



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEEKONK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ms. Kim Sluter, Chair.....Term expires 2024
8 Galen Court, Seekonk, MA

Ms. Beth Eklund, Vice-Chair.....Term expires 2022
50 Sanctuary Lane, Seekonk, MA

Ms. Erin Brouillette, Secretary.....Term expires 2023
45 Taft Street, Seekonk, MA

Mr. Noah Escaler, Member.....Term expires 2024
42 Mohawk Drive, Seekonk, MA

Ms. Sona Schiller, Member.....Term expires 2022
220 Walker Street, Seekonk, MA

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rich Drolet, Ed.D.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Zachary Waddicor

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Jill Brilhante

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Susan Vonitter-Doe

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL LEARNING

Colleen Terrill

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Seekonk High School

Dr. William V. Whalen III, Principal
Matt Bosh, Assistant Principal
Erica Thomas, Associate Principal for Instruction and Guidance

Hurley Middle School

Alexis Bouchard, Principal
George Kelleher, Assistant Principal

Aitken School

John Haidemenos, Jr., Principal
David Graf, Assistant Principal

Martin School

Bartholomew Lush, Principal
Kerry Hutchins, Assistant Principal

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ACTIVITY

The following is a representation of the meeting activities of the Seekonk School Committee:

Since July 1, 2020, the School Committee had 24 regular session meetings, 16 executive session meetings, 1 public budget hearing, 1 public school choice hearing, 4 work sessions, and 1 quad-board meeting for the purpose of conducting the business of the School Department.



REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

After completing my third year as superintendent of schools in Seekonk, I am happy to share some of the highlights from our unprecedented 2020-2021 school year.

- This year, especially with Covid, we worked diligently to develop and execute plans, procedures, routines, and operational systems to address a broad range of safety, health, and social-emotional needs. We made decisions based on the safety and wellness of our students and staff. I sent many communications to staff and families regarding health and safety. From securing necessary technology, to ordering and utilizing PPE supplies, to following CDC/MassDPH/DESE Covid safety protocols, to facilitating remote learning via hundreds of virtual meetings, I know we did the best we could given the circumstances.
- In collaboration with the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, the Town worked with us to share federal Covid-related grant funding to increase support to our schools.
- We created an innovative “Virtual Learning Academy” with new staff and contemporary curricula materials to support our at-home learners.
- In addition to Covid-related work, we focused professional development for staff on equity, diversity, and inclusiveness.
- I continued to lead our budget process to secure added resources, as well as communicate with other town leaders to allocate and manage expenditures to create new opportunities for improvement.
- We addressed many capital improvement projects within our budget (SHS pool repairs, new SHS tennis/basketball courts, new Martin Elementary School gym flooring, Hurley Middle School and Seekonk High School hot water tank replacements).
- The Aitken Elementary School Expansion Project was completed on time and under budget.
- A warrant article passed at the Spring '21 Town Meeting secured the funding needed for a new 18-22-year-old special education Transitions program. Another warrant article drew support for a new Track and Turf Field at Seekonk High School to be placed on a ballot for the Town to vote to fund in the future.
- Our 2021-2022 school budget will continue to support smaller class sizes, as well as increase technology and digital learning.

We will continue to work to promote innovation and the use of instructional strategies that are proven to work well to meet the diverse needs of all of our learners, especially following difficult times associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank all of the townspeople for the support that our Seekonk Public Schools received during the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Drolet".

Rich Drolet, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Seekonk Public Schools

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STATE AVERAGE</u>	<u>SEEKONK</u>	<u>SEEKONK AS % OF STATE AVERAGE</u>
			<u>COST</u>
2019-20	\$17,023.56	\$17,547.82	97%

Source: Per Pupil Expenditures by Program – MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

(FY20: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

2020-21 figures will be not be available until Fall 2022

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

Inventory Report

(Values as of July 1, 2020-2021)

I.	TRUCKS	\$ 162,423
II.	BUILDINGS and SITES	\$63,602,074*
III.	SCHOOL FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	<u>\$ 9,574,627*</u>
	GRAND TOTAL:	\$73,339,124

*Actual replacement cost provided by the Town's Insurance Program

REPORT OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS
FY2021 SCHOOL YEAR
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED RECEIVED FY2021

DESCRIPTION	PROJECT NUMBER	AMOUNT
<u>Federal Grants</u>		
Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)	113	\$ 174,242.00
Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)	115	\$ 642,176.00
IDEA Special Ed. Entitlement	240	\$ 496,047.00
Early Childcare Allocation	262	\$ 12,095.00
Title I	305	\$ 199,768.00
Title II - Teacher Quality	140	\$ 39,642.00
Title IV - Student Support and Academic	309	\$ 15,428.00
	Subtotal for Federal	\$ 1,579,398.00
<u>State Grants</u>		
None	-	-
	Total Grant Amount	\$ 1,579,398.00

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Susan Doe, M.Ed., C.A.G.S.
Director of Special Education

Special Education Programming

Our district in-house special education programming grew substantially over the past nine years where eleven programs were added to become either new or additions to existing programs (five TAP, two FLEX, two additional STARS, one Alternative Learning Model, and Seekonk Transition Services). The Special Education Task Force accomplished these changes with educator commitment and community support.

Currently, there is a full continuum of programming at every level from the inclusive model to the therapeutic program which incorporates the “school within a school” model, and allows more students to be educated within our district.

Martin Elementary School

Early Childhood FLEX and Lower Elementary FLEX

Special education programming continues to expand. The Early Childhood FLEX opened in 2018. An additional intensive FLEX (Flexible Thinking) Lower Elementary Classroom for grades K-2 opened in the fall of 2019.

Aitken Elementary School

STARS (Students and Teachers Achieving Results)

Both the STARS Lower Elementary (K-2) and STARS Upper Elementary (3-5) programs will be housed in the new addition at **Aitken Elementary School on August 31, 2021**. An additional **SHS STARS program** was added at the Seekonk High School in 2019. Now there are two STARS programs.

Seekonk High School

Seekonk Transition Services will open in July 2023

Seekonk Transition Services will be housed at Seekonk High School in the Summer of 2022. It will provide qualifying students between the ages of 18-22 a variety of vocational, recreational, social, cultural, and independent living activities and experiences in community settings. The construction will begin during the summer of 2021. Janet Fitzgerald, Seekonk High School Transition Coordinator, will be instrumental with finding the job placements for these students.

Seekonk High School: Transition and School-to-Work

The Transition Coordinator, Janet Fitzgerald, along with the high school special educators will work tirelessly to assist the high school students in the highly effective transition program to develop skills to prepare for either college or a career. In addition, a job coach from the Attleboro School-to-Work Partnership will continue to collaborate with the Transition Coordinator and provide additional career exploration opportunities for both general and special education students.

SHS Alternative Learning Model

Alternative learning model was created with the delivery of instruction for students who wish to pursue work-based learning while accruing credits required to graduate. The program focuses on the following basic components:

1. Differentiated Academic Programming to meet graduation requirements
2. Work-Based Learning
3. Post-Secondary Skills/Planning
 - Core Academic Courses (math, science, English, social studies) and electives presented with a differentiated and modified approach running parallel to the previously determined requirements for graduation.

Special Education Task Force

We know that increased therapeutic social emotional support is the key to successful programming; therefore, we are providing more professional development to educators and paraprofessionals to meet the educational and emotional needs of many of our students in their home schools. Our vision to increase in-house programming every year remains steadfast.

The Special Education Task Force meets annually along with Special Education Parent Group President evaluates programming and make additional recommendations as needed for FY21. The Special Education Task Force discusses how to reconfigure a continuum of programs and services to meet the ever-changing student population. The ultimate goal is to create a greater capacity of school-based services and at the same time, improve emotional outcomes for all students.

There continue to be an increase in the number of special needs students moving to Seekonk. We currently have 383 students on Individual Education Plans compared to 275 in 2012. Not only have the number of students with disabilities increased, so too has the severity of their needs, most notably in the social-emotional domain. This increase is happening on a national level as well. As a result, our general education and special education educators along with our related service providers now have larger caseloads and greater responsibilities. Seekonk, like many other districts, finds the urgent need to build capacity in the area of school-based mental health supports.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social emotional issues have increased significantly during the time of COVID. Anxiety affects all students, general education and special education included. Our mental health professionals (SEL Coordinator, guidance counselors, school psychologists, and adjustment counselors) in collaboration with nurses continue to provide support for families, staff and students when dealing with trauma and supporting the social and emotional needs of students especially during this public health crisis.

In consultation with the district SEL coordinator, we will assist teachers to create trauma sensitive classroom environments, and create optimal learning environments at home. Training opportunities will begin to support schools toward a successful reopening. Counselors and school psychologists will continue to be available to support students. This SEL program, created by Edgenuity, helps students form relationships, find identity, and face adversity. All students had access to this program remotely.

English Learners (EL)

One ESL Teacher is assigned to each building. We had an increase of 53 students in 2021 with a wide array of languages: (19) Mandarin, Creole, French, Somali, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Polish, Mandarin, Gujarati, Thai, Urdu, Khmer, Ilocano, Russian, Tamil, Vietnamese, Turkish, and Korean. Some

students have little if any formal schooling in their native country, so there are significant gaps in learning in addition to English language acquisition. We are very proud of our talented ESL teachers and we are fortunate to have one ESL Teacher assigned to each building. Some students require intensive direct EL instruction at a minimum of two periods a day (suggested 45 minutes) with the ESL teacher. Our content teachers are certified in Shelter English Immersion (SEI) instruction; however, the state also requires that ELE students also receive direct instruction by an ESL teacher in addition to the Sheltered English Language instruction.

Seekonk High School & Unified Sports

Seekonk High School is a National Banner School that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence. The Unified Sports Program has had tremendous success over the past four years in two areas, basketball and track & field. This initiative was spearheaded by Kristin Nelson, Unified Head Coach and Seekonk High School Educator. Unified Sports is entering its sixth year and now includes a Unified Sports Program at the Dr. Kevin Hurley Middle School. School-wide and community support has been phenomenal and it has been beneficial for the entire school culture. Unified Sports has grown exponentially since its first year in Unified Track and Field with 19 students. Congratulations to the Seekonk High School staff and students for going beyond the three necessary components required to become a Unified Champion School (Unified Sports, Whole School Engagement, and Youth Leadership) and provide an inclusive environment.

Tiered Focus Monitoring Review

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public-School Monitoring (PSM) conducted a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Seekonk School District in February 2021. The great news is that there were zero findings. Seekonk was found to be in 100 % compliance in all areas of Civil Rights and Special Education. The Office of Public-School Monitoring reviews each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students.



SEEKONK HIGH SCHOOL — 261 Arcade Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771

**2020 — 2021
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL**

Seekonk High School has completed the 2020-2021 academic year under the leadership of second year Principal, Dr. William V. Whalen III. The administrative team also included Associate Principal, Ms. Erica Thomas, and Assistant Principal, Mr. Matthew Bosh. The student population at the close of the school year by grade level was as follows:

Grade 9	132
Grade 10	146
Grade 11	159
Grade 12	151
Total	588

Seekonk High School staffs 56 highly qualified faculty members in addition to 13 talented instructional aides, 2 administrative secretaries, 1 secretary for the Guidance Department, and 4 custodians.

Staff and students at Seekonk High School persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning the school year in a hybrid learning setting, with half of our students in school on some days while the other half participated remotely via livestreaming/Google Meet. All students participated remotely on Mondays. Students with last names beginning in the first half of the alphabet attended school in-person on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and students with last names beginning in the second half of the alphabet came to school in-person on Thursdays and Fridays. On their remote days, students would join their classmates from home and receive instruction from teachers while also working on short-term and long-term assignments. By April 16, 2021, all students at Seekonk High School had returned to full-time, in-person learning.

Seekonk High School participated in the NEASC Decennial Visit on May 3rd through May 5th 2021. The Decennial Visit takes place as part of NEASC's ten-year cycle for evaluating and accrediting public schools. This visit took place remotely with the 6 visiting team members participating through Google Meet and Zoom. Seekonk High participated in NEASC's Collaborative Conference in 2018, and used feedback provided from NEASC to develop and implement a growth plan. The purpose of the Decennial Visit was for NEASC to assess the implementation of the school growth plan and provide targeted recommendations. The assessment also included examining the school's alignment to the "Principles of Effective Practice" and ensuring that the school has the capacity to be an effective learning organization. The Decennial Report responded to the three priority areas that were identified at the Collaborative Conference. Priority Area 1 was to provide a structure and process for writing and revising curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments. The response in the Decennial Report explained the progress that has been made, and expressed that the school

will continue to edit and revise our curriculum over the next two years and house the finished products in Atlas System. The second priority area called for the school to ensure that each student is known by and has an adult mentor in the school to assist the learner to achieve the school's vision of the graduate. The response explained that a committee of teachers and administrators was assembled to collaborate on the priority area. The result was a draft plan for "The Warrior Block," a session that would occur after the first period of the day each day to offer extra help to all students, serving as a Tier I support for RTI. Eventually, an advisory component would be added to The Warrior Block. Progress has been made in this area, but work will continue with collaborative planning in the '21-'22 school year. The third priority area was to ensure that the school community's professional culture demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement through the use of research, collaborative learning, innovation, and reflection. This would include improving areas such as curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices. The report included a response on a plan for our teacher leaders, the Curriculum Leaders for Instruction and Assessment, to become more involved in this work in a collaborative effort with administration. The school has these positions in place still as we move on to a new school year, and the team will work together to provide more time for these teacher leaders to accomplish the important work that needs to be done in the areas of curriculum and instruction. The NEASC team reviewed our report prior their visit in May. The visit included observations of classes, and interviews with students and teachers. The NEASC team also examined student work. We are expecting the final response report from the visit to be available from NEASC in the Summer of 2021.

The Seekonk High School Strategy for School Improvement includes four goals for the 2021-2022 school year:

Goal #1: To provide a structure and process for writing and revising curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments.

Goal #2: Improve the master schedule at Seekonk High School in order to better support students and teachers.

Goal #3: To ensure:

3a. The school community's professional culture demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement through the use of research, collaborative learning, innovation and reflection.

3b. The school has an inclusive definition of leadership and provides school leaders with the authority and responsibility to improve student learning

3c. The school has collaborative structures and processes supporting coordination and implementation of curriculum.

Goal #4: To meet the diverse needs of all learners to ensure growth for all students.

Each goal in the Strategy for School Improvement includes action steps and a timeline as part of the plan.

School Accountability - The 2020 School Report Card indicates that Seekonk High's Overall Classification as making *Substantial Progress Toward Targets*.

At the close of the school year, long time nurse at Seekonk High School Mrs. Pat Rok retired after 23 years of service. Mrs. Rok was integral when it came to the safety of students and staff at our school during the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank Mrs. Rok for her years of service to the students of Seekonk, and will miss her tremendously.

Seekonk High School held the Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremony on June 5, 2021 at 6:30 pm at Connolly Field on our beautiful campus. One hundred and forty-seven students graduated from the Class of 2021. The Valedictorian of the Class of 2021 was Ms. Madison Sirois. The Salutatorian was Mr. Nicholas Jankowski. The advisors of the Class of 2021 were Mrs. Caitlin Pereira and Mr. Earl Berwick. Present on the stage for the ceremony in addition to myself were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rich Drolet, School Committee Chairperson Mrs. Kim Sluter, and Assistant Principal Mr. Matthew Bosh.

The FY'22 budget for Seekonk High School includes the addition of a World Language Teacher as well as an English Language Arts Teacher. We will be also be adding an additional course from Project Lead the Way called Introduction to Engineering. This is the third and final course to be added from the grant obtained in 2020. Next year, we will continue our work in order to develop academic pathways as part of the Program of Studies for the 2022-2023 school year. Teachers will also collaborate in response to our NEASC recommendations on the development of best practices regarding grading and assessment. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will be a focus for students and staff at Seekonk High School and throughout the district next year.

Overall, this was a successful school year as the faculty and staff did outstanding work to support our students during a global pandemic. We are all looking forward to a return to normalcy for the 2021-2022 school year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William V. Whalen III
Principal



**650 Newman Avenue
Seekonk, MA**

**Annual Report of the Principal
2020-2021**

The Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School 2020-2021 school year closed on June 15, 2021 under the leadership of second-year Principal, Ms. Alexis A. Bouchard and Assistant Principal, Mr. George E. Kelleher.

This report highlights successes and achievements made this academic year which correlate to the goals and action steps outlined in the HMS Strategy for Continuous Improvement. The 2021-2022 HMS Strategy for Continuous Improvement was approved by the School Council on May 5, 2021. The HMS School Council met periodically during the school year to review goals and action steps within the plan, in order to assist the principal in promoting continuous growth as well as alignment to the District Strategy for Continuous Improvement. Ms. Bouchard will be presenting to the School Committee in the fall of 2021 for final approval.

Student Enrollment: At the close of the academic year a total of 480 students were enrolled.

Grade 6: 145
Grade 7: 149
Grade 8: 186

Staffing: During the 2020-2021 school year, Hurley Middle School employed 2 administrators, 52 highly qualified educators, 14 instructional aides, 2 administrative secretaries, and 3 custodians. Several substitute custodians were hired to assist in the additional sanitization/cleaning that was required due to COVID-19.

HMS 2020-2021 Reopening Plan: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a reopening plan was developed in the summer of 2020 that included three learning models; full in-person, hybrid, and full remote learning. The HMS Reopening Plan can be found on the Principal's Page of the HMS website.

<https://sites.google.com/seekonkschools.org/hmsprincipals-page/home>

Instructional Learning Summary: The 2020-2021 school year opened on September 15th in a Hybrid Learning Model.

Educators in the state of Massachusetts were granted ten professional development days prior to students beginning in order to prepare for the three different learning modalities. During those ten days, HMS educators met with grade level counterparts, subject area departments, interdisciplinary teams, school counselors, and administration to prepare to open in a hybrid learning model.

For the majority of the 20-21 school year, students attended school in the hybrid model. Students with last names A-K attended in-person learning on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and those with last names L-Z attended in-person school on Thursdays and Fridays. Students engaged in remote learning assignments on the other two days they were home. All students attended virtual remote learning sessions (while at home) with their teachers on Mondays.

There were several times (around the holidays) this year, that we transitioned to full remote learning as COVID-19 cases continued to increase at the local, state, and national levels. During full remote learning, students engaged in modified remote live sessions that mirrored our in-person learning schedule.

In January of 2021, we began live-streaming where students at home (on their off-hybrid days) had to stream-in to attend live sessions with their teachers and in-person peers.

On March 2nd we welcomed all of Grade 6 back to full in-person learning. Grade 7 returned to full in-person learning on March 29th, and Grade 8 on April 6th. **Following, the return of all 8th graders, we concluded the 20-21 school year with all HMS students attending full in-person learning five days a week!**

EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity): At the start of the school year, an EDI work group was formed which consisted of the principal and seven educators. We met several times on remote Mondays to discuss current practices around EDI. We started to discuss a vision of the work that needs to be done to foster a culturally proficient learning community, brainstorm ways we could educate and bring more cultural awareness to the community, and share our experiences from attending professional development opportunities this year related to EDI. This work will continue next year as we were faced with ongoing challenges relating to the pandemic which made it difficult to meet regularly.

The ELA department researched and decided on three new non-fiction EDI grade level books. Below are the books that will be implemented into next year's ELA curricula, which will allow for more of a diverse and cultural learning opportunity for students.

Grade 6: Generation Next
Grade 7: Brown Girl Dreaming
Grade 8: A Long Walk to Water

English Language Educator, Mrs. Downing offered opportunities for students and staff to engage in activities during lunch around different cultural celebrations such as Diwali, Ramadan, St. Patrick's Day, etc. In addition, members of the student council created displays to showcase contributions of women and black individuals in history as well as our current society.

Warrior Block: During remote Mondays, students attended Warrior Block lessons facilitated by school counselors. Lessons and activities focused on specific topics relating to students' social-emotional needs, kindness, anti-bullying, gratitude, and equity, diversity, and inclusivity.

Instructional Technology/Professional Development: Educators participated in a variety of professional development instructional technology opportunities this school year to enhance teaching and learning. Opportunities included trainings in various programs such as IXL, Edgenuity, GoGuardian, Edpuzzle, Screencastify, Flipgrid, etc. Mrs. Downing presented at a staff meeting as she created a great resource on organizing Google Classrooms for students and teachers.

Extracurricular Activities: Due to the pandemic, we were limited to offering only virtual after school extracurricular activities for students. Students had the opportunity to participate (virtually) in the following clubs: student council, debate team, math team, eco-warriors club, drama and yearbook club. Ms. Gibbas advised students in this years' drama production, *A War of the Worlds* which showcased students' talents in a virtual performance on Friday evening before April vacation. Spring athletics was the only season that was offered to students this school year. Our girls' cross country team placed first in the Massasoit League of middle school. Boys' cross country, baseball, and softball all had successful seasons with end of the year celebrations to recognize student-athletes.

HMS PTO: The Hurley Middle School met monthly under the leadership of PTO President, Ms. Heather Potter. The PTO planned and provided various supports and events for teachers and students this school year. Our 8th graders were provided with special send-off gifts to conclude their middle school years in addition to a Field Day luncheon!

EOY Events: The following end of the year events were held to celebrate and recognize students:

Thursday, June 3rd – 8th Grade Field Day (rain date Friday, June 4th)

Friday, June 4th – Q4 “Warrior of the Quarter” Breakfast Celebration (cafeteria)

Monday, June 7th – Grade 6 **Red Team** Student Recognition Assembly 9:30 AM (gym)

Monday, June 7th – Grade 6 **Yellow Team** Student Recognition Assembly 1:30 PM (gym)

Tuesday, June 8th – Grade 7 **Purple Team** Student Recognition Assembly 9:30 AM (gym)

Tuesday, June 8th – Grade 7 **Green Team** Student Recognition Assembly 1:30 PM (gym)

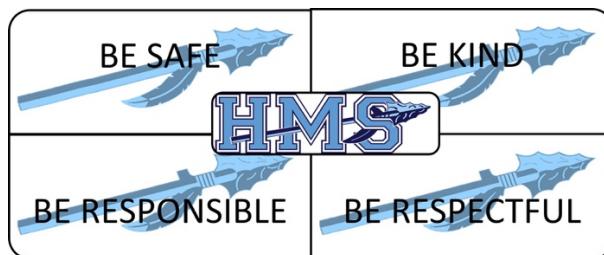
Thursday, June 10th – 8th Grade Promotional Celebration 6:00 PM HMS Front Lawn

Principal Shoutout: We faced many challenges this school year, and I am so proud of the perseverance, hard work, dedication, and commitment from the entire HMS faculty and staff. A special shoutout to our school nurse Ms. Linda McCoart for going above and beyond this year to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff. Families, thank you for all the hard work you have done supporting your child during these times. Lastly, I am proud of how well students have adapted to the many changes this school year brought, and the resilience and positive mindsets that we observed among students over the course of 2020-2021 school year.

“We don’t grow when things are easy; we grow when we face challenges.” - unknown

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Alexis A. Bouchard
Principal





**Mildred H. Aitken
Elementary School**
165 Newman Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771
(508) 336-5230



JOHN HAIDEMENOS, JR.
Principal

DAVID GRAF
Assistant Principal

For your review, please find the annual report for school year 2020-2021 for the Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School. The following initiatives were implemented or expanded upon in the 2020-2021 school year:

PLTW (Project Lead the Way)

Aitken School, along with its sister school, Martin, has applied and has been awarded the Project Lead the Way grant called Launch for elementary grades, that will allow us to explore and establish a strong STEAM program. Our newly hired full time Technology Specialist is taking the lead on this initiative and will be attending virtual training over the summer with our Library Media Specialist. The new addition is complete, and we now have a Maker Space where our Technology Specialist will be housed to provide instruction with state-of-the-art equipment. Some of the activities include the use of a green screen, robotics, technology, and 3D printing. We are collaborating with Martin since they are in the same stage of implementation.

Technology at Aitken

Aitken School's technology program has expanded scheduled classes for grades 2-5. In grades K-5, all students have Chrome Books and additionally in the lower elementary grades, students are also using iPads. All students benefited from programs that support and enhance science, social studies, ELA, mathematics, and social emotional learning. Thus far, with the support and assistance of our Director of Technology and Digital Learning, Mrs. Colleen Terrill, we have secured Interactive Displays to replace our aging LCD projectors in every classrooms.

Professional Development/CIAs

High quality professional development continues to flourish at Aitken School. The focus this year was around vertical conservations between grade levels with the formation of CIAs or Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment leaders. The CIA team is comprised of representatives from each grade and special education. Meetings were held throughout the year to discuss instructional practices to improve student achievement.

PBIS

Aitken's Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Committee has guided the staff in the development of expectations within the school, on the playground and on the buses. The focus is to bring attention to the positive behaviors and contributions of the students. This year, we created both grade 4 and grade 5 student councils geared to elicit suggestions from students on how to improve our schools from a student perspective. Our assistant principal, Dave Graf, established a new focal area in our foyer called the Aitken Student Showcase. Here, teachers provide exemplary work from students that can be visible to visitors as they enter Aitken. We also continued our "Student of the Month" program where students exemplifying PBIS characteristics of "Safe, Respectful, and Responsible", were identified by classroom teacher to attend a celebration. We held a monthly breakfast for students and their parents to celebrate this accomplished and present them with a window sticker that says, "My Child Was Student of the Month at Mildred H. Aitken School". Mr. Graf was able to modify the "Student of the Month" by reaching out to parents and students to present them with their window sticker. We hope that the pandemic subsides, we will be able to return in person celebrations as in the past.

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



The Arts

The arts are flourishing at Aitken! This year, due to the pandemic, one of our talented VLA teachers, Mrs. Michele Graf, organized a joint school virtual performance that was performed on May 27th. We want to thank her for taking on this role. We hope that we again have an in person musical experience in the next school year.

Feinstein School

Aitken School is a Feinstein school and promotes good deeds. Students receive a good deeds journal where they can keep a record of how they help others and the world. Whole school initiatives, thus far, have included a food drives, holiday gift drives, blood drives, and hurricane relief backpacks for students in a Florida school. This year, Mr. Feinstein implemented the Golden Ticket program. One of our students in grade 2, was chosen and was awarded a \$500 grant to donate to a charity of his choice. Additionally, Aitken School received an award of \$5000. Jump Rope for Heart, Autism Awareness Week and American Heart Association drive are planned for the second semester.

Collaboration Between Elementary Schools

Aitken school worked collaboratively with its sister school Martin, to provide parity between the elementary schools during distance learning. In addition to sending joint weekly newsletters to staff and families, the schools worked together to further align practices to support students.

NEW Podcast Series:

In an effort to strengthen the home-to-school connection during the COVID-19 shutdown of schools, Mr. Graf and Mr. Haidemenos established a new podcast called, "Wake Up with Aitken". Through this podcast, we have been able to reach out to families and provide information interjecting some comic relief in the process. Thus far, we have produced two podcasts. The podcast will be regularly released over the course of the school year. We want to thank Mrs. Colleen Terrill, Director of Technology and Digital Learning for "producing" and releasing our show!

Aitken is Growing!

In the 2020-2021 school year, the new addition was completed with ten additional classrooms for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and the STARS program currently at Martin School. Within the ten classrooms, we now have a state of the art OT/Sensory room, and a Maker Space. The school has a new HVAC system with central air conditioning throughout the building. Additionally, we now have an outdoor classroom and a completely renovated playground that is ADA compliant. Finally, we are welcoming approximately 70 new students from Martin Elementary School in the 2021-2022 school year as the district lines were adjusted.

Kudo a Colleague

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused added strain on the staff and we felt we needed to do something to raise morale. Mr. Graf, our assistant principal, developed the Kudo a Colleague program where each day, a different staff member would be highlighted. He sent a Google Survey to staff and asked them to share a positive comment about their colleague. The next day, we would highlight that staff member in the Daily Notice, over the intercom during morning announcements, and then post the comments on our display panel in the foyer for everyone to see. We are proud to say that we highlighted every staff member at Aitken including custodians and kitchen staff.

Aitken PTO

The Aitken PTO continues to extensively enhance the school program and culture through its fund-raising and school events. While the pandemic has limited what our PTO has been able to do, they found creative ways to continue with some events that families could participate in.

NEASC Accreditation

Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School continues to be NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accredited school. We will be due for our 10 year review in 2024.

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



Student Enrollment

Enrollment as of June 1, 2021 :	Pre-K	25
	K	72
	1	67
	2	73
	3	78
	4	74
	5	71
	TOTAL:	460

Respectfully submitted,



John Haidemenos, Jr. Principal
Dave Graf, Assistant Principal
Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School

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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

GEORGE R. MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Annual Report 2020/2021



Enrollment June 2021

Pre-K	
Early Childhood	34
Kindergarten	73
First Grade	89
Second Grade	81
Third Grade	79
Fourth Grade	96
Fifth Grade	79
Total	531

Martin School's enrollment stayed almost the same as last year, decreasing only slightly from 537 to 531. In June, 44 of the 531 students remained in our Virtual Learning Academy. All other students and staff had returned to 5 days a week, full-day, in person learning.

Martin school is staffed by 43 hardworking, highly-qualified professionals, 7 support professionals (nurse, occupational therapy, two speech therapist, two adjustment counselors, one school psychologist) along with 24 passionate instructional aides, a certified nurse's aide, a certified occupational therapist's aide, 2 administrative secretaries, 2 administrators and 3 custodians. This year we also shared 5 Virtual Learning Academy teachers with Aitken Elementary school.

We added more students to our FLEX and STARS programs making the building more inclusive to students with special needs. Mr. Lush was able to acquire a Unified Champions grant through the Special Olympics of Massachusetts to grow a community of inclusion. We continue to keep students in district with their peers and shined as our programs continue to grow.

At the end of the 2019/2020 school year, although all students had become virtual learners, each student had his or her own Chromebook or device and were able to work through platforms such as Google Classrooms and Seesaw. This meant when we returned this September

students were better adapted to virtual learning and our new hybrid model.

We started the year with 4 cohorts. A cohort AB group that came to school 4 days a week to support their needs, a cohort A group that came to school Tuesdays and Wednesdays, a cohort

B group that came to school Thursdays and Fridays, and a cohort V group that was always virtual and not tied to a physical homeroom. These virtual learners never came inside the building, but could switch to an in-school cohort if they chose to. All students were virtual on Mondays. Throughout the year and especially as January approached we began to plan for and implement the return of more and more students eventually finishing the spring with all students back utilizing spaces like the gymnasium to hold lunches with students eating at 6 feet apart. We played movies on a large screen and made lunch as fun as it could be.

Our diligence with student safety was at an all time high. We put in place many different protocols to keep students safe with administration, the custodians and the school nurse literally working overtime to keep up to date with state mandates and any trends in the pandemic.

We continued with our Warrior Way positive behavior support adding reading incentives and spirit weeks throughout the year. Many of our positive promotions can be read about in our Martin Monthly Newsletters found on the principal page

The Warrior Way

At George R. Martin the Warrior Way Starts Here:
We are the Junior Warriors
We are Kind
We are Safe
We Work Hard

MES

Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion Schools

Exploring Around the World

Unified Fall Event at Martin School, Seekonk 2020

Character day

Pink Out! For cancer awareness

Robots!

Reading Challenges

Some of many fun activities!

As the summer of 2020 ended and the school year began the Martin School Community remained thousands of teachers. Parents, grandparents, all assortments of family members, neighbors and caregivers joined in to start the year as at home participants in a newly formed and professionally run hybrid learning atmosphere. There were so many changes throughout

the year, but we planned and prepared being proactive as the state protocols pivoted. Even with all the changes and hurdles we finished the year strong. By adding programs like Foundations and continuing ST Math students had a quality year of learning.

Martin School continues to be a diverse school. Our message to our students, staff and families continues to be the same, but was amplified this year as we all came together to overcome the pandemic. Our Martin Monthly newsletter often portrayed our sentiment of growing as a community. Learning is never something that ends when the last bus leaves.

Caption from our Monthly newsletter; pictures are from the last two years.

Not What, But How

I am sure some of us can reach back in our memory and find that moment in our childhood when something special happened. Some days at school those moments breeze through the building and are gone. It might be listening to the Polar Express, when your teacher dressed up like a colonist from the 1770s, or when the Phantom of the Opera appeared on the stage during lunch. Sometimes it is those moments that matter the most. Our goal is not just academics. Students may forget what the Roanoke Colony was, but they will remember how they felt while they were here at Martin. If you have those conversations, “*What* did you do today?” be mindful of *how* they felt when they did *what* they did. This year in particular, try to hold onto the positive moments and highlight them as often as you can.



Some pictures are from past years





School Dining Services
261 Arcade Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771
Tel: 508-336-7272, x62117
Cell: 401-255-2834
Report of the School Lunch Program
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

I hereby submit my report to the Superintendent of Schools, the School Committee and the people of Seekonk. All school lunch and breakfast meals meet the U.S.D.A. meal requirements. Student lunches qualify for state and federal reimbursement, while adults must pay the full cost of the meal, plus the state meal tax, \$3.74. All students qualified for free meals under the Seamless Summer Option from the USDA. This program was made available to all school districts this year because of the rise in food insecure households due to the pandemic. All a la carte foods and snacks in the schools meet the Massachusetts School Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods and Beverages. Our Chartwells staff works hard to provide nutritious meals in a pleasant environment for our children. From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 we served the following:

Total Student Lunches: 82,878

Total Student Breakfasts: 6,010

Month	Days	Student Lunches	Student Breakfasts
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
September	21	2,956	407
October	21	7,066	734
November	17	4,995	602
December	17	4,775	873
January	19	5,276	631
February	15	5,686	519
March	23	11,901	738
April	16	12,869	497
May	20	18,026	640
June	11	9,331	369

Karleen DeLellis
F.S.D.

SEEKONK PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 2020-2021 CALENDAR
COHORT "A" (last names A-K) AND COHORT "B" (last names L-Z)

AUG 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	PD					

31 Professional Development

SEPT 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		PD	PD	PD	PD	5
6	7	PD	PD	PD	PD	12
13	PD	15	16	17	18	19
20	RL	22	23	24	25	26
27	RL	29	30			

1-14 Professional Development
15 First Day of School

OCT 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	RL	6	7	8	9	10
11	//	13	14	15	16	17
18	RL	20	21	22	23	24
25	RL	27	ER	ER	30	31

05 Elementary Gr. 1-5 **VIRTUAL**
Open Houses
08 High School **VIRTUAL** Open House
12 Columbus Day=No School
15 Hurley **VIRTUAL** Open House
28-29 Elementary **VIRTUAL**
Parent/Teacher Confs. = Early Release for Aitken & Martin

NOV 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	PD	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	//	12	13	14
15	RL	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	PD	//	//	28
29	RL					

03 Professional Development
11 Veterans Day=No School
12 High School **VIRTUAL**
Parent/Teacher Conferences
16 1st Term ends (42 days)
25 **Half-Day** of Professional Development
26-27 Thanksgiving Break

DEC 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	RL	8	9	10	11	12
13	RL	15	16	17	18	19
20	RL	22	23	//	//	26
27	//	//	//	//		

11 1st Trimester ends (58 days)
24-30 Holiday Break
31 New Year's Eve=No School

JAN 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				//		2
3	RL	5	6	7	8	9
10	RL	12	13	14	15	16
17	//	19	20	21	22	23
24	RL	26	27	28	29	30
31						

01 New Year's Day= No School
18 M.L. King Jr. Day=No School
29 2nd Term ends (43 days)
29 1st Semester ends (85 days)

FEB 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	RL	2	3	4	5	6
7	RL	9	10	11	12	13
14	//	//	//	//	//	20
21	RL	23	24	25	26	27
28						

15 Presidents' Day=No School
16-19 Winter Vacation

MAR 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	RL	2	3	4	5	6
7	RL	9	10	11	12	13
14	RL	16	17	18	19	20
21	RL	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

02 Good Friday=No School
09 3rd Term ends (44 days)
19 Patriots' Day=No School
20-23 Spring Vacation

APR 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	//	3
4	RL	6	7	8	9	10
11	RL	13	14	15	16	17
18	//	//	//	//	//	24
25	RL	27	28	29	30	
30	//					

31 Memorial Day=No School

MAY 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	RL	4	5	6	7	8
9	RL	11	12	13	14	15
16	RL	18	19	20	21	22
23	RL	25	26	27	28	29
30	//					

04 Seekonk High School Graduation
15 4th Term ends (41 days)
15 3rd Trimester ends (55 days)
15 Tentative last day of school for all Cohorts

JUN 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	RL	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	ER	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

// No School
ER Early Release Cohort A
ER Early Release Cohort B
PD Professional Development = No School
RL District-wide Remote Learning Day

*Cohort AB will have In-Person Learning on all days (■ + ■) except Mondays & Holidays (//)