



Old Town High School
School Board Report
November, 2018

OTHS has a Presidential Scholar Nominee

We learned today that we have a student who is one of ten students in the state of Maine to be named as a Presidential Scholar Nominee. Emma Hargreaves, a senior and former RSU 34 student school board representative, was nominated by our Student Services staff and received the news with us today.

This program was established in the 1964 by Executive Order of the President of the United States and is designed to recognize the most distinguished graduating seniors and their academic success, leadership and service to school and community. The program has gone through several expansions since then, but still touts itself as “one of the Nation’s highest honors for students in the United States. Emma is now invited to apply to receive the ultimate recognition of being the one representative from the State of Maine for an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC for a ceremony at the White House. I am sure we have had others in the storied history of Old Town High School achieve this honor, but none in the last several years. We will do a press release in the coming days. Congratulations Emma!

Athletics Update

As hard as this is to believe, our winter sports season is underway. Practices and tryouts began on November 19th. As of this writing, I don’t have solid participation numbers just yet and indoor track does not start until today - (November 26th). I have shared a few dates of first contests per sport at the end of this report.

Here is the link to all OTHS winter sports schedules:

<http://rsu34me.apptegy.us/o/oths/page/athletic-schedules-changed-per-season>

Dual Enrollment vs. AP Classes

Just before Thanksgiving break, we engaged in a conversation with some representatives from U-Maine about the possibility of offering classes at OTHS which would serve as dual enrollment. In other words, a student could take a class at Old Town High School and earn credit toward an OTHS diploma, but in cooperation with U-Maine they could also earn college credit. Currently, we have done this on a limited basis with the University of Maine at Fort Kent through their Rural-U program, but our proximity to U-Maine (Orono) begs the question as to why we haven't done this for a long time. There are some good reasons for this, one being that the requirements that U-Maine has had for dual enrollment teachers have been an impediment. Up to now, they have typically required a teacher to have a master's degree within their content area. We have few teachers who hold a master's degree in their content. Another impediment has been scheduling; for years we have operated on an alternating day schedule, while U-Maine is on a MWF/TR schedule. The two schedules don't mesh well and have been impossible for us to navigate. U-Maine has loosened up their requirements for teachers and they will now allow these classes to be taught within our existing schedule at OTHS. The curriculum and syllabi will be vetted by U-Maine staff, as it should be given that they will be awarding credit for students who take and pass the class successfully. My long-term vision for this would be that these offerings potentially replace AP offerings. My struggle with AP has long been that it is driven by money and places all of the emphasis on a high stakes "AP exam" in early May. Our staff who teach AP have training and good support, but if the AP exam does not result in a passing grade, the student gets nothing. In the dual enrollment model, students who pass the class get college credit. There are still some questions for us to work through - books, students who don't want U-Maine system credit, for example. Overall, we believe this may be a better model to serve our students than what we currently offer. We will be offering an informational meeting for interested teachers on Tuesday, December 4th to learn more from U-Maine and to gauge the interest from our teaching staff.

Honors Classes

For the last couple of months, our Faculty Leadership team has been wrestling with the question of what it means for a class to carry the "honors" distinction. We have recognized over the last couple of years that there has been great variation between content areas as to what is expected of an "honors" class versus what is expected of the same class without that label. We have a document that is nearly ready to share with the entire faculty which spells out some general expectations. We want to make certain that we offer the appropriate level of rigor across all content areas and that the expectation from the teachers of honors classes are similar regardless of content.

National Honor Society Induction

On Thursday, November 22nd, we inducted 21 more students into the OTHS chapter of the National Honor Society. Michelle Dunphy was our keynote speaker. New inductees - Jacob Cyr, Alex Chapman, Arianna Gordon, Alexis Wagner, Ben Francis, Mikaela Kenny, Teagan Blackie, Claudia Damboise, Hannah Sibley, Sarah Ness, Danielle Baker, Matt Hartt, Davey Roderick, Joseph D' Angelo, Gage Smith, Kyra Wickett, Sydney Sheehan, Abigail McKinley, Grace Harvey, Brooke Sossong & Jacey Harrison.

I have included a picture at the end of this report.

Upcoming Events at OTHS

December 7	Girls' Basketball @ MDI
December 7	Home Swim vs. MDI
December 8	Boys' Basketball @ MDI
December 8	Ice Hockey vs. Brewer
December 11	Boys' Basketball vs. Ellsworth
December 12	Girls' Basketball vs. Ellsworth
December 14	Girls' Basketball @ Mt. View
December 14	Boys' Basketball vs. Mt. View
December 14	2nd Quarter - Progress Reports
December 14	Home Swim vs. Carlisle
December 15	Ice Hockey vs. Houlton/Hodgdon
December 18	Boys' Basketball @ John Bapst
December 19	Girls' Basketball @ John Bapst
December 20	Girls' & Boys' Basketball @ Orono
December 21	Home Swim vs. Orono
December 22	Girls' & Boys' Basketball vs. Caribou
December 22	Ice Hockey vs. Waterville/Winslow
December 22	Indoor Track at U-Maine
December 27	Girls' & Boys' Basketball @ Hermon
December 27	Ice Hockey vs. Messalonskee
January 5	Cheering Competition at Hampden Academy

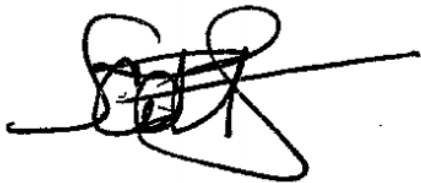
Students of the Month

<i>Grade 9</i>	Makayla Brooks
<i>Grade 10</i>	Cassie Harris
<i>Grade 11</i>	Hannah Sibley
<i>Grade 12</i>	Meaghan Kelley
<i>Staff of the Month</i>	Lisa Harvey

By the Numbers

<i>Class of 2019</i>	122
<i>Class of 2020</i>	124
<i>Class of 2021</i>	134
<i>Class of 2022</i>	132
<i>Total Enrollment</i>	512
<i>UTC Enrollment</i>	50 students

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gordon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Scott Gordon
Principal**

