLETES FOR 2018



ATHLETIC AWARDS

The Vermont State Athletic Directors Association recognized the top ten Scholar Athletes for 2018 at the annual High School athletic Leadership Conference held on November 5th at the Hilton Conference Center in Burlington.

Elena Clark and Colby Brouillette of BFA Class of 2019 were two of those top ten athletes recognized in Vermont for their accomplishments.

Colby Brouillette is a multi-year letter-winner in soccer, hockey, baseball and football at BFA St. Albans. In hockey, he was named to the 2018 VT State Second Team and was a 2017 Honorable Mention. In baseball, he was named the 2018 Metro Co-Player of the Year and made the 2018 USA Today Vermont Second Team. Colby ranks in the top 5% of his graduating class, having made the High Honor Roll from 9th grade to the present, and is a member of both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society (Medical Professions). Colby is the Student Council President, a member of both the BFA Athletic Council and A World of Difference, attended the Anti-Defamation League Leadership Conference in Boston, MA, and was selected to Green Mountain Boys State. Colby gives back to his community through participation in Operation Happiness, serving as a volunteer youth hockey and baseball coach, volunteering at the Helping Hands Thrift Shop, and coaching in the annual Powder Puff Football fundraiser for cancer research.

Elena Clark is a three-sport athlete at BFA St. Albans, and by graduation will have earned twelve Varsity letters in soccer, basketball and lacrosse. Elena has earned High Honors for every semester of high school, was awarded the Math Club Award, and has received the Bronze and Silver Pin, having earned 39 semester "A's" leading up to her senior year. In the area of leadership, Elena is a member of A World of Difference, the Athletic Council, the National Honor Society, and was the captain of her Powderpuff football team for the annual BFA-MVU fundraiser. Elena gives back to her community through her volunteer work at Comet Basketball Camp, Christmas caroling at local retirement homes, mentoring at a local middle school, taking

part in Operation Happiness, serving breakfast for Police Officers, and waiting tables at the Parish Appreciation Dinner.

SHREK



BFA's Shrek was a huge success!



We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Be kind to one another. Give your kids an extra hug.

