

North Hampton School Report Card Academic Year 2008-09

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Message from the School Board

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2009 edition of the North Hampton School Report Card. We look forward to presenting this report and hope that it provides you an opportunity to learn about our school and the innovative teaching and learning that is happening at NHS.

A few of the report's focal points include soliciting your input into the School's Guiding Beliefs, NECAP assessment results, advancements in Algebra, reading comprehension, Spanish,
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Parents Speak to the North Hampton Community-at-Large

"This is what we want you to know about our school."

Each year we collect comments from people who know our school to share with you, the larger North Hampton community, in order that you can formulate a richer body of knowledge about your town school. This year, we asked parents of children who currently attend North Hampton School to reflect on and respond to the following question:

What would you like the greater North Hampton community to know about our school?

You will see their responses scattered throughout this document. Hopefully, these comments, in conjunction with the other articles we have included in this issue, will help you see what is valued and what is achieved inside the walls of North Hampton School.

Please Participate in the Rebirth of our Guiding Beliefs!

The (ivory) insert in this annual edition of the NHS School Report Card pertains to the first step in the process of 'rebirthing' our Guiding Beliefs. We are hoping that everyone in our community will participate in this process by responding to this brief questionnaire. We will analyze and synthesize all input to determine what the core values and primary outcomes of our school should be. These concepts will constitute our Guiding Belief statements in draft form. We will then convene community and staff forums to discuss the drafted statements and finalize them at which point they will be communicated to all constituencies in the community. This is an important undertaking. These Beliefs will ultimately Guide the education program and instructional practices of North Hampton School in the future. We value your voice. Please share it with us.

Please follow the directions on the inserted sheet for returning the questionnaire to the school by March 20th.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort in helping us shape our Guiding Beliefs.

School Board (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Technology and new capital improvement projects. The report also details how students at every grade level are learning to be Green and the initiatives that are taking place in the different classrooms and in the school as a whole. The North Hampton School takes great pride in its inclusive education. This report will provide a window into the way our school is meeting the needs of all learners. We hope that you enjoy reading the insightful reflections supplied to us by parents/guardians who currently have students attending NHS. We value what they had to say and wanted the community to have the opportunity to hear their perspectives.

The effort to continually improve the educational experiences for students at NHS never ceases. We want our students to be self-directed, active learners! We want them to have a tenacious appetite for knowledge and the skills to acquire it independently! We want our students to demonstrate persistence, empathic listening, cooperative and flexible thinking, and metacognition. Further, we would like them to underpin these capabilities with the ability to draw on prior knowledge and apply it to new situations. The expectation is for students to question and pose problems, take risks, show ingenuity, experience wonderment, and to take pride in their work. The students at NHS are fortunate to be in classrooms that promote thinking skills and dispositions. We believe these are the types of skills that will best prepare our students for the 21st century.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the administration, staff and community members involved in educating the students at NHS. It is your talent; expertise and dedication that make the North Hampton School an enriching place for our students to learn and grow. Please feel free to contact a school board member or administrator with feedback or suggestions for future reports.

Mary Pat Dolan, Janet Gorman, David Sarazen, Kari Schmitz, Stacy Whittier

North Hampton School Improvement Plan 2008-2011

We began this year with a clearer articulation of the sub-goals and actions that collectively form our current School Improvement Plan (SIP). If you are unfamiliar with this document, it is the result of a multi-step process to set goals to guide the direction of the school to benefit our students. This process is usually undertaken every 3 years. The goals noted below comprise the North Hampton SIP for 2008-2011. To see the specific actions we are taking this school year under each goal, please visit the NHS Website and click on the “about North Hampton School” link in the left column. Certain actions under these goals are detailed in other articles in this document.

Goal 1: Self Directed Learning

Students will develop metacognitive awareness to become more effective learners through student-centered, authentic learning experiences that practice the skills of questioning, problem solving, risk taking, analyzing, researching, reflecting, creating, and communicating their learning

- Subgoal A: Reading Comprehension Improvement
- Subgoal B: Knowledge and Use of Critical Skills

Goal 2: Global Learning

Our students will become global citizens who are respectful of others, appreciative of diversity and accepting of differences through participation in learning activities that connect to their immediate, local and global communities.

- Subgoal A: Spanish Program Expansion
- Subgoal B: Diversity Awareness and Appreciation

Goal 3: Technology (See Subgoals)

• Subgoal A: Our students’ learning across the curriculum will be facilitated and enhanced by the integration of reliable, quality technology

• Subgoal B: Our students will engage in the transformative process of developing a digital portfolio that captures their authentic experiences and performances and promotes reflection on their learning

New Look for NHS Website

Wondering what is for lunch or if that library book you are looking for is at the NHS library? Well... look no further than the NHS Website (www.northhamptonschool.org). The design of the NHS Website has changed and information has been enhanced to keep families and community members informed. New additions to bolster communication are the sections “**Latest News**” and “**Upcoming Events**” that feed into our main page through a blog and an online calendar.

Information about school and community events are updated on a regular basis and available to read “front and center” on the school’s homepage. Upcoming events and sports schedules are displayed prominently on the website and are updated as any changes are made to the school calendar. Further calendar displays and formats are available by clicking on “**Calendar**”.

Important information about classrooms and grade levels are available by visiting the “**In the Classroom**” section of the website. Each classroom or grade level posts newsletters, links to blogs or other important information. In this section of the website, resources such as PE information, Mr. Singer’s Band Blog, Mrs. Zavez’s Drama Website, the latest NHS Artist Studio collection and the NHS Technology eBoard are also available and full of great information and links. Teacher email links are still available through the “**Contact Us**” section of the website.

Please visit the NHS Website to check out the great information that is available there! www.northhamptonschool.org

Reading Comprehension Takes Center Stage

Being literate is a necessary foundation for navigating high school, college, and work: being literate is a necessary foundation for life! At North Hampton School, we have graduated literate students for decades. Our students love to read, they read fluently, they can re-tell what they have read and they can answer questions showing an understanding of what they read. As members of an ever-changing world though, we know that our students need to be able to do more. This year, we've begun a school-wide focus on reading comprehension that will better prepare students for their lives in this complex and changing world.

With all of the information now available, our students need to be critical and flexible in their reading so that they can quickly find the information they need and know if it's reliable. With the changing demands of the workplace, students need to be able to think critically and flexibly to adapt the discrete skills learned for one occupation to new demands and challenges. With the complex challenges facing the world and unknown and unfathomable challenges on the horizon, our students need to be self-directed and forward thinking so that they can envision what might be, not what is. Our school-wide focus of reading comprehension is really about improving the dispositions and skills of thinking that will enable our students to comprehend the changing world!

Our students need to be able to read and think deeply and critically; therefore, we must adapt our instruction to push them to new levels of understanding. Decades of research have shown that:

- When we read we need to use what we know to make connections to new information (schema).
- We need to continuously ask questions about what we are reading to clarify our understanding and to anticipate what might come next (questioning).
- We need to use our ability to translate what we are reading into mind pictures and sensory images to expand our understanding (using imagery).
- We need to use what we already know combined with new information to make judgments and draw conclusions (inferring).
- We need to monitor our reading to make sure it makes sense and means something to us (monitoring and metacognition).
- When reading we need to be able to know which information is important in light of our purpose for reading (determining importance).
- We need to combine thoughts we have from reading and thinking to develop new understandings (synthesis).

Although listed here in the context of reading, these thinking strategies are used by every adult every day, all day, to navigate through the world. These are the comprehension strategies that all teachers at North Hampton are teaching our students in all disciplines so that students are prepared to better comprehend our changing world.

Safety and Security Updates

The safety of the children at North Hampton School has always been a priority of administration and staff. Each year the Safety Committee meets to discuss safety goals for the upcoming school year. Our main goal this year will be to conduct an off-site evacuation. This will be closely coordinated with both the police and fire departments and parents will be notified of the timeframe in which the drill will be conducted.

This year North Hampton School purchased Alert Now. This program allows messages to be sent to parents/guardians about school events, special meetings and can be used in any type of emergency to keep parents informed of what is happening in the school. **It is important that you keep the school informed of all telephone number changes so we have the most current information on file and in the Alert Now system.**

North Hampton School creates a culture in which learners are inspired to challenge themselves to achieve their highest potential. I have worked in several Seacoast schools, but have never seen the proud mentoring of older-to-younger students, the ambitious learning projects and the development of individual leadership carried out so effectively. My sons are lucky to learn in such a caring and exciting environment, in which the bar for personal achievement is set so high.

Grades 1 & 4 Parent

The classroom teachers as well as the Guidance and Unified Arts teachers take the time to truly know the interests of each student.

Grades K, 2, 3, & 6 Parent

There are many things I'd like to share with our community about North Hampton School. As a parent, I feel so fortunate to have found a school for my children that encourages independent thinking, fosters a true love of learning, and continues to turn out high level students who are prepared for the rigors of high school. The staff at NHS is made up of a diverse group of educators who have many different ways of teaching. They appreciate the different ways in which children learn and continue to find the best way to teach each individual child. The administration and staff are continually striving to improve their methods, believing that the quest to be the best is never over. Our children leave NHS, not only with an award winning education, but with a clear understanding of how to be respectful of each other, the environment and the educational process.

Grades 7 & 9! Parent

21st Century Skills – The Skills for Today

Every day my child is greeted with warmth and respect by professionals.

Every day my child is given challenges and the supports to conquer them.

Every day my child leaves school with new skills, insights, joy and growing confidence in her heart.

Pre-Kindergarten Parent

Did you know ...

about the average class size at NHS?

Average Class Size		
Grade	NHS	State
1	18	17
2	17	18
3	16	18
4	19	20
5	16	20
6	20	20
7	18	20
8	18	20

*Information taken from NHDOE website 07-08 NCLB Report Card

As you can see from the above graph, the student/teacher ratio of North Hampton School is within the average range of the State of New Hampshire.

We love the small, family-like atmosphere of the school. We are welcome to drop in to visit and are always greeted warmly by teachers and staff. Because the school is small, students seem to be friendly with a wide range of children - not just the kids in their own grade. It really feels like the center of our community.

Grades 1 and 3 Parent

If students are to succeed in today's global and complex economy, they need to know more than reading, writing, and math. They also need interdisciplinary thinking skills necessary for the 21st century workforce. Tony Wagner, from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, conducted research by meeting with hundreds of business, nonprofit, philanthropic, and education leaders, asking what skills will students need to have successful careers and become good citizens in the future? The result is seven skills necessary for students to prosper as both workers and productive citizens. They are problem-solving and critical thinking, collaboration across networks and leading by influence, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurship, effective written and oral communication, accessing and analyzing information, and curiosity and imagination.

The school experience for the majority of today's adults consisted of the teacher standing at the front of the classroom imparting factual information to the students who were then required to memorize it and regurgitate it on a test. This may have served its' purpose at the time but with the exponential growth of technology, students can access massive amounts of information in seconds. In education today, we must do MORE than simply give out information, we must teach our students HOW to use the information. Of course we teach the basics but it is now crucial to go beyond the basics and teach our students how to THINK.

Recently in a fourth grade classroom at NHS, students presented inquiry projects to their teachers, peers, and families. The students were encouraged to research a topic they were curious about, analyze and evaluate the information, and compile and present their findings in their individual chosen format. The student topics ranged from the possible extinction of polar bears and Florida panthers to Betsy Ross and Abraham Lincoln to the study of Russia and even hunting. The modes of presentations were as varied as the topics. Students wrote books, created artwork, made models, displayed artifacts, and produced impressive PowerPoints on the laptops. With this one project, students used many of the skills listed above.

In an Algebra class, students are seated in groups of four to five. The teacher writes a new type of problem on the board and asks students to work in their groups to find two methods of solving the problem. The group will be accountable for recording their answers on the board and explaining the process they used to the rest of the class. This teacher is not only asking the students to solve a problem but to access and analyze their prior math knowledge, collaborate and communicate with their team, and explain their thinking both orally and in writing. These skills could not be achieved if students were working alone at their respective desks.

Ask any middle school student about their service learning projects, and you will understand how they use initiative, leadership, adaptability, problem solving, collaboration, and communication consistently. Students work with seniors in nursing homes, form partnerships with schools in need, creatively raise funds for causes, read to younger children, and lead various environmental initiatives. They are not only learning and using these 21st century skills but also becoming responsible and empathetic citizens.

We need to continue down the path of changing our teaching methods to reflect the needs of the world. Our students need to be able to think more broadly, creatively, and globally. It is time to move beyond recognizing one test as a measure of student success and instead, recognize the daily successes that occur in our classrooms. At NHS, we will continue to provide our students with the learning opportunities needed to support all aspects of their development and to promote lifelong learning. We will go beyond just teaching the 3Rs of the 20th century to ensure that our students are "21st century literate".

How Do Our Expenditures Compare to Our Achievement - a 10 Year Look

What follows is a simple ranking comparison of North Hampton School's per pupil expenditures and student achievement from 10 years ago and today.

1997-1998 Per Pupil Expenditures

- NHS was #18 out of 155 districts for per pupil expenditures, spending **more per pupil than 88% of the districts in NH.**

1997-1998 NHEIAP Achievement Test Ranking

According to the state assessment at that time, the NHEIAP, NHS scored:

- 19th out of 139 districts in 3rd grade reading, scoring better than 86% of districts in NH.
- 10th out of 139 districts in 3rd grade math, scoring better than 93% of districts in NH.
- 75th out of 135 districts in 6th grade reading, scoring better than 45% of districts in NH.
- 36th out of 135 districts in 6th grade math, scoring better than 73% of districts in NH.
- 64th out of 135 districts in 6th grade science, scoring better than 53% of districts in NH.
- 60th out of 135 districts in 6th grade social studies, scoring better than 56% of districts in NH.

The NHEIAP was administered to all 3rd, 6th, and 10th grade students in New Hampshire. This was based upon the New Hampshire Frameworks at that time. By May 2004, North Hampton was awarded the United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award in recognition of achieving the highest scores on the NHEIAP.

In 2005-2006, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont implemented the state test, the New England Common Assessment Program, based on new state frameworks these three states developed collectively. The NECAP test replaced the NHEIAP. Grades 3-8 are tested in reading and math. Grades 5 and 8 are also tested in writing. Last year a science test was added to the NECAP for grades 4-8. Since the implementation of the NECAP state assessment, North Hampton School results have steadily improved.

2007 Per Pupil Expenditures Ranking

- NHS is #38 out of 162 districts for per pupil expenditures, spending more per pupil than 77% of the districts in NH.

2007 NECAP Achievement (2008 ranking data not yet available)

According to the state NECAP assessment, which is one measure of student performance, NHS scores:

- 19th out of 158 districts in reading, scoring better than 88% of districts in NH.
- 22nd out of 158 districts in math, scoring better than 86% of districts in NH.
- 20th out of 144 districts in writing, scoring better than 86% of districts in NH.
- 24th out of 149 districts in science, scoring better than 84% of districts in NH.

As you can see, over this time period, we have a lower ranking on per pupil expenditures, while we have maintained and/or improved our state ranking on student achievement.

Hello...my husband and I relocated to North Hampton just under two years ago, and I will tell you why. We have four children at North Hampton School (3rd, 2nd, 1st, and pre-k). About two years, after being unhappy with our public schools in Rhode Island, we began a search throughout New England for a better school system. We were in a school where the kids tested well and it was considered a "high performing" school. The kids spent their days preparing for these tests from the minute they walked through the Kindergarten doors. Their bags were filled daily with the many traditional worksheets they had been doing throughout the day, and homework was more of the same. I looked on endless school web sites trying to find a match for my children. Everyone said, look at Great School ratings and they will tell you all the best schools - a good resource but again so much based on a standardized test score. What I really wanted was a place that challenged my children academically but also where my kids could still play with play dough and be kids. As I looked at the North Hampton School web site it looked like a good school, but there are many schools that look good on paper. As I was looking at the web site I came across the article on the school's Blue Ribbon award. As I read the quotes from the kids I was so taken back at how kids that age could be so introspective and smart about life. So I scheduled an appointment to visit the school, still thinking it was going to be like all the others I had visited - just ok. It wasn't and I was amazed with the school and how different it was, it was just what we were looking for. So I went home and told my husband we were moving to North Hampton - anyways here we are. The entire school is wonderful - it is very different in the fact that it is such hands on learning - connecting the classroom to the real world. Our kids are excited about learning! We could not have been happier with our move and have come to realize the community is the back-bone of the school. Parents sometimes look at me funny (usually those who have not experienced another public school system), when I tell them we moved to North Hampton just for the school. Let me tell you, I have done my research and this is as good as it gets!!

Grades Pre-K, 1, 2 & 3 Parent

Inclusive Education at North Hampton School

The North Hampton School is committed to teaching all students the importance of giving back to the community. This philosophy is demonstrated by many different projects and programs that the school facilitates throughout the school year at all grade levels. I am proud to have a school that teaches these values to our children.

Grades 2 & 5

Did you know....

That you can see the artwork of our students by visiting The Artist's Studio on the North Hampton School website? Type in www.sau21.k12.nh.us/nhes

Go to the "In the Classroom" Section 4 of the website found in the left column. Scroll to the bottom of the Teachers list and click on the link to "Mr. Moses' Artist's Studio".

Enjoy the visual experience and check back often for updates!

Federal law and Best Practices dictate that students identified with special needs must be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) as much as possible. North Hampton School embraces this philosophy with enthusiasm.

Long gone are the resource rooms, self-contained programs, and out-of-district placements for students with challenging learning needs. A Case Manager and Educational Associate are assigned to each grade level to ensure that students' goals and objectives from their Individual Education Programs (IEP's) are embedded into the natural flow of the day.

Classroom teachers accept that it is the expectation, not the exception, that some of their students will require accommodations and/or modifications in order to access the general curriculum. All students have membership in their classroom community. Special educators work with the classroom teacher to provide modifications and strategies, supervise Educational Associates and help to monitor progress both in the general curriculum and on those IEP's for students with special needs.

Over the past 15 years or so, educators have moved ahead to accept diversity in the classroom and school communities. Strategies have unfolded to encourage acceptance, not alienation of students that may have different learning profiles. As you step foot in any classroom at North Hampton School, you cannot pinpoint which students may be identified under special education nor who has an accommodation plan.

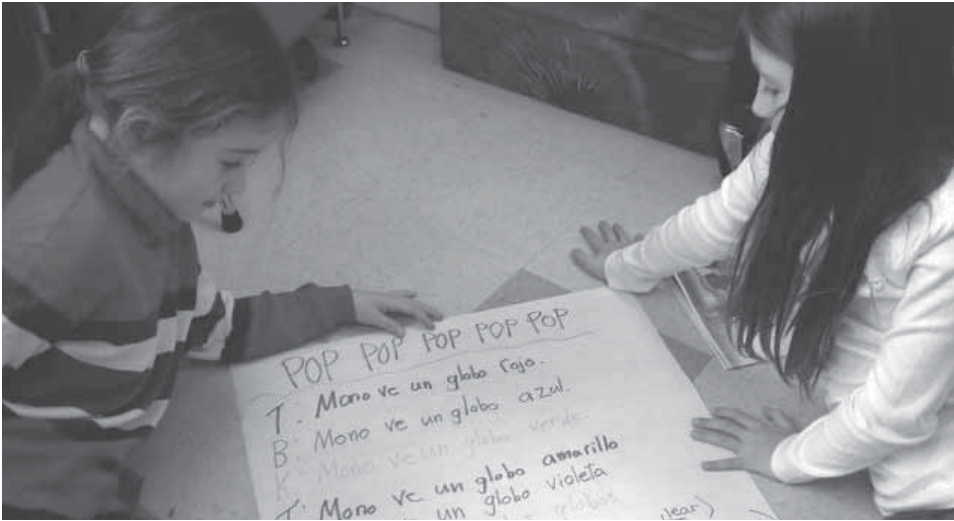
It takes teamwork, energy and creativity to make it all work! The most important aspect of Inclusive Education is the message we are sending to all of our students. Everyone Belongs!

Annual Artist in Residence Program

An exciting annual program eagerly anticipated by NHS students and staff alike is the Artist in Residence experience. This special event is always so eagerly anticipated by staff and students alike because it is a dynamic program that allows students to stretch their creativity in unique and exciting ways. Each year the Artist In Residence program targets one of the Unified Arts areas in rotation. Examples of past experiences have included the Trashcan Lid Kids – during which Jeff Erwin combined our passions for recycling and music and helped us 'rock the school' with performances on recycled percussion instruments. Potter Robert Rossel helped each child create a one of a kind tile masterpiece that became part of a permanent mural installation. This year's artist will be African Drummer Steve Ferraris who will lead us through the thrilling experience of preparing and performing an African Harvest Festival - complete with dance instruction from African Dancer James Marshall. NHS students and staff alike will be transformed by this experience mid March. PAL generously funds the program each year and we salute and thank them for their yearly support of this critical element of our curriculum.



NHS World Language Expansion



Want to be a "PAL"?

Are you interested in being more involved in North Hampton School? Would you like to enhance childrens' experience in school? Are you looking for something to do that is rewarding, fun and involves a wide variety of community members? North Hampton People Active in Learning (PAL) is just for you. Membership is open to the community and there are no dues. It is PAL's belief that the community and educators must form a partnership in which they bolster each other's efforts and capitalize on each other's skills and knowledge. Educators cannot do the job alone. They need the support of a community that values education by word and deed. PAL strives to enhance the academic environment of all children by providing funds for classroom and school projects. Funds are allocated based on four criteria:

- Provides academic enrichment
- Benefits a broad cross-section of students
- Enhances the learning environment
- Promotes school and community spirit

Based on the above criteria, PAL has financially supported the following projects and enrichment programs over the past several years:

- Installed the sound system in the cafeteria for theatre projects. This same system is also used during town meetings and other community and school events
- Painted and cleaned the school coordinating NHS staff, town volunteers and City Year Volunteers
- Planted the organic garden for educational purposes as well as to grow organic food for students' consumption
- Provided enrichment allowances for each grade
- Awarded field trip scholarships to students
- Sponsored an annual Artist-in-Residence program
- Provided for a Visiting Author each year
- Supporter of Red Ribbon Week

Please join us in our efforts. Our next scheduled meetings are: March 19 at 6:15pm; April 17 at 9:45am; May 14 at 6:15pm. All meetings are in the NHS Café.

In keeping with the original goals of the World Language Task Force and the current School Improvement Plan, The North Hampton World Language program underwent significant expansion this year. With the addition of Liz Drinkwater as the elementary Spanish teacher, NHS now has two full time teachers. We are now able to provide Spanish to more students, starting instruction in the first grade when children are most able to acquire oral skills. Our goal is to graduate bilingual students who are confident and competent communicators. Students now receive a minimum of 60 minutes of instruction per week in the primary grades, and up to 165 minutes in middle school.

How we teach Spanish is also changing. Instead of Spanish functioning as a separate program, Spanish is often integrated into other subjects. Classroom teachers now participate in Spanish classes while learning ways to incorporate Spanish into their regular subjects. In 6th and 7th grades, classroom teachers conduct many of their own Spanish classes. In doing so, classroom teachers set a powerful example as they teach and learn alongside their students. More and more we are learning how to make bilingualism part of our school culture.

Recent world language activities include the creation of bilingual "All About Me" books in 2nd grade, a new e-pal relationship with Spaniards in the 6th grade and a combined math/language arts/Spanish unit in the seventh grade that culminated in the creation of the Spanish language cell phone commercials.

As students progress through the levels of the NHS world language program, the emphasis shifts from conversation to grammar to literature with the goal of long-term success. When students graduate they will have a solid foundation as listeners, speakers, readers and writers and most will be qualified to jump directly to high school level two. Look for continued integration of Spanish in the months to come. We hope you will join us for Family Fiesta Night, our annual Hispanic cultural festival on May 8th.

New England Common Assessment Program – NECAP Results for 2008

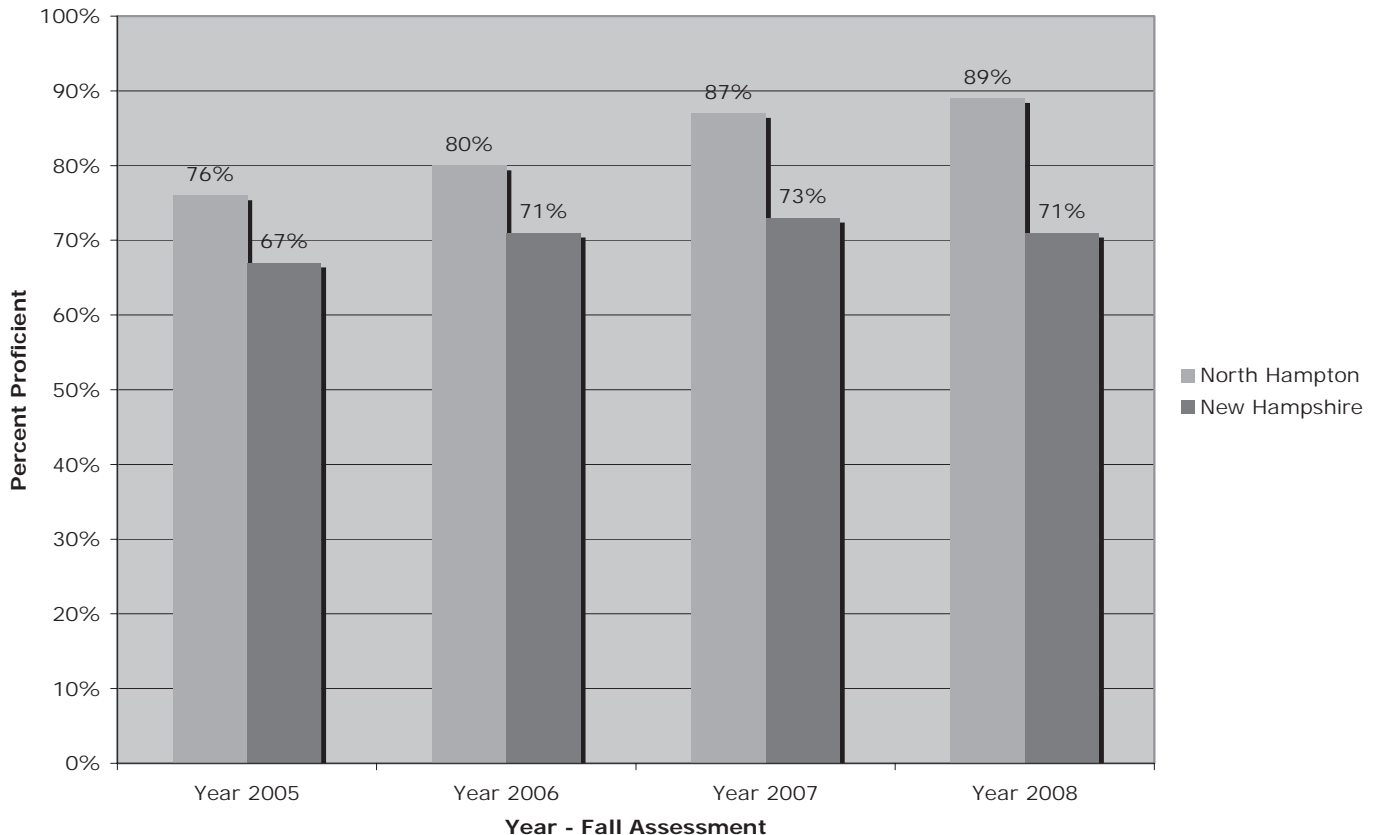
READING, MATHEMATICS, WRITING ASSESSMENT FALL 2008

North Hampton School students in grades three through eight completed their fourth year of the annual NECAP tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics last October 2008. These standardized tests, in conjunction with the spring assessment in Science, are required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The graphs on these pages present the data visually so that you can easily extract this year's results and also see the change in North Hampton's assessment results over the four-year time period in comparison to the State of New Hampshire's average results. Standardized assessments are only one measure of the academic health and progress of a school. This document, the School Report Card, attempts to present a richer picture of the culture and achievement of your community school.

SCIENCE ASSESSMENT SPRING 2008

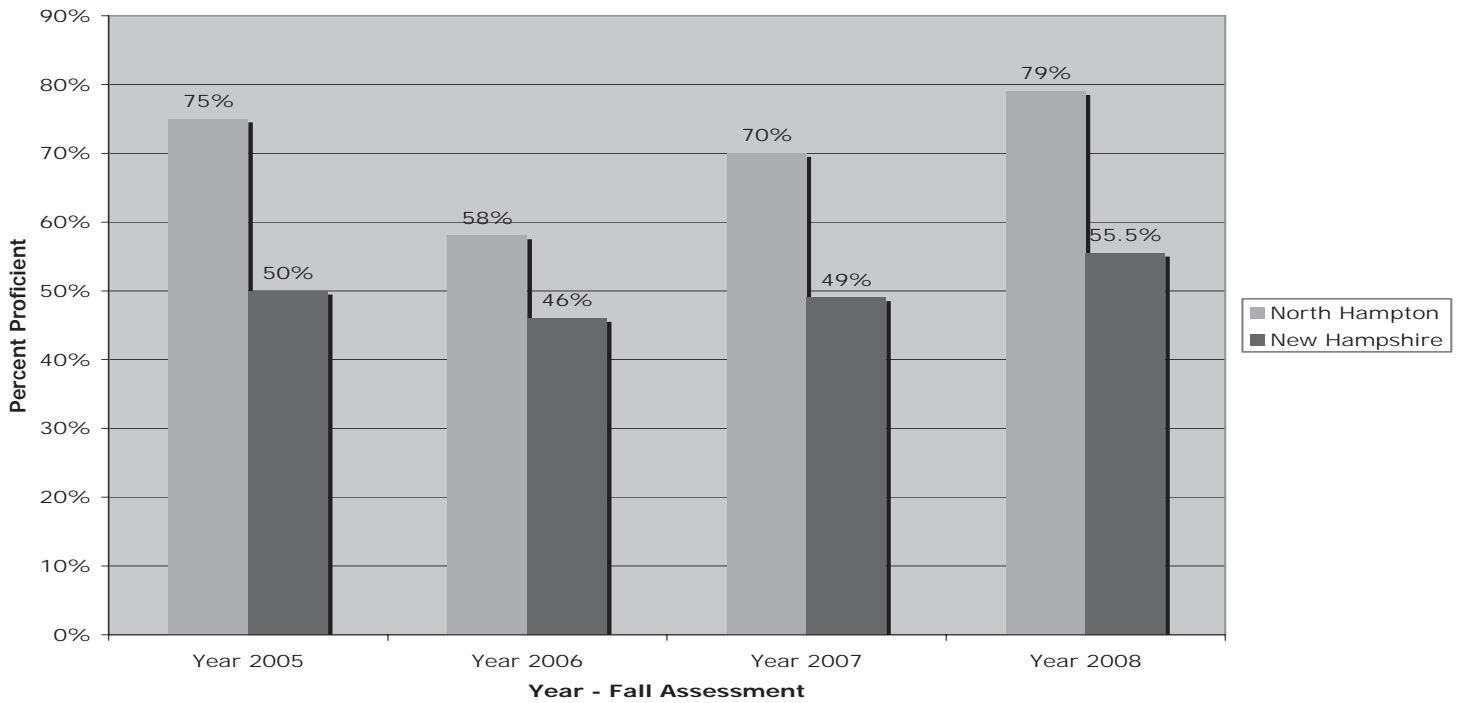
During the month of May 2008, students in grades 4, 8, and 11 in New Hampshire schools participated in the first annual NECAP Science Assessment. The NECAP science test was designed to measure New Hampshire's new science Grade Span Expectations, or GSEs. These expectations define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered by the end of the following grade spans: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-11. The results from this first NECAP Science Assessment are only baseline data. It takes 3 years of data to develop a reliable profile. We can report that we scored 24th out of 149 districts in Science, scoring better than 84% of the districts in the State of New Hampshire! Becoming proficient in the standards in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science is a constant work in progress in the schools. We are working to provide the students of North Hampton School with a quality education in Science that meets or exceeds the current standards.

Comparison of Reading Proficiency Between NHS and State of New Hampshire

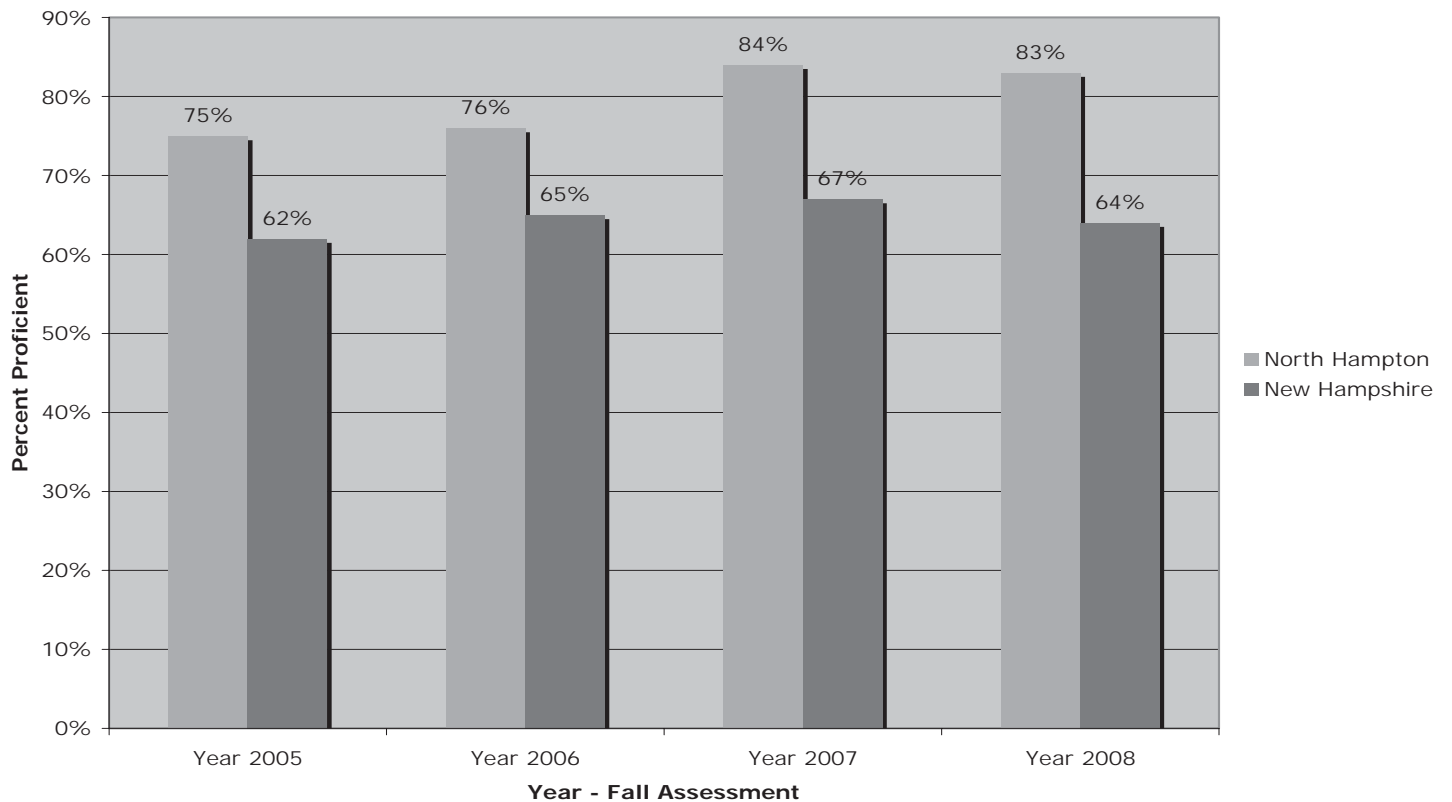


New England Common Assessment Program – NECAP Results for 2008

Comparison of Writing Proficiency Between NHS and State of New Hampshire



Comparison of Proficiency in Mathematics Between NHS and State of New Hampshire



Research Projects in the 21st Century School

Today's students are "digital natives". They expect to find information in formats other than print and thrive on the stimulation that mixed media provides. Information for research projects has become much more accessible with the addition of technology into the media mix. While students are always encouraged to see if there is a book on their topic first, today they have online encyclopedias which are constantly updated and immediately available to multiple researchers. Many of the online articles are supplemented with mixed media (e.g., photos, film, podcasts, etc.) that expand the desired information needs of our students. Online encyclopedias contain links to credible websites where the student can reach beyond the basic information to explore their topic in more depth.



It is important to know that our students are able to gather information from some online sources if the reading content is challenging. Some of the online resources are presented auditorially to the student. Other resources present information in a highly visual manner with live action video or animations on some topics. There are many ways to learn!

The word "inquiry" is used in many grade levels to indicate a research project where the student

has chosen the topic usually based on personal interest. Naturally, this type of research guarantees a high investment on the student's part. Online resources such as Net Trekker aid the student in locating websites which are safe and on an appropriate educational level. The students are able to gauge the reading level and find sites within their range of ability.

Students have been provided with the usernames and passwords for all of our approved online resources and parents are welcome to visit our eboards or library website for quick links. The library website has a link on our school's new site or you may go to <http://northhampton.eboard.com> or <http://middle-school.eboard.com> and click on the "Resources" tab. Please remember that Internet supervision of your child is still necessary even when our credible resources are used. For any further information contact Linda Sherouse, Meghan Wyman or Brad Gregg.



The thing that stands out about the school to me, outside of academics, is the overall warm feeling given off by the staff. It is apparent the staff cares a lot about the children. The school feels like a "family" of sorts. The teachers, in my experience, listen to the parents and show true concern for the well-being of the children. From what I hear from parents at the other schools, this is unique.

Grades 3 & 4 Parent

Did you know ...

that on April 9th, Michael Dooling will be our guest author/illustrator. Michael's art is amazing and since his focus is on historical and factual depictions he will arrive in costume. Some books which students could familiarize themselves with prior to his visit are: *The Young Thomas Edison*; *Thomas Jefferson: A Picture Book Biography*; *The Great Horse-less Carriage Race*; *Lewis and Clark and Me*; *Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon*; *The Memory Coat*, *Anne Hutchinson's Way*; *The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin*; and *The Boy Who Saved Cleveland*.

Books will be offered for purchase beginning in March.

NHS provides the children of North Hampton with a quality educational experience on a number of levels. The school is fortunate to be led by a faculty and staff whose commitment level to the kids and their professions is very high. The school excels at fostering a positive, upbeat environment in which our children can learn, grow and flourish as students and young people.

Grades 2 & 4 Parent

Technology Clearly Captures Student Performance



Did you know ...

that North Hampton School strives to deliver educational excellence in education through attracting and retaining high quality teachers? Consider the Educational Quality of our staff in the following comparison:

* 89.2% of North Hampton Teachers have Master's Degrees

* The NH State average of teachers who have Master's Degrees is 48.3%

The North Hampton School does a very good job facilitating communication between parents, teachers, and school officials. Teachers provide us with updates via email, newsletters and blogs. They are receptive to parental input and always available to discuss student progress, strategies to strengthen student success or any other school related issues. We have found school administrators to be similarly receptive and they take quick action to rectify any situation.

Grades K & 2 Parent

We have nothing but great things to say about our school and community!

Grade 2 Parent

With the aid of technology there are greater opportunities for the work of students to be captured throughout their time at North Hampton School. An amazing amount of growth can be digitally documented and stored for the benefit of students, families and teachers. Students can compile digital samples each year of what they sound like as a reader, what their writing contains and how they solved math problems. When examining these artifacts that so clearly capture the individual and their progress, growth and learning becomes visual!

One way students use technology is to capture learning and communicate understanding in performance assessments. This is especially evident in the content areas of Social Studies and Science. Students unite reading, writing, and technology to compile research on an inquiry topic and communicate their understanding with an audience of peers and adults from the school and surrounding North Hampton community. Students use programs such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, iMovie, Timeliner or The Print Shop to organize information and demonstrate what they have learned. Students are also able to store their sometimes bulky three-dimensional artifacts digitally by taking a picture or video clip of their work. Classrooms have also begun to share these digital artifacts online through the NHS website or blogs.

Perhaps one of the most powerful examples of using technology for assessment is the recording of student reading. Students, as well as teachers, are able to listen to and save student recordings to compare to past and future readings. Readers can be recorded using an iPod and attachable microphone or they can be recorded directly onto the computers using the program QuickTime Pro and a USB microphone. After listening to their recordings, students often plan for improvements they want to make. One fourth grade student remarked, "I don't sound like you (a teacher) when I read out loud. That's how I want to sound, not all choppy." The student and teacher are then able to find ways to work on the student's reading fluency. Comparing recording samples from year to year is also a powerful assessment tool.



The possibilities for teacher assessment and student-self assessment reach even further beyond the area of reading. Students and teachers capture the writing process from first to final draft and in some cases final performance. Students participating in the seventh and eighth grade oratoricals reviewed practice recordings of themselves on the laptops and the finalists were even able to view themselves on North Hampton's Channel 22! Band and Chorus students are taped during their seasonal concerts and then are able to watch and self-assess their performances. Students in PE classes have been able to view their skills performances and dialogue about their progress with their teachers. In the art room, students are able to photograph and keep a record of their artistic talents as they grow as artists. A collection of diverse components such as those noted above together represent the student and his or her accomplishments at North Hampton School.

Digital collections of student work are assembled each year at North Hampton School. The progression of student learning can be seen frequently as students share digital examples with families at conferences and learning celebrations throughout the year. Digital portfolios are the vehicle that students are using to share and document all of the amazing strides they have made in their learning. With the use of technology, capturing and storing documented student growth is an exciting and ever-changing endeavor.

Green Spirit at NHS

As the United States and the greater global community moves towards more energy-efficient construction and environmentally friendly practices, students at NHS are also taking the steps necessary to make their school a green one. Come with us as we peek into the classrooms to see how our students are becoming the environmentalists of the future.

It is snack time in kindergarten and the students are using their personal, reusable cup, tray, and cloth napkin to cut down on paper waste. As we step into a first grade classroom, we notice a “trash graph” on the wall. Ask the students the purpose of this environmental math activity, and they will explain they are trying to have snacks that produce minimal waste. Each day the students graph their amount of trash and at the end of the week they total it. A new “trash graph” is started each week and students are challenged to have less waste than the week before.

In the second through fourth grade classrooms, you may see students putting leftover food into the composting bins, planting vegetable seeds for the garden, and using recycled materials for everything from art projects to making weather instruments. In the Building Big unit in fifth grade, students extensively research building practices, the changes in these practices related to the environment, and then create their own models of bridges, domes, sky-scrapers, and more.



Sixth grade teaches second grade about composting

The sixth graders are the true environmental leaders in the school. They have been able to increase the NHS recycling classroom pickup to include paper, cans, cardboard, bottles and plastics. Due to this increased level of recycling, the trash level has been reduced. Small groups of 6th graders visit classrooms to educate students about why and how we are recycling at NHS.

Three motivated sixth graders have begun fundraising with the hopes of building a geodesic dome on school grounds. The geodesic dome is powered entirely by the sun and would give children from Pre-K through 8th grade a living laboratory to learn about the environment and the opportunity to see solar effects first hand.

Hold on to your cell phone when you meet with the seventh grade as they are collecting and recycling them as a fundraiser, and after talking with an 8th grade service learning group, you will definitely choose to bring a cloth bag to the grocery store instead of using paper or plastic.

As a school, we have joined with PAL and the Town Energy Committee to participate in the UNH Carbon Challenge. A speaker from UNH presented the effects of carbon on our environment to the students at NHS and on voting day, 6th graders will be available with laptops to help community members log on and see how to figure their carbon footprint. Furthermore, as you drive up to North Hampton School, you will notice the new “No Idling” signs posted to reinforce the policy currently in place.

Look into the future with our students and you will see schools powered with solar panels and wind turbines, students growing organic vegetables for school lunch, and school fixtures made from recycled materials. By educating our students about the environment, we are preparing them to solve the problem we will inevitably leave behind. Our students are the future leaders and they will be well equipped to creatively save the environment!

I think having 2 teachers is great, much easier for each student to have more attention when needed.

Grade 5 Parent

Did you know ...

that North Hampton School has an organic garden? With the help of PAL volunteers, students, teachers and our friends at Rolling Green Nursery, we were able to launch the school’s first fully organic garden. Children from grade K up to 8 all participated in the planning, sowing, feeding, weeding and watering of the garden. We were able to provide herbs and vegetables for the Back to School Picnic as well as Harvest Fest. We learned a lot from the first year and this year we hope to increase our harvest and be able to provide “homegrown” fresh produce for lunches as much as possible. We continue to look for volunteers from the community to assist in gardening, especially during the summer! Please call the school at 964-5501 if interested.



Sixth grade worm composting

Capital Improvements at NHS

I would like the community to know that our children are treated with such care and personalized attention. No one gets lost in the shuffle at North Hampton.

The curriculum is creative and exciting, while preparing our children for their secondary education. I am very proud to have my children attending the North Hampton School.

Grade 4 Parent

The school offers a diverse curriculum that produces well-rounded students - students who not only are given a solid education, but who are self-confident, respectful of others, and able to interact successfully in society. Students are provided with the tools to be productive in our community, but are also cognizant of the responsibility that comes with that.

Grades 5 & 7 Parent

The North Hampton School Board has approved several Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) renovations for the 2008-2009 school year. During the past summer the school began several projects including the installation of a new roof above the grades 6 through 8 classroom area. The school board approved the \$145,000 roof project to Progressive Roofing, Inc. The roof is 90% complete with the exception of a few adjustments that will be performed in the spring.

Smaller CIP projects which have also been completed include: 2 new air conditioning units for the computer server rooms, exterior painting of the fascia board and cupola, replacement of eroded fascia trim, renovation to our kitchen loading dock, repairs to the gym floor and adding asphalt to the gym exterior entrance door for handicap access. These projects along with a few smaller projects were outlined in a Capital Plant needs assessment report by H.L. Turner Group and approved by the School Board for an estimated cost of \$45,155. As is common practice in buildings and grounds improvement, however, a minimum of 3 estimates must be received and considered before a contract is awarded. The outcome of this bid process in this case resulted in a savings of nearly \$20,000, with the above project costs totaling \$25,770.

One upcoming major CIP project will be repairing and weather sealing the exterior brick, window sills and foundation of the school. This is a much needed renovation ensuring the preservation of the building for years to come. Other future plans consist of looking into remodeling the window shades on the exterior windows, adding more security measures such as exterior cameras and interior door locks, upgrading the schools HVAC system, adding landscape around the generator located in front of the school, upgrading lavatory fixtures and adding fire safety upgrades.

Further down the road, and as a continuation of North Hampton School's commitment to "GOING GREEN", we hope to install solar panels to provide energy to operate our water pumps that provide hot water through out the building. This would reduce the electrical and heating costs due to operating our boilers year round.

North Hampton Jolly Jaguar Preschool



The Jolly Jaguar Preschool is a five, half-day per week integrated and child-centered preschool program. We provide a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of preschoolers who are developing typically as well as those that may have special needs. Our integrative approach focuses on the process of learning which gives children the tools to help them become successful and responsible learners.

The Jolly Jaguar Preschool Curriculum develops early skills through a variety of whole-group, small-group and individual activities. Preschoolers participate in Circle Time activities, which are designed to stimulate children's thinking, enrich their language and social skills, develop their listening skills and expand their attention spans. Activity Time focuses on enhancing pre-literacy and math skills, following directions and basic concepts through small group instruction. During Free Choice Time, preschoolers are encouraged to interact with their peers in the different classroom centers (art, dramatic play, sand/water play, block play, math/science activities, books and writing center). This is the largest portion of our day where children enhance social communication and sharing skills. The preschoolers participate in Physical Education, Music and Library.

If you are interested in placing your child's name on the wait list for the North Hampton Jolly Jaguar Preschool, please contact Terry Provencher at 964-7237

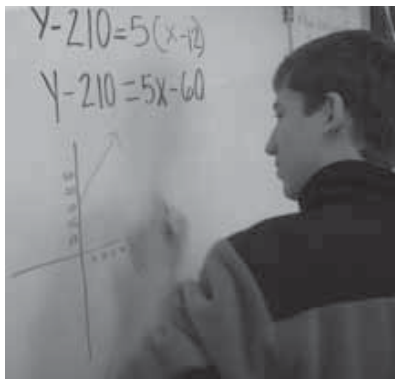
Algebra for All!

“Quadratic equations, slope of the line, factoring polynomials, reflect the parent function over the x-axis ...” ... these are the phrases that punctuate the conversations among students and teachers in the Eighth Grade math classes this year. Grade Eight mathematics represents the culminating year of a 3-year integrated algebra program and for the first time at North Hampton School, all Grade Eight students are experiencing “Algebra Class”!

When we conceived of this goal years ago, it was grounded in the precepts that:

Algebra is a gateway subject to higher education and more open career choice - in fact, now, all students must complete Algebra I in order to graduate from Winnecunnet High School and that

All students can access algebra concepts more easily in a multi-year experience that integrates Algebra with other topics in mathematics.



Typically, when a specialized Algebra I class was held before school, 30% of our Grade Eight students would “pass the course” (which is a synthesis of several factors) and move into a sequential offering in their Freshman year of high school. Our current inclusive, integrated program during regular school hours intends to equal or surpass that student proficiency marker, but this is not our primary goal. By including all students in the Algebra I experience over multiple years, we have more students excited by the experience of new mathematics content. This attitude will, hopefully, persist and encourage them to take more math and science classes. We also hope that the students’ multi-year experience with Algebra will make them more successful in mathematics. Our goal is a solid foundation in all mathematics topics for all students such that they see the value of mathematics in their lives and develop the skills and dispositions to be successful in their educational and career goals. Algebra captures the power and beauty of mathematics!

Algebra – the power and beauty of mathematics!

I am very proud to say that our children not only attend North Hampton School but are also members of an energetic, creative, child-centered and experiential learning environment. Our family is indebted to the NHS community of teachers, counselors, librarians, health, wellness, nutrition and administrative professionals, who guide and inspire our children in their path to self discovery as well as their community discoveries. North Hampton School is a ground-breaking school in both its curriculum and its genuine dedication to democratic education—one of partnership and not autocracy.

Thank you, NHS!

Grades 4 & 6 Parent

Did you know....

That you can access previous editions of the NHS School Report Card (formerly known as the Data Report) through the NHS Website. Click on “About NHS” in the left column and scroll down to School Assessment Reports.

North Hampton School Directory

	Name	Email	Phone Number
Principal:	Peter Sweet	psweet@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
Assistant Principal:	Tara Rossi	trossi@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
Director of Pupil Services:	Karen Frisbie	kfrisbie@sau21.org	(603) 964-7237
Curriculum Coordinator:	Jan Scipione	jscipione@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
Office Manager:	Patricia Venenga	pvenenga@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
Guidance:	Debra Vasconcellos	dvasconcellos@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
School Psychologist:	Stephen Lorei	slorei@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
Food Service:	Diane Marino	dmarino@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
Maintenance:	John Gamache	jgamache@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
School Nurse:	Julie Cyr	jcyr@sau21.org	(603) 964-5501
PAL Co-Chairs:	Victoria Kilroy and Margaret Allen		

North Hampton School Report Card



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