



## Old Town High School School Board Report October, 2019

### **Maine Supreme Court – to OTHS**

On Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Old Town High School students and staff had a rare opportunity to view the inner workings of the Maine Supreme Court as they paid us a visit during the morning hours to hold a regular session in MacKenzie Gymnasium. Our students not only had a chance to hear three real cases argued before the seven Supreme Court justices, they were also able to ask attorneys questions following the arguments. The questions were moderated by Old Town High School alum Zach Brandmeir (Class of 1999), who served as “Lawyer of the Day.” Chief Justice Leigh Sauffley was very complimentary of our set-up, the preparatory work that was done to turn the gymnasium into a court room and turn the weight room into chambers for the justices. She also complimented our students on their behavior, which was excellent.

A big “Thank You” to Doug Shorey and his custodial crew of Keith Jennings, Aaron Fowler and David Mahan – as they worked hard to get all of the things in order to make this happen. In addition, Mike Feero was instrumental on the technology side of things. This was one of those things where you knew what needed to be done, but due to the fact that we use all of these rooms and areas daily – a lot of work had to be done in a short period of time. We could not do much until about a week prior to the event. Well Done OTHS!

If you missed the media coverage, here are the links:

[Fox 22/Channel 7](#)

[Channel 5](#)

### **Athletics Update**

Our fall sports season is moving by quickly. Our golf season has ended and we finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the state in Class B. They finished the season with only one loss – to Hermon, and then finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the PVC Championships by only 7 strokes - again to Hermon, with the match played at Hermon Meadows... We also had (4) individual golfers finish in the top 25 at states, which is an outstanding accomplishment.

At the time of this writing, our field hockey team is positioned in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Class B and will likely host at least one playoff game. Our football team and boys’ soccer team are also vying for a playoff spot and will need to notch an important win or two down the stretch to make that happen.

As always, an electronic version of the fall sports schedules can be found at:

<https://www.rsu34.org/o/oths/browse/36328>

Please stop by and support our teams if you get a chance!

### **Eligibility Policy – Q & A**

As requested by the Policy Committee, we ran the new eligibility policy back in front of the entire faculty. Many of them had seen this or a version of it – through the involvement on the Faculty Leadership Team. Most, if not all of the questions are more internal in nature and require answers as to how we will administer the policy as to opposed to questions about the language of the policy itself.

**Q: If a student was ineligible or probationary for the previous quarter, could they tryout for the next season's sport?**

**A:** A student who was ineligible or in probationary status for the previous quarter could tryout for the next season's sport, but their status would be based on their academic performance leading up to the new season.

**Q: Could a student drop a class to remain eligible?**

**A:** This answer is provided within the language of the policy – *“any class that is dropped outside of the ‘add-drop’ period shall count as the grade earned at the time the class was dropped for eligibility purposes.”*

In addition, we have put guidelines in place to prevent students from adding a class simply to become eligible – (think total number of classes). Students are allowed to change level of classes – honors to regular or vice-versa, based on their need.

**Q: Which sports/activities are covered by this policy and which are not?**

**A:** We will provide a list for staff, but any activity that is extra-curricular is covered by this policy. Co-curricular activities are not covered by this policy.

**Q: Will the coach/advisor know if a student is ineligible, and if so, how?**

**A:** The athletic director and administration will provide coaches and advisors with a list of students who are probationary or ineligible when grades are submitted at the end of each quarter.

**Q: Who has the responsibility of developing and monitoring the plan?**

**A:** Ultimately, the responsibility for the plan lies with the student. He/she will need to recognize the need for a plan and to take the lead in the development of the plan, along with support from the athletic director. In terms of monitoring the plan, the athletic director and administration will assist with monitoring the plan and communicate with teachers as necessary.

**Q: In between the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters, it is possible that a student could have failed a class that they no longer carry on their schedule, as the semester changes and some semester classes may end. What do we in the case of those students?**

**A:** There is not a great answer to cover this scenario. The student would remain in a probationary status, until such a time that they are passing all of their scheduled classes and their Habits of Work grades are also meeting the requirements set forth by the policy.

## **In-Service Day Activities**

Our In-Service day on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> provided our staff with an extended amount of dedicated time to discuss the importance of Habits of Work and the most efficient way to report out to parents. We also had a staff member with some expertise in assessment share some strategies with colleagues. The afternoon allowed departments to get together to discuss a couple of items including what, if any support they need to complete work around the rubrics they use with our students.

## **Upcoming Events**

Wednesday, October 16  
Friday, November 1  
Friday, November 8  
Monday, November 11  
Thursday, November 14  
Monday, November 18

PSAT's  
End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
Lifetouch Picture re-takes  
Veteran's Day – No School  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Winter Sports begin

## **Enrollment Numbers**

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Grade 12</b> | 127        |
| <b>Grade 11</b> | 140        |
| <b>Grade 10</b> | 127        |
| <b>Grade 9</b>  | 131        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>525</b> |

*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