



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE for May 2018

Dear Families,

FPS is gearing up for the end of the year and we excited to leave the cold weather behind us. We are staying busy and are celebrating all of the great work our teachers and students have done this year. It is only a short time before we congratulate the Class of 2018! I am grateful to be leading in Fairfield where the community is supportive of our wonderful public education staff who are the best in our profession. Our families are thoughtful and focused on all aspects of education from the arts to academics, and they ensure our students grow up to be great citizens who care about the world.

Construction

Congratulations to the Sherman community on the long awaited project approval! The Sherman Phase III Building Committee is being formed and the project has been officially approved by the Town. The construction is primarily focused on air conditioning, new lockers, cafeteria expansion, and a gym extension to include a stage. Sherman falls under strict FEMA regulations because the school is located so close to the beach area. We are doing the maximum allowable within the regulations for this project.

The funding request for the Mill Hill construction and renovation is moving through the process. The Boards of Education and Finance have both approved the project. The Board of Selectmen approved the project planning funds (at 504 students) on Feb 21, 2018, but must now approve new language inserted by the Board of Finance. Once that is done, it can move forward to the RTM. The goal is to stay on schedule and complete the planning phase prior to June 2019. We truly appreciate the community support of this project.

This summer, Fairfield Warde High School will have the turf field replaced, new scoreboards installed and the tennis courts refurbished.

Graduation Requirements

The BoE Policy Committee has just started its review of the new graduation requirements that will begin with the class of 2023 (current 7th grade students). One focus of the new requirements is to provide a wider range of opportunities for students through expanded course offerings. The requirements will be on the BoE agenda very soon, so stay tuned! A special thanks to the families who participated in our Vision of a Graduate Community Meeting last month.

Focus on Science

Beginning in 2018-2019, FPS will introduce several new courses in high school science. There are more opportunities for semester electives to encourage students to explore life, Earth, and the

physical sciences in all four years of high school. Also, beginning next year all 9th graders will be enrolled in Biology. The Next Generation Science Standards will spark student curiosity by enriching inquiry-based learning with problem-solving and solution-oriented thinking. The new STEAM program for grades 3-5 (beginning in September) will provide consistency across the district. This will ensure that every elementary student will be exposed to engineering design principles, coding, collaborating and the power of creative problem solving. Full implementation in middle school will take place in the 2019-2020 school year. We expect our students to come home next year raving about science!

Budget

The final RTM budget vote will take place on May 7, 2018. We are extremely grateful to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance for their unanimous support of the BoE budget. The RTM budget meeting was also very positive and we are optimistic for their continued support. It is clear that this remarkable community understands the value of public education and supports the needs of our school system.

Parent and Community Workshops

FPS is working to provide more opportunities for families to learn about various aspects of academics, social and emotional supports, and overall programs available in FPS. Please join staff on May 10, 2018 as they discuss mental health challenges that our youth are facing today. The workshop is primarily aimed at families of secondary students, but all are welcome. The workshop and Q & A will feature clinical psychologist Dr. Alec Miller, who is an expert in the field. The event will be held on **May 10, 7:00 PM** in the Fairfield Ludlowe Auditorium.

End of Year Dates:

Last Days of School

June 20 Early Dismissal

June 21 Early Dismissal **Last Day*

High School Graduation

FLHS and FWHS June 20th, 6:00 pm

Moving Up From Middle School

TMS – Wed June 20, 2:30 pm at FWHS

RLMS – Thurs June 21, 9:45 am at RLMS

FWMS – Thurs June 21, 9:00 am in the FWHS large gym

Please check the individual websites for various elementary celebrations.

Have a wonderful beginning to May!



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