

IBER HOLMES GOVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

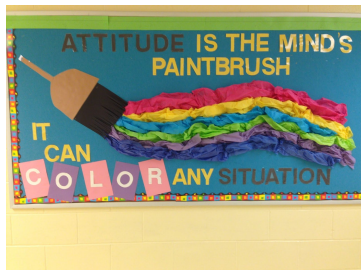
ONE STEPHEN BATCHELDER PARKWAY
RAYMOND, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03077-9763
TEL: 603-895-3394 FAX: 603-895-9856
E-mail: b.bickford@sau33.com

Robert Bickford, Principal

Michael Chouinard, Assistant Principal

To: Raymond School Board
From: Bob Bickford
Re: Opening Day Report
Date: August 30, 2017

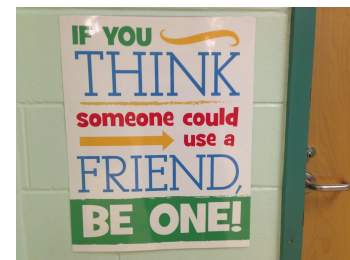
Overview - The start of the 2017-2018 school year went off without a hitch! Students and staff started arriving well before 7:35am eager to start the first day of school. With the exception of a couple of our staff that wanted to see their own children off for their first day of first grade, everyone was here. We only had one student absent.



With the assistance of some of the members of the Unified Arts team, we helped the incoming fifth graders enter the building at the fifth grade door. Their parents had the opportunity to walk their child to their classroom the first few days of school. The numbers doing so quickly dropped off as the new 5th graders gained confidence. It's amazing to watch the growth in only the first few days!

Transportation - Student drop off and pick up went smoothly with parents following the directions we shared before school started. Each day the new bus drivers are getting acclimated to the routine with the help of the veteran drivers and the administrators that are manning the crosswalk. We are experiencing one arriving very late after dismissal on the first two days. The white bus arrived to pick up its student 30 minutes after school was dismissed for the day at 3:05 on the second day. We did have some significant challenges in the afternoon on the 30th and 31st of August due to the fact that Dail Transportation was short one driver.

Enrollment - At the end of the second day we had a total student population of 408. 101 in 5th grade, 95 in 6th, 89 in 7th, and 123 in 8th. We suspect that there will be a few additions and drops until we get past the holiday weekend.



Staffing - We are very fortunate to be able to start the new school year with almost all of the faculty and staff that we ended the last school year with. We attribute this to the fact of all the hard work by everyone to create a positive working and learning environment for everyone; students and staff alike.

Challenges - Sometimes we don't realize how important a member of the team is until we don't have them anymore. One of the many responsibilities of the curriculum coordinator is to oversee the assessment program throughout the district and the Title I program. We are trying to get both up and running without the assistance and direction of the person who has overseen them for the past few years. She made it look easy, but it's not. But with that being said we will be using the STAR assessment to learn the strengths and

challenges of all our students, 5-8, in reading and math within the first few weeks of school. We are also looking at the data that is needed to determine those who are in the greatest need of Title I supports. We will be sending out invitations to accept reading and math supports within the first two weeks of school.

Special Activities - We are well into our Building Responsible Learners unit school wide during each grade's Academic Intervention Block. The teachers are creating very engaging learning activities focusing on pre-assessments to glean where each home room is at related to student responsibilities, being prepared for learning, demonstrating empathy, setting goals, note taking, and meeting expectations. Students have started learning the importance of setting goals and begun the process of creating SMART goals for themselves.



We were able to plan and provide a wide range of professional development for the faculty and staff during the in-service days prior to the start of the school year. Topics included district priorities, common expectation, research on highly effective instructional strategies, safety and security, preventing bullying and harassment, detecting abuse and neglect, technology, instructional outcomes, collecting summative evaluation evidence, rigor and engagement, professional learning communities and special education.

Upcoming Events -

- Our annual **Open House** is **Wednesday, September 13, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.**
- Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will be running from **Monday, September 11 through Friday, September 15**, as well as during our Open House.
- **Picture Day** is **Tuesday, September 19.**
- **Principal's Coffee Hour, September, 21 at 9:00am**
- **1st quarter Progress Reporting** will be **Wednesday, September 27.**

Acknowledgements - 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 in this report share 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!



Kudo's go out to our custodial staff for doing an outstanding job of cleaning the school from top to bottom over the summer and making it shine for the first day of school. Our new IT team had everything up and running as our staff and students returned as well as added additional technology over the summer. A huge thank you to them! And a very special thank you to our office staff and Mike Chouinard, without them all the rest of us would not be able to do what we do; provide an outstanding learning environment for our students. We are off to another great year at IHGMS!