

M.S.A.D.#58 Winter Newsletter

2018-2019

MSAD 58 Mission- It is the responsibility of MSAD #58's school community to prepare all students to become productive, caring citizens of our democracy.



**By Susan A. Pratt
Superintendent of Schools**

This year is moving way too fast. In addition to other meetings, the district has been holding focus groups to discuss planning for the future of MSAD #58. We are seeing a trend of declining enrollment around the district and with our tuition students. The impact is less funding from both our tuition municipalities and state funding. We have seen approx. 100 community members attend one or more of the forums, and give ideas and input. The data is collated on the district webpage at: www.msad58.org I encourage everyone to review the data and feel free to attend a special meeting in the near future that the Board will hold to discuss ideas generated from the forums.

The district has enjoyed a great fall with students in all schools involved in clubs, athletics, and programs such as Girls Talk, Yoga, Coding Club, Soccer, Basketball, Interact, and our new 21st Afterschool Program.

Afterschool Program: Thanks to our partners, Franklin County Children's Task Force, our enrollments in the 21st Century Afterschool Program are strong in each of the three elementary schools. Students enjoy the program, having the activities and opportunities that the program offers.



21st Century Kids of Northern F.R.A.N.K.L.I.N. afterschool program is announcing OPEN ENROLLMENT and are accepting applications for student enrollment immediately. In the 21st Century Kids of Northern F.R.A.N.K.L.I.N. afterschool program, K-8 students from MSAD 58's WG Strong School, Phillips School, and Kingfield School take part in challenging and exciting enrichment activities in the arts, prevention, physical activities, S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, math), and receive help with homework and tutoring. The MSAD 58 program runs from 2:30pm to 5:30pm, Monday through Thursday. Thanks to a partnership between the Franklin County Children's Task Force and MSAD 58 school district, there is currently NO FEE for these programs. Applications may be found on our website @ www.fcctf.org, or at the FCCTF office at 113 Church Street in Farmington. Please call 207-778-6960 with questions or for more information. We hope you will take advantage of this great enriching and fun-filled program.



TRANSPORTATION NEWS

As winter continues, it is important to remember that children will be out early in the mornings and at dusk waiting for or leaving school buses. Use extra caution any time you see children near the road! Pay great attention when you see a school bus. Plan on the fact

that the bus will probably be stopping to either pickup or drop students off. It is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing. A slowing/stopped bus generally means a student is in the nearby area. We cannot put a value to a child's life! Please be certain to pay attention around school buses.

School Telephone Directory

Superintendent's Office	639-2086
Business Office	639-2086
Special Services	684-2864
Bus Garage	678-2731
Strong Elementary School	684-3521
Kingfield Elementary School	265-4132
Phillips Elementary School	639-2909
Mt Abram High School	678-2701

Veteran's Day Observances- Honoring our Veterans!

Phillips Elementary School-On Veterans Day, Phillips Elementary Middle Level had a guest speaker from the local Veterans group. This was a follow-up to the guest the school had on 9/11 when Senator Tom Saviello visited and presented a flag that was flown in Afghanistan. On Veteran's Day the classes recognized and learned about Pearl Harbor. They had a guest speaker, Diane McCall. Each class watched the actual footage of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's asking Congress for a declaration of war. The focus was an explanation of how war is actually declared according to the Constitution.

Additionally, the K-4 student wrote letters to veterans and sent them out thanking them for their service.

Strong School held a breakfast for Strong American Legion members and held an assembly to thank them for their service. The middle level students viewed the music video called, " The 8th of November" by Big and Rich.

Kingfield School held a ceremony-We wish to thank our local Legion Post #61 for educating our students about the history of the holiday and

the sacrifices and dedication of our US veterans. We began the morning outside at the flagpole reciting the pledge and singing the National Anthem. This was followed by an assembly, where students listened to the meaning behind *the Table Set for One*. The morning was a time of reflection and gratitude. Many thanks to John Maynard and the American Legion Post #61 for their continued support of our schools.



Board Of Directors: Chairman-Kim Jordan

School Board Meetings: Held monthly generally on the Third Thursday of the Month at 6:30 PM. A complete list of meeting locations can be found at the district website under School Board:

www.msad58.org

Administrative Officers

Susan A. Pratt	Superintendent of Schools
Stephanie Brochu	Business Manager
Sean Tennent	Technology Director
Tiki White	Administrative Assistant

Federal School Lunch Program:

Applications may be filed at any time during the school year. If your circumstances change and you would like to submit another application for subsidized lunches for your children, please contact either the school or Central Office. These applications are available at any time.

Monthly Menus are posted on the district website:
www.msad58.org

Special Needs

Do you have any concerns regarding your child's development? If so, Child Development Services and/or MSAD #58 Special Services may be able to help you.

Child Development Services is responsible for the identification, location, and evaluation of children, age birth to 5, who reside in Franklin County including the towns of Strong, Phillips, Avon, Kingfield and all the townships in the county. M.S.A.D. # 58 Special Services is responsible for the identification, location and evaluation of children ages 5-20, who reside in the towns served by M.S.A.D. # 58. If eligible, CDS and M.S.A.D. # 58 Special Services may be able to assist in coordinating and providing services for your child.

58 Special Services are at no cost to the family. We receive both state and federal funding to serve eligible disabled children age birth to 20.

To refer a child with a special need, ages birth to 5, call CDS at 778-6262. To refer a child with a special need, ages 5-20 call M.S.A.D. # 58 at 684-2861

Canceling School

When the weather or other circumstances require M.S.A.D. # 58 to cancel school(s), the following notices will go out: **The District Website will have it displayed** as long as it is working. **Any Parent, Staff or Student will get a text message, a phone call and/or an email notifying them of the cancellation.** If you have not provided the district with current, active email addresses, phone numbers, this notification will not reach you. Please make sure you keep the school informed of any changes in your email or phone numbers.

Please Note: If the Internet is down or the power is off in Phillips, you can only get a phone message, so if you have not indicated this mode of communication, you will not get a call. It is your responsibility to use the TV and radio for notification.

The following TV and radio stations will be notified:

WABI TV	Channel 5	
WGME	Channel 13	
WCSH	Channel 6	
WLBZ	Channel 2	
WKTJ	99.3 FM	Farmington
Q106.5	106.5 FM	Bangor
Daily Bulldog	www.dailybulldog.com	

High School Basketball

Mt. Abram Basketball has started and we are looking forward to a wonderful season. Players love to have fans cheer them on at games so here are the dates of some games at Mt. Abram. JV games start at 5:30 pm and Varsity games start at 7:00 pm.

The schedule of games is available on the MTA page under athletics on the district website.

2017-18 District Report Card

The State of Maine and the federal Every Student Succeed Act Law require school districts to participate in standardized testing and to make the results public. This report will be public in early January and will be posted on the district website when available.

At grades 3-8, students complete the MEA testing each Spring. Students in grades 5 and 8 also complete MEA Science testing in the spring. Grade 11 students; participate in the Maine High School Assessment (SAT) for math and English Language Arts with an augmented science assessment.

Summaries of testing scores are available as pdf files below.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit to the school principal, a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend their child's or their education record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest must be set forth in the school's or school district's annual notification for FERPA rights. A school official typically includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Affirmative Action

Statement of Nondiscrimination:

MSAD 58 does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, ancestry or national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation, in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.

Compliance with Anti-Discrimination Laws

MSAD 58 recognizes its obligation to comply with the provisions of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 (PL 92-261), amending Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC §2000e et seq.); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC §1681 et seq.); the Maine Human Rights Act of 1972 as amended (5 MRSA §4571 et seq.); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC §2000d et seq.); the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended (29 USC §623 et seq.); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 USC §6101 et seq.); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC §794 et seq.); and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC § 12101 et seq.).

Contacts for Inquiries or Complaints:

To make an inquiry or file a complaint concerning the above statement, an individual may contact one of the following:

Affirmative Action Officer

Ben Milster

Mt. Abram High School

678-2701 ext. 4104

Office for Civil Rights Regional Director

U.S. Department of Education

S.W. McCormack Post Office & Courthouse, Room 222

Boston, MA 02109-4557

Telephone: (617) 223-9662

Maine Human Rights Commission

51 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Telephone: (207) 624-6050

Bullying- Frequently asked question!

How to Tell the Difference Between Conflict and Bullying

Everyone experiences conflict from time to time. It is a normal part of life. And learning to deal with it in a healthy way helps kids master the social skills they need. But unlike conflict, bullying is not a normal part of life. It is not a "rite of passage" and it does not make kids toughen up.

Bullying is an abuse of power and has significant consequences. There is nothing healthy about bullying. In fact, there are some very distinct differences between bullying and conflict. Being able to identify these differences is important in knowing how to respond.

Characteristics of Peer Conflict

There are a number of ways to identify conflict. First, when a conflict occurs, both people involved have equal power in the relationship. And while both people may be emotional and upset neither one is seeking control or attention. They also are respectful to one another even though they disagree.

Also, when people experience conflict they often feel remorse and take responsibility for their actions. They want to solve the problem so that they can start having fun again. They are intent on finding some type of agreement so that the relationship feels restored again. Lastly, conflict happens occasionally and is usually not serious or emotionally damaging to either person. While experiencing conflict is never fun for either party, it does not make a person feel bad about who they are.

Characteristics of Bullying

The best way to identify bullying is to recognize that it is a deliberate act. The goal is to hurt, insult or threaten another person. There is also an imbalance of power in the situation. Bullies exert control over other people either by intimidating them, harassing them, threatening them or humiliating them.

Bullying also is repeated and purposeful. In other words, it is ongoing. While the tactics may vary from incident to incident, the bully is targeting the same people over and over with the purpose of hurting them in some way. Bullying also poses a threat of serious emotional or physical harm.

Typically, a bully feels very little remorse and the target is usually visibly upset. Additionally, bullies may get satisfaction from hurting people. And there is no attempt to resolve anything. Bullies are not interested in having a relationship with the intended target. However, remember that not every hurtful action is bullying. Sometimes it is simply unkind behavior. So be sure you are aware of what constitutes bullying.

Differences in Addressing Conflict and Bullying

Conflict is an important part of growing up but bullying is not. Conflict teaches kids how to give and take. They also learn how to come to an agreement and how to solve problems. But bullying only wounds kids.

When it comes to conflict, it is good for kids to learn conflict resolution skills. These skills promote listening and working together. Both parties come to an agreement. But conflict resolution is not appropriate for bullying situations. In fact, it can be very dangerous to victims of the bullying.

Conflict resolution works based on the assumption that both people are responsible for the current problem and need to work it out. In this situation, both kids make compromises and the conflict is resolved. Usually, when kids have a conflict, it is best to allow them the opportunity to work it out on their own.

But bullying is different. It is about the bully making a choice to intentionally hurt another person. There is nothing to work out. What's more, bullies usually do not negotiate with others. They want power and they blame others for their actions. Even if an adult can get them to apologize, bullies will often retaliate when no one else is around. As a result, it is crucial to recognize the difference between conflict and bullying.

Remember, the bully is fully responsible for the situation. He also bears all the responsibility for change. Forcing a target to participate in conflict resolution or mediation is never a good idea. Instead, develop an intervention process that ensures the safety of the student being bullied.

Meanwhile, the bully should be disciplined. Bullies need to experience consequences for their behavior. They also need to be told that their choices are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Likewise, victims of bullying need to be reassured that they did not cause the bullying and that they are not to blame. Work with them to help them overcome the negative impact of bullying. The goal is for them regain self-esteem.

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/conflict-and-bullying-difference-460495>