

## NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The 2008-09 school year was filled with many varied accomplishments. Some of the more significant include the establishment of more cost effective and educationally appropriate special needs classrooms in the district. Developing such opportunities for our students enabled the district to better address student needs. Ending the long travel for students who were, prior to the establishment of specialized educational program, transported to out of district programs often more than an hour drive away has allowed students access to quality education programs within their own community. At the high school, we expanded and strengthened pre-engineering, robotics, digital design, and on-line educational programs. Additionally, in an effort to better meet the needs of students, the high school was reorganized around an upper and lower house model. This model has proven successful in helping students adjust to the transition between middle school and high school and high school and college and/or the world of work. Clearly, 9th graders need different support systems than do 12th graders who must prepare to leave the security of their local high school. Our goal is constant...preparing students for success in a global society. While our work at the high school was significant, elementary and middle school teachers and administrators continued their efforts to strengthen elementary education programs via the implementation of a comprehensive, standards based curriculum.

All of our efforts to improve the quality of instruction and to expand educational opportunities for students were dwarfed by the impact of the deepest economic recession in 75 years. While the school year began quietly, by December 2008 it was obvious that the communities would not be able to sustain the educational delivery patterns we had enjoyed in the past. Working with town officials, parents, teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders, the school committee approved a plan to consolidate schools. K-2 grade students from the Peter Fitzpatrick School and 3-5 grade students from Squannacook Elementary School were reassigned to other school buildings within the district. The district preschool program was centralized and moved to the vacated Squannacook Elementary School Building. While the consolidation enabled the district to reduce force and decrease building operational costs, these school closures were difficult for both the school and town communities. The idea of closing schools was clearly difficult to contemplate never mind accept. However, the actual move of dozens of teachers and tons of classroom supplies was even more difficult. The summer of 2009 was filled with incredible activity. Members of the plant and facilities and technology departments, teachers, students, parents and

administrators all worked to ensure that “new” classrooms were ready for students on the first day of the 2009-10 school year.

Sadly, cost savings from school consolidation did not close the budget gap, but a magnanimous offer from members of employee groups did. The district received more than \$650K in salary concessions. The district also caused quite a stir when it entered into an agreement to share the services of its superintendent with another school district. Dollars saved from this plan allowed the district to hire back three more teachers who had been “pink-slipped.” The collective efforts of all within the school community enabled the district to keep educational programs vital to the future success of our students. The unselfish way in which all addressed the financial crisis is testament to the integrity and resolve of both the school district and the communities that it serves.

Finally, those of us who work and learn within the North Middlesex Regional School District are grateful to the citizens of Ashby, Pepperell and Townsend for the continued support. The future is uncertain, but our collective commitment to our children is not.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen M. Marshall  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## ASHBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I am pleased to be submitting my fifth annual town report to the citizens of Ashby.

The school has a total of 225 students in Kindergarten to grade 5, with 116 males and 109 females. School enrollment has dipped less than 1% over the past year, minus our preschool population. We continue to take school choice from neighboring schools if numbers allow in each particular grade level. We have students joining us this year from Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Gardner, Lunenburg, Winchendon and Worcester.

The number of students enrolled in each AES grade level on October 1, 2009 is as follows:

- Full Day Kindergarte = 44 students (two teachers)
- Grade 1 = 37 students (two teachers)
- Grade 2 = 23 students (one teacher)
- Grade 3 = 32 students (one teacher)
- Grade 4 = 45 students (two teachers)
- Grade 5 = 44 students (two teachers)

The mission of Ashby Elementary School is to provide students with the highest quality educational opportunities in a safe and secure environment. We strive to foster individual academic success and social growth through a partnership with students, staff, families and the community. The vision of our school is to promote a safe learning environment where all students can learn and succeed, each in their own way. Our school fosters a love of learning by promoting high expectations for each student. We provide a standards-based curriculum that supports all learning styles, which evolve through ongoing assessments. Our school believes that respect and communication are the building blocks of a well-balanced community. A respect for diversity and self will help us achieve academic excellence. Our core values include: respect, responsibility, integrity, caring, citizenship, and communication. For the past two years we have adopted a code of conduct, which is good discipline based on our core values stemming from respect. Respect for authority, peers, self and for rules.

Ashby Elementary School Council members (Mrs. Jessica Johnson, Mrs. Annica Scott, Mrs. Tiffany Call, Mrs. Kimberly Clark, Mrs. Kerrin Tammik, Ms. Karen Peredina, Ms. Christine Grimshaw, Mrs. Paula Roberts and myself) meet monthly to develop the school's Improvement Plan which continually looks at the following ten areas: Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Accountability, Technology, Human Resources, Communication/Partnerships, Resource Acquisition and Management, Plant and Facilities, Image, District and School Climate, and Student Services.

Ashby Elementary School has an active Parent Teacher Cooperative (PTC) group, which provides the students with a variety of cultural and curriculum based assembly programs. We have also formed a Playground Committee which is raising funds through various venues to replace our 20 year old wooden play structure. There are numerous opportunities for parent and community involvement at the school. We especially enjoy having senior volunteers work off their tax dollars by assisting in the schools. The Ashby Senior Citizen Tax Write-Off Program allows seniors who meet financial requirements, to work within various departments around the town to lower their taxes. We thank the town for this opportunity to bring the old and young together. The district Parent Out-Reach Coordinator, Mrs. Nancy Amante, continues to provide resources to the parents and community.

A Student Council, which is made-up of fourth and fifth graders, provides opportunities to visit and share experiences with other schools within the district. In addition, we continue traditions such as the fifth grade yearbook, the fifth grade wall of fame, Dr. Seuss' Book Give Away, a food drive, spirit week, Alex's Lemonade Stand/ Car Wash, Community Reading Day, Field Day, and Fitness Day.

We provide many activity choices after the regular school day ends. Mrs. Barnhart directs the After-School Enrichment Program offering classes for the students to partake in on a five week rotational basis. Mrs. Johnson, a retired AES Teacher, provides advanced group guitar lessons, and Mrs. Hencke continues to offer band to fourth and fifth graders, which perform at holiday and spring concerts. The Parents of Music also offer AES students private lessons after school hours. During the winter, we provide extra assistance in reading/English Language Arts and math to those students who failed MCAS. Mr. Wolfendale, Mr. Roy, and Mrs. Zajac offers a summer intramural sports camp and Mrs. Casson, along with Mrs. Barnhart, who provides an arts/crafts camp. Our BACK (Before and After Care for Kids) Program is run by Mrs. Tiffany Call and is open from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM to assist with Ashby's need for child care for students before and after the normal operation of school.

The results from 2009 MCAS are as follows: Grade 3 Reading (Advanced 14%, Proficient 52%, Needs Improvement 30% and Warning 5%), Grade 3 Math (Advanced 16%, Proficient 48%, Needs Improvement 25% and Warning 11%) Grade 4 English Language Arts (Advanced 7%, Proficient 51%, Needs Improvement 33% and Warning 9%) and Grade 4 Mathematics (Advanced 12%, Proficient 35%, Needs Improvement 49% and Warning 5%), Grade 5 English Language Arts (Advanced 27%, Proficient 53%, Needs Improvement 16% and Warning 4%), Grade 5 Math (Advanced 41%, Proficient 29%, Needs Improvement 22% and Warning 8%), Grade 5 Science (Advanced 39%, Proficient 43%, Needs Improvement 16% and Warning 2%). Kudos to our fifth grade class who ranked 37 out of 897 schools in the Commonwealth in the area of science!

Grade two students participated in fall and spring testing (GRADE), which allows the staff to build upon our strengths, as well as close the gap on our weaknesses. We utilize Test Wiz, Success Maker and QRI to build upon each child's strengths and helps diminish weaknesses. We are fortunate to have one Title I Teacher who lays the necessary foundation for students to become fluent readers in grade K, 1, 2, and 4.

The student body and faculty appreciate the support of the town which continues to provide the necessary resources that allow us to develop educationally sound programs for all students that attend Ashby Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Anne Cromwell-Gapp, M.Ed.  
*AES Principal*

## HAWTHORNE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

During the 2009/10 school year we are finally done with the ‘oh’ decade, starting on the next one—preparing for those ‘teen-years’, and Hawthorne Brook Middle School is now officially ‘thirty-something’. Regardless of any numerology or perceived trends of the times, we remain committed to preparing our students for success in the 21st Century.

A major change this year is the inclusion of the Townsend 5th grade into our middle school. It is a little crowded but they have fit right in and have been a positive addition to our culture. Student success is our first priority and is evident in our commitment to teaming. The 5th and 6th graders are both organized into two teams. Each team of teachers shares the same group of students and follows a common schedule. This shared schedule provides the teachers with the flexibility to modify and adjust student schedules to best meet the needs of each group. This year we reconfigured our resources and restructured our 7th and 8th grades into three mixed grade teams. Although students stay within grade levels for classes, the mixed teams afford opportunities for students to work with and get to know students in other grades. This configuration also benefits students and teachers by providing the opportunity to work together for two years creating stronger momentum within the curriculum and supporting deeper understanding of student learning.

Teachers work closely to coordinate team building, interdisciplinary activities, assignments, and tests. The curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, but the staff reviews and revises it to meet the wide range of needs and styles within the classroom. Ultimately, the team model allows us to create a strong web of support to enhance student success.

The primary focus of Hawthorne Brook Middle School is academics and we strive to provide a vigorous academic program for all students. In addition to the core classes of math, English, science, social studies and foreign language (grades 7 and 8), all students receive instruction in art, music, health and physical education. Our 5th and 6th grade students also have a computer skills class. Students have the opportunity to receive instruction and participate in band or chorus. Our library media program is fully integrated into the curriculum via collaborative classroom projects. Students are enthusiastically using the newly updated library database which utilizes web based search skills and even shows the top ten books being taken out at HBMS along with new arrivals as they are entered in the system.

There is also a wide range of extra curricular activities in which students can participate. Extra curricular activities provide students additional opportunities to develop many of the essential skills necessary to grow and mature in our soci-

ety. Students can be involved in interscholastic sports, theatrical productions, intramurals and a variety of other clubs and activities throughout the year.

This year we have focused our efforts on developing 21st Century Learning Skills and embedding them within our curriculum throughout the school. The importance of both technology and communication skills are stressed along with the strong foundation of academic content knowledge. Interactive white boards have been installed for use on every team. In addition to our two computer labs, two new mobile carts, each with 25 laptop computers, have been well utilized throughout the building. Students are actively engaged in collaborative learning in every classroom, providing them opportunities to work effectively in groups as well as on their own and process new information with their peers on a daily basis.

We are grateful to the PTO for their support and for providing funding for items and programs that otherwise would not be possible. In addition to the fundraising efforts and donations, parents have stepped forward and offered their time and talents whenever needed.

Communication with parents and the community is an essential component of a successful middle school. We can be reached via email at HBadm@nmiddlesex.mec.edu or through our website that can be accessed through the district page at <http://nmiddlesex.mec.edu>

Sincerely,  
Stephen Coughlan, *Principal*

## NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

It is with great pride that I provide this update about North Middlesex Regional High School, a student centered learning community that is committed to excellence. Our mission is to insure that each individual is challenged and supported to develop, pursue and accomplish goals in an environment of empathy and mutual respect. We are committed to empowering personal growth and thinking beyond our geographic borders.

In June of 2009, North Middlesex Regional High School graduated a class of 272 students. We are proud of both their academic accomplishments and their contributions to our school and community. A survey of this graduating class shows that 87% continued on to post secondary education, 7% went directly into the work force and 3% joined the armed services. This past fall, North Middlesex Regional High School welcomed 279 freshmen, to bring our current enrollment to 1181 students in grades 9 – 12.

Our primary goal at NM is to provide curriculum and instruction that is student centered, aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and develops 21st century skills that our students need to be successful in their future. We are proud of our current 11th grade students who participated in the MCAS last year and scored higher than the state average in all subtests. We are pleased with our advanced placement scores, which continue to be above national averages. We would like to recognize our twenty-six advanced placement scholars, as well as our seventy-seven John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients for outstanding MCAS achievement. We remain committed to improving instructional practices to increase student achievement.

Beyond the classroom, NM students excel. Our wind symphony group earned the right to perform at Symphony Hall in Boston last spring, after earning a gold medal in the state MICCA competition. We would also like to recognize our marching band and choral group for earning awards and recognition at state MICCA competitions. Our athletic program continues to compete at a high level in the Midland-Wachusett League, with several athletes and teams qualifying for tournament play. The number of after school clubs and organizations continues to expand each year, bringing our current total to thirty-four. These programs provide students with different interests and abilities the opportunity to become involved in our school community.

NM students are socially aware and are committed to improving the community beyond the school. We are very proud of our Relay for Life event, which raised over \$90,000.00 last year, and was the fifth most successful student organized relay in the country! Our Adopt a Family coin drive to support local families around the holidays was very successful, and our New Orleans community service learning group will again travel to help those still affected by Hurricane Katrina. NM students know the importance of building a strong community both in and out of school. We are extremely proud of our students for both organizing and sponsoring these events.

We are pleased to work closely with our school council to help build partnerships with families and community organizations. We encourage open communication with parents and invite you to visit our website at <http://nmiddlesex.mec.edu> and click on the link to NMRHS.

Sincerely,  
Michael Flanagan, *Principal*

## SQUANNACOOK EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

As principal of the newly formed Squannacook Early Childhood Center I am honored to present my first annual report to the citizens of Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend.

Squannacook Early Childhood Center serves 120 students ages 3, 4, and 5. Our class ratios vary from 8 - 12 students. Currently, there are 7 integrated morning classes, 5 integrated afternoon classes and 1 Substantially Separate Preschool class which is full day. The integrated preschool educates special needs students along side typically developing students. The class ratios are significant in providing an excellent learning environment for all students. The faculty and staff of Squannacook Early Childhood Center is a strong, cohesive group that works together to provide a safe and challenging environment for all students. The teachers and paraprofessionals have been incorporated from three different towns and bring a unique teaching style for students benefit.

The district curriculum correlates with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. These frameworks are based on recommendations from the Early Childhood Advisory Council to the Massachusetts Board of Education. Teachers utilize a variety of instructional strategies to teach various skills. This year we are continuing with the Scott-Foresman reading series, in order to prepare our students for entrance into kindergarten programs. Our newly opened gross motor room gives students an opportunity to exercise during the winter months. Utilizing a grant from the Amanda Dwight Entertainment Fund, students will participate in a performance of "Music Programs for Children" by Rick Goldin.

Communications is important and to this end we have a monthly newsletter, bulletin boards, lobby, and route 13 signs. Connect-Ed, a district wide program, is also used for communication. Many of our students arrive and dismiss with parents which offers a daily opportunity for communication between parents and teachers.

Our staff consists of teachers who previously worked in the towns of Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend. All teachers are highly qualified with degrees in Early Childhood Education as well as Special Education. One of the strengths of this program is having a variety of therapists centrally located. The program includes speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and behavior specialists. Having all therapists centrally located makes it easier to access their information which fills students' needs.

The newly formed Squannacook Early Childhood Center has established a new Parent Teacher Organization. Our officers consist of: President – Rachel Loprinze, Vice President – Karen Cerone, Secretary – Karen Cusick, and



Treasurer – Nicole Waite. The meetings take place monthly at Squannacook Early Childhood Center. The first fundraiser, which took place in the fall, was a success. The next fundraiser will take place this spring. We are forming a committee to continue to use and maintain the beautiful Squannacook Elementary School Gardens.

The support and assistance of Dr. Maureen Marshall, Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Linda Rakiey, Chairperson for Special Education, are greatly appreciated. The students and staff of Squannacook Early Childhood Center recognize and appreciate the support of the Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend communities in providing the necessary resources that allow us to develop an educationally sound program for integrated preschool students.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Morassi  
*Principal*

## MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. The Committee consists of twenty-two members – four from Fitchburg, represented by LeRoy Cark, Mark Louney, Robert Campbell and Brian Walker, two from Gardner, represented by Helen Lepkowski and Alice Anderson and one from each of the communities of Ashburnham – represented by Diane Swenson, Ashby – represented by Warren Landry, Athol – represented by Toni L. Phillips, Barre – represented by John Scott, Harvard – represented by Sue Tokay, Holden – represented by James Cournoyer, Hubbardston – represented by Jacqueline B. Kaminski, Lunenburg – represented by Barbara Reynolds, Petersham – represented by Ed Simms, Phillipston – represented by Eric Olson, Princeton – represented by John Mollica, Royalston – represented by Mary Barclay, Sterling – represented by Dr. Kenneth I.H. Williams, Templeton – represented by James M. Gilbert, Westminster – represented by Jeff Schutt and Winchendon – represented by Burton E. Gould, Jr.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Numerous challenges were faced during the development of the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget, including significant cuts to Chapter 70 state aid and trans-

portation aid, along with the continually rising costs of healthcare and an aging infrastructure and the need to update and modernize our technology and vocational/technical offerings.

Considerable effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration and staff to develop a cost-effective budget. The final fiscal year 2009-2010 Educational Plan totaled \$22,104,281.

The District was audited in August 2009 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath & Company from Greenfield, MA and an “excellent” report is anticipated.

## STUDENT BODY

Monty Tech’s October 1, 2009 enrollment included 1,355 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district as follows: Ashburnham (46), Ashby (39), Athol (130), Barre (39), Fitchburg (391), Gardner (166), Harvard (4), Holden (47), Hubbardston (50), Lunenburg (64), Petersham (7), Phillipston (15), Princeton (17), Royalston (18), Sterling (50), Templeton (89), Westminster (54), and Winchendon (114).

The Guidance Department/Admissions Department received 784 applications for admission in September 2009. Of these, 706 were for the available ninth grade openings. Due to the retention rate of our upper classes, we were only able to admit 22 students to the tenth and eleventh grades.

Monty Tech continued to offer a variety of opportunities for students, parents and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October, 1,620 district eighth graders participated in our Tour Days. Students toured many of our twenty vocational/technical areas and learned about the challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return at night, with their family members, to explore the facilities and talk with staff members. Career Awareness Night, as well as last spring’s Open House, were attended by an estimated 1,000 individuals per event, comprised of students, parents, and community members from throughout the district.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) continued to attract large numbers of seventh and eighth grade students during the 2008-2009 school year. Due to the high enrollment, a third five-week session was implemented. Participants had opportunities to attend hands-on after school sessions in a variety of vocational/technical areas. A satisfaction survey rated this program 4.8 out of 5. The 2008-2009 enrollment is the highest ever at 748 seventh and eighth graders. The survey also indicates that 719/748 students surveyed intend to, or have applied to Monty Tech.

In June of 2009, the class of 2009 graduated 293 seniors. These graduates received diplomas and technical certificates. Approximately 95% of the graduates planned to continue their education at the post-secondary level or employment, while another 5% planned to enter military service.

The Scholarship Committee awarded approximately \$31,850 in scholarships to members of the Class of 2009. In addition, they awarded \$6,000 to the practical nursing graduates. Once again, local (Business Education Enrichment Foundation) and state organizations, as well generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of generous donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves are grateful for this support.

The Articulation Agreements with local colleges continued to play an important role in helping our graduates enter college through credits earned at Monty Tech. Approximately 65% of our graduates entered a two or four year college. This number has continued to grow over the years.

## ACHIEVEMENT

Based on tenth grade MCAS scores, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to see an improvement during the 2008-2009 school year in student achievement in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics. In the spring of 2009, Monty Tech's passing rate on the mathematics portion of the test climbed from 98% to 99% while the percentage of students scoring in the proficient and advance categories in math went from 79% to 77%. The school's passing rate on the English portion of the test was 100% in 2008 and 99% in 2009, while the students scoring in proficient and advanced categories in English went from 73% to 80%.

The following data represents the percentage of students who met the competency score in English/Language Arts and Mathematics at the time of graduation:

	English Language Arts	Mathematics
Class of 2009	100%	100%
Class of 2008	100%	100%
Class of 2007	100%	100%
Class of 2006	100%	98.3%
Class of 2005	100%	98.6%
Class of 2004	100%	94.8%

## FACULTY AND STAFF

In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, Monty Tech was affected by the slowing economy. Our Chapter 70 aid was reduced by 10%, as were all schools in the Commonwealth. As a result of this, our staff was reduced by 22 positions, which included 6 retirements, 1 resignation and 15 layoffs. We did hire or transfer additional staff to cover a few of these positions.

The current staff includes 55 vocational teachers, 4 vocational teaching assistants, 45 academic teachers, 4 guidance counselors, 1 school psychologist, 1 speech and language therapist and 1 media specialist.

## SKILLS USA

Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Through our association with Skills USA, our students develop job skills, teamwork, leadership and professional skills.

Skills USA Massachusetts has the second largest membership in the nation boasting 19,300 student and 800 professional members. The state has 42 secondary schools and 1 post secondary school, 34 of which are total participation Skills USA Chapters.

The 2008-2009 school year was an extraordinary one for our chapter of Skills USA. Due to the growing membership in the state chapters, it became necessary to restructure the state from five districts to six. Monty Tech's chapter found the new structuring both challenging and refreshing. Our chapter was able to deliver productive, rewarding and educational experience for all our students. Serving as co-advisors were First Sergeant Paul Jornet, JROTC Instructor, Kim Curry, Cosmetology Instructor and James Hachey, Admissions Specialist

Highlights of the year included:

- A total of 42 medals were captured at the District Competition held in March at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School.
- Fifty-two students made up of medal winners and district qualifiers earned the opportunity to compete at the State Leadership & Skills Conference held in April at Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School. Monty Tech finished the competition with 21 medals and 5 students earning the right to compete at the National Leadership & Skills Conference, which was held in Kansas City, Missouri during June.
- Of the five students competing at nationals, three earned medals. Michelle Gosselin won gold in Action Skills, Jessica Lopez won silver in

Pin Design and John Perkins won silver in Power Equipment Technology. Ben O'Conner, Culinary Arts and Paul Leslie, Carpentry, finished in the top half of their competitions.

- Monty Tech's Skills USA chapter was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Lowes, Inc. for the restoration of Moran Park in Fitchburg. In June, the chapter performed 250 man hours of work removing overgrown trees and brush and then our Masonry Program poured a concrete slab for the construction of a storage shed. The final stage of the project, which is building a shed and installing a fence around the playground, will be completed in early November 2009.

## WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

A total of eight Monty Tech females successfully completed the 2008-2009 session (the seventh year of the program) of the North Central Massachusetts Women in Technology Program, also known as Project WATCH (Women Achieving Technical Career Heights).

The students included five from Office Technology, two from Drafting Technology-CAD, and one from Graphic Communications. Two additional students started the program, but dropped out due to co-op positions. One student, who emigrated from Vietnam seven years ago, spent three years in the program. The experience was invaluable in helping her acclimate to her new country, as well as aiding her in improving her English. She did so well that she was accepted at three excellent colleges and universities. She is now studying business administration at Fitchburg State College.

Through the program, qualified students from four area high schools – Monty Tech, Gardner High School, Leominster's Center for Technical Education and Narragansett Regional High School – have the opportunity to spend two days a month exploring career opportunities in high-tech fields, such as Engineering, Information Technology and Marketing, at Tyco Safety Products Company and SimplexGrinnell, two Fortune 500 companies located off Route 2 in Westminster.

The Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce, serving as fiscal agent for the program, provides transportation to the industry site through a private-sector grant.

Under the mentorship of company engineers, IT specialists and other professionals, participating students have the opportunity to experience firsthand life in corporate America. They are exposed to careers in high-tech fields working on "real world" projects, acquiring skills in teamwork, problem-solving and critical thinking.

Project presentations were held at the end of the year to showcase the student's work for company executives, school personnel and families and friends.

## CURRICULUM

In addition to the house building projects, the vocational/technical programs continue to provide communities in the Monty Tech District with a range of services as a component of the curricula. The projects listed below are a sampling of services accepted during the 2008-2009 school year.

### *Auto Body/Collision Repair*

Gardner – Athletic Department – pole vault stop

Sterling Police Department – push bar for cruiser

Winchendon Highway Department – repair rust and refinish vehicles

### *Automotive Technology*

Fitchburg Boys & Girls Clubs – repaired bus

### *Cabinetmaking*

Hubbardston – made signs for town

Barre Library – bookcases

Templeton – Narragansett School District – made a rolling cabinet

### *Cosmetology*

Gardner High Rise – senior citizen services

Gardner – Father/Daughter Dance services

Gardner – Dunn's Park – community service – clean up

### *Culinary Arts*

Taste of Wachusett

Taste of North Central

### *Dental Assisting*

Lunenburg & Winchendon – CHIP Program

Ashburnham Health Fair

Westminster Elementary Schools – Dental Education

### *Drafting Technology*

Banners for Gardner Air Jet Rally

Westminster Conservation Trust – made signs and posters

Athol – press booth

Barre Library plans

Hubbardston – CNC files for signs

### *Early Childhood Education*

Fitchburg Community Partnership – Math/Literacy Fair

### *Electrical*

Winchendon Housing Authority Garage

Westminster – wiring for holiday tree

**Engineering Technology**

Gardner – fixed PA system for Monument Park Bandstand

**Graphic Communications**

Templeton School Handbook  
Templeton Development Center Big Ticket  
Winchendon Pop Warner Yearbook  
Westminster VFW Menus  
Fitchburg High School Football Program  
Gardner CAD stationary  
Baldwinville PTO Tickets  
Ashburnham-Westminster Raffle Tickets  
NEADS Postcard  
Habitat for Humanity stationary  
Winchendon AHIMSA Animal Rescue  
Gardner Middle School Yearbooks  
Westminster's 250th Flyer  
North Central Charter School Prom Tickets  
Lunenburg Annual Report  
Fitchburg Yearbook  
Westminster Placemat  
Ashburnham Boy Scouts  
Gardner High School Illumination Book

**Health Occupations**

Annual Blood Drives  
Shop Angel Christmas Charity Collection

**Industrial Technology**

Barre Bandstand – repaired railings  
Gardner Municipal Golf Course – rain shelters  
Westminster – cannon wheels  
Fitchburg – plaques  
Phillipston – library ramp

**Information Technology**

Gardner – Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center Web Design

**Machine Technology**

Fitchburg Police Department – key chains

**Masonry**

Winchendon Elementary School – formed and poured sidewalks  
Winchendon Housing Authority – chimney  
Fitchburg – Moran Park – formed and poured pad for shed

## SPECIAL SERVICES

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special education services to over two hundred students.

The federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), was reauthorized in December of 2004 and came fully into effect on July 1, 2005. In August 2006, the U.S. Department of Education released new Regulations for Part B of IDEA, which went into effect on October 13, 2006. The 2004 Amendment to IDEA expanded upon the 1997 reauthorization and includes new requirements. The reauthorized act continues to emphasize the role of parents and expands opportunities for parents, general educators and special educators to work together in partnerships that support student learning and the success of students in adult life.

The Student Support Services Department at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School provides support to all students. We have full time nursing staff that administers medications, performs state mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the TEAM for a student's IEP meeting. We employ a full time school social worker that is able to participate in TEAM meetings and assist students who have needs concerning finances, family issues, homelessness, maternity, health issues and proper food and clothing. Our students have access to the services of a full time adjustment counselor and part time school psychologist. Both of these individuals are available for scheduled counseling sessions and mental health emergency treatment, as well as crisis intervention. We do have on staff a full time psychologist whose role it is to evaluate all students referred for an initial evaluation or who require a three-year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full time speech pathologist that is available to service students with disabilities, assess these students and consult the teachers within the building.

The Special Education Program at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School district is reviewed annually in May, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The results of this evaluation are used to improve the special education procedures and programs at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District. The Parent Advisory Council participates in this review and evaluation.

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District adheres to federal and state laws regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable student information.



## STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS

The Monty Tech Athletic Program was again very successful in the 2008-2009 school year. Our numbers keep increasing every year. We had sixteen teams compete in the fall of 2008, eleven in the winter of 2008-2009 and nine last spring.

Last fall, the Varsity Football Team, under first year coach Matt Sallila, did not win a game, but played with a lot of heart and enthusiasm, improving every week and giving their all during practice and games. They finished the year with 35 players (9 seniors) and worked very hard in the off-season to get ready for 2009. The Freshman Football Team was 1 – 6 and had 33 players complete the year. The Varsity Boys Soccer Team finished at 4 – 9 – 5 and played hard throughout the year. The JV Boys Soccer Team was 9 – 5. The Golf Team was 5 – 6 – 1 and missed the District Tournament by one match. We had three JV Golf Tournaments at The Red Farm Golf Course in Upton and played five other matches in an attempt to improve our program. The Field Hockey Team was 2 – 16. The Monty Tech faculty held the annual Teacher vs. Student Field Hockey Game to raise money for a scholarship for a deserving Monty Tech female athlete. It was very successful. The Boys Cross Country Team was 6 – 8 and the Girls Cross Country Team was 3 – 3. The Girls Volleyball Team had an 8 – 12 record. The JV Girls Volleyball Team was 5 – 12 and the Freshmen Girls Team was 4 – 11, as they continue to improve. The Varsity Girls Soccer Team was 7 – 7 – 4, qualifying them for the District Tournament where they lost to Blackstone Valley Tech in the first round. The JV Girls Soccer Team finished at 7 – 7, with most of the girls moving up this fall. Our girls program looks very promising. The varsity cheerleaders participated in the CAL Championships held at Westford Academy in October.

The Girls Varsity Basketball Team missed the District Tournament for the first time in many years, as they finished at 9 – 11. They finished the year with four straight victories to show promise for next year. The JV Girls were 9 – 8 and the Freshmen Girls were 8 – 6, as they prepared to move up to the JV Program this year. The Varsity Boys Basketball Team finished at 4 – 16. The JV Boys Basketball Team was 6 – 13 and played with a lot of desire and pride. The Freshmen Boys were 6 – 9 and showed vast improvement over the year. The Wrestling Team was 3 – 11 in dual meets and participated in many tournaments. Bobby Monks, a senior from Athol, became the first wrestler to win over 100 career matches, as he finished with 116. We ran a co-op team with Fitchburg High School and Oakmont. Monty Tech was the host school. The Co-op Ice Hockey Team did very well again, as they participated in the District Tournament, losing in the Semi-Finals. The JV Ice Hockey Team played very

well, as the younger players look to improve their skills. We participated in a co-op Swim Team with Leominster and had seven girls complete the season. We are looking forward to this venture again this year.

In the spring, the Varsity Softball Team again gave Monty Tech a lot to be proud of, as they won the Central Mass. Division III Tournament for the second time in five years. They won the Colonial Athletic League Championship for the twentieth time in twenty-four years and finished second in the State Vocational Tournament. They beat Turners Falls in the state semi-finals to advance to the state championship game at Worcester State. They played a strong game, but fell to St. Mary's of Lynn, 8 – 5. They finished the year at 24 – 3 and Coach Reid picked up his 500th career win and stands at 516 victories for Monty Tech. The JV Softball Team was 4 – 9 – 1. The Freshmen Softball Team was 2 – 6. The Boys Volleyball Team was 3 – 16. The Varsity Baseball Team finished at 4 – 16. The JV Baseball Team was 7 – 6, and the Freshmen Baseball Team was 2 – 9. The Boys Track & Field Team was 6 – 6, while the Girls Track & Field Team was 7 – 5.

The Outstanding male and female athletes for 2008 – 2009 were:

Male: Robert Cruz

Female: Ivette Tejada

## TECHNOLOGY

Monty Tech is very fortunate to have the support of a School Committee and an administrative team that is committed to meeting the technology needs of our students and staff. Monty Tech's computer inventory includes workstations using both Windows and Macintosh operating systems. Wireless access points are available in several areas of the school.

Many of our vocational programs rely heavily on computerized applications. Our academic departments have also integrated technology into the educational experience of our students through the use of interactive whiteboards. Monty Tech's students are well prepared to enter the workforce, military or college with exposure to computer software and hardware that they will encounter once leaving the school.

Monty Tech's Electrical Department has made improvements to the infrastructure of the building by adding electrical circuits in the Technology Office Server Room. They also began replacing old network wiring in the original academic wing of the building.

Data continues to be an important tool for administrative decisions. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Data Warehouse is being utilized to analyze MCAS scores and related data.

## GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds assist in providing many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2009, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$2,121,608. Programs funded by these grants include: Improving Teacher Quality, Enhanced Education Through Technology, Special Education Allocation and Program Improvement, Title I, Drug Free Schools, Occupational Education – Vocational Skills, Emergency Recovery, Safe Schools and Summer Academic Support. (NOTE: The Emergency Recovery Program grant for \$1,293,561 was a result of federal stimulus funding and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund [SFSF], offsetting the reduction in state aid for Chapter 70.)

In addition to state and federal grant sources, Monty Tech was also the recipient of private grant awards totaling \$23,190. Monty Tech received \$10,490 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a reimbursement for ice storm expenses. The New England Dairy Council awarded Monty Tech a grant for \$2,700 for refrigeration equipment, and Lowe's awarded the Monty Tech Skills USA Program with a \$10,000 grant to support community service and outreach efforts. Total grant awards for fiscal year 2009 was \$2,144,798.

## CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The School Committee and administration are extremely proud of the staff and students of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District and their accomplishments. The school continues to work with the business community, local educational institutions, higher education and its vocational technical counterparts to develop common sense plans and responses to the educational challenges we all face.

Monty Tech's School Committee, administration and staff look forward to continued growth and we are committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for workforce development within our District, and to that end, respectfully invites and encourages the continued support of town officials, parents and citizens in each of it's member communities.