



## NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 29

John W. Day Educational Center 34 West Street Keene, NH 03431 T: 603.357.9002 F: 603.357.9012 [www.sau29.org](http://www.sau29.org)

Wayne E. Woolridge  
Co-Superintendent  
[wwoolridge@sau29.org](mailto:wwoolridge@sau29.org)  
x225

August 6, 2010

William B. Gurney  
Co-Superintendent  
[wgurney@sau29.org](mailto:wgurney@sau29.org)  
x223

Catherine L. Reeves  
Director of Special Education  
[creeves@sau29.org](mailto:creeves@sau29.org)  
x229

Paul R. Cooper  
Director of Human Resources  
[pcooper@sau29.org](mailto:pcooper@sau29.org)  
x212

Meredith C. Cargill  
Director of Curriculum & Assessment  
[mcargill@sau29.org](mailto:mcargill@sau29.org)  
x216

John R. Harper  
Business Administrator  
[jharper@sau29.org](mailto:jharper@sau29.org)  
x202

Timothy L. Ruehr  
Business Administrator - Towns  
[truehr@sau29.org](mailto:truehr@sau29.org)  
x208

Dear SAU 29 Colleagues:

Welcome back to a new school year. In addition to our veteran staff, we are welcoming 30 new staff members into our SAU family. As the start of a new school year approaches, we hope you've had the opportunity this summer to relax, visit family and friends, and perhaps get a few projects done around the house. Many of you are finishing coursework or summer curriculum initiatives. Although there is still work to do before the students return September 1, we anticipate all will be ready in time for your return.

This summer, more teachers invested hours in curriculum and professional development initiatives than in recent memory. We had the opportunity to update needed areas of our curriculum, and thanks to the many teachers that participated we have made significant progress! It will be an exciting school year as these curricula are implemented by teachers. As you are aware, the national Common Core Standards were finalized and released in June, and adopted by the New Hampshire Board of Education in July. Open to teachers throughout SAU 29, our *Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum Institutes* allowed grade-level teams to interact with the new Common Core. These teams took the mandatory math and English language arts curriculum and put it into sequenced units in a format similar to a curriculum map. All teachers in grades K-8 will have the chance to pilot this curriculum during the 2010-2011 school year and provide input on pacing and teacher resources (such as Everyday Math, Trailblazers, Open Court, etc.). The standards broaden the responsibility of teaching literacy across the curriculum. We certainly appreciate the hard work and commitment put in by the following fifty-five teachers:

Lisa Abohatab, Beth Beaudin, Jan Bergeron, Patrice Campbell, Kathy Chmiel, Deb Ciampollo, Karen Cloutier, Jean Cornell, Nicole Crank, Melissa Crotto-Young, Claudia Dery, Dominic DiBenedetto, Andrea Dube, Karen Durling, Nancy Eddy, Robin Fairfield, Erika Greenwald, Leanna Hamlin, Lauren Hannum, Nancy Hardy, Stacey Harrington, Patricia Harris, Lauren Hastedt, Sarah Holbrook, Selena Katz, Helen Ann Kelly, Kristine Kennedy, Lisa LaRocque, Morgan Lausier, Carrie Martin, Joni Mastronardi, Abigail Mather, Patti Morris, Bonny Nadeau-LaRocca, David Potter, Jessica Quarry, Bettina Ramsey, Kim Rich-Milliken, Laura Robertson, Noreen Rushlow, Karen Rydant, Audrey Salzmman, Lisa Seelen, Tracy Shalit, Kathryn Skinner, Sara Snowling, Kris Snowman-Shelley, Beth Spadaro, Eric Stinebring, Amy Strong, Caitlin Sullivan, Elizabeth Sylvia, Susan Wiles, and Gail Woolridge.

As a follow-up to last summer's "Inquiring Minds" science institute, Dan Gillard and Sally Jean from Keene State College, facilitated a one-day workshop where grade-level teams came together to revisit, revise, and enhance common assessments/rubrics. Middle school teachers met and designed experiments practicing process skills.

Participants included: Henry Bailly, Jan Bergeron, Jeannie Butler, Leslie Carlson, Andrea Dube, Karen Durling, Chris Flood, Rachael Fowler, Karen Gianferrari, Erin Goodwin, Selena Katz, Cliff Lerner, Rilda Letourneau, Richard Marcou, Judy Martin, Joni Mastronardi, Kristin Mullins, Jamie Nichols, Cheryl Patty, Sarah Plotczyk, Melissa Read, Beth Schnackenberg, Kate Skinner, Kristen Snowman-Shelley, and Kevin Sullivan. Additionally, the grant covered the participation of four Winchester teachers: Jane Cardinale, Jolene Miner, Dee Salonen, and Judith Smith.

Several years ago, a charge was put forth by the Keene Board of Education to align health curriculum resources. This summer, we revisited this work to finalize the SAU 29 K-8 Health Curriculum. The fine work of Deb Thompson (lead), Judy Martin, Linda Galanes, Ryan Margaitas, and Greg Hammett will allow instruction to cover standards-based frameworks. Whether it is a middle school health teacher or an elementary classroom teacher, the new guide will help ensure that students in each grade will receive exposure to the content that they need to enter into the middle school or high school prepared.

Our Physical Education curriculum committee updated the SAU 29 K-12 Physical Education curriculum. Beth Corwin (lead), Jean Condon, Brian Connolly, Martha Kenison, Michelle Tiani, and Christopher Young took articulated required content to support with the SAU 29 Physical Education Mission: *To empower all students with a comprehensive foundation of knowledge, skills, and understanding to develop a sound body and mind for a healthy, physically active, and productive life.*

This summer's art curriculum committee worked to complete the curriculum that began last summer and extended into the 2009-2010 school year. Peg Barnes, Tessa Carpenter, Mary Hamilton, Shannon Perry, Melanie White, John Bass, Karena Ness, Marie-Lise Reilly, and Scott Hyde finalized the K-12 Art curriculum. We also wish to thank Forrest Bencivegna, Mee Yin Morrison, Helen Carr, Miranda Nelkin, and Anne Meddaugh who provided wisdom and input on this project last summer and/or during the school year. The work includes a visual curriculum with sample artifacts per grade and domain.

All curricula will be updated and posted on First Class (SAU Conferences → Curriculum Conferences) by the first teacher workshop day. Congratulations to all who contributed in the above projects – the efforts of over 100 teachers have provided powerful tools for student learning throughout our SAU.

Many SAU 29 teachers participated in well-crafted professional learning communities over the summer, providing an opportunity to focus curriculum alignment, common assessment development, and best instructional practices to increase student learning.

The new Keene Middle School is on time and under budget. We anticipate opening the doors for students for the first day of the 2011/2012 school year.

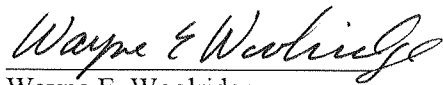
A new Marlborough School is ready for staff and soon will be ready for students. The school is located at 41 Fitch Court in Marlborough. The building project came in on time and under budget. The quality of the construction is remarkable; the building includes a high level of natural light, an energy efficient heating system, a wonderful new kitchen area, an amazing gymnasium and stage. Every classroom is equipped with a Promethean interactive board and an Active Sound system. The sound system will ensure that all students regardless of where they sit in the classroom will hear the instruction with the same volume and clarity.

In the area of technology, we worked with Apple during the summer to review all of our server settings to maximize performance. We have installed new servers at the high school which we anticipate will solve performance issues. We have a new ICT server located at the high school for digital portfolios, this will allow for portfolio artifacts to follow students as they progress from elementary through high school. We have also installed new versions of PowerSchool and First Class, each having significant improvements.

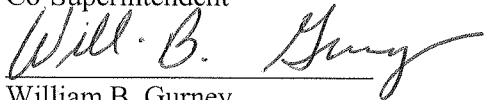
Our SAU 29 mentoring program (including mentor training and mentor/mentee meetings) will occur the week prior to the start of school. New Staff Orientation occurs on Wednesday, August 25. Further details will be forthcoming.

Every year has its share of challenges and the 2010-2011 school year will be no exception. But when the children arrive on the first day of school, eager to learn and share their lives with you, we owe them our very best efforts. Each child will learn and grow as the year progresses, thanks to your hard work. Together, we can make a positive impact on the lives of our students. They are the true focus of our efforts and our professional lives.

Sincerely,



Wayne E. Woolridge  
Co-Superintendent



William B. Gurney  
Co-Superintendent