Exterior photo of the newly designed and expanded Golden Brook School.
SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

Superintendent Langlois addresses the major changes happening throughout the district and how they affect everyone.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Find out what the Arts department is doing in order to keep students engaged with new program offerings.

INNOVATION AND DESIGN

The Science & Engineering departments continue to look for innovative ways to deliver and engage students in content.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Major advancements took place when this school year kicked off, find out how our students benefit.

GLOBAL STUDIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

What makes Windham School District unique?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As Bob Dylan sang, "the times they are a changin".
The past three years has shown a commitment toward advancing our district’s education by building two state-of-the-art schools, Golden Brook School and Windham Middle School. These new projects provide a 21st century teaching and learning environment for our students; complete with the latest technologies, performing arts center, learning commons, a life skills program, engineering/science labs, and a guaranteed viable curriculum. Both schools opened their doors to our staff and students this September with a formal celebration on September 10, 2019. New Hampshire Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut, State Senator, Regina Birdsell, the School Board, and I welcomed the public, and provided information about the different phases of the project, along with guided tours. With the formalized vote to move this project forward, it became evident that our community is committed to creating new ways to expose our students to more advanced learning opportunities and interests.

Although change is good, it also tested our culture and climate. Transitioning our PK to grade 8 span was a massive undertaking. The initial adjustments resulted in some staff anxiety and uncertainty while reconfiguring our schools.

We want to thank all of our staff for their cooperation, patience, and dedication in the process management, helping us to forge ahead with a smooth transition. Our staff worked together to resolve busing issues, ready their classrooms at the eleventh hour, familiarize themselves with the new schools, and guide students all while smiling! You made this transition possible and a success!

Windham continues to remain a district leader in New Hampshire for academic performance as well as a highly nominated community to live in by national ratings and standards and we have not slowed down in that growth. Last year, the High School was recognized nationally for elevating the number of Advanced Placement tests taken along with increasing the number of students taking AP tests. Recently, NH Partnership In Education (NHPIE) recognized the Middle School, Center School, and Golden Brook Elementary School as Blue Ribbon Schools, “recognizing the extraordinary efforts of school volunteers for the achievements realized.” In just our second year competing in Division I athletics, Girls Field Hockey posted our first Division I championship.
Superintendent's Note

Junior Maddie O'Hare, Junior Cam Livingstone, and Sophomore Cecelia Ponzini all worked together to generate the dangerous attack that scored 54 goals this season. Since fitness is such an important part of the sport of field hockey, it was important that we had players that could come off the bench and make a difference. Seniors Shannon Burke, Ava Gravell, and Sarah Goss were players we could depend on to go into the game and not miss a beat.

The most important part of this season was that everything was about the team. Varsity and JV supported each other, sat with each other on the bus, and created a culture on the team that was nothing less than supportive 100% of the time.

There is a high level of thinking and learning available here in Windham that is challenging and fun for all of our students. With extensive offerings such as club activities, sports, robotics, and the performing and visual arts; students are able to explore multiple avenues as they travel along our K-12 educational experience in pursuit of their true passion.
**Staff Spotlights**

**Jessica Benson**
Director of Curriculum, K-4
Golden Brook School

**Career in Numbers:**
1. This is Mrs. Benson's first year at Golden Brook School.
15. She has been in the education field for over 15 years!
12. Mrs. Benson was a English Language Arts teacher and ESOL teacher.

Mrs. Benson holds an M.S. in Teaching with graduate-level certification in ESOL (K-12), English (5-12), and Principal (K-12).

**Director of Curriculum Responsibilities:**
- **STUDENT ASSESSMENT**
- **CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION**
- **DATA ANALYSIS**

Provides leadership and vision in the ongoing planning, implementation, development, direction, review and evaluation of the district’s curriculum for grades K-4.

**Fun Facts About Me:**
I am originally from Upstate New York. I moved to NH at the age of 19. I have studied Italian actually lived in Italy for a period of time. I love traveling and have traveled to some of the home countries of some of my ELL students. Bosnia has been my favorite so far!

**Melissa Brayall**
TV Production Teacher
Windham High School

**Career in Numbers:**
1. This is Mrs. Brayall’s first year at Windham High School.
12. She has been in the education field for over 12 years!
2. Mrs. Brayall worked at WMUR for 2 years & interned at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Brayall holds B.S. in Television-Radio and an M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction: Technology.

**TV Production Teacher Responsibilities:**
- **VIDEO PRODUCTION**
- **CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION**
- **POST-VIDEO PRODUCTION**

This is a unique role in our district because half of the time is dedicated to instruction and the other half is dedicated to video production for the district.

**Fun Facts About Me:**
I own my own small photography business with my husband. I play the guitar at my church. I have 2 dogs and 2 cats (Lucy, Woodrow, Charlie, and Ellie). I’m a big space buff - I love everything related to the early days of NASA. I play in a mini-golf league every summer. I enjoy hiking, playing sports, cooking, traveling, and building LEGO's.
Throughout the years, studies have continued to show that a strong foundation in the arts support the development of children, not only for their effect on children’s creativity, but also for the development of merging the two sides of the brain together. Art courses allow for a multi-sensory experience that helps develop important, basic skills including social, language, motor, and auditory skills. Windham School District has proven to be a pioneer in project based learning techniques for students and the study of Arts has always encompassed this method of learning naturally.

Not only are we challenging our students in the classroom, but they are also encouraged and exposed to outside art experiences including shows and competitions where some of our students have received national recognition. A student recently was nominated in the Young Marine Artist search. This is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to recognize, encourage, and promote marine art and maritime history. Awards such as this that are cross-curricular in science, engineering, and art help the department continue to move toward STEAM initiatives.

Another monumental moment in art grades K-12, was the display of artwork at the Department of Education and the NH Legislative Offices. Ninety-one pieces of student artwork were chosen to be a part of a multiple NH State Representative building roadshow.

The Music art students have been exposed to the same kind of opportunities. The High School students had the opportunity to perform in several Basilicas in Italy on their latest international trip which was a unique and truly unmatched educational experience. Our Middle and High School students have also been asked to perform with nationally known artists such as “Ball in the House” and “Introduction”, a Chicago Tribute Band.

The addition of Family and Consumer Science at the Middle School level is another area that the Fine Arts continues to grow in. This hands-on project based class offered to Middle School students supports a growth mindset in our students. The curriculum helps lay a foundation for life skills, such as cooking and sewing that will stay with them throughout their adult lives.
This foundation will hopefully continue to High School where we are expanding our curriculum to become more rigorous and challenging, educating high school students in the areas of good nutrition, food planning and preparation, interior design, and fashion.

Our newest addition to the high school department is “JagNet” which has been a huge success for the students and staff. TV and video production classes produce weekly videos that are shown in advisory. The newscasts include high school announcements and information. It has been an invaluable method of communication for the high school students. It also includes art critiques and special senior spotlight interviews. The students in TV/video have brought humor and life into their weekly newscasts. These can also be seen on social media.

Additionally, JagNet is collaborating with our administrative team to create podcasts. These podcasts will be diving into major topics within public education and within our school district to give a more global perspective of all that is happening in the schools. There is so much preparation and effort that goes into every school year in order to continue to support our students and give them the best foundation possible. These podcasts invite the public in and get one on one input from our leading experts in different areas of public education. These podcasts are created and in collaboration with our own Windham High School students. Our TV/video teacher and students will be in charge of recording and they will also edit these podcasts. They will also edit provide the final file.

As our platforms for communication continue to evolve, we are continuing to innovate and move our students forward by giving them access to these communication tactics in real-life scenarios.
The Science & Engineering departments continue to look for innovative ways to deliver and engage students in content. Students today are growing up in an environment where they are exposed to technology at a young age. They are also born into a social environment where multi-tasking is a part of their everyday. Our students today are constantly stimulated. They are doing homework, checking their social pages, streaming videos online, all at once. It is paramount for our educators to not only introduce them to the content but to find ways to keep their interest and make them want to be engaged. To this end, we have been giving our students more and more opportunity for practicing hands-on learning as part of their classes.

This concept was first piloted at the high school in the Senior Engineering Capstone class, and has proven to be very successful. In this class, industry experts become our student mentors. This provides students with opportunities to be exposed to different topics and concentrations within Science. Students are able to do independent thinking, and individual creativity.

In order to continue to build on this success, we are extending this educational opportunity to all interested WHS students by creating a STEAM certificate pathway. Students at all levels can now take courses where they apply their scientific knowledge and creativity.

This new certificate will give high school students an opportunity to practice and develop their science/engineering design skills with a ½ year course in tenth and eleventh grade. During their senior year, they will be exposed to a project-based learning course that is full-year. These classes will utilize recently installed tools, such as our 3D printer room, electronic sensors and microprocessors, redesigned maker space, and desktop robotics tools.

At Windham Middle School, we now offer seventh and eighth grade students Technology Education classes where they are introduced to programming, graphing calculators, and 3D printers. Using the engineering/design model, students are able to apply their science knowledge to solve problems and their project management skills to work as a team.
Windham Center School is also innovating as they help students develop models of complex scientific ideas such as the motion of the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems and how that creates seasons and moon phases. Creating models of observable phenomena is an important scientific skill that requires students to use materials to represent natural interactions. We are also using virtual labs and simulations to experiment with materials too large or small to be done in the classroom.

All of this work is to help better prepare students for success in science college majors or career opportunities. We continue to grow our connections with industry to bring students current information about the skills needed for success, but also for teachers to stay up to date with industry trends.
September 4, 2019 was an amazing day for the Windham School District. This day was the start of the first year of our newly constructed Golden Brook School, the opening of the newly renovated Windham Middle School, and the welcoming of the very first all-day Kindergarten class. The implementation of all these accomplishments is the first steps in securing deep, enriched roots in our student’s education. With the community’s investment in continued education, our school district is able to continue to strive for consistent improvement and growth. How, you ask? Let’s explore how these advancements in our district help mold our future.

**How does ADK benefit our students?**

In all-day kindergarten classrooms, “teachers have more time to get to know their students and identify and address their learning challenges early—saving money and resources over the long term. The development stage in the process also increases the odds that children will be successful later in school”, (Center for Evaluation and Education Policy). “Investments in quality early childhood programs generate returns of 3-to-1 or even higher, which translates to $3 saved for every $1 invested.

An early investment in children’s social, emotional, and intellectual skills means lower grade retention and dropout rates for students later in life”, (Economic Policy Institute and Committee for Economic Development). A longer school day allows for more varied instructional strategies and activities within the classroom. Transitioning to all-day kindergarten will give students access to other curriculum including art, physical education, and music, which will help foster their social and emotional learning.

Based on our data collected in 2018, we are anticipating that with an all-day program, we will have significantly less families selecting outside full day programs and therefore provide students in our community the full day experience needed to meet the Common Core Standards, which are required by both state and national educational departments. Securing these Common Core Standards in their Kindergarten year will allow students to begin first grade prepared to take on and secure their next set of standards.
How does the reclassification of a Middle School benefit our students?

Entering our wonderful new engineering lab, you can almost hear the gears grinding as students at Windham Middle School engage their creativity! This hands-on unified arts class is designed to walk students through the engineering design process. Students began the trimester by designing a mini chain-reaction creation, known as a Rube Goldberg machine. Given the same materials to begin the project, each set of partners became engrossed in the design of a unique creation! Many groups tried to make theirs different from any other projects in the room.

Working within the requirements and constraints, students challenged themselves to “think outside the box!” Not only will they be creating their own solutions, they will also be evaluating the designs of their peers to learn from each other. The most exciting opportunity comes from the time they have to test their projects, analyze the results, and make improvements for a better outcome. The perseverance students learn through multiple iterations is a skill that will serve them throughout their futures.

STEM career exploration through guest speakers, research and technology news will expose 7th and 8th grade students to opportunities they have for their futures. The ever changing, fast advancing world of tech careers includes medical fields, transportation, robotics, informational computing, and let’s not forget the space exploration needs in the coming years. With a firm foundation in creative thinking, problem solving, persevering and innovating design creation, our students are better prepared for whatever the future brings.
Global Studies and Opportunities

We often get asked the question, “What makes Windham unique?“

Windham offers a diverse student experience at all of our schools. Whether it is robotics, theater, or global studies, students have the opportunity to choose additional experiences outside of the core curriculum. One of these programs included in the high school experience is a hands-on, cutting-edge approach to International Business.

Windham High School offers a separate Global Studies path that is beyond the already rigorous curriculum. In order for students to reach this status, they are required to participate in at least ten hours of community service in a multi-cultural environment, take three years of a world language, take a Global Economics/Global perspectives course, travel internationally, and take either AP Environmental or AP Comparative Government class.

To help these students achieve their goals, Windham offers several international trips per year as well as a Global Leadership Summit trip every other year. The trips offered have been service oriented, language immersive, and encompass global leadership by nature.

Students in the past have had the opportunity to travel to Spain, Portugal, Canada, Italy, Germany, and Ireland. This year, the Global Leadership (Summer 2020) Summit is offering students the ability to visit Budapest, Munich, Vienna, Prague, and Davos, Switzerland.

During the Global Leadership (Summer 2020) Summit trip, students will be immersed in the cultures of these countries. They will end the trip by attending a 2.5-day leadership summit in Davos. Each year the Summit presents students with different group centric challenges based on different themes. Our students will be required to join forces with other students from around the world and work together to solve the Summits’ Challenge through a global issue.

This year’s theme focuses on Sports and Wellness and the effect it has on Society. Students will be required to meet with local business experts in the field to gain further knowledge of international and diverse communities. The top eight teams will compete against each other for the ultimate prize of having their proto-type for change displayed in the Nobel Peace Prize Museum in Stockholm.
Not only is this a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience, but students make lasting friendships and gain independence and confidence from their travels. This is an opportunity that students will always remember.

Additional upcoming international trips include a service-oriented trip to the Dominican Republic, a language immersion trip to Rome, Italy, and an International Business trip to England. We believe that giving our students the ability to discover and explore other countries and cultures is just one way that Windham stands out.

Another way we feel our students can be exposed to diversity and learn about other cultures is by hosting exchange students. Windham has welcomed five new exchange students this year from our partnering school, Future Leadership Academy, in China. These students come to Windham in August and spend the year learning about America, New Hampshire, and Windham. In turn, our students are exposed to diversity and learn about different cultures.

Each February several additional exchange students attend Windham for a week and will be paired up with our students in Center School and Middle School to learn about one another. We are excited to be able to offer these opportunities to our students and look forward to continuing to broaden our horizons.
In today’s world, the need to be constantly connected to technology has become more of a way of life than a luxury. With this boom in technology availability, we as a society are constantly informed. Whether that information be world news, updates on our friends’ lives, self-diagnosing symptoms, or the latest sales at our favorite stores, we are informed. So, then, what’s the problem? The problem in a non-stop world is breaking through all the noise so that your target audience actually hears you.

In public education there is so much that happens in a day nevermind trying to capture everything in a week, a month, or even a school-year. How can we stay connected with our school community, parents, and students? We have sat with educators and parents to get a better understanding of areas that we are thriving in communications, and areas where we could use some work. The action that we took out of these meetings is that we as a district need to reevaluate the traditional methods of communication in order to not only inform our families but engage them in the schools.

Below are some of the different engagement strategies that we are committed to improving in order to continue to grow and connect our inner school community to our parents and students.

**Social Media**
The use of social media in public education is growing to be a preferred source of communication in addition to the traditional methods such as newsletters, websites and emails. Social media allows us to showcase some amazing things that are happening in each of our schools in the moment. Each of our schools is committed to continued use of social media to provide highlights of the day and week throughout the school-year.

**Videos**
We have been creating information based videos about some of the events that are taking place throughout the district. We understand that someone may not have time to watch a full recording of the event, but may be interested in the event and what it is about and would have more time to hear about it. Some of the videos that we have created include Shark Tank, WCS STEAM Fair, and construction walkthroughs.
Website and Calendar Upgrades
We are all on our mobile devices and so we wanted to create an experience on our website for our community that was easily accessible and mobile-friendly. We are upgrading the organization of the content within the site so that it is easier to locate. We are embedding google calendars into our site so that it will be easier to view all of the schools events that are happening and even download specific school calendars onto your mobile calendar for quick, constant access. With the launch of the site, we will also roll out a mobile app that will have quick access to the most common downloaded content.

Podcasts
Sometimes, the only time we have to catch up on everything is when we are in the car driving to our next activity. We recently recorded our first podcast which will be dive into major topics within public education and within our school district to give a more global perspective of all that is happening in the schools. This podcast is to invite the public in to get one on one input from our leading experts in different areas of public education.

Our podcasts are created and in collaboration with our own Windham High School students. Our TV/video teacher and students will be in charge of recording and they will also edit these podcasts. They will also edit provide the final file.

The Formal and traditional ways we communicate with families will always be the foundation of how we convey the core fundamentals of what is happening in the classroom, what the curriculum encompasses and most importantly how each of our students is thriving. The exploration of new ways to communicate with our school community will be an extra piece in the communication channel to make sure that we are keeping everyone informed and included.