



Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

Jon Doty, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

576 Stillwater Ave. – Old Town, ME 04468 – (207) 827-3932 - Fax (207) 827-3926 – jon.doty@rsu34.org

May 12th, 2021 – Report to the Board

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights

- State testing is underway, with math/ELA assessment in grades 3-8 and the third year of high school, and science assessment for grades 5, 8, and the third year of high school beginning next week.

The math and ELA assessment is the NWEA, which is quite familiar to us. The science assessment is a new, lengthier assessment on a new platform (New Meridian); there have been a number of rollout hiccups across the state. I am encouraged that the assessment will address the NextGen Science and Engineering Standards, which we switched to in 2012, though I am concerned about the length of the assessment. Staff are understandably concerned about the dedication of significant instructional time in a disrupted year. I have encouraged our teachers to mentally approach this spring's rollout of the science assessment as a pilot, from which we can learn.

- Our River Runners program is proud to share their April newsletter, available here: <https://5il.co/sh76>
River Runners is a partnership of RSU #34 and the Old Town-Orono YMCA, inspired by Trekkers, Inc. and their 10 Youth Programming Principles and is part of the Emanuel and Pauline A. Lerner Foundation's Aspirations Incubator Program (a pilot initiative focused on establishing long-term, mentoring-based youth development models in eight rural communities and small cities across Maine).

OTHS STEM Leaders Program and Honors Diploma Program Highlights

- We look forward to celebrating with our students who have earned the Honors Diploma or the STEM Leaders Diploma on Thursday, May 20th! Mrs. Gardner is putting together a nice celebration at Old Town High School which will enable students' families to be involved, while maintaining safety protocols.
- Work continues on the details of a proposed OTHS Humanities Diploma.

ESEA programs (Title IA, IIA, IVA)

- In May and June Barb Grindle and I will participate in trainings for the state's new grants management system. The current "4PCA" system has hosted the applications, revisions, reporting, and invoicing for Title IA, IIA, IVA since the mid-late 2000s, as well as the pandemic-related ESSER grants.

Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.

- RSU #34 is assessing needs and planning for the 2021-2022 ESEA programs in parallel with the district budgeting process. For information on how to be involved please contact Jon.Doty@rsu34.org

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Doty", written in a cursive style.

Jon Doty