



Helen A. Thompson School

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL



School Telephone: 724-3930

School Fax Number: 724-3934

Transportation: 582-6663

District Web Page: msad11.org

School Hours:

8:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

As a matter of safety, please do not drop students off before 8:10. There is no supervision on the playground or in classrooms until that time.

Notes from the Principal

Dear Families,

Things are in full swing here at Helen Thompson! Thank you for your support of our school rules. Many students have returned their copies of our Code of Cooperation, which is their pledge to follow the rules each day at school. Our goal is to provide a safe learning environment for all students every day. This code will serve as a teaching tool and reminder for students to make safe, respectful and responsible choices every day. Our PTA will meet next Thursday, Sept. 28th at 6 p.m. in the library. Come join us as we plan for another year of enrichment and opportunities for our students!

Take care,
Kady Gould

Dates to Remember

September

27th: Picture Day!

28th: PTA meeting, 6:00 in library, all are welcome!

October

2nd: Anti-bullying month begins, wear blue!

6h: Workshop Day - no school for students

6th: Grade 5 Dance at HTS, 7:00 - 8:30

9th: No school – Columbus Day

18th: Early release day, students dismissed at 12:30

18th: Parent-Teacher conferences, 1:00 - 3:30

19th: Parent-Teacher conferences, 3:30 - 6:00

November

3rd: Early Release, students dismissed at 12:30

10th: No school – Veterans' Day observed

22nd-24th: No school – Happy Thanksgiving!

December

1st: End of first trimester

22nd: No school – start of Holiday Break!

First PTA Meeting Thursday, September 28th 6:00 in the library

Come and see what we're all about at our first meeting of the school year, and bring a friend! We will be discussing our fall fundraiser, 2017-2018 calendar and budget. Hope to see you there!

School Picture Day

Mark your calendars and wear your best smile! Lifetouch will be here to take school pictures on Wednesday, September 27th.

Information has gone home with students, or visit mylifetouch.com and use Picture ID LG017149Q0.

Substitute Teachers Needed

MSAD 11 is experiencing difficulty filling all of the Substitute Teacher positions that are available each day. If you might be interested in a substitute position, please complete an application. Applications can be found on the MSAD 11 website (www.msad11.org) under the employment section. Please contact our Superintendent's Office at (207)582-5346 with any questions.



No School

Friday, October 6th
Staff Workshop Day
&

Monday, October 9th
Columbus Day



Search for
**Helen Thompson Elementary School
and Helen A. Thompson PTA**



Pledge of Allegiance Hosts

Hailey Buttery, Ruby Rolfe, and Logan Hall from Mr. Smith's class used the intercom to lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you, Hailey, Ruby, and Logan!

Guidance Notes

Did you know that October is National Anti-Bullying month? Here at Helen Thompson on Monday, October 2, we are encouraging the staff and students to wear blue shirts to show our willingness to stand together to end bullying. Stay tuned for more information on another fun fashion themed statement that supports people who have been targeted for their differences.

Joan Tourtelotte
("Miss T.")
School Counselor

MSAD 11: Parents' Right To Know Notification

Your child is attending a school receiving Title I federal funds through the Every Student Succeeds Act (referred to as ESSA). This Federal law requires that parents be notified of their right to know the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) in core academic subject areas, including the following:

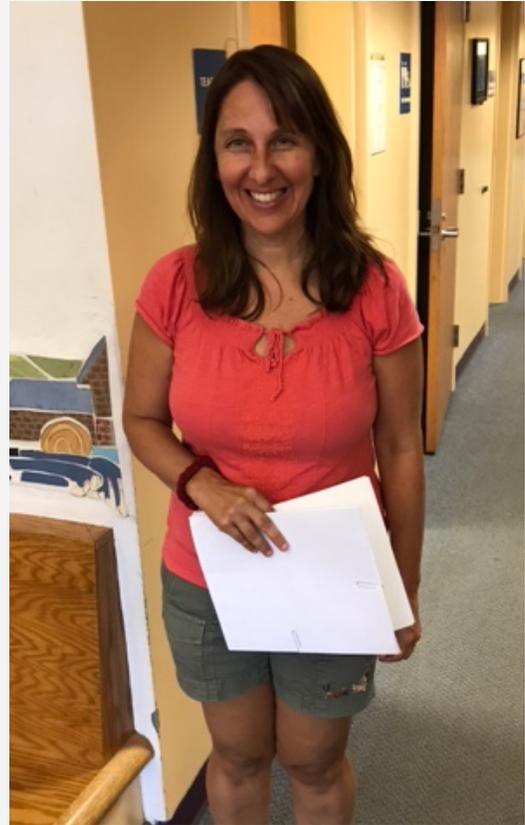
1. The type of state credential or license that the teacher holds. Some teachers will have a credential in a particular subject area, such as English or mathematics, and others will have a multiple subject credential, which allows them to teach a variety of subjects, such as in elementary schools.
2. The education level and subject area of the teacher's college degree(s). All teachers have a bachelor's degree, and many teachers have graduate degrees beyond the bachelor's, such as a masters or doctoral degree.

In addition to the qualifications of the teacher, if a paraprofessional (Educational Technician) provides your child services, you may also request information about his or her qualifications. Many paraprofessionals have two years of college, and others have passed a test that verifies their qualifications.

If you would like this information, please contact the school principal.

"Spotlight on Staff"

Interview with Mrs. Bannister
First Grade Teacher



Where did you go to school?
University of Maine in Farmington

What is your favorite book?
Teach Like a Champion

What are your hobbies?
Taking care of our chickens

What is your favorite food?
Egg noodles with butter, and smoothies
(Not together though!)

What is your favorite thing about working at HT?
There are so many favorite things about Helen Thompson. I have to say that it's everyone being SO nice. By everyone I mean Mrs. Gould, all the teachers and staff that work in the building, and the students. The parents have also been so welcoming. It's a happy place to be. Mrs. Gould introduced new teachers to the whole school on the first day. What a great welcome I got. I knew I was in a special place. Thanks for having me.

Notification from the Director of Operations

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member:

Each year it is required that I inform everyone on our policies for handling Asbestos and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Below is some information regarding each topic.

- **Asbestos:** The current operation and maintenance plan is maintained at the Superintendents office. This includes a 6-month surveillance program and a 3-year AHERA inspection conducted by an independent company as outlined in the State Regulations. The following facilities have been identified as having asbestos floor tile, ceiling tile or both. T.C. Hamlin, Pittston Elementary, and the Gardiner Area High School.

- **Integrated Pest Management:** The objective of the IPM program is to provide effective pest control while minimizing pesticide use. Through maintenance and the cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pest from becoming established. Non-chemical methods will always be implemented first when dealing with pests. However, pesticides may be necessary to control individual pest problems. When this happens, the school will use the least hazardous effective pesticide feasible. Spraying of exteriors will only be used in a worse case situation and is not allowed at this time. The Director of Plant Operations is the only individual authorized to allow the contacted company to spray for pests.

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the registry. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications. Notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. If you need a copy of the registry form please ask for one at the front office at your school. Please remember that we are not spraying for pests at this time and we would only use this in an extreme situation. Each school is required to maintain records of monthly inspection and information about the pesticides used.

If you have any questions about asbestos or the IPM program please feel free to call me at the Superintendent's Office at 582-5346. Thank you for taking time to read over this information and I hope everyone has a great year.

Sincerely,
Gabe Dostie
Director of Operations

M.S.A.D. #11 Child Find Policy

MSAD #11 seeks to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction are identified, who are school-age five through the school year in which they turn 20 and who are in need of special education and supportive assistance, including homeless children, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, children attending private schools receiving home instruction, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or seven consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), and children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

MSAD #11 is responsible for Child Find for resident students attending private or public schools through public tuition payments or public contract and shall meet this duty either through appropriate arrangements with the receiving school unit or through direct child find services by district personnel or contracted personnel.

MSAD #11's Child Find responsibility shall be accomplished through a unit wide process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs. Final identification of students with disabilities and programming for such students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the IEP team.

This Child Find process shall include obtaining data on each child through multiple measures, direct assessment, and parent information regarding the child's academic and functional performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing and cognitive skills. MSAD #11 may schedule child find activities during its annual kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related service at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, MSAD #11 will refer the child to the regional Child Development Services (CDS) site within 10 school days.

If the Child Find process indicates that a student may require special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education, the student shall be referred to the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Team to determine the student's eligibility for special education services.

School staff, parents, or agency representatives or other individuals with knowledge of the child may refer children to the IEP team if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education. Such a referral should follow the school unit's pre-referral and referral policy.

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. §300.111 (2006), Maine DOE Rule Ch. 101 § IV(2) (July 2011), Adopted: April 7, 1994, Revised: November 4, 2004; May 3, 2007; December 3, 2009; February 4, 2016

MSAD 11 2017 – 2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR – Approved 9/7/2017

2017

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	H	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST - 2						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	NS	26
27	W	W	F	F		

SEPTEMBER - 20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	H	F3	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER - 20						
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1	2	3	4	5	W	7
8	H	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	ER	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER - 18						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	ER/QE	4	
5	6	7	8	9	H	H
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	V	H	V	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER - 15						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					TE	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	V	23
24	H	V	V	V	V	30
31						

2018

JANUARY - 20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		H	V	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	ER	13
14	H	16	17	18	QE/SE	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY - 15						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	ER	17
18	H	V	V	V	V	24
25	26	27	28			

MARCH - 21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	TE	10
11	12	13	14	ER	W	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	ER	30	31

APRIL - 15						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	QE	7
8	9	10	11	12	w/tc	14
15	H	V	V	V	V	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY - 22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	ER	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	H	29	30	31		

JUNE - 7						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	G
10	LD/QE	W	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

H - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

July 4	- Independence Day
August 25	- New Staff Only
August 28	- All Staff Workshop Day
August 29	- Workshop Day
August 30	- Start of School K-9
August 31	- Start of School 10-12
September 4	- Labor Day
September 5	- Start of School Pre-K
October 6	- Workshop Day
October 9	- Columbus Day
October 18	- Early Release Parent/Teacher Conf.
November 3	- Early Release Day
November 10	- Veterans Day Observed
November 11	- Veterans Day
November 22	- Vacation Day
November 23-24	- Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2	- Holiday Break
January 12	- Early Release Day
January 15	- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16	- Early Release Day
February 19	- Presidents' Day
February 20-24	- February Break
March 15	- Early Release
March 16	- Workshop Day
March 29	- Early Release Parent/Teacher Conf.
April 13	- Teacher Comp/Workshop Day
April 16	- Patriots' Day
April 17-20	- April Break
May 9	- Early Release Day
May 28	- Memorial Day
June 9	- Graduation
June 11	- Last Day 0 Snow Days
June 12	- Workshop Day

W= Workshop Day, ER= Early Release Day,
 H= Holiday, V= Vacation, TC= Teacher Comp Day,
 F1= Start of School K-9, F2= Start of School 10-12,
 F3= Start of School Pre-K, G= Graduation,
 LD= Last Day of School w/o emergency days,
 NS= New Staff Orientation, QE= Quarter Ends,
 SE= Semester Ends, TE= Trimester Ends

*Rosh Hashanah:	September 21-22
Yom Kippur:	September 30
Hanukkah:	December 13-20

175 Student Days 6 Workshop Days
 181 Teacher Days

Grades 6-12	
1 st Quarter Ends (45)	November 3, 2017
2 nd Quarter Ends/Semester Ends (42)	January 19, 2018
3 rd Quarter Ends (48)	April 6, 2018
4 th Quarter Ends/Semester Ends (40)	June 12, 2018

PK – 5 Schools	
1 st Trimester Ends (61)	December 1, 2017
2 nd Trimester Ends (56)	March 9, 2018
3 rd Trimester Ends (58)	June 12, 2018