



RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## The Green Gazette

*The Raymond School District Community Newsletter*

September, 2017

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



On behalf of the entire Raymond School District team, I'd like to thank all citizens for affording us the opportunity to serve the town of Raymond! It is a genuine privilege to be entrusted with the care and education of the children and youth of this community. We are committed to providing a top-notch education to every student, and continually strive to keep our students excited about learning. Through collaboration, we help each other engage all students in ways that will deepen their understanding and encourage them to stretch their capabilities. We want our students to enjoy academic challenges and have fun in school!

This year we kicked off the school year with a range of refresher trainings on student safety, bullying prevention, technology use, and more. We welcomed back our veteran staff members and introduced many new employees to our organization. This picture (above) is symbolic of the fact that we are *one team* - working together to ensure that every student has a successful educational experience from preschool through high school. I am proud and honored to lead this incredible group of people as we move forward along with our amazing students! GO GREEN!

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Do you know someone who is looking for work and would also like to help the Raymond School District? Our bus company, Dail Transportation, is seeking to hire and train new bus drivers. Because there is currently a shortage of drivers across the state, our District has no extra drivers on call to substitute or drive to special events. Interested individuals should contact Kelly Dobe at (603) 736-9682 to obtain more information about bus driving opportunities in Raymond.



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## SCHOOL BOARD

At their last few meetings, the School Board has been reviewing and closing out the financial reports for the last school year and finalizing staff placements throughout the schools. In late August, they held a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to hear the report of the Shared Resources Committee. And in early September, they reviewed recommendations for some possible energy rebate projects throughout the district as a result of an energy efficiency audit.

Coming up, the School Board will be finalizing their Capital Improvements Plan to present to the Town's CIP Committee. Next month, they'll be hearing presentations from our department heads throughout the district relative to 2018-19 budgeting needs.

Each School Board meeting throughout the school year includes an "Our Students/Our Schools" agenda item, which showcases a particular group of students and their activities. In September, we'll be welcoming students from the Reach High Scholars program.



School Board agendas are posted on our website at [www.sau33.com/agenda](http://www.sau33.com/agenda). There you'll also find links to public backup for each School Board meeting. Meeting notices are also posted at each school and at the Town Office. Approved minutes are posted on the district website, and School Board meetings are filmed by and aired on RCTV.

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# BUSINESS

## BUDGETING

The School District's Budget process for the 2018-2019 school year has already begun!

The Budget process that we use in Raymond is called zero-based budgeting. "Zero-based budgeting is a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. Zero-based budgeting starts from a 'zero-base' and every function within an organization is analyzed for its needs and costs. Budgets are then built around what is needed for the upcoming period regardless of whether the budget is higher or lower than the previous one."

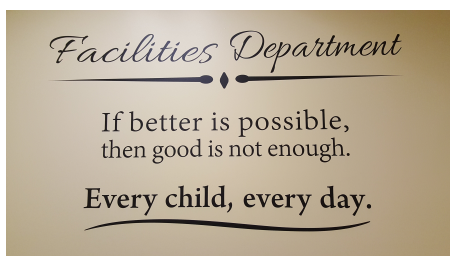
Raymond Residents are invited to attend Budget work sessions throughout the fall and make suggestions as the Budget is being developed. Two very important meetings are held in the January time frame at which time residents are invited to discuss the proposed Budget - the Budget Public Hearing and the Deliberative Session at which time Residents can actually change the Budget amount that is included in the Budget warrant article that appears on the ballot and is voted on by Raymond Taxpayers on election day.

I hope that you as a Raymond resident stay involved with the School District's Budget process.




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## SAFETY AND FACILITIES



After another busy summer for the Facilities Department the buildings are ready to go. Every summer the buildings go through a deep cleaning process where everything gets cleaned top to bottom and floors get scrubbed and refinished.

This is a very intense process but it ensures that our buildings and other investments in them last for as long a possible. Ensuring a clean and healthy environment for all building users is a top priority everyday of the year.

As we enter into another year please remember that we strive to keep our kids safe. Please be patient with our sign in process and remember that a photo ID is required to enter the school buildings during school hours.

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## TECHNOLOGY

The Technology Department spent the summer getting several new faces! Fully staffed, our team took the last three months working in each school going room by room, computer by computer, cleaning, repairing, and re-imaging all of the district equipment. We are excited to start the new school year and look forward to supporting the staff, children, and you!.

With that being said, we wanted to hit the ground running with our favorite!



We want to make sure that all parents and guardians have the ability to utilize PowerSchool to its full capacity. Below are several links to help you get started!

[Click here to get to the Parent Portal for PowerSchool](#)

[Click here to watch a video on how to set up a Parent Portal Account](#)

[Here is a video on how to set up and use the Mobile App](#)

## LAMPREY RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### NEW YEAR – NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER AT LRES!



Volunteers are vital to the success of our wide range of programs. There are many ways that you can become involved at Lamprey River Elementary School. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher, the LRES PTO or by calling the front office at 895.3117. We have opportunities both during the day and after hours as well as tasks that you may be able to do from home. No deed is too small!

**Classroom Volunteer:** There are many opportunities to assist teachers with preparation of materials, reading with a small group of children and practicing math facts.

**Library Volunteer:** With the volume of books being returned daily to the library, the LRES Library can always use assistance in shelving books.

**Field Trips:** Many of the field trips taken require additional parent supervision. This is an excellent way for a parent to spend time with his or her child and small group of students while taking in an educational excursion.

**Field Day Volunteer:** To make Field Day a success, our PE program will need a number of volunteers to run events. Look for a note in the spring about the fun volunteer opportunities on Field Day.

Room Parents: Each year you encouraged to connect with your student's teacher to volunteer in the classroom! A room volunteer helps plan and organize class parties as well as serving as a communication contact for the LRES PTO.

STEM in the Schoolyard: Our outdoor learning spaces continue to grow and we need your help! Our STEM in the Schoolyard group will organize community connections, Earth Day and other outdoor learning experiences for our students.

LRES PTO: Our PTO does so much for us by providing funding for resources in the classroom, field trips and other opportunities our students may not otherwise get to experience. Additionally, PTO hosts family events, Teacher Appreciation Week and much, much more! We encourage you to attend the LRES PTO meetings to learn of volunteer opportunities that fit into your schedule.

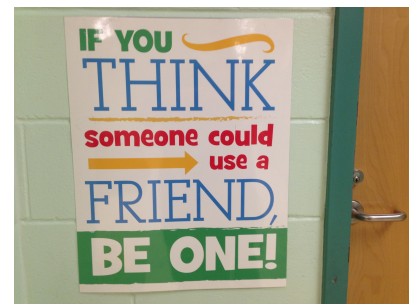


## IBER HOLMES GOVE MIDDLE SCHOOL



The start of the 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start at IHGMS! Students and staff arrived eager to start the new school year. With the exception of a couple of our staff that wanted to see their own children off for their first day of first grade, everyone was here. We only had one student absent.

We are well into our Building Responsible Learners unit school wide during each grade's Academic Intervention Block (AIB). Last school year the faculty and staff worked on the best way to address, what was perceived as, a widespread lack of motivation on the part of many students to do their school work outside of class time. The staff created a plan of action for this school year to address this concern. It included some updates to our grading procedures, our summative retake procedure, and address the related unproductive behaviors. Those changes were part of our handbook updates for the current school year.



Also, a group of teachers over the summer created a unit of instruction and related lesson plans that we call Building Responsible Learners. The teachers have created a pre-assessments to glean where each home room is at related to student responsibilities, being prepared for learning, demonstrating empathy, note taking, and meeting expectations. They have also created very engaging learning activities focusing on those topics and more. For example students are learning the importance of setting goals and begun the process of creating SMART personal and academic goals for themselves for this school year.

We had an exceptionally smooth opening without any significant challenges. Every student we asked if they had a good first day responded with an enthusiastic "yes!". That could not have happened without

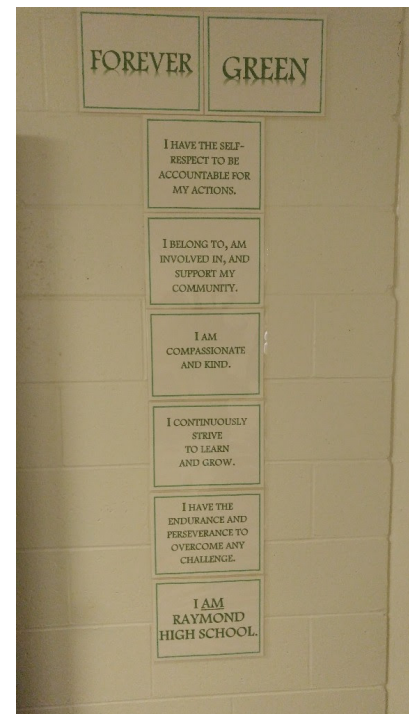


everyone's hard work and cooperation. We are very fortunate to have an outstanding faculty and staff that make it happen day in and day out. The images shared here show just a little of how everyone works together to create a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students. It truly is a team effort!

## RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL

Raymond High School opened its doors to 387 students to start the 2017 – 2018 school year. We are excited about the start of the year and have made significant changes this year. Most noticeable, we have changed the requirements for graduation and our bell schedule. In order to better meet the individual needs of each student, Raymond High School offers a differentiated diploma program. In addition to the Raymond High School Diploma, Raymond High School also offers a State Standard Diploma and a NH Scholars Diploma. These various diplomas allow students to plan which pathway they would like to take as they move forward in the world. Please have conversations as a family as to which pathway will best meet the needs of the student as they prepare to be active and engaged citizens. More information can be found in the [RHS Program of Studies](#).

Our daily schedule has changed significantly this year. We have changed to a 4x4 block schedule. This schedule is dynamic and flexible; it will allow students more opportunities for enrichment, recovery and relearning content material. The new schedule also means that missing a class really amounts to missing two classes as classes only meet three times week. We look forward to working with you and your student as we implement these changes and offer more options to our students.



Raymond High School would to introduce the following new faculty and staff members to the community:

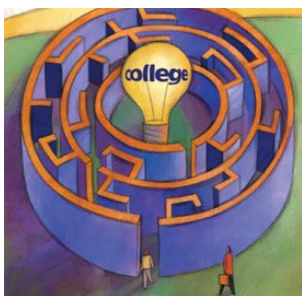
Charles Barth, Math  
 Kristine Boucher-Pepper, Math  
 Josh Forkey, Social Studies  
 Karen Franco, Special Education Case Manager  
 Gwen Reed, English  
 Lauren Rollins, Paraeducator.

We are excited to start the new school year and hope to see you at the RHS Open House on Tuesday, September 12 from 6:00 - 7:30PM!




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## REACH HIGH SCHOLARS



The Reach High Scholars Program (“RHSP”) supplements resources that the Raymond schools are in a position to provide by encouraging students to “reach higher” in their educational pursuits than they otherwise would have imagined possible. RHSP’s philosophy is that money should not be a roadblock to a great education. At no cost to the school district, we provide a continuum of initiatives that start in the middle school.

There are over 3,000 four-year colleges in the U.S. RHSP concentrates on the top 100 because they provide first-class educational opportunities and considerable need-based financial aid. Since 2009, we have helped 39 students go to these schools, compared to 19 in the prior 90-year history of RHS. In addition, 18 of our students have gone to UNH, Keene and Plymouth, which provide better value for money than most of the other 2,900+ U.S. colleges.

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## CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

Curriculum, instruction and assessment are at the very core of our mission. Last year our teachers worked hard to identify the competencies that are most important for students to gain in each course. This year, we will build on the important competency work that was done by increasing collaboration through different grade levels across the entire district. Ultimately, we want to make sure that there is an appropriate flow of curriculum content and engaging instruction for all students as they progress from preschool or kindergarten through grade twelve. This *guaranteed and viable curriculum* is our goal!

A guaranteed and viable curriculum is the number one factor impacting student achievement.  
(Marzano - *What Works in Schools*. 2003)

On August 17th we said farewell to Melissa Lefebvre, our former Curriculum Coordinator. We are currently in the process of searching for another well qualified educator to serve as our Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. We look forward to filling this important position with a dynamic leader who will work alongside our teachers and administrators to spearhead our efforts to strengthen and refine curriculum and instruction in the Raymond School District. I'd like to extend a special thanks

to community members (and parents) Heather Jardine and Dana Zulager for volunteering their time to serve on the Curriculum Coordinator Search Committee along with several of our staff members and School Board Member Joe Saulnier.

## 21ST CENTURY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

LEAP (Learning Enrichment After School Program) is underway for the 2017-18 school year! Both LRES and IHGMS sites are currently up and running and we already have over 100 students participating on a



daily basis. LEAP is our 21st Century Community Learning Centers program that is made possible by a five-year federal grant. We were informed this past May that we were awarded a new grant effective through the 2021-22 school year. It has been a busy summer hiring new staff and planning our initial offering of enrichment clubs that provide students with structured, academic-based opportunities after school at both sites. We also provide homework labs facilitated by certified teachers as well as a late bus that transports students home in the evening for families that choose to enroll in that service.

We're looking forward to serving the community for our 7th year and are excited to share all of the unique experiences we provide our members!

For information on enrolling in LEAP at either LRES or IHGMS, follow this link to the site that applies to your students: [www.sau33.com/leap](http://www.sau33.com/leap).

## HUMAN RESOURCES



Are you looking for a part-time job close to your hometown? Maybe you would like to be a substitute for a teacher, para-educator, food service or custodian to help out your schools *and* get paid. The Raymond School District has many job opportunities to offer the community of Raymond and surrounding towns.

Please visit our Web site [www.sau33.com](http://www.sau33.com) or click <https://www.applitrack.com/sau33/onlineapp/default.aspx> to view all the current job postings and to apply for a position.

## SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES



All three Raymond schools have individual kitchens where our enthusiastic staff produce breakfasts and lunches for students. One of the most popular meals is our own homemade pizza. Every Wednesday at RHS and every Friday at IHGMS and LRES students enjoy this favorite entree. Making it ourselves has enabled us to adapt our recipe to the changing nutritional requirements over the last 6 years without impacting a local tradition. We also involve the students by asking for their ideas on toppings and adding those to the menu when possible. The move from Friday to Wednesday at RHS was also initiated through the efforts of our Student Food Focus Group a few years ago, and has continued to work out well for all!



August and September are also the startup time of year for Free & Reduced Priced Meals applications to be sent in to our kitchens and District office. Please remember that all households who qualified in 2016-2017 must reapply each school year. Applications were provided to each household in August, or may be downloaded and printed from the [Food Service page](#) on the District website.

## STUDENT SERVICES



Notes from Student Services:

There are three primary programs administered by the Student Services Office at SAU 33. I'll briefly explain two of these programs this month.

The most common and well-known is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This provides for free and appropriate education for children with disabilities in specific categories including: adaptive, cognitive, communications, and physical or social emotional development. IDEA eligible students ages 3 - 21 receive a written Individualized Education Program (IEP) that provides for personalized instruction in order to make meaningful progress in school. The IEP is monitored on a regular basis.

The second, and less well known, is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a Federal civil rights law, that prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability. A person with a disability is defined as having a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities. It includes walking, seeing, hearing, and aspects of learning such as reading, writing and calculating. Unlike an IEP, where a student must receive appropriate individualized instruction in order to make meaningful progress, a 504 plan only requires "equal access" and there is no requirement to monitor the student's progress.

Services for students with an IEP or a 504 Plan are provided without charge. School districts receive some additional funding for students eligible for IEP services. There's no funding for students receiving services with a 504 plan, but the federal government can take away funding from schools or programs that do not comply with a 504 plan.

This is a BRIEF overview of two very important, and at times costly, programs. There are many other similarities and differences between these two programs, too many to cover in this limited space.

# SEACOAST SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

The Seacoast School of Technology is excited to have 22 Raymond High School seniors returning this year to complete the second-year of their Career & Technical Education program! Most of these students have already earned college credit, participated in many community service events and extra-curricular activities and are eligible for National Technical Honor Society. We are very proud of all they accomplished last year and can't wait to see what the year ahead brings! Wishing everyone a happy and healthy start to the school year from all of us at SST.



For more information please visit our website: [www.SeacoastTech.com](http://www.SeacoastTech.com).

## CONNECTIONS



### Raymond Coalition for Youth

Get involved and make a difference!

The Raymond Coalition for Youth is celebrating 15 years of working together as a community, to promote positive healthy choices for youth.



Parents, grandparents, guardians, community and young people are invited to learn more and get involved. Our RCFY monthly meeting is Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 10:30 am, at Lamprey Health Care. Youth Action meetings for students are at the middle (Wednesday) and high school (Tuesday).

Please visit [www.rcfy.org](http://www.rcfy.org), or sign up for our [E-Newsletter](#) to learn about these meetings, upcoming events, to find resources, talking points and more. Questions? Call 895-7061 or [info@rcfy.org](mailto:info@rcfy.org).

### Exeter Adult Education

Exeter Adult Education provides our community with some great adult learning opportunities. See their [fall brochure here](#). They have enrichment classes, ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, free tutoring for adults, a high school completion program, and more - offered through a series of classes or

even some one-night workshops.

## Town Newsletter Sign-Up

The Town of Raymond also offers a monthly newsletter regarding town projects, updates, and items of concern. Visit their website at [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) to see their their latest and past issues. You can sign up to receive their newsletter direct to your inbox [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18th, 6:00 PM, RHS Principal's Forum - Open invitation for parents to meet with Mr. Woodward.

September 19th, 7:00 PM, Review of 2016-17 District Financials at Budget Committee Meeting, RHS Media Center

September 20th, 6:45 PM, School Board Meeting, RHS Media Center

September 21st, 9:00 AM, IHGMS Principal's Coffee Hour - Open invitation for parents to meet with Mr. Bickford.

September 21st, 7:00 PM, School Board Meeting re: CIP, RHS Room 109

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"Open collaboration encourages greater accountability, which in turn fosters trust".

(Ron Garan)

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**Our mailing address is:**

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