

# Mt. Blue Middle School Board Report

Jan. 2023

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

## **2022-2023 In a Nutshell**

### **Staff:**

- We were fortunate to start the year off with all teaching positions filled. Since the start, we have had a few resignations, but have been able to fill them with qualified applicants.
- We have some great subs as well, which have been instrumental in supporting us during the fall months, especially during the November/December illness period.
- This semester, we are excited to have 6 student-teachers from UMF with us in a variety of subject areas.
- We are fully staffed in our custodial department! This is a huge win as our custodial team is highly valued and appreciated.
- Mr. Bruce Dostie, our new Interim AP/AD starts Monday, 1/9/23.

### **Students:**

- We currently have 493 students at MBMS, with a few recent registrations at the start of the new year!
- We are just starting the One-Act play rehearsals. The performance will be in *15 Reasons not to be in a play*. There are twenty students participating.
- The “Middlers” group, led by Mr. Muise has been meeting on Friday afternoons and will be performing at the upcoming Orchestra Celebration concert this spring! There are 15 students participating.
- We had amazing Music concerts during December by the 6th grade and 7th/8th grade Band, Choral, and Orchestra ensembles.

### **Building and Grounds Update:**

- E.L. Vining did more than expected for a late fall project for us. Rather than just improving the drainage adjacent to the field hockey/ softball field; they also stripped, provided many many yards of loam, and seeded/hayed in anticipation of the spring sports season. Our athletes are thrilled as this was long overdue!



Before.... Spring 2022



Work has commenced/completed .... Fall 2022



Looking forward to Spring 2023 / Summer 2023 pictures to share!

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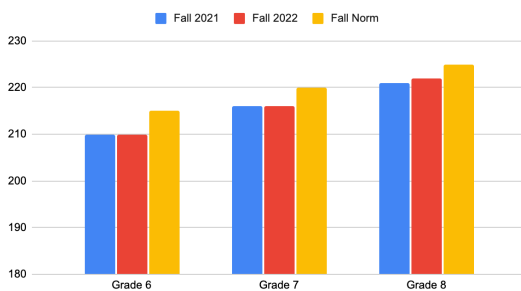
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## **Curriculum/Instruction:**

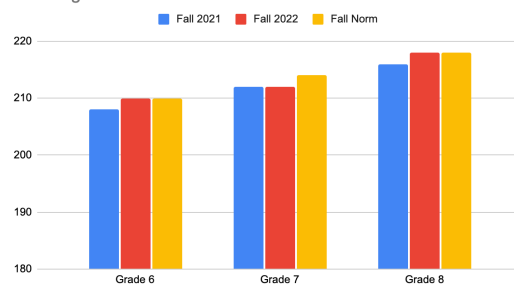
### **Assessment Update:**

Our students participated in the NWEA (Math and Reading) assessment for their fall benchmark scores. In comparison to the 2021 Fall scores, the Math Benchmarks were the same or improved slightly. In comparison to the 2021 Fall scores, the Reading Benchmarks were the same or improved as well.

Math Median Fall Data with Benchmark Norm

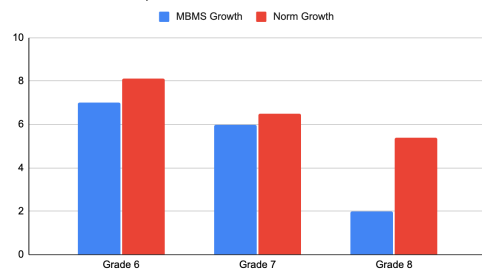


Reading Median Fall Data with Benchmark Norm

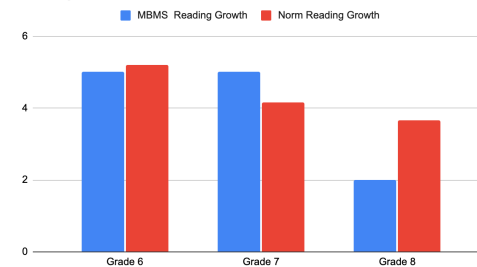


**Growth Model:** When comparing the Growth score (Fall to Spring median difference per grade span) to the Norm Growth score, students at MBMS performed nearly at or above the norm growth for 6th and 7th grade. The 8th grade cohort (those affected the most during MS by COVID) did not perform as well.

Math Growth Comparison 2021-2022



Reading Growth Comparison 2021-2022



We have our winter benchmark coming up after the MLK Jr. weekend.

**Math Focus:** This year, part of our intervention process was to give an additional focus on students in mathematics and to meet students where they are to help them continue on their learning path. We are piloting a program called MAP Accelerator, which is tied directly to the NWEA data. Students receive direct pathways of specific skills needing to work on based on their fall assessment, and do this 2-3 times per week during a shorter class period. We do not have data at this time to see if there is a difference in comparison to last year's cohorts, but will be happy to share data after the spring assessments are completed.

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## **Athletic News:**

Winter sports have been underway since November. MBMS is a part of the Central Maine League and sponsors the following winter sports:

- 7th Grade Girls Basketball - Patty Hastings & Heather Malone (new coach)
- 8th Grade Girls Basketball - Frank Donald
- 7th Grade Boys Basketball - Cam Sennick
- 8th Grade Boys Basketball - Sam Fuller
- Wrestling - Michael Hansen

The teams have been having a good season thus far with improvement on all accounts. We did not have enough 7th graders to field a 7th grade girls team, so 6th graders were invited to try out this year, which was a first.

### Upcoming Home Games:

January 12th, Boys Basketball Home w/ Messalonskee - 8th @ 3:30pm, 7th @ 4:45pm

January 17th, Girls Basketball Home w/ Waterville - 7th @ 3:30pm, 8th @ 4:45pm

January 19th, Boys Basketball Home w/ Lawrence - 7th @ 3:30pm, 8th @ 4:45pm

January 23rd, Girls Basketball Home w/ Skowhegan - 7th @ 3:30pm, 8th @ 4:45pm

January 26th, Girls Basketball Home w/ Gardiner - 7th @ 3:30pm, 8th @ 4:45pm

January 30th, Boys Basketball Home w/ Winslow - 7th @ 3:30pm, 8th @ 4:45pm

Mrs. Danita Gilbert was instrumental in handling the closing of the Fall sports season and current basketball season in terms of Athletic Director duties during our transition.

Wrestling Season will be starting up later in January. We are part of the Pine Tree League for wrestling.