

## **NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Due to the continued impact of the deep economic recession, the 2009-10 school year presented significant financial and organizational challenges. Due to deep reductions in state support for public schools and local communities for the FY10 budget, the school committee had voted to consolidate schools and modify its central administrative staffing pattern during the 2009-10 school year. These changes, while difficult and unsettling, significantly decreased operational costs. Due to the continued support of parents, the flexibility and the hard work of students, teachers, and administrators, educational opportunities available to students were preserved.

In addition to the consolidation of schools, the district reduced central administrative costs by entering into an intergovernmental services agreement with the Quabbin Regional School District. The agreement allowed for the sharing of a superintendent and an executive secretary. This novel approach to reducing central administrative costs was greeted with both optimism and reservation. Any reservations were overshadowed by the school committee's determination to address the serious impact of the recession on the educational environment within the school district. With courage, the District chose not only to consider creative ways to direct scarce resources directly to teaching and learning, but to take action to do so. While the concept of sharing administrative services required more delegation and changes in management style, it enabled both districts to keep more teachers in classrooms during the school year. Hopefully, this adjustment will be short lived and modified as the state and nation recovers from this difficult economic period.

In addition to implementing strategies to direct scarce resources to the school district's core mission, the administration prepared and submitted grant applications to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the repair and/or replacement of roofs and windows at the Ashby and Spaulding Elementary Schools. The administration also submitted similar "paperwork" for the North Middlesex Regional High School. An engineering study completed on the high school in the winter of 2007 identified numerous and significant deficiencies in mechanical, HVAC, electrical, fire, and communications systems. The report notes that the deficiencies are numerous and require timely attention. As the MSBA began to review and evaluate the district's high school needs, it informed us that Lunenburg, a nearby school district, had similar infrastructure needs at their high school. Thus, the MSBA urged both school districts to discuss the possibility of a joint school construction venture in order to determine the most cost effective solution to both school districts' construction needs. While the MSBA is cognizant of the controversial nature of such requests, it believes it has the responsibility to evaluate the economic impact of varied construction solutions. Discussions with the Town of Lunenburg continue at this writing.

Finally, I cannot close this annual report without making mention of the extraordinary efforts of the North Middlesex staff in helping the district address difficult financial shortfalls in state funding. The teaching staff and other employee groups within the school district voluntarily sacrificed one half of their negotiated salary increase in 2009-10 in order to close the budget gap that would have required the reduction or elimination of educational programs. Our staff has been a strong partner in the school district's efforts to preserve a quality school program for all students. We are forever grateful and our students are the beneficiaries of their generosity and sacrifice.

While the issues of finances sometime seem to consume too much time and attention, the efforts within our schools' classrooms continue to warrant our collective admiration. Our teachers and students work hard and as a result all students at our high school pass the state mandated MCAS test required for graduation. A large majority chose to continue their education well beyond a high school diploma. Our students reflect well on our schools and communities. As has always been the case, the North Middlesex communities support their children in both the best and worst of economic times. I am always amazed, proud, and appreciative of the level of community support for schools.

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

## **ASHBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The school has a total student population of 213 students in kindergarten to grade 5 (97 males and 116 females). Enrollment figures include student choice children from neighboring towns such as Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Gardner, Lunenburg, Winchendon, and Worcester.

Students enrolled as of October 1, 2010 are as follows:

- Full Day Kindergarten = 40 (2 teachers),
- Grade 1= 39 (2 teachers)
- Grade 2= 34 (2 teachers)
- Grade 3= 26 (1 teacher)
- Grade 4= 32 (2 teachers)
- Grade 5 =42 (2 teachers)

The mission of AES 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 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. We continue to utilize our code of conduct, which is good discipline based on our core values of responsibility, integrity, caring, citizenship and communication which stem from respect. Respect for authority, peers and for rules.

Ashby Elementary School Council members (Mrs. Jessica Johnson, Mrs. Annica Scott, Mrs. Tiffany Call, Mrs. Amy Delaney, Ms. Jan Tarrant, Mrs. Karen Rixford, and myself) meet monthly to develop the school improvement plan, which is in alignment with our districts ten areas: Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Accountability, Technology, Human Resources, Communication/Partnerships, Resources Acquisition and Management, Plant and Facilities, Image/District/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 are also working in conjunction with a local organization to replace our wooden play structure. There are numerous opportunities for parent and community involvement at the school. We continue to work with the town to provide an opportunity for senior volunteers to assist the school while lowering their taxes. The district Parent Out-Reach Coordinator, Mrs. Nancy Amante, provides resources to the parents and community.

We have many annual traditions such as fifth grade yearbook, fifth grade wall of fame, Dr. Seuss' Book Give Away, a food/holiday drive, spirit week, Alex's Lemonade Stand/Car Wash, Community Reading Day, Field Day and Fitness Day. We are also pleased to offer band to fourth and fifth graders, which performs at holiday and spring concerts. This past year we expanded our playground repertoire by adding a 25 foot ga-ga court. We embrace technology and have recently purchased robotic bee bots and pro bots, which are used by all grades. Check our school website for other exciting happenings, [www.nmiddlesex.mec.edu](http://www.nmiddlesex.mec.edu)

There are a host of activities after the regular school day ends. Mrs. Call directs our Before and After School Care for Kids (BACK Program) which runs from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM to assist with Ashby's need for child care for students before and after school hours. Mrs. Barnhart directs the After-School Enrichment Program which offers classes for the students to partake in on a five week rotational basis. 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 offer a summer intramural sports camp and Mrs. Casson along with Mrs. Barnhart provide an arts/crafts camp.

The results from the 2010 MCAS are as follows: Grade 3 Reading (Adv. 13%, Prof.47%, NI 38%, W 3%), Grade 3 Math (Adv. 13%, Prof. 53%, NI 28%, W 6%), Grade 4 English Language Arts (Adv. 14%, Prof. 47% NI 35%, W 5%), Grade 4 Math (Adv. 21%, Prof. 35%, NI 35%, W 9%), Grade 5 Math (Adv. 12%, Prof. 70%, NI 19%, W 0%) Grade 5 English Language Arts (Adv. 33%, Prof.40%, NI 21%, W 7%), Grade 5 Science (Adv. 28%, Prof.47%, NI 23%, W 2%). We are proud to have been awarded a commendation from the state last year for our high growth performance.

The student body and faculty appreciate the support of the town which continues to provide funding for the necessary resources that allow us to develop educationally sound programs for all those who attend AES.

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

## **HAWTHORNE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Hawthorne Brook Middle School is an institution committed to educational excellence, and a community committed to supporting one another. Although the economy has not seen the much-anticipated recovery and budget constraints enter into most educational discussions, the staff, students, and their families have worked hard to maintain much of what makes Hawthorne Brook successful. We are dedicated to using our resources to provide the best educational experience possible for our students in the 21st century and continue to look for ways to improve our school.

The dedication to the philosophy of maintaining a middle school where student success is the first priority is evident in our commitment to teaming. Students and faculty are divided into smaller learning communities, or 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. 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.

This is the second year of “looping” our multi-grade 7th and 8th grade teams. By having teachers work with the same group of students for 2 years, they are able to maintain connections and build momentum within the curriculum and support deeper understanding of student learning. This year, we have also reconfigured our “specials” classes. The Fitness, Health, and PE classes are incorporated into a Wellness program and the Art, Music, and Theater classes are incorporated into a Fine

Arts program. This integrated approach to studying the arts and wellness make them more authentic and hopefully will benefit students beyond the classroom.

Our ongoing goal to develop 21st Century Learning Skills has expanded this year to include the district initiative of utilizing brain-based research to strengthen the link between teaching and learning. The district has emphasized eight specific strategies to support a cognitive context for instruction. Additionally, our staff has embraced professional development opportunities that have been offered throughout the district in both pedagogy and technology. The direct result is the students' ability to access current research and presentation technologies and work collaboratively processing new information with their peers. The importance of both technology and communication skills are stressed along with a strong foundation of academic content knowledge.

This year, the new state mandated anti-bullying legislation has been highly publicized. Although developing a positive, supportive climate at Hawthorne Brook is something that we have worked hard at and are proud of, the new legislation directs us to examine our protocols and programs and make adjustments as necessary. Our focus is on developing individual character and respect within a culture where we all take responsibility for each other and our community.

One unintended consequence of all of the publicity surrounding the new legislation is the broad brush used to paint a negative image of middle school students. We are very proud of our students and witness numerous acts of kindness and generosity throughout Hawthorne Brook on a daily basis. Our students maintain a high level of energy and enthusiasm and exhibit their talents and determination in the classroom, during athletic competitions, and on the stage. They are a constant source of pride for the staff, parents, and the entire community.

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

Communication is an essential component of a successful middle school. We can be reached via email at [HBadm@nmiddlesex.mec.edu](mailto:HBadm@nmiddlesex.mec.edu) or through our web site that can be accessed through the district page at <http://nmiddlesex.mec.edu> .

Sincerely,  
Stephen Coughlan, *Principal*

## NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Let me first take the opportunity to introduce myself and your new Headmaster. My name is Christine Batty and I have been an educator and school leader for nearly 20 years, primarily at the high school level. Your new Headmaster, Ian Goselin comes to NMRHS with a wealth of classroom and administrative experience, most valuable is his knowledge of how to bring out the best in both teachers and students. Upon joining the district, we were both immediately struck by the tremendous dedication and commitment NMRHS teachers have to the young people of Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend. As a result, the students here have some incredible opportunities for both academic achievement and community service.

Enrollment at the high school, grades nine through twelve, is just over 1,100. In 2010, 85% of NMRHS graduates continued their education at either a two or four year college. Another 10% enrolled in technical schools or the military. Students at NMRHS demonstrate their academic achievement in numerous ways. Mean Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores in 2010 were significantly higher than the state average in both Critical Reading and Mathematics. Ninety-six per cent (96%) of NMRHS students pass the MCAS test the first time they take it with 86% scoring at or above proficient. Over 125 students participate in 11 Advanced Placement (AP) Courses averaging scores on AP tests of 3.7 with 59% scoring at Level 4 or 5. NMRHS students have numerous opportunities for enrichment including: 5 different world language choices (Latin, Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese, & American Sign Language), Virtual High School, a Future Educator's Academy, and Senior Capstone Projects. Additionally, NMRHS boasts over 40 clubs or extra-curricular activities and 38 different athletic teams.

Besides academic performance, examples of student success abound at NMRHS. Our football cheerleaders won the Sportsmanship Award at the Midland Wachusett League State Cheerleading Tournament. The American Cancer Society named NMRHS as the 2010 Nationwide Number One Per Capita Award for the Relay For Life Campaign hosted by our students. Last year, this event alone raised \$87,313 for cancer research and prevention. Students from NMRHS will be among 16 teams who will be competing on the second season of WGBH-TV's High School Quiz Show. Our community service learning group will again travel to New Orleans to help those still impacted by Hurricane Katrina as well as New York City to help the homeless. The Giving Tree provided 173 needy children with Christmas gifts. In total, NMRHS students raised over \$120,000 for charitable giving, scholarships, and community service projects. It is inspiring to see the number of students who are helping to better the lives of others. Please accept our gratitude to members of the community who have supported all of these endeavors.

As a school, we have begun the work of aligning all of the wonderful traditions here at NMRHS with the accreditation standards set by the New England Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Next fall, will be starting our self-study in preparation for a committee of teachers and administrators from across New England to visit and evaluate our school in 2013. This committee will determine whether or not NMRHS will maintain its accreditation for the next ten years. The first step in this process has been to examine our vision and values about teaching and learning by determining what is essential for ALL students to know and be able to do when they graduate. The outcome of this work has been the identification of ten 21st Century Learning Skills which will be used in the years ahead as a skeleton for our entire curriculum. Our next steps, which will involve you, our community members, are to determine the values we will use to guide our decision making and the vision for our school in the future. To do this, we will soon be conducting several surveys to gather information about what residents feel is important in an educational system.

We invite you to become involved in the numerous activities happening in our school community as it is your enthusiasm, support, and involvement that inspire all adolescents to do their best. Together we can achieve wonderful things.

Sincerely,  
Christine S. Battye, *Principal*

## **SQUANNACOOK EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

This is my second annual report to the citizens of Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend as principal of the Squannacook Early Childhood Center.

Squannacook Early Childhood Center serves 125 students ages 3, 4, and 5. Our class range from 10 - 14 students. Currently, there are 5 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, incorporated from three different towns, bring a unique teaching style in order to meet students' needs.

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. We are continuing with the Scott-Foresman reading series, in order to prepare our students for entrance

into kindergarten programs. The Second Step Social Skills program is being used to assist our students with social goals. Our gross motor room gives students an opportunity to exercise during the winter months. Thanks to Mrs. Linda Rakiey and the P.T.O. we have a new outside playground which was completed last fall.

Communications continues to be important. 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.

Our Parent Teacher Organization meet monthly at Squannacook Early Childhood Center. Our officers consist of: President – Rachel Loprinze, Vice President – Lisa Lavery, Secretary – Karen Cusick, and Treasurer – Natalie Brown. The first fundraiser, which took place in the fall, was a success. The next fundraiser will take place this spring. We have a committee which oversees the continued use and maintainance 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 Clark, Mark Louney, Robert Campbell and Brian Walker, two from Gardner, represented by Helen Lepkowski and Eric Commodore, 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 rising health insurance, student transportation, and utility costs coupled with a decrease of State Aid Chapter 70 of \$246,009 and a decrease in State Transportation Aid of \$406,008.

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, which represents a \$284,389 decrease from the 2008-2009 Educational Plan.

The District was audited in August 2010 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and an “excellent” report is anticipated.

## **STUDENT BODY**

Monty Tech’s October 1, 2010, enrollment included 1,401 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district: Ashburnham (46), Ashby (42), Athol (122), Barre (37), Fitchurg (394), Gardner (193), Harvard (3), Holden (46), Hubbardston (53), Lunenburg (63), Petersham (6), Phillipston (20), Princeton (14), Royalston (21), Sterling (53), Templeton (104), Westminster (57), and Winchendon (115).

The Guidance/Admissions Department received 736 applications for admission for the class of 2014. Of these, 636 were for the available ninth grade openings. Due to the retention rate of our upper classes, there were a limited number of openings for upperclassmen. Monty Tech admitted 28 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, 1,340 district eighth graders participated in 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, was attended by an estimated one thousand 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 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 enrollment is the second highest ever at 742 seventh and eighth graders.

The Scholarship Committee awarded approximately \$37,560 in scholarships to members of the class of 2010. In addition, they awarded \$6,000 to the practical nursing graduates. Once again, local (Business Education Enrichment Foundation) and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves, are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges continue 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 the tenth grade MCAS scores, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to see an improvement during the 2009-2010 school year in student achievement in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics. In the spring of 2010, Monty Tech's passing rate on the mathematics portion of the test declined slightly from 99% to 97% while the percentage of students scoring in the proficient and advance categories in math went from 78% to 80%. The school's passing rate on the English portion of the test was 100% in 2008, 99% in 2009 and 99% in 2010, while the students scoring in proficient and advanced categories in English went from 81% to 83%.

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 2010	100%	100%
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 2009-2010 fiscal year, Monty Tech was again affected by the slowing economy. Our Chapter 70 aid was reduced by 2%. As a result of this, our staff was reduced by four positions, due to retiring employees not replaced.

The current staff includes 56 vocational teachers, 2 vocational teaching assistants, 44 academic teachers, 4 guidance counselors, 1 school social worker, 1 school adjustment counselor, 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, leadership and professional skills.

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

The 2009-2010 school year was an extraordinary one for our chapter of Skills USA. The students met the challenges of district competitions, performed well at state-level competitions and took back to Monty Tech five national medals and four top-ten placements. Serving as co-advisors were First Sergeant Paul Jornet, JROTC instructor, Timothy Gately, English teacher, and Anne Marie Cataldo, Early Childhood Education instructor.

Highlights of the year included:

- A total of 51 medals were captured at the District Competition held in March at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School – 20 gold, 17 silver and 14 bronze. Students in four contests swept the events, obtaining all three medals. These included: Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Preschool Teaching Assistant and Technical Drafting.
- Forty-five District Medalists and qualifiers, 24 local Leadership contestants, 1 state officer candidate and 14 voting delegates, for a total of 84 students attended the State Leadership and Skills Conference, held in April at Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School and the Best Western Royal Plaza (Marlboro). Monty Tech finished the competition with 27 Medals of which 15 earned the right to compete at the National Leadership & Skills Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri, in late June. In addition, Victoria Holbert was elected to the State Executive Council and Paula Araujo was selected as a National Voting Delegate.
- Of the nine students competing at the National Conference, five earned medals and the remaining four earned a spot in the top ten in

the nation. Michelle Gosselin, Early Childhood Education, earned her second Gold Medal in a row in the Action Skills Competition. Arielle Maddocks, also from Early Childhood Education, earned a Gold Medal in the Job Skill Demonstration – Open Competition. Eunices Gonzalez, Dental Assisting, earned a Silver Medal in the Job Skill Demonstration – A Category. Matthew DiBara, Masonry, earned a Silver Medal in the Masonry Competition. Conner Bailey, Drafting Technology, earned a Silver Medal in the Extemporaneous Speech Competition.

- Victoria Holbert, state officer elect, attended leadership training over the summer. Following the training, she was elected to the position of State President by her peers on the officer team.
- Monty Tech's Skills USA Chapter completed the restoration of Moran Park in Fitchburg, through the generosity of a grant from Lowes, Inc.

## **WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY**

During the 2009-2010 school year, Monty Tech had one of its largest groups of young ladies participate in the eighth year of the North Central Massachusetts Women in Technology Program, also known as Project WATCH (Women Achieving Technical Career Heights).

Our enrollment included: nine Business Technology students, five from Drafting Technology, and one from Engineering Technology, for a total of fifteen students. The students participated in a variety of high-tech, real-world work projects, under the mentorship of professionals at SimplexGrinnell and Tyco Safety Products. The projects covered a wide range of business and technology areas, such as finance, software development, IT hardware and software, event planning, marketing intelligence and video screening.

Through the program, qualified students from four area high schools – Monty Tech, Gardner High School, Leominster's Center for Technical Education and Naragansett Regional High School – have the opportunity to spend two days a month exploring career opportunities in high-tech fields, at Tyco Safety Products Co. 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.

Students interested in participating in the program must first pass a pre-screening process at their sending schools, and then attend an all-day Orientation Program, where they are interviewed by company personnel.

Of the six scholarships awarded at the program's annual Final Projects Presentation, held in May, Monty Tech students received four. Their selection was based on their outstanding performance during the year.

In addition, three Monty Tech graduates were hired to work in SimplexGrinnell's Monitoring Call Center this summer. All three graduates will be attending

college this fall. Two of the students participated in the WIT Program, and the other student, a male, worked as a Co-op student in Monty Tech's Technology Department the past two years.

Monty Tech, with the support of Superintendent-Director James R. Culkeen, has played a pivotal role in the WIT Program the past three years by hosting three of the program's major annual events: the annual Orientation Day, the Final Projects Presentation, and the all-day rehearsal the day before.

## **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 provided during the 2009-2010 school year.

### **Auto Body/Collision Repair Technology**

Gardner, MWCC - security car repairs

Winchendon, YMCA - rebuilt & painted Ford truck

Templeton, Cemetery Department - repainted car

### **Automotive Technology**

Winchendon, YMCA - Repairs

### **Cabinetmaking**

Fitchburg Police Department - podium

Fitchburg Moran Park - sign

Athol/Orange Boy Scouts - birdhouses

Fitchburg, nursing home - cutting boards

### **Cosmetology**

Gardner High Rise - Cosmetology Services

### **Culinary Arts**

Fitchburg Art Museum - "Art in Bloom" pastries

Gardner Relay for Life - Pastries

Holden - "Taste of the Town"

Fitchburg, Nashua River Watershed Association - pastries

Independent Restaurant Group - hors d'oeuvres - Fundraiser

### **Dental Assisting**

Lunenburg, Winchendon, Westminster, Ashburnham - CHIP Program

Westminster, Winchendon - Dental Health Fairs

### **Drafting Technology**

Barre, Farmers Market - Banner

Fitchburg, Silver Sponsors - Banner

Fitchburg, Design of Shed for Moran Park

Fitchburg, Police Department - podium design

Fitchburg, Montachusett Challenger Little League Field - vinyls

- Fitchburg, Street Hockey - Banner
- Fitchburg, Christian Fellowship Youth Group - Banner
- Fitchburg, Jump Off Program - Designs
- Gardner, Relay for Life - Banner
- Fitchburg, Soccer League - Banner
- Gardner, Festival of Trees - Banner
- Westminster, Historical Society - Banner
- Westminster, 250th Anniversary - Banner
- Winchendon, Toy Town Elementary - courtyard design
- Early Childhood Education
  - Fitchburg Community Partnership - Math/Literacy Fair
  - Montachusett Association for Education of Young Children
- Electrical
  - Templeton, Fire Station - installation of lights
  - Gardner, Fire Station - data wiring
  - Winchendon, Toy Town Elementary School - light fixtures
- Graphic Communications
  - Westminster, Forbush Memorial Library - posters and flyers
  - Interfaith Hospitality Network - bookmarks
  - Gardner, Relay for Life - posters
  - North Central - tickets
  - Gardner, Memorial Lights - booklets/envelopes
  - Ashburnham News - postcards
  - Peoples Church - Letterhead/cards/envelopes
  - Ashburnham, Friends of Senior Center - logo
  - Ashby, Middlesex Camp - flyers
  - Athol, Athletic Association - tickets
  - Athol, District 33A Lions Club - Ad Book
  - Athol, New England Select - tickets
  - Athol/Orange, YMCA - dinner tickets
  - Baldwinville, Elementary School - Race and Carnival tickets
  - Fitchburg, St. Anthony's Church - Tickets
  - Fitchburg, St. Bernard's - Dance Tickets/Programs
  - Fitchburg, High School - Tickets/Programs
  - Fitchburg, Senior Center - Writing Project Book
  - Fitchburg Longsjo School - poster/yearbooks
  - Fitchburg, Boy Scouts - envelopes/letterhead
  - Fitchburg, Forge Inn - tickets
  - Fitchburg, Art Museum - brochure
  - Fitchburg, St. Denis - tickets
  - Fitchburg, MOC kindergarten - calendars

- Fitchburg, Troop 17 - decals
- Fitchburg, Police Academy - pamphlets
- Gardner, H.O.P.E. - tickets
- Gardner, MWCC - Handbook and booklet
- Gardner, Holy Rosary School - tickets/yearbook
- Gardner, High School - raffle tickets
- Gardner, Heywood Hospital - tickets
- Gardner, CAC - envelopes/letterhead/postcards, GALA Programs
- Gardner, Golf Commission - brochures/membership
- Gardner, Knights of Columbus - tickets
- Gardner, Athletic - Certificates
- Gardner, Doug Flutie Autism - posters
- Gardner, Public Health - pamphlets
- Westminster, Agriculture Commission - flyers
- Westminster, Pumpkinfest - flyers
- Westminster - placemats
- Winchendon, Ahimsa-Haven - Letterhead/brochures
- Winchendon - By-Laws Booklet
- Winchendon - Senior Center
- Winchendon, North Central Pathways - pamphlets
- Health Occupations
  - Blood Drive
  - Haiti donations
  - Pediatric Day
- House Carpentry
  - Holden Police Dept. - 20 sawhorses made
  - Fitchburg, Moran Park - Refreshment stand
- Industrial Technology
  - Fitchburg - Baseball shelters
  - Fitchburg, Historical Society - bronze markers
  - Phillipston - Build/fabricate offices, DPW Barn
- Machine Technology
  - Fitchburg, Coggsshall Park - manufactured plates and columns
- Masonry
  - Barre - repaint steps at Town Hall
  - Fitchburg, High School - dugouts
  - Winchendon Public School - concrete sidewalk repairs
- Welding/Metal Fabrication
  - Fitchburg, Fire Dept. - ladder brackets
  - Winchendon, YMCA - modify brackets for showers

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special education services to over two hundred students. In September 2009, the Student Support Services Department is actively providing services to approximately two hundred and eighty-seven students identified with disabilities, both on 504 plans and Individual Education programs (IEP's).

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 Amendments to IDEA expand upon the 1997 reauthorization and include 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 administer medications, perform state mandated health screening exams, and provide, 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, part-time school psychologist and school social worker. All 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. 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 ATHLETICS

The Monty Tech Athletic Program enjoyed successes again in the 2009-2010 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 seven last spring.

Last fall, the Varsity Football team broke a long losing streak and won three games in a row during a good stretch in October. They improved every week and gave their all during practice and games. They finished the year at 3 – 8 and 2 – 4 in Division 3A. The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished at 8 – 7 – 4, qualifying for the post-season tournament, where they lost to Northbridge 3 – 1 in an exciting game. The JV Boys Soccer team was 5 – 11. The Golf team was 10 – 2 – 2, playing in the Central Mass Division 3 Tournament where they finished 4th. They placed 5th in the State Vocational Tournament. 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 3 – 15. The Monty Tech faculty held their 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 3 – 6 and the Girls Cross Country team was 3 – 3. The Girls Volleyball team had a 5 – 15 record. The JV Girls Volleyball team was 5 – 12 and the Freshmen Girls team 5 – 6, as they continue to improve. The Varsity Girls Soccer team was 7 – 9 – 2, just missing the post-season berth. The JV Girls Soccer team finished at 8 – 4 – 3, with most of the girls moving up this fall. Our girls' program looks very promising.

The Girls Varsity Basketball team finished at 10 – 10 and made the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament, where they lost to Littleton 57 – 34. The JV Girls were 9 – 10 and the Freshmen Girls were 10 – 5, as they prepared to move up to the JV Program this year. The Varsity Boys Basketball team finished at 8 – 12. The JV Boys Basketball team was 15 – 3 and played with a lot of desire and pride. The Freshmen Boys were 9 – 6 and showed vast improvement over the year. The Wrestling Team participated in many dual meets and tournaments and finished at 3 – 11. The Co-op Ice Hockey Team did very well, as they participated in the District Tournament, losing in the finals to Oakmont. The JV 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 again, it went very well. They swam at the Fitchburg State University pool, one of the best in the area.

In the spring, the Varsity Softball team again gave Monty Tech a lot to be proud of, as they won 23 straight games before losing to Blackstone Valley Tech in the Central Mass. Division 3 semi-finals. They won the Colonial Athletic League Championship for the 21st time in 25 years. They won the State Vocational Tournament for the 4th time since it started in 2000, as they beat Greater New Bedford Voc. 11 – 1 and Shawsheen Tech 5 – 1. They finished the year at 23 – 1. The JV Softball team was 6 – 12. The Boys Volleyball team was 7 – 11. The Varsity Baseball

team finished at 10 – 8 and qualified for the Central Mass. Division 2 Tournament for the first time in many years. They played a good game against Millbury before losing 7 – 0. The JV Baseball team was 3 – 12. The Boys Track and Field team was 4 – 5, while the Girls Track and Field team was 8 – 2.

The outstanding Male and Female athletes for 2009 – 2010 were:

Male: Chris LaPlante of Westminster, Female: Ivette Tejada of Fitchburg

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Monty Tech is fortunate to have the support of School Committee and the administrative team that recognize the need to provide our staff with the tools to prepare our students for the workforce, military, or college. Monty Tech's technology spending could have been severely affected by the economic downturn in recent years. Fortunately, a portion of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds was directed toward technology spending. We were able to purchase computers and software for our students with reading and learning difficulties. We were able to purchase software that standardized the applications used in several vocational programs. We were also able to implement a portion of our disaster recovering planning needs.

Monty Tech's electrical department has made improvements to the infrastructure of the building by completing the replacement of old network wiring in the original academic wing of the building. As we look to the future, we will need to evaluate the need for wireless access throughout the building.

Data continues to be an important tool for timely administrative decisions at the school and state level. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education implemented online testing for MEPA (Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment), and Monty Tech participated as a pilot school.

## **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 2010, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$1,616,244. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Social Intervention and Mediation, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Drug Free Schools, Perkins Occupational Education, and Summer Academic Support.

In addition to state and federal grant sources, Monty Tech was also the recipient of private and competitive grant awards totaling \$140,990. For Fiscal Year 2010, Monty Tech received \$26,175 in grant funds to support instructional services and equipment in the Auto Body/Collision Repair Department, The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts awarded the school \$20,000 to pursue a

biodiesel project (project end date June 30, 2010), while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education awarded competitive funds to support the construction of a renewable energy center at Monty Tech. Funds awarded for the Monty Tech Renewable Energy Center (REC) project total \$94,815.

Total grant awards for fiscal year 2010 was \$1,757,234.

**CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

Again, on behalf of the School Committee, administration, students and staff of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, I thank all the member communities for their continued support of Monty Tech.