Superintendent’s Message

Dear NHSSD Community,

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I began my tenure as Superintendent of Schools in the New Hope-Solebury School District. Throughout my first few months of this year I have had the opportunity to meet with many of the stakeholders of the school district including parents, teachers, staff, and community members. Throughout those meetings the pride and excitement for the school district and its commitment to students and families was very clear. The strong family and community commitment to our schools has also been apparent in meeting with members of our school community and this is another hallmark of the excellent district I have the honor to lead. I look forward to continuing the traditions and educational excellence which are the keystone of the success of the New Hope-Solebury School District. I am also incredibly grateful for the warm welcome I have received to the New Hope-Solebury School Community and look forward to working with you to foster the growth and development of New Hope-Solebury’s next generation.

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year already. Our students and staff have accomplished a great deal this year and are looking forward to an amazing conclusion to the year. We are pursuing several key initiatives this year which will continue to enhance the educational program for our students and the quality of education we are providing in our schools inclusive of New Hope.

- Technology initiatives which support our curriculum and educational program which further enhance student learning and access to educational content through programs such as Canvas and Seesaw. These programs also further our ability to keep parents informed about the activities and learning taking place in our classrooms.

- Project Based Learning assists us in personalizing learning for our students. PBL provides opportunities for student growth through multidisciplinary projects which help to extend student learning to apply and synthesize concepts they have learned in their coursework.

- Social-emotional learning which serves as a framework for our schools through our School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support helps to frame student behavior choices and school climate to develop a greater school-wide community. These programs have been recently recognized for their implementation at our LES and UES.

- Emergency management planning which allows our students, staff and broader school community to be prepared for emergency situations, most notably through our implementation of the ALICE protocols. Trainings and increased security measures in our schools will allow us to be more prepared for various emergency situations.

- Revisions to our curriculum which allow us to ensure that we are keeping current with best instructional practices for our students as well as educational content in all areas which provide our students the tools they need to be college and career ready and prepared for their futures beyond New Hope-Solebury School District. These revisions continue our Curriculum 2020 project.

It is with excitement we embark on these challenges and look for new opportunities to grow and develop as a school district to serve our students and broader school community. We appreciate the incredible support we receive from all of you in realizing the potential of our students and ensuring they have an excellent educational foundation on which they can build their futures.

I look forward to continuing to partner with you to ensure that we maintain New Hope-Solebury’s tradition of excellence in education for the students we have the honor and pleasure of serving every day. We have an incredibly talented and accomplished student community and I look forward to seeing them grow and develop into the future leaders of our society by building on the foundation we establish for them here in New Hope-Solebury School District. Thank you for your continued support in making our school community one of the best in the nation!

Sincerely,

Charles W. Lentz
Superintendent

#ROAR
Revealing Obstacles to Achieve Results
With hopefully the worst of the winter weather behind us, our teachers, staff and students are excitedly diving into the second half of our school year! Each of our grade levels is embarking on a Project Based Learning (PBL) adventure including topics such as What Makes New Hope a Community, How Do Plants Grow, and What Causes an Animal to Become Endangered? This is our first experience with PBL at the LES and our teachers have done an AMAZING job gearing their students up for this journey! We are excited to see our students embrace the process of learning, instead of just the product, which is the basis for the PBL initiative.

During our February building-based Professional Development, three of our teachers, Mr. Marrone, Mr. Kopp and Miss Wismer gave us a taste of 4 different engaging apps that can be used with our students on our new Tab10 Devices/iPads. ChatterPix, ToonTastic3D, Freckle, and Book Creator can all be used for formative/summative assessment in an engaging way across the content areas. We are excited to explore their capabilities in kindergarten, first, and second grade. Be on the lookout for glimpses of these engaging apps and how your student interacts with them on SeeSaw!

Each of our teams has provided you a snapshot below of what there is to look forward to as we anticipate the arrival of Spring. Always, should you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to reach out to your child’s classroom teacher, our guidance counselor, Mrs. Lang, or Ms. Frantz, school principal. Please keep up with us on Twitter @NHS_LES!

First grade is looking forward to so many exciting learning opportunities this season. Students will continue to use our devices to explore some applications that will focus specifically on creative writing. Using programs like ToonTastic 3D and Book Creator, students will design their own books including plot, characters and setting, which are the story elements we have been focusing on this year. This month we hope to begin our Project Based Learning (PBL) activity about our New Hope-Solebury community. Our PBL experience will involve collaboration, differentiation, and cross-curricular connections on the part of our kids. We can’t wait to get started!! The New Jersey State Museum will welcome us as we explore their museum, take part in a weather workshop, and attend a special presentation in their planetarium. It is going to be an awesome season!! First Grade ROCKS!!

Second Grade is looking forward to many new endeavors for the spring of 2019. Most exciting event (for both students and teachers!) is our PBL science study of endangered animals. Now that the animals have “chosen” their child, the fun begins! Students will be exposed to various means of research for gathering critical information with the end goal of making a difference. With the new year comes new writing; Second Graders are eager to learn cursive handwriting. We are off to an impressive start!

During math instruction, students have started to learn the partial sums algorithm and will continue counting coins correctly as well as measuring in both inches and centimeters. Additionally they will be developing an early conceptual understanding of multiplication through arrays. Keep practicing those math facts as their fluency is crucial to math literacy. The students will continue reading both fiction and nonfiction texts with the ultimate goal of making connections (text to text, text to self, and text to world) to deepen their comprehension. The second grade team is thrilled with the growth the students are demonstrating on a daily basis.
Dear UES families,

At the Upper Elementary School, we continue to move forward with a variety of initiatives while staying true to our mission in providing “High-Quality Instruction in Every Classroom Every Day for Every Child.” It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through 2018/2019! At this point in the school year, we have 6 more weeks until Spring Break, which is also the end of the 3rd Marking Period. As a reminder, immediately following Spring Break, we will begin PSSA testing across all grade levels.

Recently, the UES had some noteworthy news to share! First, the UES was recognized as a 2018-2019 Distinguished Title 1 School by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Additionally, the UES received a Keystone Award for Academic Excellence. These distinctions were given to the UES due to its high levels of student achievement. Second, the UES received a score of 100% on an evaluation of its School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) program. This evaluation was completed by outside evaluators who visited the school, interviewed staff and students, reviewed documents, and ensured the program was being implemented with fidelity. The UES will receive its recognition at this year’s annual conference in May.

In Language Arts, all grade levels have finished up their first novel study for the school year. Through these novels, students learned how to “Notice and Note” and were able to utilize various signposts to deepen their understanding of text. During the novel studies, all grade levels also focused on responding to reading using text-based evidence. We have now moved back into our Literacy by Design program and are emphasizing more non-fiction reading strategies during both whole group and small group reading instruction. All grade levels are working through Opinion Writing and strategic instruction during our differentiated math block. In addition, all grade levels are incorporating additional resources into their math programming, including problem solving and online “personalized” learning for enrichment as well as additional re-teaching and guided practice for skill maintenance and retention.

The UES continues its focus on 21st Century Learning and the “4 Cs” - Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Creativity. The UES Makerspace has now become part of the culture at the UES as students have been using this space during LIT specialist and recess time. Students have been working in the areas of coding, programming, design, and research using Ozobots, LittleBits, Spheros, and KINEX.

We are getting close to another Mystery Motivator as part of our “Principal’s 200 Club.” Students are looking forward to learning what the next “motivator” is going to be . . . So far this year, we have played BINGO, competed in scooter races in the gym, made candy apples, and designed gingerbread houses. Students have been enjoying our monthly school spirit assemblies where we recognize pride ticketholders as well as students who have demonstrated the monthly theme. Monthly themes this year have included honesty, grit, friendship, cooperation, and responsibility. We encourage students to continue making good choices across all settings and to always Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe.

In addition to the core subject areas, students have participated in a variety of additional activities and events thus far this school year. Some of these include rollerblading, bike riding, designing chess pieces using Tinkercad and printing these pieces using our 3-D printer. Coming up, students will be using GarageBand to create their own music. Back in December, our Advanced Band, Advanced Orchestra, and Naturals performed in our annual Winter Concert. In January, our 3rd graders participated in the long-standing tradition at the UES - the Patriotic Performance. They even had an opportunity to perform out in the community at New Hope Manor! Furthermore, we have had students participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, including Reading Olympics, Girls on the Run, Science Explorers, and Jump Rope Club. Our school musical has just started and this year students will be performing The Jungle Book.

I would like to thank the HSA for their collaboration and efforts in supporting our programming and initiatives at the UES. All of us here at the UES are looking forward to an amazing second half of the school year as we continue to build a culture of collaboration, innovation, and inspiration for our students.
Middle School — Mr. Brian Loving, Principal

Even though Mother Nature says otherwise, spring is in the air and there is a buzz of activity surrounding the Middle School. The winter season has been busy with our Day of Giving, Culture Night, dances, and our wonderful Seussical Jr. production! Winter sports are wrapping up, advisory clubs are changing and program planning is taking place. St. Baldrick’s is right around the corner and many of our clubs and activities are moving to their final competition stages. Spring Break, PSSA & Keystone testing will be here before we know it. Spring is an exciting time for students and staff! Let’s just hope Mother Nature takes the hint.

High School students who are members of the NHS Cares TODAY program (Peer Education) as well as our High School guidance team (Peer Leadership), are continuing to meet with our Middle School students to discuss important topics that are facing our students as well as to better prepare our 8th graders for their high school experience.

Our 8th grade is gearing up for the spring with a variety of clubs and activities. In addition to Peer Education/Leadership programs, NAMI will be visiting with 8th grade to discuss mental health awareness. This is a busy time of year for 8th grade as they are already planning their high school classes. It will not be long before we are planning 8th grade promotion!

7th graders are off to a great start in 2019! We are proud of our two National Geographic teams in Social Studies who advanced to regionals at the end of March in Harrisburg. These students were critical thinkers as they worked on a problem-based, real-world solution to solving the urgent issue of plastic pollution in our waterways. French students are looking forward to their annual visit to the C’est La Vie Bakery. Algebra students are busy preparing for the Keystone exam in May, and in English, students are learning how the adolescent brain develops as we focus on reading nonfiction. We’re looking forward to the Element Wedding in the spring to wrap up a fantastic school year.

Our 6th graders have been busy learning about hieroglyphics, pharaohs, mummies, and the first civilizations to surround the Nile in their ancient Egypt unit. In Science, the students have been studying weather, earthquakes, tectonics, volcanoes, and the rock cycle as they explore the world around us. Our math classes are busy fine tuning their skills, making connections to the larger world and preparing for the PSSAs. In English, our students have been working on an independent novel study, nonfiction text, and are beginning to prepare for the big HIPster project and fair!

8th grade has been well represented in the ski club which attended 6 weekly trips to Blue Mountain Ski resort. Each year we have students that learn how to ski or snowboard by taking lessons and then practicing with their friends.

The NHS Middle School Student Council has a busy spring ahead. Our Student Council will be holding an Open Gym Night to Support St. Baldrick’s. All of the proceeds raised will support St. Baldrick’s. In addition, Student Council is assisting in organizing the March Madness 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament. Our Student Council members will also be traveling to Interboro High School to attend the Pennsylvania Student Council Region J Conference where students will participate in team building and leadership activities with other students from Eastern Pennsylvania. The month of April will be devoted to supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with our annual Penny Wars. This school-wide service project supports LLS, which is the world’s largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancers.

Our Middle School Robotics teams, consisting of 24 seventh and eighth graders, have been designing and building robots to compete in the 2019 Vex Robotics Turning Point Challenge. The Vex Robotics program gives students an opportunity to apply their learning in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), but it also encourages soft skills like communication, problem solving, time management, and teamwork. Our middle schoolers took three robots to Great Valley Middle School where they faced off against 25 other robotics teams. Of the 28 teams competing, our students’ robots ranked 3rd, 8th, and 11th! Two of our teams qualified for the PA State Regional Final, and one of our teams is ranked 8th in the state for Robotic Skills. Our two qualifying teams will be competing at the PA Eastern Region State Final in Norristown.

Through a project-based learning experience, a group of students in Future Cities with Mrs. Chuma imagined, designed, and built a city, Jikikanpeki City. Students designed a solution to an engineering challenge, Powering Our Future - design an electrical grid that can withstand and quickly recover from the impact of a natural disaster. The team earned two awards for Innovation and Attention to Engineering Education.
“Tomorrow is yet to come. However, tomorrow is, in large part, determined by what you do today”. John Wooden

With March upon us, the temperatures are warming up, the days are getting longer, and the end of the school year is in sight. As we approach these final few months of the school year, instead of slowing down, activity around the high school is rapidly accelerating as we prepare for the entry of the Class of 2023 and celebrate the accomplishments and eventual departure of the Class of 2019.

We kicked off preparations for the 2019-2020 school year with a curricular fair/course selection presentation for parents on January 31. The event was well attended as the parents listened and asked questions of the school counselors and administration. The agenda included new course offerings, upcoming changes, cautionary tips for a successful transition, and a timeline for the scheduling process. At this time, counselors have concluded visits to the classrooms and nearly all students have made initial selections for next school year. Verifications of student requests will be sent to parents by the end of the month with final student schedules being released in August.

Student organizations have been active throughout the recent months. In January, student government sponsored the 6th annual Mini-Thon, raising over $10,000 for pediatric cancer research. In addition, the National Honor Society sponsored the “Pie-The-Teacher” event raising money for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. To celebrate Read Across America, high school students traveled to the elementary buildings on February 26 and got the opportunity to visit with former teachers and read to the elementary students. February was brought to a close with the traditional Spirit Week activities at the high school. High school students enthusiastically and generously donated coins and collected canned food, along with competing in various competitions to claim bragging rights for the next year. When all was said and done, the Gold Team of juniors and sophomores pulled off the upset over the Blue Team.

This is also the time of year that we begin final preparations for celebrating our soon-to-be graduates and their many achievements. The APEX project is underway with seniors beginning to complete required assignments and refining their project proposals before departing for their experiences on May 17. APEX presentations to underclassmen are tentatively scheduled for the week of June 10. However, with the recent onslaught of snow days, the specific activities for senior week, such as the senior dinner, awards night and graduation itself, have not yet been set until we know there will be no additional snow days. An official announcement will be made as soon as these dates are confirmed. As in the past few years, we are hoping that the weather cooperates, and we can celebrate commencement exercises in the stadium.

May is always a busy time for testing and assessments around high school. Advanced Placement exams dates are dictated by the College Board and are scheduled from May 6-May 17. Keystone Exams are scheduled within windows given by the state of Pennsylvania. The high school Algebra I Keystone is scheduled for May 16-17, the Biology Keystone for May 20-21, and the Literature Keystone May 22-23. Students in these courses have been preparing all year so we ask that families keep these dates in mind when scheduling doctor appointments or other required dates that may require students to be absent from school.

For the latest information or news of high school events, please visit the high school website at http://www.nhsd.org/Domain/8 or follow us on one of the active twitter accounts.

Official High School Twitter: @NHS_Lions
High School Guidance: @LionsGuide
High School Athletics: @LionsNHS
The Education Office is responsible for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development for the students, staff and community of New Hope-Solebury School District. The Director of Elementary and Secondary Education works with Curriculum Liaisons (aka Department Heads), Instructional Technology and Student Services Departments as well as the various Board Committees and community members who are vested in the success of our NHSSD students.

The Professional Development focus for the 2018-2019 school year is a two pronged approach: K-12 professional collaboration centered on Best Practices in teaching and learning and differentiated professional development focused on individual needs of teachers to best instruct our students. Keeping with our rigorous August kickoff of PBL Gold Standard 101 training, we recently concluded two intensive professional development days (Feb.14+15). The focus of these days is detailed below, but rest assured, while students are on vacation, we are rolling up our sleeves and bettering our craft!

Day 1 - focus on District overview of the new Future Ready Index as well as Act 44 Safe Schools update. We followed up with work in our Buildings, Teams and Departments to ensure we are meeting new Federal (ESSA) and State mandates in our district. Our schools continually score well on any accountability instrument thrown our way. This is a testament to the hard work that our teachers and administrators engage in to meet the needs of our NHSSD students!

Day 2 - Best Practice Showcase. This is our 3rd Annual Professional Development event that spotlights our very own talented staff! Our teachers have a wealth of knowledge and talent that they can share with their colleagues and certainly do during this day. It is organized in a conference style where teachers sign up and attend various sessions that suit their interests. It is a great day of Professional Development that will continue for years to come!

Highlights from Curriculum Review:
The Curriculum Review Cycle is in its 3rd year and will focus on Reading, English, Language Arts (RELA) and Health and Physical Education (HPE). The committee has been dogged in mapping our content K-12 in both departments and have identified areas of focus for revision and addition. In fact, new courses will be offered at the HS with focus on classics like Shakespeare and Business Writing for more practical/applicable skill focus. The HPE department is looking to infuse more engaging and inclusive activities as well. While this work is tedious at times, it is vital for us to keep up with changing standards and stay relevant with our kids and community!

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(Mr. Giorgi leading Self-care Strategies for Teachers)
**Student Services—Mrs. Alyssa Marton, Director of Student Services**

It has been a wonderful first half of the school year in the Student Services department! The special education department has been working collaboratively K-12 to align programming and instruction for all students. This has allowed us to strengthen our practices to ease transitions and create better communication from one level to another. We are already starting to plan for the transitions for the 19-20 school year.

In April, we will be participating in the close out of our PDE cyclical monitoring. Auditors will be on site reviewing the final components of the audit that occurred last March. As shared in the past, we are very proud that the District did not have any areas that needed remediation.

Most importantly, we continue to celebrate student progress on a daily basis. It has been a pleasure to be able to share with parents/guardians the outstanding academic, social, and emotional growth of the students we serve.

In gifted education, we have continued streamlining and collaborating regarding our instructional practices from a K-12 perspective. We have expanded our offerings at all school levels and are looking forward to sharing that information with our families.

In the office of Student Services, we pride ourselves on communication! Please know we are always a phone call or email away. Please don’t hesitate to reach out at any time.

**Athletics—Mr. Kris Foulke, Assistant Athletic Director/Trainer**

**Winter Athletics Update**

The winter sports season is coming to a close and our teams are finishing up successful seasons. The boys basketball team finished their regular season with a record of 13 wins and 9 loses. They advanced to the District 1/11 Finals on 3/2 and qualified for the PI- AA state playoffs beginning on 3/9. Senior Topher Taylor was named to the All-B.A.L. 1st team.

The girls basketball team finished their regular season with a record of 16 wins and 5 loses. After reaching the semi-finals of the B.A.L. tournament the Lady Lions advanced to the District 1 Championship game where they fell to St. Basil Academy. Sophomore Rachel Saxton was named to the All-B.A.L. 1st team, senior Zoe Palau and sophomore Kate Dougherty were named to the All-B.A.L. 2nd team and senior Jordyn Sherman was named All-B.A.L. honorable mention.

Spring sports start practice in March, with our baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, boys tennis, and track and field teams looking forward to getting their seasons going.
2019-2020 Budget Update – At the January 24, 2019, School Board meeting the School Board of Directors approved a preliminary budget for the 2019-2020 year. The school budget process is governed by Act 1 of 2006 which establishes a set index by which property taxes cannot be raised beyond. For the 2019-2020 year that rate is calculated to be 2.3%. Districts can apply for exceptions to increase property taxes beyond the index for increases in mandated increased costs for PSERS, the state pension system, and Special Education if certain criteria are met. There are two specific paths that school districts can take at the preliminary stage of the budget process:

- Adopt a resolution to remain within the Act 1 Index
- Adopt a resolution authorizing proposed preliminary budget display and advertising

The recommendation was to follow path 2 as this is the only point in the budget process that allows a school district to apply for exceptions. At this early stage in the process with many unknowns it is critical for a school district to allow for as much flexibility as possible. The preliminary budget does not require the final budget to include a tax increase beyond the 2.3% index, but it allows for the opportunity.

The preliminary budget reports total expenditures of $42,123,332, which is being funded by revenue of $42,029,140 which includes a preliminary tax increase of 2.75%. That would require a usage of fund balance (savings) of $94,192 to balance the budget. Detailed budget information is located on the district website under the business office if you are interested in further details.

The budget will continue to be reviewed and updated as the revenue and expense picture becomes clearer. The Board will be presented with a proposed final budget in the May timeframe and a final budget before the end of June.

Facilities Management Plan Update – The Board Facilities Committee continues to receive updates on the facility condition assessment (FCA) which has recently been completed. At the February 26, Facilities Committee meeting a presentation was given by the company that completed the FCA. There are a total of 650 items which range from a few dollars up to an item that is $1.1 million. The total cost of all projects over the next 20 years is over $37 million. The challenge now is to analyze the full list of projects and build a facility management plan that prioritizes the projects by need, groups like projects together for time and cost efficiency and aligns to a complete and cohesive facility management plan that determines the short term and long range plans for our facilities over the next 20 years. This plan will be built out over the next six months and will be coordinated with the Finance Committee to determine the funding strategy. The Facilities Committee also reviewed a project list for the summer of 2019 as there are immediate facility needs that must be addressed. If you are interested in learning more all information presented at the Facilities Committee meeting is located on our website.

Human Resources—Ms. Megan Candido, Director of Human Resources

Welcome those new to NHSSD!

- James Albright, Food Services, HS
- Leila Crooks, Per Diem Substitute Nurse, District-wide
- Aimee Genuardi, Instructional Assistant, HS
- Dr. Charles Lentz, Superintendent
- Nicola Lewis, LTS Instructional Assistant, UES
- Margo Priest, Instructional Assistant, HS
- Charlene Prosser, Non-Instructional Assistant, UES
- Trung Tran, Systems Administrator, IT

Congratulations those who are transitioning to new roles in the District!

- Dr. Amanda Benolken, Supervisor of Educational Technology and Innovation
- Krista Edwards, Instructional Assistant, LES
- Barbara Webb, Food Services, LES

Do you know someone interested in substituting in NHSSD?

NHSSD utilizes ESS (formerly Source4Teachers) for our substitute staffing needs for Teachers, Instructional Assistants, Recess/Lunch Aides and Administrative Assistants. If you are interested in substituting in NHSSD, please contact Brooks Imel, ESS Recruiter for our District.

Brooks Imel, Recruiter
w: 856.482.0300 ext. 3134