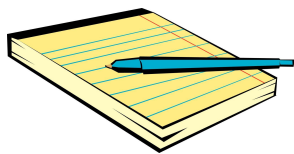




The mission of Keene High School is to cultivate the academic, civic, and social growth of all students to empower them to become contributing members of the global community.



Principal Notes

We're off to another school year, and I would like to welcome everyone back and hope both students and families are settling into the routines. Being the parent of two students in the system, I understand how much work takes place behind the scenes to support your child. I would like to thank you for the support and urge you to stay involved.

There have been numerous changes in administration at Keene High School including the consolidation to two house offices, adding administrative positions for the Director of Curriculum and the Director of School Counseling, and centralizing our school counseling services. These new administrative changes will enable the school to focus on teaching, learning, and college and career readiness.

As a school, we are taking a close look at attendance this year. I would like to remind parents that first block starts at 7:25am. We have implemented a new procedure for late arrivals. All students who arrive between 7:25am-8:45am will be required to enter the building through the main entrance and receive an admit pass to class. After 8:45 students will sign in with their respective house office and receive an admit slip to their class. Students will receive consequences for being tardy to school. Please discuss the importance of being on time with your student.

Lastly, we urge all students to get involved at KHS and explore what is offered here. We are very fortunate to have a community that supports education. KHS has a myriad of opportunities for all students. Reach out to your school counselor for more information.

I look forward to seeing your child this year, and please reach out if we can help in any way.

Upcoming Events

- 10/2 - 10/5 - Chinese Exchange visits
- 10/6 – Early Release Day – Students are dismissed at 11:48 am
- 10/9 – Columbus Day – There IS school today.
- 10/9 – Post Secondary Planning & Financial Aid Night for Seniors & Parents 6 pm (LGIA)
- 10/11 – Mandatory PSAT’s for juniors
- 10/14 – Homecoming Football Game 1:30 pm
- 10/14 – Homecoming Dance 7-10pm (café)
- 10/17 – St. Paul’s School Info. Night 6:30 pm (LGIA)
- 10/17 - Fall Music Concert 7:30 pm (aud.)
- 10/26 – School picture re-takes and make-ups 7:30 am – 1:00 pm (LGIA)
- 10/27 – Quarter 1 ends (tentative)
- 11/3 – Quarter 1 report cards distributed (tentative)
- 11/7 – 11/21 – Einbeck Exchange in Keene
- 11/8 – Winter Parent/Athlete meeting 5 pm (café)
- 11/10 – Veteran’s Day – No School/SAU offices closed
- 11/16 – 11/18 – Fall musical: “A Chorus Line” 7 pm (aud.)
- 11/22 – 11/24 – Thanksgiving Break – No School. SAU offices closed 11/23 & 11/24

April 2018 Trip to London & Paris! Spots Left!!!



October 23 Meeting

Does your daughter or son have the travel bug? Want her/him to have international travel experience? Consider joining the travelers who have already signed up! A FEW SPOTS ARE LEFT! Teachers Jen White and Amy Chapman of the Social Studies Department are offering a 10-DAY trip to **London & Paris in April 2018**. The trip will be run through EF Tours, and there will be a guide with us 24/7. You can still sign up by going to eftours.com and typing the tour number **1912659NY** in the box. Our next meeting for parents and student travelers will be on **MONDAY, OCT. 23 AT 6 pm in room 321. WE ASK ALL STUDENTS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WITH A PARENT. Questions? email Jen White at jwhite@sau29.org!**



Music Department Fall Concert

The KHS Music Department will present its first concert of the season on Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. This concert will include performances from the Band, String Orchestra and Chorus.

Class of 2018

Attention Seniors: Remember that you must have your senior headshot picture for the yearbook taken by New England Studio on West Street in Keene. IT'S FREE! You may call 355-1010 to make an appointment at your convenience; OR Mr. Raffelt will be here the first week of December to take free headshots.

Yearbooks

Attention Parents and Students: This year's yearbook will be on sale in the cafeteria the week of September 25 through the 29. Since this is the first sales opportunity to buy the books, we will be offering them this week for \$50 per book PLUS you can get one free logo for the book! You can also order online for this price @ jostensyearbooks.com. You can order your book plain or with more options!

Free Flu Shots For Students

Keene High School, in conjunction with the Pediatric Department and Family Practice at Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic Keene, will again offer flu vaccines at Keene High School. Clinic staff will administer vaccines during the lunch block in late October or early November. We will send permission slips home with students when the date is confirmed. This is our third year offering this service to all of our students. If you have any questions, please call school nurses MaryAnn or Harriet at 357-9040.

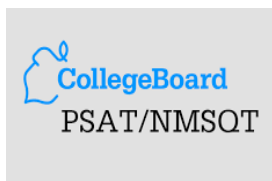
Senior Workshops

Starting the end of September, the School Counseling Dept. will be hosting Senior Workshops during I-Time. This is a great time for seniors to work on their post-secondary plans (do a college or career search, research military options, start or finish a college application, fill out scholarship applications, and so much more). All school counselors are available to assist students no matter what their plans are and no matter where they are in the process! Workshops being offered: *College and Career Readiness*, *Tips and Tricks for Writing the College Essay*, *Using the Common Application* and more! Sign up for workshops in Advisory or see your school counselor!



I Am College Bound

I Am College Bound is a national campaign to inspire, inform and provide support to students as they pursue their higher education goals. KHS is one of many schools in New Hampshire participating this year. The goal is to have as many students as possible submit one college application (to a two or four year school) on Friday, November 17, 2017. Admissions and college counselors from across the state (both public and private) will be working with students in the computer lab to answer questions, make last minute changes to applications, review essays, and support students as they submit application(s) on-line and on paper. All NH colleges and universities have waived their application fees on November 17 in an effort to support students and offset the cost of applying to college. Students who submit at least **one** application on November 17 will be eligible to win prizes and a chance for a \$500 scholarship. See your school counselor to sign up or sign up here: [I Am College Bound Sign Up](#)



PSATs

On October 11, 2017 Keene High School will be administering the PSATs to juniors.

What is the PSAT?

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT®. It also gives students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

What does the PSAT measure?

Critical reading skills
Math problem-solving skills
Writing skills

Students have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require students to recall specific facts from their classes.

Why should a student take the PSAT:

- To receive feedback on student strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college and career readiness and success;
- To focus their preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice;
- To see how performance on a standardized test might compare with that of others applying to college;
- To enter the competition for scholarships from NMSC (Grade 11 only); and
- To help prepare for the SAT, our state test. Students can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.

College Cost and Funding

Evening Event: *College Costs and Funding Options for Parents of High School Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11*

Tuesday November 21 at 6:30 pm in the LGIA (large group instruction area)

It is never too early to start planning for a college education. During this presentation you will receive an overview of how financial aid works, college savings options, and details about the impact of savings on student eligibility for financial aid. If you have questions about this presentation please contact me your child's school counselor.

Library News



We have two new staff members in the library this year. Jacqueline Neath-Foster is the new librarian, and Brittany Shepard is the new library paraprofessional. Jackie and Brittany join library paraprofessional Tammy Swift who works during the school day and Sharon Wilson who works after school.

We celebrated ALA's annual Banned Books Week in September, and for the month of October we are promoting YALSA's Teens' Top Ten list (access the list of books on our website). Students have the opportunity to vote for their favorite 10 books on this list of 26 through October 14 by accessing the url <https://www.dogobooks.com/voting/2017-teens-top-reads>. During Teen Read Week in October, YALSA announces the top ten books on the list. There is a theme each year, and this year's theme is *Unleash Your Story!* We have many events planned for this year's theme. We will post the

events on our Facebook page and library website. We have print copies, digital copies on our nooks, and audiobooks of each of the titles for YALSA's Top Ten List.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. The library is a great place to come before and after school to get work done. Students may check out up to ten items at a time. In addition to books, students may borrow laptops, iPads, nook ereaders, mp3 players, audiobooks, cameras, video cameras, flash drives, external hard drives, and CD players.

Access our website for more information by clicking on the library link on the KHS home page. You will find links to our databases, ebooks, pathfinders, book recommendations, and orientation videos. You can also access our catalog from home by using our website. The library is open virtually 24/7; students may link to our hundreds of ebooks from our catalog online, and students may access 24 databases from our website any time of day. If you friend us on Facebook you will receive updates about events and new materials. You can also follow us on Instagram @khsdrewlibrary to receive weekly updates.

Wellness Committee News

A few healthful tips from the KHS Wellness Committee to keep your Blackbird soaring high:

- Drink water! Bottle refilling stations are located throughout the building thanks to continued donations. Take advantage of them to stay hydrated, and avoid less healthy options with added sugar.
- Take a walk! While many Blackbirds have long "commutes" between classes, others are shorter. Use time between classes to stretch your legs on a walk so you can more effectively stretch your mind in class!
- Eat breakfast! A large number of students do not eat breakfast in the morning, leaving them (more) tired, lethargic, and hungry! Fuel up with quick grab-and-go breakfasts like a banana, apple, whole grain muffin, etc. Remember to choose items with fiber to provide long-lasting energy rather than sugary snacks that will only lead to a mid-morning crash.
- De-Stress! Life of a Blackbird can get hectic. Remember to take time for a short walk outside, a quiet minute alone to clear the mind, or make a tough call and cancel something to make time for other priorities. Also, stay with the flock and reach out for help when life gets overwhelming.

For more information about the KHS Wellness Committee, or to join, please email mlavigne@sau29.org.

Competencies

We had a busy summer attending competency conferences and trainings and working on our competency-based education (CBE) plan for this school year. In July, eight KHS teachers attended the four day Competency Design Studio conference. This was our second year attending the conference, and we continued to build our knowledge of CBE, professional learning communities (PLC), work-study practices, teacher leadership, performance tasks, and assessments. In August, six KHS teachers attended the PACE (performance assessment of competency education) calibration conference where we learned about common performance assessments, data collection protocols, assessment maps, and local assessments.

KHS has been approved by the state as a Tier 2 PACE school this year. New Hampshire is leading the way with CBE, and PACE includes local and common (across the state) assessments that support deeper learning that allow students to demonstrate their competency through multiple performance assessments. Performance assessments are multi-step assignments that measure how well a student transfers knowledge and applies complex skills. CBE stresses personalized learning and mastery of skills that can be transferred across content areas and applied to new learning situations.

As a Tier 2 school, we will learn how to create and implement performance assessments and how to score them. We will also learn how to use PLC meetings to analyze data in order to effect positive change on student learning.

The Core Competency Team (CCT) used what was learned from the summer training to create a plan for KHS this year which includes furthering our use of PLCs, finalizing department competencies, piloting our

school-wide competencies/work study habits, and creating performance assessments to use in courses. CCT created a three year plan and a timeline/calendar for this year (which you can access on the KHS website).

We are excited that we have teachers from math, English, science, and art working as performance task developers with PACE at the state level, and we have teachers who are being trained as teacher leaders at the state level as well. These teachers will bring a wealth of knowledge back to our school that will help us with our CBE journey.

We are offering a brief presentation on the work we completed last year and our goals for this year at Open House on September 26. You may also access many resources on the KHS website under the Competencies tab.

Speakers Series

Once again due to the generosity of the Academy Fund, the Speakers Series is able to fund guest speakers and presenters for individual classroom presentations and all-school events. The mission of the Speakers Series is to bring speakers and performers to Keene High School and/or to offer students the opportunity to view live performances elsewhere in order to provide cultural experiences for students, staff, and community members.

We have four goals: 1. To connect the school with the greater community. 2. To make instruction more relevant and real by bringing the curriculum to life through enrichment activities. 3. To celebrate the humanities, arts, education, and the workplace. 4. To provide students of all ability levels and socioeconomic circumstances access to cultural events not available on an ongoing basis at Keene High School.

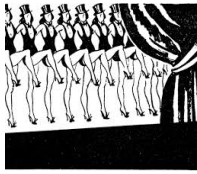
The committee consists of 11 members including 2 students. We are looking for at least 2 more students to join our committee this year. If your teen is interested, please ask him/her to see Kelly Budd in Blue House.

We've had five presenters already this year. On August 31 the Navy Seals Applied Performance Sciences worked with each fall sports team for leadership training, and they provided a one-hour presentation for all fall sports teams together. On August 30 and 31 Jason Purdy, a KHS alumnus, shared a motivational and magic presentation that focused on perseverance and grit. CSI classes enjoyed listening to Keene attorney Peter Heed talk to them about the judicial process on September 8, and psychology classes will work with Sanford Shapiro when he presents *The Beautiful Teenage Brain* on September 27. Also, Caya Simonsen will be speaking to classes about her experiences as a human rights accompanier in Guatemala where she assisted indigenous Mayans in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Cheshire Career Center Welcomes a New Student



The Computer Science program at the Cheshire Career Center will be adding a new member to the team. A Nao (**pronounced now**) autonomous, programmable humanoid robot developed by Aldebaran Robotics. NAO is the world's leading and most widely used humanoid robot for education, healthcare, and research. NAO is 58cm tall, autonomous, and fully programmable robot that can walk, talk, listen to you, and even recognize your face. Students will be able to program the robot using C++, Python or Java programming languages. This cutting edge technology is an incredible opportunity for our students and was made possible by a generous grant from the KHS Academy Fund.



A Chorus Line
November 16, 17, 18
7 p.m. in the KHS Auditorium

The Keene High School Drama Club is gearing up for yet another strong year! The fall season will begin in earnest in early October with rehearsals for its fall musical, *A Chorus Line*. This high school edition, altered slightly for a family audience, is available for the first time as of last winter! This is still the full show--with all the familiar characters and songs--but language and actions have been modified in a few places. We invite everyone in the community to come support the KHS Drama Club and hear what it's like to become a dancer on Broadway.

A Chorus Line takes you inside the lives of 17 Broadway-bound hopefuls. Only eight will make it--who will they be?

Once the longest running Broadway show of all time, the original production was directed by Michael Bennett who also co-choreographed the show with Bob Avian. Music is composed by **Marvin Hamlisch**, lyrics by **Edward Kleban**, and the book is by **James Kirkwood, Jr.** and **Nicholas Dante**.

The Drama Club is also busy planning the rest of its season, with a play in the early April, two seasonal social events, a trip to New York City, and many other adventures! All students are welcome to be a part of the Drama Club--there are many jobs that need filling and a lot of fun to be had! Come join us. Monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 2:30 in the LGIA.

Contact Mrs. Hansel (ehansel@sau29.org) for more information.

Nellie Mae Education Foundation Chooses One of Our Own!

The Nellie Mae Education is proud to honor innovative educators who are rethinking how, when, and where learning happens to put students at the center of their education. In celebration of their outstanding work to renovate and reinvent learning across the region, Nellie Mae's 2017 Lawrence W. O'Toole Teacher Leadership Awards has been awarded to Jeremy VanDerKern of the Cheshire Career Center and Keene High School.

The O'Toole Awards recognize public high school teachers who are advancing student-centered approaches to learning throughout New England. Student-centered environments are personalized to support individual interests and needs through interactive projects and thoughtful discourse. They aren't restricted to the classroom, as demonstrated here in Keene where Mr. VanDerKern connects students to real-world work experiences through internship opportunities with local business leaders. Student-centered learning allows young people to advance when they demonstrate understanding of material at their own pace, rather than accruing credits based on the "seat time" they've endured at a desk. And finally, these innovative approaches empower students to take ownership over their learning.

In recognition, Nellie Mae has awarded a grant of \$15,000 to advance efforts to drive student-centered learning throughout the region. Watch for the stories Mr. VanDerKern and his students develop over the coming months. Congratulations Jeremy!

NH State Inspection Station Comes to Cheshire Career Center

The Automotive Program at Cheshire Career Center recently secured licensure as an official NH State Inspection Station. This not only benefits students and staff but will also lead to an additional certification for students graduating from that program. It is important to note, the instructor, Mr. Turner, performs all inspections. As he implements the inspection, students are taught all the proper procedures which will lead to individual certifications. The State inspection fee is \$25.00, pass or fail. Checks can be made to "KSD Automotive" and must be paid at time of inspections. Appointments can be made in person or via email.



Einbeck, Keene's Sister City in Germany

The Germans are arriving on Friday, October 6 and staying until October 20. Two adults will accompany ten students; housing has been secured for all. The students and community are welcome and encouraged to join the group at various times while they are visiting. For more information contact John Mitchell, 352-0640 ext. 3705.

October is Manufacturing Month

Watch for community events, tours, in-school opportunities and demonstrations throughout October from the Cheshire Career Center.

What's One Thing You Can Do To Reduce Your Teen's Risk of Misusing Substances?

Talk to other parents! Get to know the parents of your teen's friends. Meet other parents whose teens attend the same school. Compare notes and observations of teen behavior. Here are some more suggestions:

- Meet the teachers if there are open houses, or just ask to meet with them to learn about their expectations of your teen.
- Meet your teen's coaches or other leaders that are involved in after school activities that your teen participates in.
- Go to PTA meetings.

Three Steps to Safeguard Against Medicine Misuse in Your Home:

- **MONITOR** the prescription medicine in your home; know how many pills are in each bottle and keep track of refills.
- **SECURE** your prescriptions the same way you would other valuables in your home, like jewelry or cash. Keep prescription medicines out of the medicine cabinet and in a secure place only you know about.
- **DISPOSE** of expired or unused medicine. This is a critical step in helping to protect your teens, your family and home, and decreases the opportunity for your teens or their friends to abuse your medicine. Take your unused prescription medications to the Keene Police Department Anonymous Prescription Drop Off Box.



French Exchange 2018

We have a group of enthusiastic students preparing for the French Exchange 2018. We still have a few openings if anyone wants to travel to Europe. Spanish and Chinese students are welcome. The educational benefits of such a trip are huge. Linguistic, historical, artistic, and cultural benefits come with fun and friendly time spent with the French students. The students visited us last April, so the students already know each other. This makes the trip even more significant.

The dates of the ten-day trip are April 17-27, 2018. The itinerary includes one week's home stay, three days in

Paris, and field trips to Germany and Alsace (one of the most beautiful regions of France). In Paris, we'll visit the Eiffel Tower, Les Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Notre-Dame, the Louvre Museum, the Musée d'Orsay, Versailles, the Latin Quarter, Montmartre, and the artists' district. We'll sit in the cafés and watch the world go by. If you are interested, contact Madame Reilly or Madame Wilson. Prices are very competitive.