

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 20
SEARSPORT AND STOCKTON SPRINGS**

**PROPOSED
SCHOOL BUDGET
2024-2025**

Approved by the Board of Directors on April 9, 2024

District Public Budget Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

7:00 PM

**Searsport District Middle/High School
Cafetorium**

Budget Validation Referendum Vote

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Vote at your local polling place

BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS FOR RSU 20 VOTERS

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING:

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM

in the Searsport District Middle/High School Cafetorium

Voters at the in-person Budget Meeting will discuss and vote on the RSU 20 annual budget.

BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM – Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at your town voting place.

Voters at a secret ballot referendum will ratify the RSU annual budget adopted at May 29, 2024 Budget Meeting. A Notice of Amounts Adopted with the amounts of the RSU annual budget adopted at the Budget Meeting will be posted at all town polling locations.

ABSENTEE VOTING - If you would like to request an absentee ballot, please contact your individual town office.

Absentee ballots for the Budget Validation Referendum that are received prior to May 30, 2024 (the day following the Budget Meeting) will not be counted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 1, 2023

Name & Address	Phone#	Email Address	Term Expires	Town
Anthony Bagley 18 Back Searsport Road Searsport, ME 04974	930-5891	anthony.bagley@rsu20.org	2024	Searsport
Kristina Braga 42 Partridge Lane Stockton Springs, ME 04981	567-3380	kristina.braga@rsu20.org	2024	Stockton Springs
Denise Dakin 64 Pout Town Road Stockton Springs, ME 04981	567-4050	denise.dakin@rsu20.org	2026	Stockton Springs
Ruth Fethke 1 North Searsport Road Searsport, ME 04974	548-0289	ruth.fethke@rsu20.org	2026	Searsport
Sabrina DeTurk 172 East Main Street Searsport, ME 04974	323-4490	sabrina.deturk@rsu20.org	2025	Searsport

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #20

Searsport · Stockton Springs

May 2, 2024

Residents of Searsport and Stockton Springs,

I would like to start by saying thank you for your support of our great schools and last year's budget.

It is once again time to ask for your support of the RSU #20 2024-2025 Budget presented in this booklet.

I would also like to thank the entire staff of RSU #20 for the amazing efforts year after year.

Last year's budget was tough with the cut in state funding. This year we received good news with a 2024-2025 funding increase.

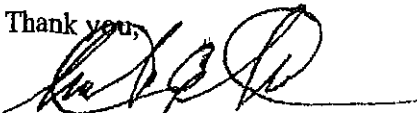
The 2024-2025 Budget total is \$12,047,192 which is an increase of \$847,046. These increases include contractual obligations, huge upgrades to our heating and HVAC in middle school and highschools that have outlived their life by 10 years or more. This upgrade will pay itself back with fuel savings and maintenance contracts. Inflation is another leading factor to budget increases alone and cost beyond our control with day-to-day expenses.

The overall increased assessment is \$399,898 at 5.91%. The per town increases are Searsport \$210,955 at 5.26% and Stockton Springs \$188,943 at 6.86%.

There are many good things happening at RSU #20. There are college classes being offered to students that can offset future college costs. There are also many co-curricular activities for our students. We are in the midst of upgrading the playground at SES which is severely overdue. We are working on implementing our 1-5-10 year building maintenance plan to bring our schools back to tip top shape. We have been working with Emergency Management of Waldo County to address additional school safety.

I encourage you all to check out our amazing schools and to attend our Board meetings. Come see and hear what is happening and be a part of the conversation. We welcome everyone's input in their child's education.

Thank you,



Anthony Bagley

Chair of RSU 20 School Board of Directors

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #20

Searsport · Stockton Springs

Office of the Superintendent
6 Mortland Road
Searsport ME 04974

Telephone: (207) 548-6643

Fax: (207) 548-2310

Dear Residents of Searsport and Stockton Springs:

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of RSU #20, I thank you again for your continued support. The past couple of school years have been challenging times for school communities. We were charged to maintain the safety of our students and staff while meeting the major responsibility to educate the students entrusted to our profession in order to provide pathways on the roads to success. In partnership with the community we were able to accomplish those goals and look forward to continuing this important partnership, for the students are the ultimate winners and for that we thank you again.

We have developed the 2024-2025 budget under the lens of increased state funding, the elimination of federal covid grant funds and the state requiring more local funding via increases to both the mil rate and property valuations in Searsport and Stockton Springs. In light of these challenges, the proposed budget reflects thoughtful planning ever mindful of the economic concerns of our towns.

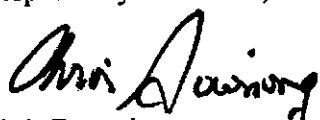
During the budget workshop meetings that took place in March the RSU #20 Board and administrators worked diligently to minimize the local tax impact of rising costs and reduced funding by making cost reductions in areas that would least impact students and by utilizing some of the district's fund balance savings to further bring down the cost to towns.

The 2024-2025 proposed budget is \$12,047,192 which reflects an increase to expenses of \$847,046 when compared to the current year budget. However, the increase in state funding will reduce the impact on the town assessments to \$399,898 (5.91%) resulting in individual town assessment increases of \$210,955 (5.26%) to the town of Searsport and \$188,943 (6.86%) to the town of Stockton Springs.

Support from the voters of Searsport and Stockton Springs is a vital aspect of the budget process as is RSU 20's understanding of what the communities can financially support. We have made budgetary decisions that are within our control and present the proposed budget to you, the residents of Searsport and Stockton Springs, for your approval.

Please take time to review the information in this budget booklet and attend our Public Budget Meeting on **Wednesday, May 29th, 7 PM** at the SDMS/HS Cafetorium to support the process of finalizing the budget before sending it to be voted on at the Budget Validation Referendum on **Tuesday, June 11th** at your town's local polling stations. Working together in partnership we can continue to provide the best possible education system for our students.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Downing
Superintendent of Schools, RSU #20

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

SCHOOLS	Oct. 2011	Oct. 2012	Oct. 2013	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2019	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2021	Oct. 2022	Oct. 2023
Frankfort Elementary School	80	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton Springs Elementary School	63	36	33	27	31	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Searsport Elementary School	201	224	221	224	221	216	239	231	228	217	197	213	125
Searsport District Middle School	165	179	156	130	98	105	117	117	93	61	100	99	108
Searsport District High School	180	178	160	173	179	178	166	147	147	123	139	131	195
TOTALS	689	694	570	554	529	520	522	495	468	401	436	443	428

HISTORICAL TOWN ASSESSMENTS

SEARSPORT				STOCKTON SPRINGS			
	ASSESSMENT	\$ INC/DECR	% INCR/DECR		ASSESSMENT	\$ INC/DECR	% INCR/DECR
PROPOSED	\$4,221,471	\$210,955	5.26%	PROPOSED	\$2,941,290	\$188,943	6.87%
2023-24	\$4,010,516	\$531,749	15.29%	2023-24	\$2,752,347	\$324,725	13.38%
2022-23	\$3,478,767	\$163,432	4.93%	2022-23	\$2,427,622	\$20,669	0.86%
2021-22	\$3,315,335	\$78,532	2.43%	2021-22	\$2,406,953	-\$97,825	-3.91%
2020-21	\$3,236,803	-\$35,358	-1.08%	2020-21	\$2,504,778	-\$95,730	-3.68%
2019-20	\$3,272,161	\$94,617	2.98%	2019-20	\$2,600,508	\$14,568	0.56%
2018-19	\$3,177,544	\$51,122	1.64%	2018-19	\$2,585,940	-\$22,792	-0.87%
2017-18	\$3,126,422	-\$27,666	-0.88%	2017-18	\$2,608,732	\$3,727	0.14%
2016-17	\$3,154,088	-\$19,770	-0.62%	2016-17	\$2,605,005	\$43,585	1.70%
2015-16	\$3,173,858	\$166,606	5.54%	2015-16	\$2,561,420	\$171,522	7.18%
INCREASES 10YR TOTAL	\$1,214,219			INCREASES 10YR TOTAL	\$551,392		
10YR AVG \$	\$121,422			10YR AVG \$	\$55,139		
10YR AVG	3.55%			10YR AVG%	2.22%		

**WARRANT TO CALL
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 20 BUDGET MEETING
(20-A M.R.S. § 1485)**

TO: Robert Bradford, a resident of Regional School Unit No. 20 (the “Regional School Unit”) composed of the Towns of Searsport and Stockton Springs, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within the Regional School Unit, namely, the Towns of Searsport and Stockton Springs, that a Regional School Unit Budget Meeting will be held at Searsport District Middle/High School Cafetorium, 24 Mortland Road, Searsport, Maine at 7:00 p.m. on May 29, 2024 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting Articles set forth below.

ARTICLE 1A: To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Board Recommends \$3,185,999

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board Recommends \$2,950,046

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.

School Board Recommends \$5,897

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Board Recommends \$239,341

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Board Recommends \$1,396,976

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Board Recommends \$609,884

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Board Recommends \$639,965

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Board Recommends \$1,066,292

- ARTICLE 9:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.
School Board Recommends \$1,940,768
- ARTICLE 10:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.
School Board Recommends \$12,024
- ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.
School Board Recommends \$ - 0 -

ARTICLES 12 AND 13
RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

- ARTICLE 12:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):		Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):	
Town of Searsport	\$5,232,121.81	Town of Searsport	\$2,271,763.34
Town of Stockton Springs	\$2,132,914.52	Town of Stockton Springs	\$1,582,842.00
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$7,365,036.33	Total Raised (sum of above)	\$3,854,605.34

Explanation: The Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

- ARTICLE 13:** **(Written ballot required.)** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$3,258,155.67**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$3,258,155.67**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$3,258,155.67, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$3,258,155.67. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: The Essential Programs and Services funding model does not recognize all of the costs of the special

education services, transportation services, and instructional services that the Regional School Unit provides.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.
School Board Recommends \$12,047,192

ARTICLE 15 RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate **\$50,000** for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program.

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 16: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS AMONG COST CENTERS

ARTICLE 17: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS TO AND EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL PROJECTS RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 18: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$100,000** from the Special Education Reserve Fund to the Capital Projects Reserve Fund; to transfer up to **\$70,000** from available fund balances to the Capital Projects Reserve Fund; and to expend from the Capital Projects Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

ARTICLES 19 AND 20
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FROM RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 19: Shall the School Board be authorized to expend funds from the **Special Education Reserve Fund** to pay for special education services as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to expend funds in the **Transportation Reserve Fund** to pay for student transportation costs as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

ARTICLES 21 THROUGH 23 AUTHORIZE THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION BUDGET AND RESERVE FUND ACTIONS

ARTICLE 21: CTE Region 7 Budget. Shall the Region 7 Waldo County Technical Center operating budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 be approved in the amount of **\$2,542,558.06?**

CTE Cooperative Board recommends a "Yes" vote.

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Cooperative Board of Waldo County Technical Center/Region 7 be authorized to transfer up to **\$50,000** to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital improvements and/or building facilities maintenance?

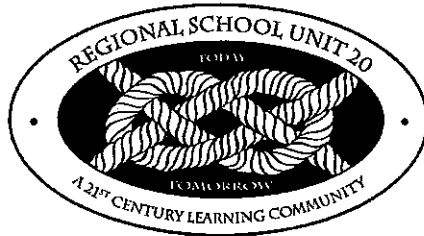
CTE Cooperative Board recommends a "Yes" vote.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Cooperative Board of Waldo County Technical Center/Region 7 be authorized to expend from available funds in the Capital Reserve for capital improvements and/or building facilities maintenance as needed in the discretion of the Cooperative Board?

CTE Cooperative Board recommends a "Yes" vote.

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 20

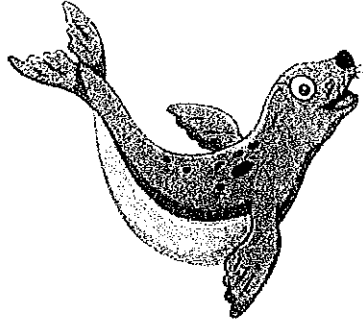
SEARSPORT/ STOCKTON SPRINGS



**Honoring Anthony “Tony” Bagley
15 Years of Dedicated service and support as an
RSU school board member and chairperson.**

**Tony has volunteered countless hours of his time
to support the students, staff and administration
of RSU 20 through his leadership role on the
school board and for that we offer sincere and
deep appreciation.**

We wish Tony the best in all future endeavors!



Searsport Elementary School
Searsport+Stockton Springs

Tenney Spiegel, Principal
Vince Alvelo, Dean of Students
Debbie Dakin, Administrative Assistant

Dear Friends and Families of RSU#20,

As we consider the RSU #20 budget, I understand that we must once again find a delicate balance between what we need and what we can afford. As costs continue to rise, we all must make tough decisions about where to spend our hard-earned income.

With that said, in approving this budget, you are investing in children and their development. Within the elementary school budget, you will find a multitude of initiatives like the ones included in our highlights below. Additional initiatives include funding for a fall and spring Afterschool program where students may participate in STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) programming, extending the school day and furthering their thinking and reasoning skills.

Please know I am the first one to believe in the partnership between community and school to overcome any challenges we face. At Searsport Elementary School we have a staff of dedicated, caring people who give their all every day to the students of Stockton Springs and Searsport. I welcome input on how we can make our community school stronger, for together we are building our future through our children. I know you want the best for them, and I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Tenney Spiegel
Principal, Searsport Elementary School

Celebrations of Learning at Searsport Elementary 2023-2024

Kindergarten

- Kindergarten students took a field trip to Treworgy's to their apple orchard and pumpkin patch. We also got to feed the goats!
- We have learned all 26 letters of the alphabet and their sounds. We will have an alphabet parade in June.
- We celebrated that this year was a Leap Year. We did lots of "leaping" activities on Leap Day and showcased these activities at SES's EXPO evening.
- We learned about what a total eclipse is and were excited to take our eclipse glasses home to experience it with our families.
- We celebrated Earth Day with a clean up. We collected 5.4 lbs of trash from around the school!
- Enrichment w/ technology, art, music and classroom: push/ pull unit. So much fun!
- Seeds: We sprouted kidney beans and then planted them. Then we planted flower seeds that are sprouting.
- In math, we have learned about numbers to 100, flat and solid shapes, and adding and subtracting. We have counted the days that we have been in school and will finish kindergarten on the 175th day of school! On the 100th day of school, we had a celebration where we did lots of activities that focused on the number 100.
- Amidst all of the academics, we have concentrated on being kind. Our goal is to be kind with our words and our bodies, always.

First Grade

First grade has done so many wonderful things to promote meaningful learning! We jumped on any opportunity to participate in creating fun, hands-on experiences!

- Both classrooms partnered with Ms. K's Spanish 1 classes this year to participate in a buddy reading program. Each Thursday Ms. K brings down her class and they read a popular children's book translated into Spanish for the students. We have loved being read to by high schoolers.
- First graders were able to participate in the annual YMCA swim lessons, where they learned how to be safe around water, how to help someone get to safety and began to learn basic swimming skills.
- Mrs. Davis has brought down her middle school math students bi-weekly to Mrs. Lapointe's class to participate in math activities to promote current conceptual learning in first grade. We have loved having our "math mentors" come down and

make learning fun!

- Mrs. Cox's fifth grade and Mrs. Lapointe's first graders learned about space, as a way to promote learning across grade levels the fifth graders helped first graders create models of each of the planets in our solar system and these were on display during the community learning exhibition.



Reading Buddies

Second Grade

- This year, we worked in Enrichment Groups to learn about different regions of the United States. We learned about either The Great Lakes, The Mojave Desert, The Rocky Mountains, and the Appalachian Trail. Each team spent two weeks with each teacher:
 - Mrs. Redman in which we learned about Google maps
 - Mrs. Koelbl, where we made an art project related to the geography of the region.
 - Mrs. Bailey we learned about the music of that region
 - Our Classroom Teachers, we read a nonfiction book about each area and then created a project about it.

These were on display in the lobby in late November. We really enjoyed our Integrated Studies time!

- This spring we have been involved in learning to write reports and biographies. We continue to work on punctuation and capitalization.
- In science we have performed many experiments with seeds. We also studied states of matter.
- We worked together to build motorized lego creations that we had to program with computers. This is our second year doing this, and we have moved into more challenging builds. What a great bunch of engineers!

Third Grade

- We traveled to the Sears Island causeway (with chaperones) at the end of April to seed clams with the Searsport Shellfish Committee again this year. This was an exciting activity to teach our students how to build soft-shell clam nurseries and learn how to keep the clam industry flourishing in our area.
- The students completed a state research project which included working with our specialists in art and music. Students wrote a paper about their state, and completed a brochure about that state in their regular classroom. In art, they completed different landmarks or animals that are in their states. Finally, in music, students made an instrument from the region that their state was in.
- Students participated in WinterKids WinterGames.
- They visited the PBIS School Store.
- Students are engaged in the Bikes for Books Reading Incentive sponsored by the local Masons.
- Students have planted seeds (a flower and a vegetable) that they get to take home.
- Students are learning about plant and animal genetic traits.
- They are also learning about pollution and how it affects habitats and animals.
- We are reflecting on how we impact the environment.
- We are studying extreme weather and what we have experienced here with all of the wind and rain.
- We are participating in a national postcard exchange in 3E.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Graders Have Participated In:

- Weather Blurr Citizen Science Collaboration with Maine, Alabama and Mississippi schools
- Winterkids WinterGames 2024
- Virtual field trips with Maine Wildlife Rangers
- Scientist collaborations with the Universities of Maine, Alabama and Mississippi via Zoom
- Weekly outdoor education lessons with Ms. Jenni and the Belfast Watershed Coalition
- Leadership mentor teacher for Weatherblurr MMSA program
- Field Trip to Cole Land Transportation museum
- PBIS School Store
- Central Maine Power Safety City Presentation
- First Lego Robotic League Mission Moon
- Portable outdoor classroom
- Field Trip to the Bangor Symphony and University of Maine Planetarium
- Pebbles2 Program Pilot year 2

- Pet Project at our SES Community Expo which raised over 340 dollars for What's one Moore animal Shelter
- Dr. Seuss book scavenger hunt on his birthday
- Bikes for Books reading incentive (courtesy of our local Masonic Lodge)
- Maine Audubon Field trip Holden Maine
- Community bird walk project and grant from MEEA
- Field trip to Penobscot Marine Museum
- Spheros designing a snowplow with Ms Redman
- What's One Moore Animal Rescue presentation - with puppies and kittens.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade highlights include:

- a large percentage of participation in Band, chorus, and 2 musical productions (School House Rock and Pirates)
- Space cross-curricular unit involving Art, Music, Technology, and Science



First and Fifth Grade Planet Project

- Cox 5 won the first March Madness song competition with a song called "Capybara."
- resumption of the Christmas Bazaar
- Paper mache parade floats
- Paper Mache planets with Mrs. Lapointe's 1st graders
- End-of-day readers in Mrs. Lapointe's 1st-grade
- Biography Bottle Characters
- American History time-period research with the final products done in BookCreator
- Book Clubs and Thursday Book Cafe

- We had readers visit Mrs. Lapointe
- We 'tasted' math when we learned about measurements. We weighed and converted bowls of strawberries, measured ingredients, and made No-Bake cookies
- field trip to Owls Head Transportation Museum
- Fifth-grade class celebration trip to Urban Air
- Volume Zoo
- Stepping up to middle school class newspaper action learning project
- Fairy-tale Trial
- Student Council members with Mrs. Bailey
- Pledge leaders/flag presentation at all Wednesday morning assemblies

Music

In music class this year, Kindergarten students have learned how to listen, move, and create music throughout the school year. They have learned how to keep a steady beat, identify high and low, and respond to changes in tempo (speed). Some of their favorite songs and games have been "Grumpy Grizzly," "Sleeping Bunnies," "Freeze Dance" and playing instruments.

1st grade students have reviewed how to keep a steady beat and have also learned how to identify rhythms. They have also learned how to read music notation. Students can read and perform rhythms that use quarter notes and eighth notes. Some of their favorite songs and games are "Poison Rhythm," "Apple Tree," "Mr. Troll" and "Freeze Dance."

2nd grade students have expanded their musical skills by learning to sing in rounds. 2nd grade students also continue to practice reading and performing rhythms. They can perform rhythms that use quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes, and half notes. Some of their favorite songs and games are "Cut The Cake," "Old Mr Rabbit" and singing "Are You Sleeping" in a round.

3rd grade students have learned how to read music on the treble clef staff. They have practiced performing simple songs on instruments and are currently learning to play the ukulele.

In November, 14 4th & 5th grade students performed in the production of *School House Rock Live Jr!*

Also, in November, six 5th grade students were selected for the MMEA District 5 Honors Chorus.

December brought our 4th & 5th grade annual chorus winter concert.

In February, 21 students in the 5th grade beginner band held their Beginner Band Showcase. 12 students even performed solos!

May brought several special events beginning with our annual field trip for 4th graders as they

went to hear the Bangor Symphony Orchestra at the University of Maine.

Also in May, 32 3rd, 4th & 5th graders were involved in the production of "Pirates: The Musical" which was sponsored by our STEAM After School Program

Finally in May, the SES Chorus and Beginner Band performed at the Spring Visual and Performing Arts Showcase alongside the middle and high school musicians. What a musical year!

Art

Elementary art students, this year, have been deeply immersed in the artistic process. Following the same approach as the middle and high school art program, our students become familiar with and take ownership of our shared space, and utilize media of their choice to express creative concepts of their own vision.

The students are the artists, and our classroom is their studio. This approach is known as choice based art education, and is integrated with the framework of teaching for artistic behavior. Artistic behavior centers around an authentic creative process. Are students familiar and responsible with the materials in their studio? Do they feel free to express themselves? Do they challenge themselves to try new things?

Through brief teacher demonstrations, and lots of practice, our students learn new media/techniques over the course of the year. As a visitor to the art room, on any given day, you may see some students painting, others working with pastels or drawing, and still others building 3 dimensional sculptures out of recycled and repurposed components, using age appropriate tools and materials. Some students' projects are completed in a day, while many will stretch over 2 or 3 sessions. Students experience the authentic elements of the artistic process: play, discovery, learning by trial, and adjusting as needed!

Students have created some amazing works, independently and collaboratively, this year. The sky's the limit for our young artists, when given the tools and freedom to fly! *Many, many thanks to community members who have donated everything from their shell collections to endless sheets of framing matboard, to stacks of egg cartons. We appreciate you and the value you bring to the children in our community*



From Art Class

Physical Education

Each time before class, different groups in 3-5 and all K-2 students took turns saying several "brain phrases" before walking into the gym; things like "It's not I can't, but I can" and "I am capable of doing difficult things." They also said, "When I practice I see great results" and "It's not I don't know, it's I'll give it a try." They learned this was to prepare the brain as they went to practice the physical skills because the mind and body are connected.

K-2 began the year learning how to throw a disc to play disc golf. 3-5 practiced throwing and catching a disc to engage in a game of Ultimate. 3-5 also began working on being part of a team and doing some cooperation activities such as team juggling. This helped them work on communication, taking turns and being patient with others.

K-2 also did some work on kicking and dribbling a ball with their feet while sharing space.

Then everyone moved into learning about physical symptoms in the body to show fitness is developing such as increased heart and breathing and the health components of fitness such as muscular strength and flexibility. They were able to complete exercises from 10 different professional athletes that 3rd-5th graders gave as ones they enjoyed watching.

Everyone then completed some jump rope practice to either begin or further their skills. 3-5 also began learning how to work with partners to use jump bands which was part of our dance unit. K-2 also completed some other dances such as the Mexican Hat Dance and Kuma San from Japan.

Next, all the students focused on balance and coordination to complete gymnastics types body movement which they then put together to create a routine. Some movements were performed on a balance beam to further increase the challenge.

K-2 will be finishing the year focused on improving jump rope skills and striking balls and balloons with their hands, paddles and rackets, and finally bats.
3-5 will finish the year focused on catching and throwing a football to play flag football and then catching and throwing a small soft ball to play a modified baseball/softball game. They will also be challenging themselves to meet their jump rope goals and set new ones.

It has been a joy to hear students express their pleasure in accomplishing physical tasks they had previously thought they could not do.

Schoolwide Initiatives

Throughout the school year students in Kindergarten through 5th grade participated in an enrichment unit that integrated art, music, technology, social studies and science. Each grade focused on the following units: K - Force of Motion: Push & Pull, 1st - Birds of Maine, 2nd - Landforms in the USA, 3rd - Regions of the USA, 4th - Service Learning which focused on a local animals rescues and culminated in the performance of the musical the Best Pet Show Ever!, 5th - Spanish Speaking Countries



Searsport District Middle High School

24 Mortland Road

Searsport, ME 04974

Joshua Toothaker, Principal
William Vigue, Dean of Students

(207) 548-2313 Office
(207) 548-2354 Fax

Dear Viking Families,

Here at Searsport District Middle High School we continue with our work on implementing place-based, experiential learning for all students with the goal to increase engagement and provide relevant learning experiences.

At the end of our involvement with the Maine Department of Education's Rethinking Responsive Educational Ventures (RREV) Grant, RSU 20 will have a fully functional outdoor classroom available to all students in the district as well as the implementation of sustainable programs for our students to pursue internships and independent studies in line with their personal aspirations. Throughout our work this year, we have formed lasting relationships with community organizations and businesses. These relationships will link the work that we do here at RSU 20 and the community in an effort to further foster community pride and connection to our local area.

On behalf of the students and staff here at Searsport District Middle High School, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the community for their ongoing and ever present support to the important and meaningful work we do here. The support of our budget needs has allowed us to develop and obtain the above educational goals. Your continued financial support will provide our students future achievements. The sense of community we feel here is obvious as we take on the challenges of educating our youth in preparation for whatever they aspire to be in the future. Without that partnership, none of what we do is possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Toothaker
Principal, Searsport District Middle High School

Please use the QR code below to see some of the amazing things that have happened here at SDMHS through the 23-24 school year.



We Honor Our Retiring Staff Members
School Year 2024

Pam Lane
K-3 Resource Room Teacher-SES
2000-2024

Sally Stanton
Ed Tech III- Library
2014-2024

Marcia Williams
Ed Tech II
1989-2023

Thank you for all of your years of dedication
to the Searsport District Schools.
Best wishes.

Regional School Unit 20 does not discriminate in its education and employment programs on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, genetic information, or disability and complies with Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-261) amending Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000(e) et seq.), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352), Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.), Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. § 206), Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) (42 USC § 2000ff et seq.) and the Maine Human Rights Act (5 MRSA § 4551, et seq.). Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies may be made to the Affirmative Action Officer at 6 Mortland Road, Searsport, ME 04974, telephone number 207-548-6643.

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