

Generally Speaking

John Stark Regional High School • 618 N. Stark Hwy • Weare, NH 03281

603.529.7675 • <http://www.jsrhs.net> • November 2013

JSRHS News Community Mailing List

John Stark Regional High School is working to create public mailing list so that we may email our “Generally Speaking” newsletter to parents and community members. In order to subscribe to this mailing list, use the link below and complete the form. This is a new process for us, so please be patient as we test it in the upcoming months. Once active, you may unsubscribe at any time by sending an email to the unsubscribe address listed at the very bottom of any of the mailing list emails. For those without email access, you can send a note with a regular mailing address to JSRHS in care of Generally Speaking, and we will mail a hard copy to you each month. <http://tinyurl.com/puphjks>

Principal's Corner

Have you heard about the John Stark Fall Family Series? You may not have heard of it by name because I just coined the phrase last week, but I imagine that you have heard of all of the events we've been hosting and those we have planned for this month. Last week, before I got up to introduce our student director to talk about the play she directed for her senior project, I was asked to mention some other upcoming events. There were so many that I was asked to advertise, that I just grouped them together and called them our Fall Family Series. So far we've had a Homecoming Football Game under the lights, Family Movie Night, two student directed plays, and a talent show called John Stark Idol. The November lineup features our faculty in the Acoustic Café, the Arts and Crafts Fair, another football game under the lights (to honor local veterans, our senior players, and alumni), and another production by the John Stark Theater and Stage production crew, *The Importance of Being Ernest*. There will be other events just for students, and of course, parent-teacher conferences are the Monday before Thanksgiving.

From the Student Counseling Center

The end of the first quarter is November 1st. Report cards will be handed out to students in their first period classes on Friday, November 8th. Ninth and 12th graders will also be bringing home copies of their spring Science NECAP scores.

Intra-session has been a student and faculty favorites for almost 20 years. Every two years, a few days are set aside for learning outside the traditional classroom setting. This year, Intra-session will be held just before spring break, *not in January*. We are also going to start the registration process this month to allow more time for students and teachers to prepare for their unique learning opportunity. You can click on the following link to go to the Intrasession 2013 web page:
<http://www.jsrhs.net/index.php/academics/intrasession-2014>

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, November 25th, from 3:30pm to 9:00pm. Conferences will be scheduled through our online system. Parents will be able to schedule their own conferences for their students with specific teachers. Information and instructions may be found on the JSRHS website at:
<http://www.jsrhs.net/index.php/guidance/87-general-information/159-parent-teacher-conferences>

On December 12th at 6:30, in the cafeteria, New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) will be presenting their Financial Aid and Scholarship Information night. This evening presentation helps families navigate through the financial aid process. Emphasis is placed on how to apply for aid and the types of aid available. Funding options, scholarship searches and the importance of deadlines will also be discussed.

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Senior Holly Snedeker at the recent college fair held John Stark. More than 80 four-year college, two-year college, technical school, and military representatives were available to students. Photo credit: Kaycee Wilson JSRHS Photo Club



New Adjustment Counselor hosts Parent Workshop

There will be a parent workshop entitled, “Communicating with your Teens” offered on Monday, November 25, at 6 PM in Room 192. The workshop will be given by Erin Murphy, our new adjustment counselor and Tammy Zielinski, our school psychologist. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Zielinski at 529-5352.

Erin Murphy comes to us from Lutheran Social Services where she was the Clinical Coordinator of their Therapeutic Family Connections Program. Prior to that, she was employed by Casey Family Services. Ms. Murphy’s office is located in the John Stark Counseling Office.

November Arts Weekend at John Stark Regional High School Acoustic Cafe, Friday, November 1 Arts & Crafts Market, Saturday, November 2

Art lovers will want to mark their calendars for an art-filled weekend at John Stark Regional High School for Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2, and it’s all for a good cause - student scholarships. On Friday evening, it’s the return of the Acoustic Cafe at 7 PM in the cafeteria. Enjoy a night of great musical entertainment performed by students and staff of John Stark all while sitting in a cafe setting complete with teas, coffees, and desserts served to you by the fine wait staff of John Stark teachers. This event is full of surprises, like your teacher who can really belt out a song, and the school athlete who is also a talented musician. Of course, having a teacher deliver you a plate of cookies and treats is just plain fun to watch. Admission is \$10 per person and tickets are available at the door. This event is a major fundraiser for the Ron Lesniewski Scholarship presented to a graduating John Stark senior.

On Saturday morning, the cafeteria and atrium at John Stark will be filled with arts and crafts as the Visual Arts Department hosts the 6th Annual Arts and Crafts Market from 9 AM to 2 PM. Artisans from around the region will be selling pottery, prints, jewelry, handmade candles and soaps, woodenware, handcrafted clothing, and more. Proceeds from this Arts and Crafts Market fund the Visual Arts scholarship and artist in residency programs.

Come out for a great weekend of entertainment and early holiday shopping the first weekend in November at John Stark Regional High School.



**6th Annual
Arts & Crafts
Market**
John Stark Regional High School
Saturday Nov. 2nd
9am - 2pm



Over 50 Artisans and Crafters
Family Friendly Event
Food, Raffle & Free Admission
618 North Stark Highway, Weare NH

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John Stark Regional High School to Honor Veterans at a Special Salute to Service Home Football Game Under the Lights Gates Open at 5 PM, Saturday, November 2

In addition to recognizing its alumni and senior varsity players' final home game, John Stark Regional High school will present a special salute to service to honor veterans during the kickoff ceremony on Saturday, November 2. To make the event even more special, this final home game and tribute to veterans has been moved to the evening under the lights. The gates will open at 5 PM. Kick off for the John Stark Generals vs. ConVal Cougars will be at 6 PM, with recognition and ceremonies beginning at 5:40 PM. All veterans will be welcomed to this game at no charge. The regular admission donation suggestion is \$5.00 per car with all proceeds going to the JSRHS Football booster team. Bring a nonperishable food item for the Henniker and Weare food pantries and take \$1 off admission.

"The Interscholastic Athletic Association asked all high school football teams to try to find a way to honor our veterans at their game closest to Veterans Day," said John Stark Principal, Chris Corkery. "As the idea was tossed around, we knew an evening game would bring a larger crowd, allowing more people to attend. We are grateful that the ConVal Cougars supported the change from an afternoon to a night game," concluded Mr. Corkery.

Beginning at 5:40 the Athletic Department and Booster Club will recognize the senior football players and their families. That will be followed by team line ups on the field and the coin toss. Just prior to the start of the game, Principal Corkery, a retired Army Colonel, will recognize all veterans present and then the Marine Color Guard will present the colors. The National Anthem will be sung by students of the Henniker Community School and John Stark Regional High School. Half-time will feature the John Stark Cheerleading Squad, recognition of alumni football players, and scrimmages between local, youth football teams.

Kickoff is at 6 PM. Come and enjoy a night of football while standing with friends and neighbors as we honor our veterans.

John Stark Students Participate in the NH Supreme Court on the Road

In preparation for their attendance at the NH Supreme Court's annual On the Road session, students in John Stark Regional High School's We The People, Civics, Criminal Justice, and American Studies classes were paid a visit by Senior Assistant Attorney General Jeffery A. Strelzin from the NH Attorney General's Office. Strelzin talked about the two appeals that were featured during the On the Road session with NH Supreme Court Justices. One case involved the issue of texting while driving and the other explored a technical legal issue surrounding the use of evidence. Additionally, Attorney-Strelzin spoke with the students at John Stark about New Hampshire's legal, court, and prison systems.

The NH Supreme Court On the Road was created as a way to provide high school students the opportunity to learn about the court, how it works, and to talk with justices about their careers and backgrounds.

"This program offers students a unique opportunity to see how our legal system really works. It was clear from all of the questions and the level of attention by the students that they were really interested in the cases and issues. Attorney Strelzin was a dynamic speaker and made the cases and the legal process easy to understand," commented Dan Marcus, who teaches Civics, We the People, and Criminal Justice at John Stark. Other participating groups included Emily Kosowicz's Civics class and Timothy Finn's American Studies class.



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John Stark Named Top 10 High School

John Stark Regional High School was named one of the top 10 high schools in New Hampshire by US News and World Report this year, earning our school the distinction of receiving a silver medal honor. John Stark was ranked 9th out of the 88 high schools in New Hampshire.

“A three-step process determined the best high schools,” stated the report. “The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all of their students well, using performance on state proficiency tests as the benchmarks. For those schools that make it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work.”

To see the rankings and read more, check the US News & World Report website at: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/new-hampshire>

School Board News

by Mark Zuckerman, Chairman

As one of three School Board members who attended the Open House, I spent most of the evening staffing an information table in the atrium. Several parents spoke with me and complimented the faculty for their engagement with students, their creativity, and their excitement about and commitment to teaching. I know that at least one of these observations came from a family whose child attended a private high school last year and elected to enroll in Stark this year. Some of the comments focused on the teachers' recognition of different learning styles and their willingness to engage students in a variety of ways to help them understand the material. Others commented on the breadth and sophistication of the course offerings.

Although I did not attend any classroom presentations this year, my impression of the evening was that the faculty and the staff were enthusiastic, poised, and conveyed a sense of approachable professionalism. Of course, these are not new attributes. They typify Stark's faculty and staff. Nevertheless, I was struck by the positivity of the evening, as were each of the parents who took a few minutes to speak with me, and I wanted to share that information with you.

It was a very successful event and yet another demonstration of the high caliber of the John Stark community.

Note: The next JSRHS Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13 at 5:30 PM in the library.

John Stark Visual Arts Students Complete Field Work at Andres Institute of Art in Brookline, NH

Over forty John Stark visual arts students participated in fieldwork at the Andres Institute of Art in Brookline, NH in late September. Students had a rare opportunity to meet and observe the stone carving process of four sculptors from around the globe who are part of the 15th Annual International Sculpture Symposium, “Introspection,” at Andres this year. This is the third year Mrs. Robblee's 3D and Sculpture students have traveled to the Andres Institute of Art. Mrs. Robblee uses the trip to demonstrate to the students the attributes and characteristics of large-scale, public sculpture.



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John Stark Regional High School Only Public School in New Hampshire with The Anti-Defamation League's Peer Training Program in Place

A couple of years ago, teachers and students alike decided they wanted to take charge of the school climate at John Stark Regional High School and combat hate speech and bullying. Today, that goal has come more and more into focus as a result of the school's participation in A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute's Peer Training Program, a program designed to facilitate and maintain positive social changes in schools sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). John Stark Regional High School is the only public school in NH that currently has this ADL Peer Training Program in place.

Last year, 30 freshman and sophomore students in Gabrielle Anderson's advisory participated in the 18 hour leadership training with a regional Anti-Defamation League facilitator. These students came back to John Stark having developed leadership, critical thinking, and conflict management skills all designed to help them address bias-related issues like bullying and cyber-bullying in school. The students learned to develop safe prevention and response strategies, including ways they can become allies for targeted peers. "The overriding goal of the training program," commented John Stark Teacher and ADL Advisor Gabrielle Anderson, "is to foster positive peer influence to promote a respectful school community."

This year, there are a total of 45 John Stark students who are in the three Anti-Defamation League Advisories. Juniors and sophomores who have received the full training are actively working to train the incoming freshmen and act as their mentors. These ADL peer trainers will be hosting conversations about bullying and anti-bias education at John Stark and in other SAU 24 schools.

"It's a much stronger message when a student takes the initiative to speak to another student about why what they are saying or doing is unacceptable," said Anderson. "A message from a peer carries a lot more weight. The students have been empowered to see that they - the students, not just teachers - can have a positive impact on the climate of their school and they are taking that task on more and more each day. It's their school, and they're owning it," continued Anderson.

Educationally Speaking *by Principal Christopher Corkery*

Last month I shared some thoughts about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and you may have heard or read many more opinions on the topic on the radio or in area papers. What is important to remember is that these are the minimum expectations the state has set for us. John Stark has consistently scored above average on various standardized tests, and we were recently recognized as a top ten school in NH by US News and World Report this past spring.

As we shift some of our coursework to align with the Common Core, know that our focus is on ensuring that every student is College and Career Ready so that they can have a good expectation of steady employment that supports a family.

This month I wanted to continue the conversation about how education is evolving by focusing on how we translate NH State Standards into the classroom and by introducing the vocabulary we use to help us assess student learning. The CCSS are incorporated into the NH State Frameworks, and the teachers use the frameworks to outline the essential topics we are supposed to cover in our courses. Teachers then create Learning Target statements to focus students on what they need to be able to do and understand. Using my analogy of flying a plane from last month's article, an example of a Learning Target would be: I can plan and safely execute a Visual Flight Rules (VFR) flight between Concord and Nashua, NH, (which are both limited use airfields). Later on in our flight school class when we study instruments, a learning target may be: I can plan and safely execute a flight between Manchester Airport and Logan Airport. Some examples from our actual curriculum might be: I can compare and contrast the causes of revolutions; I can create a mathematical equation that models (describes and predicts) the path of an object tossed from a catapult. Once teachers have identified what they want students to learn (the learning targets) they can design lessons to help students build up to those expectations. The terms formative and

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summative are essential to the competency-based process of grading. Formative assessments are those questions or skill checks that both teachers and students use to inform each other on how well the learning is progressing. They help the teacher know when to move on and when to take a different approach. They also help the student know what needs to be done to prepare for the more comprehensive, summative assessment. Most folks think that summatives are just tests, but they can also be presentations, projects or papers. They chunk major learning targets into manageable sizes within the overall course. Why the fancy names? I am honestly not sure, but I think it has more to do with changing mindsets from just grading homework and notebooks to measuring and reporting what really matters.

In a competency based grading system, we move away from giving points for practice work and emphasize the final product (naming the parts of the plane is important, but you don't get paid unless you can safely land it.) Now high school isn't flight school, so what happens when a summative doesn't go as expected or as desired? We focus the re-teaching, on what still needs to be mastered, and we assess again. The challenge is that this shift away from giving points for everything to just measuring what matters takes time, and our different departments are progressing at different rates towards this competency based grading system.

What you need to know is that the expectations for each course are clearly spelled out in the course's syllabus. You can expect that similar courses have the same expectation regardless of the teacher, but that all of our courses will have moved to this system by next year. My best piece of advice is to use our on-line scheduling tool to set up a parent-teacher conference for the Monday of the week before Thanksgiving.

November Events

- 11/ 1/13 - First Quarter Ends
- 11/ 1/13 - Acoustic Cafe at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria
- 11/ 2/13 - 6th Annual Arts and Crafts Market, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 11/ 2/13 - Final Home Football Game & Salute to Service Members: Gates open at 5 pm
- 11/ 3/13 - Daylight Savings begins, fall back an hour
- 11/ 4/13 - No School: Teacher Workshop Day
- 11/7/13 - Spanish Honor Society Induction, 6pm
- 11/ 8/13 - Report Cards
- 11/11/13 - No School: Veterans Day
- 11/13/13 - Parent Coffee with the Principal, 7:30-8:30am
- 11/13/13 - JSHS Board Meeting: Drainage/Gym/Expendable Trust, 6:30 pm in the Library
- 11/18/13 - Students required to turn in Intra-session request forms signed by parents
- 11/18/13 - Distracted Driving Simulators: Presented by Weare PD and Dartmouth Hitchcock, 6:30 pm, Room 192
- 11/19/13 - Fall Sports Awards at 6:00 pm
- 11/20/13 - National Honor Society Induction, 7:00 pm
- 11/22/13 - Fall Show: *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- 11/23/13 - Fall Show: *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- 11/25/13 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30 - 9:00 pm
- 11/25/13 - Communicating with Teens presentation for parents by Counseling Center Room 192, 6pm
- 11/27/13 - No School Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/28/13 - No School Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/29/13 - No School Thanksgiving Holiday

* SAT dates are November 2, December 7, January 25, March 8, May 3, June 7
Go to <http://www.collegeboard.org> for registration information

December Events

- 12/3/13 - Winter Parent/Athlete Meeting cafeteria, 7:00 pm (parent's who attended the Fall meeting need only arrive by 7:30 pm)
- 12/5/13 - Mr John Stark (pageant), 7:00 pm
- 12/6/13 - Quarter 2 Progress Reports
- 12/7/13 - John Stark Hosts Model UN for New England high schools.
- 12/11/13 - School Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12/12/13 - Early Release Day
- 12/12/13 - Financial Aid Workshop, 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the cafe
- 12/17/13 - Winter Concert in the cafe, 7:00 pm
- 12/23/13 - School Break begins

* More to follow in next month's edition of Generally Speaking

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