Quarry Hill Community School
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Principal

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Quarry Hill Community School Pre – K through 4
Annual Report 2017

Teaching and Learning - Preschool
On January 23rd, we welcomed our first class of full day Preschool students! Our full day Preschool classroom offers
time for students to engage in Math and Ela Centers, Science and Social Studies, Specials and lunch. The Specialist
teachers in Music, Art, Physical Education, Character Education and Library see the preschool class twice a week.
They are enjoying getting to know our soon to be kindergarteners!

Mathematics - Go Math!
Upon completion of a two year math pilot, Quarry Hill has now implemented Go Math! in all classrooms. Go Math!
supports the new standards and provides embedded professional development and resources for differentiation of
instruction. The program also provides a multitude of digital tools such as student ebooks, real world math videos and
math concept readers.

Add + Vantage Math Recovery
Quarry Hill currently has 7 staff members participating in the AVMR training. The Add + Vantage Math Recovery
Program is used as an intervention to build number sense and mental math skills. The training equips staff to provide
diagnostic assessments and instructional responses that are conducive to addressing the need for Tier 1, 2 or 3
instruction for all students. At the conclusion of the training, participants and their administrators are invited to join
the monthly Early Numeracy Network meetings to continue their professional development and learn from their
peers.

English Language Arts
The implementation of release time to work with the Director of Curriculum and extended days have allowed for
Pre-K – 4 staff to continue to review curriculum units and analyze reading materials to ensure appropriate text
complexity for each grade level. In addition to the unit work, the future focus for ELA will be to strengthen the
vertical articulation of the writing process for K-4.

Social Studies/History
Many Social Studies and History Standards are embedded in the ELA units. Discovery Education streaming is utilized
for additional content materials.

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without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and disability.

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at 413-267-4150 x 1003.
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Science
Kindergarten, First, Third and Fourth Grade are working in the new Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework Standards. Grade Two will follow in the 17-18 school year. To assist teachers with bridging the curriculum and formatting to both the “old” and “new” standards, Discovery Education Science Textbook was implemented.
In order to be prepared for the changes, staff has participated in several in-service opportunities. Most recently, a Science Ambassador from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provided professional development to K-12 vertical teams.

Technology education
Students in grades 3 and 4 are focusing on the digital literacy skills needed to access the MCAS 2.0 test online. Some of the focus areas are keyboarding, use of technology tools and how to read online texts. To set a strong foundation in 1st and 2nd grade, developmentally appropriate readiness skills are being taught. All four grade levels begin by learning about internet safety, how technology works and appropriate use. The use of technology is both teacher and student driven throughout the year.

The NED Program
Last year, Quarry Hill students and staff participated in “The NED Show”. NED is a character whose name is an acronym for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. After seeing an amazing, positive response to the character and the philosophy of the program, we decided to adopt NED as our school-wide education initiative. The NED Program “promotes a culture of kindness and excellence” in our school through a multi-sensory learning model.

Financial Literacy
To support the Monson Public School’s Reach Higher, College and Career Readiness initiative, Quarry Hill and Monson Savings have partnered with the Massachusetts State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) to host their first “Snuggles to Savings Literacy Night”. Families received information about and were able to register for SeedMA, the Massachusetts 529 college savings account designed to help Monson families invest in their child's post-high school education and training. Each family that registered their kindergarten student received an initial $50 deposit provided by the Monson Savings Bank to establish the account.
The second part of the program was a Family Literacy event conducted by each kindergarten teacher in small groups. Students and families participated in various literacy related activities with the classroom teacher and left with three brand new books to enjoy and share at home.
After the Literacy Night, Quarry Hill Kindergarteners received an unexpected surprise! As a prominent supporter of Financial Literacy and Higher Education, the United Way reached out to Monson Savings Bank about donating stuffed bears and dogs to go with our SeedMA “Snuggles to Savings” initiative. Steve Lowell, Dan Moriarty and Kelly Collins from Monson Savings Bank delivered 71 stuffed bears and dogs for our Kindergarteners to snuggle! We are grateful to the United Way and to Monson Savings for supporting our families and students at Quarry Hill.
Granite Valley Middle School
Grades 5-8
Mary K. Cieplik, Principal

The staff at Granite Valley Middle School is dedicated to providing rigorous educational opportunities for all students. Middle school is a time for students to develop their critical thinking skills and begin to take responsibility for their education as they really learn about themselves as a learner. We are very fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff at Granite Valley Middle School and a wonderful group of students and families. Through our interdisciplinary team structure, co-teaching classrooms, inclusion programs and student-centered learning, our students have a variety of opportunities to demonstrate mastery of concepts.

Again this year, the staff has an opportunity to work on their curriculum during early release days. Although we are focused on improving instruction in all content areas, we are especially focused on math and reading. We have purchased and implemented “The Big Ideas” math program in grades 6 – 8 and “Go Math” in grade 5. Both of these programs focus on improving students' overall math comprehension while incorporating the 8 mathematical practice standards. Teachers are working diligently to master the multitude of components each program includes. Both programs include an online component that allows students to access the math text and other parts of the program electronically.

In our continuous effort to improve teaching and learning, we are continuing to refine how we analyze data at GVMS. Every week, each team meets to review student work and data. They look to see how students are performing and if anything needs to be adapted to help each student meet with success. Each grade level team also meets with our counselors bi-monthly for a Response to Intervention (RTI) team meeting. At this meeting, the RTI team discusses students that are struggling and they identify action steps to assist the student so he/she can be more successful. In addition to grade-level meetings and RTI meetings, we also have the STAT (Student-Teacher Support Team) that meets monthly to further review students that are not meeting with success. The STAT team is comprised of teachers, administration and our school counselors. All of our teams work collaboratively to continue to identify ways to best to support students that are struggling and may need interventions. This is another example that demonstrates our staff’s commitment to high achievement for all students.

We are in our first year of offering Spanish as an academic subject. Students will be able to complete one year of high school Spanish in 7th and 8th grade at GVMS. This will allow them to begin with Spanish 2 during their freshmen year. We do realize that not all students are ready to take a foreign language in middle school and any student that is not taking Spanish is enrolled in a reading class.

We have a wide variety of related arts classes for our students. This year students have the following options for their specials classes: Art, Band (6th – 8th), General Music (5th grade only), Health, Informational Technology, and Physical Education. We are very fortunate to have a gifted and dedicated team of specials teachers. We have two concerts each year, one in December and one in May. Our music teacher, Mr. Kenneth Topham, works in conjunction with Mr. George Eisenhower who is the music teacher from Monson High to put on an amazing performance. We combine these performances with an art exhibit, so our artists have an opportunity to put their work on display.

We are in the very beginning stages of our district’s one-to-one Chromebook initiative. At GVMS, the 7th grade teachers are very excited to be the team that was selected to pilot these Chromebooks. They have started to use them and they are looking forward to next year when each student in 7th grade will have a Chromebook.
As we work to reinforce positive values at GVMS, our “Kindness Counts” program, now in its eleventh year, recognizes and awards students for random acts of kindness. We also continue to recognize our students of the month. Each grade-level team as well as the specials team select a boy and girl to be recognized as students of the month. A total of 10 students are recognized each month. This year, we have also incorporated recognizing other students during this assembly. This includes but is not limited to: GVMS students who were selected as athletes of the week, math superstars, geography bee winners and students who are involved in civic activities outside of school.

Middle school can be a difficult as students are going through so many changes on their path to adulthood. In an effort to ease this transition and to continue to foster a positive school environment, we are in our second year of character education. The list of character traits we are working on this year is as follows: determination, purposeful, gratitude, kindness, consistency, flexibility, dependability, confidence, loyalty, optimism. These ten traits are added to the ten traits we worked on last year which were: respect, responsibility, citizenship, acceptance, perseverance, compassion, integrity, humility, cooperation, and courage. Each month, our character education includes an assembly focused on the character trait and how kids can incorporate it into their lives. Then the students complete an activity in their character education small groups. Afterwards, each small group meets to discuss the talking points provided on the character traits and they talk through how they can incorporate that trait in their daily life. This program continues to be a great way for students to learn about the important traits that are correlated to being a productive and contributing member of society.

We appreciate the parents and community support of our students and staff and we are excited about the many opportunities ahead in the 2017-2018 school year.
Monson High School- Grades 9-12 (Mr. William Metzger, Principal)

Monson High School is in the midst of another great school year, as we continue to focus on preparing students for living, learning, and working in the 21st century. Twenty-two of our seniors earned the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for Performance on the MCAS. Additionally, 60% of our juniors improved on their performance from the eighth grade MCAS. Ninety-four percent of the class of 2016 enrolled in either a two-year or four-year college with the rest entering the workforce, technical schools, or the armed forces.

Both of our soccer teams returned to the Division IV State Final. Unlike last year, only the Boys were able to bring the title despite outstanding performances from both teams. It was once again a very special fall for the students and the community. Monson High School’s Connor Pennington has once again been crowned the State Diving Champion to finish an outstanding high school career in swimming and diving.

Work continues on the reaccreditation of Monson High School by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The faculty is now working in committees preparing research and reports that speak to the school’s performance on the Association’s seven performance indicators. This important work will continue through the 2017-2018 school year.

Monson High School continues to focus on offering our students a diverse and well-rounded high school experience. The music program continues to grow in year two of its return as was evidenced by an outstanding joint performance of the middle and high school programs at a winter concert. We look forward to additional performances soon. We are also committed to continuing to enhance the variety of local internship opportunities through our Work-Based Learning Program.