

# Mt. Blue Middle School Update

April 2023

Katie Duchesne, Interim Principal | Bruce Dostie, Interim Asst.  
Principal/Athletic Director

## School News

- 2 of our students, Lucy Ragan and Lily Jackson, recently participated in “**Girls Day at the State House**” where they met many of Maine’s elected and appointed leaders, lobbyists, and activists and participated in fun, challenging, and educational activities designed to introduce them to the public policymaking process.
- “**Speak Up at School**” Initiative: We are currently putting an emphasis on decreasing bias based language at school. Our staff recently participated in a brief training which some of our teacher leaders led the way after participating in a National Webinar/Training. It encourages teachers and students to all be united in speaking up against bias based language, and gives tips on how to do this effectively.
- 7th grade student, Damian Farris, won our school spelling bee a few months ago, and participated in the **State Spelling Bee** at the end of March at Bowdoin College. Although he did not place, he had a great experience and said he will be better prepared next year!



## Building and Grounds Update:



The library is currently undergoing a renovation thanks to ESSER funds. This project will be a beautiful facelift with much needed new book shelves (stronger) and circulation desk, built by our local maintenance department, fresh paint, reading/work nooks, and upgraded student work spaces with more flexible seating options.

In progress: new tables, chairs, bean bags, wooden shelves thus far.

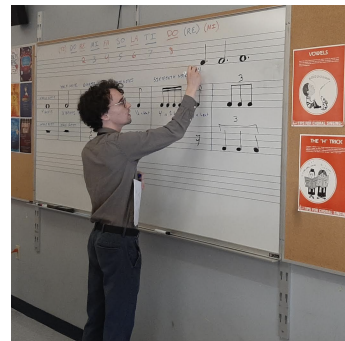
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## **Curriculum/Instruction:**

- We are gearing up for our spring assessments (starting up after 4/24). This should provide us with some good data to help inform instructional needs moving forward.
- Our Math department has been reviewing sample math programs to help bring an informed decision to the Ed Policy Committee in the near future regarding curriculum materials. Some teachers have been piloting units and/or lessons.
- Our music programs are an integral part of the curriculum for many students in RSU 9 and MBMS. Many MBMS students recently participated in the District 4 Music Festival. We had 25 - 6th graders represent the MBMS band, chorus, and orchestra! Bravo!



→ Mr. Hickey teaching note values to Chorus class.

## **Community Connection:**

Our 7th and 8th grade teachers have been planning a Career Exploration Experience for Tuesday, June 13th for their students. This is something that has not happened since COVID, and will allow students to meet the MDOE Life and Career Readiness standards. Students will have an option of participating in a Career Fair, in which members of the community will present here at school (students select 3 careers to attend), or to be out in the community job shadowing a career they are interested in. We are actively looking for more professionals to speak during this event, and Mrs. Gilbert is coordinating this effort.

