

KENNETT HIGH SCHOOL
2018 Principal's Report
By Neal Moylan

Our students and staff have gotten off to a smooth, positive start this year. Our objectives are to continue building the awareness and understanding of competency based education, finalize our UbD curriculum work and begin the work of transitioning our educational practice toward competency based education. To support these initiatives, our staff will complete their UbD (Understanding by Design) curriculum project in January, which will provide a formalized curriculum for each course with every course aligned to the department and course enduring understandings created last year. Our teachers will develop department and course competencies which form the back bone of competency based education. Our teachers will also begin a multiyear initiative to complete our NEASC re-accreditation. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), is an independent organization recognized globally as the standard of educational excellence. The NEASC accreditation is a thorough two year process which explores academic, civic and social competencies to ensure Kennett High School provides the finest 21st century learning experience. Our classroom focus will continue to frame the learning with real world relevancy, while utilizing technology to advance teaching and learning.

We are proud to report our dropout rate for Kennett and our district is zero! The Kennett SAT test scores for last year's junior class, averaged 1039, an improvement of 13 points over the previous year which positions us above the state average. KHS continues to drive rigorous student achievement, evidenced by our advanced placement course results. We had 83 students take 174 AP exams last spring, the second largest number of AP exams ever taken by Kennett students. Kennett students with superior AP exam scores of 3+ was 78.3% ,significantly above the state average of 71 % and well above the global average of 60%.

A quick survey of some of the schools our graduating seniors were accepted to reveal some terrific colleges and universities. Among them are; Middlebury College, Bowdoin College, Dartmouth College, North Carolina State, Union College, Fordham University, Boston College, Holy Cross, Bates, Fordham University, University of Utah, University of Maine, University of Illinois, RIT, St. Lawrence, University of New Hampshire, Hamilton College, and New York University. This past year Eagle Academy held its 20th graduation ceremony with twenty three new graduates, increasing the number of Eagle Academy alumni to three hundred and sixteen. Thirty two of our Kennett seniors were recognized by the NHIAA as scholar athletes for their academic and athletic accomplishments. To qualify, a student must be a member of at least two NHIAA recognized varsity sports, maintained a minimum B+ GPA for their high school career, and demonstrated proven leadership skills and community service involvement.

Our students understand and demonstrated the importance of giving back to our community. The Kennett High School Key Club was once again the #1 fundraising club in the New England District. Last year, the KHS Key Club donated \$10,000 to the New England District Key Club charities. In comparison, the next highest amount contributed by any of the approximately 90 New England clubs was \$1,850. The members of the

KHS Key Club are truly an amazing group of kids who represent our school, and community in an exceptional fashion. Kennett students also demonstrated their willingness to get involved well beyond the boundaries of our valley. This fall, Kennett student organizations collected and shipped 732 pounds of school supplies and over \$450 in Walmart gift cards to a Houston high school, to assist Janelle Wiggin a 1995 alumnus, and teacher in Houston. This was a terrific example of current Kennett Eagles coming to the aid of a former Kennett Eagle. Most recently Kennett students demonstrated their heart and compassion when eight Kennett clubs and organizations collaborated to raise and purchase \$4,000 worth of gifts for the Mount Washington Valley Angels and Elves program.

Kennett students continue to excel in co-curricular activities and in the performing arts. Our teams had a fantastic winter winning a staggering 5 NHIAA state championship titles. The girls alpine ski team won their seventh consecutive Division II state championship, the ski jump team won the 2017 state championship and both the boys and girls Nordic ski teams successfully defended their Division II state championships. Finally, the boy's hockey team won their 4th state championship, once again transforming the Mount Washington Valley into *Title Town*. Most recently, our football team defeated rival Kingswood to retain the Carroll County Championship for the 11th straight year and the girls' field hockey team capped off a successful season advancing to the semifinal tournament round. We are also extremely proud to report Kennett High School received the NHIAA/NFHS Award of Excellence for Sportsmanship for the 2016-2017 athletic seasons. For the first time in Kennett history, the jazz band and dance team performed for hundreds on the big stage at Disney World in Florida. Three students participated in the NH All State and Chamber Music festivals and a record number of seniors went on to college with a major or minor in music. The Kennett Dance Team earned a first place platinum rating at the regional competition earning a bid to nationals and five dancers were chosen for the National Dance Alliance All-American Dance Team. The Kennett concert choir earned a Superior Rating and Best Overall Choir award at the Music in the Parks Festival last spring and placed second at the NH State A-cappella music festival.

This year, the faculty made a number of academic and instructional enhancements to our curriculum and instructional programs. Our teachers completed a yearlong curriculum redesign for each course taught at Kennett. The school wide common template identifies essential questions and enduring understandings for every course and each department. This work will form the foundation of our course competency work as we transition to competency based education at the high school. We continue to expand our ELO's (extended learning opportunities) for kids, working with our community to develop a broad range of relevant learning opportunities.

We continue to improve and enhance our campus and facility. In yet another step in the greening of Kennett, two new solar powered scoreboards were installed, one on the field hockey/ girls lacrosse field and one on the boys soccer/ boys lacrosse field. These were funded by a dedicated group of parents, using fundraisers and a matching grant from the Millen Foundation.

In closing, let me once again thank parents and community members for your generous support and participation this year. Kennett High School continues to provide a terrific and competitive twenty-first century education for all our students. Please

continue your support of our students in their education and extracurricular activities. You are an important part of the educational team for student and school success. To prepare our students to be successful twenty-first century citizens and community members, we must continue to expect and achieve educational excellence. We owe the future of our students, community and nation nothing less.

