

Generally Speaking

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

by Principal Christopher Corkery, M.Ed.

Let's recap the discussions we've had this year so that I can give you a better picture of all of the pieces we are working to put in place for next year.

In January, the School Board approved a second diploma option beginning with the Class of 2015. We began preparing for the new option during our course selection process this year, and will continue to manage our staffing to best support the courses that students are requesting. In past years we have been able to provide students with their tentative schedule for the fall, but this year we are only on track to share their tentative course listing. As in past summers, Guidance Counselors will be available in August to make necessary adjustments.

The faculty has been focused on researching and evaluating best practices in education so that we can move towards fully implementing Competency Based Grading next fall. We are working on standardizing various assessment practices and will include much more information in your child's course syllabi. We will also host parent-friendly Powerschool Training next semester to help you understand the new practices, like rolling grades, and the newer terms, such as summative and formative assessments. Much like the team at Center Woods Elementary School started this past fall, we also want to present you

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with a well-rounded picture of how your child is performing, not just an overall grade. We need to compare their performance to standardized expectations (the Common Core Standards that we've translated into learning targets), and we need to share more subjective criteria like how prepared they are for class and how engaged they are in their learning.

In previous articles, I have used the analogy of learning to fly (pre-flight, takeoff, navigate, and land) and why you really don't want to call someone a pilot unless they can do all four things. I have also introduced the idea of Habits of Work (is the pilot on time, able to perform in various types of weather, mindful of passenger needs). Our job this summer is to work with the Powerschool folks to make it so that when you log in, you can see more useful information.

To support Student Learning we have also done a great deal of work on our Prevention and Intervention supports to improve our course success rates even more. There are three significant improvements for next year:

First, all students will have an opportunity to receive additional instruction right in the middle of the normal school day. We have been calling this our Flex Block and it will be scheduled every day for forty minutes. On Mondays, students will work with their advisors to schedule appointments with their content teachers then they, and their teachers, will receive those appointments via email. Teachers will still be available before and after school, but now we can help your child find time during the day without having to worry about catching the bus or asking you to make plans for an early drop-off.

Second, we will be splitting our Student Support Center in two. One room will continue to aid students who need assistance accessing instruction. The other will become our new Academic Support Center. This room, staffed by a teacher, will be a place where students can borrow a text book to do homework, work on credit or competency recovery using our E20/20 software, receive assistance on a specific assignment, or just get help editing a paper.

Our third initiative supports the school board's decision to remove the restrictions on Extended Learning Opportunities and to give credit for non-traditional and independent learning. Starting next year, students can earn more than just two credits for their independent work, such as a job internship. All students will receive academic credit for their Senior/Capstone Project and their Community Learning hours. Others can apply for credit for their St. Paul's summer work, their extended learning in a particular area such as music or dance, or other significant learning experiences that would fulfill elective credits towards their diploma.

As in past summers we are offering credit and competency recovery for students who didn't complete learning in courses this school year. We are also offering the highly successful JumpStart for incoming freshmen.

Freshman Fest/Orientation will be Wednesday, August 27th, and the first official day of school for all John Stark students will be Thursday, August 28th. It's an exciting time in education, and I am still honored to be a part of this community team.

Course Remediation Information – 2014

Course remediation will occur through E2020, which is an online program. Courses will be customized according to the specific needs of individual students so as to allow each student to demonstrate competency in each course. To be eligible, students must have earned a 50% F1 average in the course and completed the final exam.

Students will be able to **register online** for credit remediation starting Monday, June 23. Registration may also be completed via telephone or in person at the high school. Once a course is created, students can pre-test and begin to work independently on their course recovery. Students must complete pre-testing and module (unit) tests in the lab at John Stark. Students may only be enrolled in two courses at the same time.

Support and computers are available for students from 8am-2pm, Monday through Thursday starting Monday, June 23 and ending Thursday, August 14.

Drop-in Tutoring is available for students from 10am-1pm as follows:

Math:	Mondays and Wednesdays, July 7 to July 23
Science:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 8 to July 24
English:	Mondays and Wednesdays, July 28 to August 13
Social Studies:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 29 to August 14

Students should plan to have **math and science courses completed by Thursday, July 24** as math and science tutors will not be available after this date. **English and social studies courses should be completed by Thursday, August 14.**

Students must be completed with coursework by Friday, August 22 to have their schedules adjusted for the 2014-2015 school year. Students who have not completed course remediation for prerequisite courses will not move on to the next course.

Questions? Contact the Summer School Director:

Matthew Colby, Social Studies Department Coordinator
Matthew.Colby@sau24.org (603) 529-7675

Project Remediation Information – 2014

This on-campus course will allow students to remediate research papers, speeches, and multi-genre projects from their English and social studies courses. This course will run 3 hours/day, for four days (Monday, June 30 to Thursday, July 3). Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to arrive on time for class each day.

- Students will be able to register online for project remediation starting Monday, June 23. Registration may also be completed via telephone or in person at the high school.

Questions? Contact the Summer School Director:

Matthew Colby, Social Studies Department Coordinator
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Ninth Grade Jump Start Program – 2014

Dates: July 7, 2014 – July 31, 2014 (Monday-Thursday each week)
 Time: Course runs from 8:00am – 11:00am each day and will include a technology component outside of class.
 Cost: None
 Credit: ½ high school elective credit awarded upon successful completion

Overview

The 9th Grade Summer Jump Start is a high school transition program appropriate for any incoming 9th grader. The general objectives of the program include:

- preparing students for the academic, civic, and social competencies required of high school students;
- developing tools for success including the incorporation of study strategies, test-taking strategies, literacy skills, numeracy skills, and positive habits of work;
- understanding the structure and substance of the high school's educational program;
- fostering a positive entry into the culture and climate of John Stark;
- providing students with an opportunity to earn ½ high school credit before the traditional beginning of the high school experience;
- providing an opportunity for early access to high school curriculum and course content;
- preparing students to use technology to support learning.

Participation from a wide variety of incoming 9th graders is encouraged --- from the challenged learner to the advanced learner.

Students will be able to register online for project remediation starting Monday, June 9. Registration may also be completed via telephone or in person at the high school.

Questions? Contact the Summer School Director:

Matthew Colby, Social Studies Department Coordinator
 Matthew.Colby@sau24.org (603) 529-7675

Dancing with the Staff 2014

On Friday, May 30th, staff members at John Stark Regional High School once again hit the dance floor for a lively evening of dance performances. The proceeds from ticket sales benefit the John Stark Teacher's Association. The association helps fund scholarships that they annually award to students.

New to this year's competition was Project Lead the Way Teacher Colin Stone, who partnered with veteran dancer English Teacher Suzanne Carmichael. This team was coached by JSRHS student Jennifer Rizzitano. Emma Fredericks coached returning competitor Chemistry Teacher Lorraine Connell and her new partner Roger Houle from the Building & Grounds staff. Fredericks was also instrumental in organizing much of the competition. Rounding out the couple's competition, coached by Alycia Silva, were returning dancers Reading Specialist Melissa Muzzy and Latin Teacher Jim Sullivan. Also new in this year's competition was an all girls team coached by Tiffany Driesse. Members of Team Driesse were School Psychologist Tammy Zielinski, Special Education Director Becky Forrestall, Choral Music Teacher Jayne Segedy, and Theater Arts Teacher Jen Matzke.

The 'celebrity' panel of judges included Spanish Teacher Shannon Dunn, Social Studies Teacher Tiffany Smith and students Marina Manna and John Brown.

"This is just such a fun event for everyone—competitors, students, and the public while raising money for such a good cause," said Chemistry Teacher Lorraine Connell. "All of the money raised goes directly to two teachers' association scholarship funds—The John Stark Teachers' Association Scholarships and Ron Lesniewski Scholarship awarded each year to graduating seniors," concluded Connell.

First place winners Ms. Suzanne Carmichael and Mr. Colin Stone at this year's Dancing With The Staff dance off presented by the John Stark Teachers Association to benefit student scholarships. In second place was the four per person entry of Ms. Becky Forrestall, Ms. Jen Matzke, Ms. Jayne Segedy, & Ms. Tammy Zielinski with choreography by Tiffany Driesse. In third place was Ms. Michele Kirschbaum and Mr. Dan Williams.



Photo credit to Kaycee Wilson

Teachers Appreciated at John Stark

A Note from Lorraine Connell

The student group, Athletic Advisory, teamed up with parents, students and community vendors to show their support to the work and dedication of the teachers at John Stark.

I know I felt the emotional pull seeing a parent and several students prepping the room with flowers, tablecloths and the like. Here a few shots of both the set up, and the acceptance of the gift.

Thanks again to all who helped make this the most successful teacher appreciation breakfast yet.



Student Emails

by Steve Law and Chris Corkery

John Stark Regional High School has been issuing each student a Google-based email account for several years now, but we have placed limits on the student accounts so that they could only send and receive emails between teachers and classmates. This year we allowed seniors to use the system without restricting addresses so that they could use their school email to correspond with their college admissions counselors. This has been particularly helpful enabling students to access the full benefits of our Naviance college preparation software. In addition to our seniors, select underclassmen were given unrestricted use of their email accounts so that they could create pen pals in their World Language class. We have not had any concerns from these two experiments and so the school board technology committee agreed to open up the system for all students.

We hope that by doing this more students will take advantage of their JSRHS email to share information with college admissions personnel and potential employers, to collaborate with pen

pals in World Language classes, and to request and receive scheduling notifications from our new Flex block scheduling software. Parents will also have the ability to correspond with their child through our student email system.

While the benefits of full Internet email access for students are many, there are risks. We already use Google's spam and filtering tools and will continue to monitor filtered content. We will make adjustments to the email system as needed to protect your child from inappropriate and unwanted content, but we would ask for your help to identify and report any new situations so that we may address them in a timely manner. Parents who have a concern about their child having full Internet email through the school will have the opportunity to "opt out" when updating their child's information on our InfoSnap system coming this summer.

Kelley-Miller Circus tickets now available

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls ... Step right up! The Circus is coming to Hillsboro on July 9th. The Kelly Miller Circus, one of only a few traveling shows still in existence, will appear at Grimes Field, with shows at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. thanks to the sponsorship of the Hillsboro Lions Club and support from Bank of New Hampshire and Granite State Communications. The Circus elephants will begin erecting the Big Top at approximately 9:00 a.m. Circus morning, and everyone is invited to come and watch free of charge.

The Circus is a fundraiser for the Lions Club which receives a greater share of the advance ticket sales than from tickets sold on Circus day. Show your support for this local group by purchasing your tickets early.

- *Advanced tickets sell for \$10/adult and \$6/under 12 years old*

Letters to the Editor

A heartfelt thanks

In remembering those who have given all, we honor them. On Friday morning (May 23rd) at John Stark Regional High School, my breath was taken away by the respectful student body

and staff who gathered to acknowledge Memorial Day as it was meant to be celebrated.

A World War II veteran spoke of the losses from that war and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, reminding us that "freedom is not free."

The music played and sung could not be outdone by any professional group, especially the national anthem sung by two students.

Speeches by students, the Marine Honor Guard and my Army escort as we placed a wreath at my son's memorial garden followed by the echo of taps, left me with knowledge that the supreme sacrifice made by our fallen heroes will not be forgotten.

I thank Principal Christopher Corkery for his leadership in bringing this together. He emphasized education as the tool to prevent the pain and devastation that war brings.

I thank all the students and those who attended for the honor and love they shared with me. I am not using names because I fear I will leave someone out, but you know who you are. As we remember, we honor.

Jean Tully Durgin, Henniker



Teen Drivers: The Facts

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, accounting for more than one in three deaths in this age group.¹ In 2008, nine teens ages 16 to 19 died every day from motor vehicle injuries. Per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are four times more likely than older drivers to crash. Fortunately, teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable. Street Wise Driving Academy teaches proven risk reduction strategies that improve the safety of John Stark's young drivers. Street Wise Driving Academy currently offers Drivers Education Classes six times yearly at John Stark Regional High School. More information is available in the JSRHS main office, or by contacting Mr. Russell at 540-4056, email streetwiseda@gmail.com or the website streetwisedrivingacademy.org.



How big is the problem?

In 2008, about 3,500 teens in the United States aged 15–19 were killed and more than 350,000 were treated in emergency departments for injuries suffered in motor-vehicle crashes.^(1,2)

Young people ages 15-24 represent only 14% of the U.S. population. However, they account for 30% (\$19 billion) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among males and 28% (\$7 billion) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among females.⁽³⁾



Who is most at risk?

The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16- to 19-year-olds than among any other age group. In fact, per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are four times more likely than older drivers to crash.(4)

Among teen drivers, those at especially high risk for motor vehicle crashes are:

- **Males:** In 2006, the motor vehicle death rate for male drivers and passengers ages 15 to 19 was almost two times that of their female counterparts.(1)
- **Teens driving with teen passengers:** The presence of teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers. This risk increases with the number of teen passengers.(5)
- **Newly licensed teens:** Crash risk is particularly high during the first year that teenagers are eligible to drive.(4)

What factors put teen drivers at risk?



- Teens are more likely than older drivers to underestimate dangerous situations or not be able to recognize hazardous situations.(6)
- Teens are more likely than older drivers to speed and allow shorter headways (the distance from the front of one vehicle to the front of the next). The presence of male teenage passengers increases the likelihood of this risky driving behavior.(7)
- Among male drivers between 15 and 20 years of age who were involved in fatal crashes in 2005, 37% were speeding at the time of the crash and 26% had been drinking.(8,9)
- Compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seatbelt use. In 2005, 10% of high school students reported they rarely or never wear seat belts when riding with someone else.(10)
- Male high school students (12.5%) were more likely than female students (7.8%) to rarely or never wear seat belts.(10)
- African-American students (12%) and Hispanic students (13%) were more likely than white students (10.1%) to rarely or never wear seat belts.(10)
- At all levels of blood alcohol concentration (BAC), the risk of involvement in a motor vehicle crash is greater for teens than for older drivers.(10)
- In 2008, 25% of drivers ages 15 to 20 who died in motor vehicle crashes had a BAC of 0.08 g/dl or higher.(10)
- In a national survey conducted in 2007, nearly three out of ten teens reported that, within the previous month, they had ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. One in ten reported having driven after drinking alcohol within the same one-month period.(10)
- In 2008, nearly three out of every four teen drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes after drinking and driving were not wearing a seatbelt.(10)
- In 2008, half of teen deaths from motor vehicle crashes occurred between 3 p.m. and midnight and 56% occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.(10)



The Class of 2016 Executive Council touring potential prom venues. Katie Waligura, Sara Lyons, Tammi Compagna, Courtney Flaherty, Meg Gordon (missing Lindsey Brown)

Prom 2015 Venue Announced

After researching and touring a number of venues, the Class of 2016 Executive Council is pleased to announce that the 2015 Prom will be held on May 30, 2015 at the Courtyard Marriott in Concord. In order to raise funds for prom, the Class of 2016 is sponsoring a graduation planter sale. The 12-inch planters featuring either red geraniums, white alyssum, or blue salvia and dark purple petunias will adorn the graduation stage and will be available for pick-up after the graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 14. This is a great opportunity to take home a piece of the 2014 graduations ceremony or to share it with someone who cannot attend. Contact one of the Class of 2016 advisors, Maureen Corsetti (maureen.corsetti@sau24.org) or Jill Pinard (jill.pinard@sau24.org), for more information or to reserve a planter in the color of your choosing; the planters sell for \$28.00 each.

Principal's Corner

Christopher Corkery

As a new principal, the best advice I received was to not add anything new to the plate this year. After almost a year, I can say that other than that most phenomenal, student-led, pre-Memorial Day observation, I think I took that advice to heart, but here is my Top 10 to-do list for this summer:

#10 New Websites. Across the SAU we will migrate to similarly structured websites this summer. That will be especially helpful for parents with students attending several schools, but it will also help us with community outreach.

#9 Student Emails Starting in 2014-2015 all students will have full Internet email accounts provided by JSRHS through our Google domain. Mr. Steve Law, our Technology Director, and I put together some background on this great opportunity. See the article on Student Emails in this edition.

#8 Student Schedules for next year. The goal is to give each student a tentative schedule along with their final report card.

#7 New Standard School Day schedule. With the addition of the daily Flex block, we've shifted things ever so slightly, but we've kept the weekly routine the same: Monday/A/B/A/B

#6 Calendars. We'll be consolidating the options so that you can more easily find your favorite sports, academics, early releases, and the all-important Chicken Patty days.

#5 Policies and Procedures. We are working to better align some of our practices with the other schools and considering our procedures for attendance reporting, concussion protocols, and student privileges. If all goes according to plan, you will read about our work by the time you get to see #1.

#4 Summer Programs. Between summer athletics, competency recovery programs, and Jumpstart, I think we are open for learning just about every weekday this summer.

#3 Review Course Syllabi. We aren't trying to change the learning, just the reporting, so I need to see how well we are communicating expectations.

#2 Review Academic Center and Student Support Center. Anything new needs a good system to support and evaluate it. We've got to put this idea into practice and to standardize the way we administer ELO's as well.

...And, because I've got two teenage boys that bring me home dozens of sheets of paper for me to fill out every school year, our last project for this summer is to save some trees.

#1 Beginning of year forms- In early August parents will receive an email with a link to complete all of their "beginning of the school year" forms online. Imagine this; you will only have to type your child's name, date of birth, and emergency contact information once. Even better, if the information in our system is correct, you won't even have to re-type it, just check the box that says "no changes".

Wait, there is still more...

If you have several children in the school system, your one set of updates will apply to all of your children. I hope this helps reduce the stress of beginning the school year so that you can focus your time on your child's course syllabi to support their learning.

Have a great summer!

June Events

- 6/14/14 - Graduation begins at 10:00 am
- 6/17/14 - Spring Sport Awards at 6:00pm in the Gym
- 6/18/14 - Final Exams for Blocks B, D, and F
- 6/19/14 - Final Exams for Blocks A, C, and E
- 6/20/14 - Final Exams for Blocks G and H
- 6/23/14 - Final Exams Make-up Day
- 6/23/14 - Project Remediation Registration
- 6/23/14 - First Touch Soccer Camp, M, W, F from 8 - 10 am
- 6/24/14 - Girls Soccer Summer Clinic:
 - Grades 4-5 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm
 - Grades 6-8 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm
 - Grades 9-12 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- 6/26/14 - Last day of Faculty requirements
- 6/30-7/03/14 - Project Remediation

The Main Office will be open during the summer break. If you have any questions for us, please call the office at 529-1601. Our Student Counseling Center will also be open on Monday's from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. They can be reached at 529-5306.

July Events

- 6/30-7/03/14 - Gold Square Volleyball Camp from 8 am - 5 pm
- 7/01/14 - Girls Soccer Summer Clinic:
 - Grades 4-5 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm
 - Grades 6-8 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm
 - Grades 9-12 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- 7/01-7/31/14 - First Touch Soccer Camp, M, W, F from 8 - 10 am
- 7/07-7/09/14 - John Stark Basketball Camp
 - Grades 6-9 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 7/07-7/31/14 - Ninth Grade Jump Start Program
 - Monday - Thursday each week, 8:00 - 11:00 am
- 7/07-8/14/14 - Summer School Course Remediation Program
- 7/08/14 - Girls Soccer Summer Clinic - *See above schedule*
- 7/10-7/12 - John Stark Basketball Camp
 - Grades 3-5 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm
- 7/15/14 - Girls Soccer Summer Clinic - *See above schedule*
- 7/29/14 - Girls Soccer Summer Clinic - *See above schedule*

Looking ahead...

August Events

- **8/01-8/23 - First Touch Soccer Camp, M, W, F from 8 - 10 am**
- **8/05/14 - Girls Soccer Summer Clinic:**
 - **Grades 4-5 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm**
 - **Grades 6-8 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm**
 - **Grades 9-12 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm**
- **8/27/14 - Freshman Fest/Orientation**
- **8/28/14 - First Day of School**

One final note: As we go to print we are remembering Shawn Flanagan, a member of our custodial team who died this past week. Thank you all for your prayers and sympathies for his family.