

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

Paul C. Gagliarducci, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The 2003-2004 school year was an important one for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. In the District's report, the administrative team members have detailed many activities, programs, and projects that were accomplished during the year. There is a tremendous amount of activity that takes place every day. As I review the reports, I am in awe of all that the staff accomplishes each school year.

As Superintendent, I would like to mention a few highlights. First, our students continue to perform well on national and state assessment tests. Whether it be the SAT or MCAS tests, we are proud of how well our students do. This year, for example, Minnechaug had the second highest percentage in Western Mass of students qualifying for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Program. This scholarship is based on MCAS scores and enables students to attend any Massachusetts state college or university tuition free.

Secondly, a comprehensive feasibility study regarding the future of Minnechaug Regional High School was completed. A hard-working committee co-chaired by John Lovejoy of Wilbraham and Doug Boyd of Hampden concluded after six months of study to recommend to the School Committee that they pursue the possibility of building a new facility that would address the District's needs for the future.

Third, we saw the newly refurbished and enlarged Green Meadows Elementary School come on line. This beautiful facility has given Hampden ample space for several years to come and truly has enhanced the school environment for students in PreK to Grade 4.

Fourth, we witnessed the emergence of a school support group called "Wilbraham Hampden Academic Trust (W.H.A.T.). This group of active townspeople held several fundraising activities, including a dinner dance, a spelling bee, and a golf tournament, to raise funds to support many special school activities. During the year they donated well over \$15,000 to support classroom projects not typically funded by the school budget.

Finally, there were a host of accomplishments beyond academics for many of our students, most notably two State Championships – Girls' High School Basketball and Boys' High School Volleyball. In addition, Minnechaug's "As Schools Match Wits Team" took first place, and college placements for the Class of 2004 were outstanding.

To coin a phrase from a popular old tune – "It was a very good year" here in the District.

Curriculum - Donna M. Scanlon, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has a rich and rigorous core curriculum, as evidenced by students' excellent accomplishments. The curriculum renewal process is ongoing and ensures continuity and consistency in grades PreK-12. The allocation of grant and local funds has allowed the District to establish equity in access to appropriate curriculum materials and resources in every classroom. All teachers use these resources to design powerful, standards-based learning opportunities that actively engage students in the learning process.

Strengthening the integration of technology into instruction to improve learning is a high priority. The School Committee approved a plan to improve staffing, infrastructure, equipment, reliability, and professional development so that all students have appropriate access to technology. Research reveals that technology makes learning more interactive, enjoyable, and customizable, and this improves students' attitudes toward the subject and their interest in learning. Our goal is to ensure that students maximize their learning while developing the technology competencies they need for the 21st century.

One explicit student learning goal in HWRSD is to improve writing as a tool for developing thinking and for engaging students in learning. This PreK-12 shared focus area provides the opportunity for the entire District to work together as a unit toward one goal. Local and national evidence suggests the need to put writing in its proper focus. As stated in "The Neglected R: The Need for a Writing Revolution," a report by the National Commission on Writing (2003), "...facility with writing opens students up to the pleasure of exercising their minds in ways that grinding on facts, details, and information never will. More than a way of knowing, writing is an act of discovery." National Assessment of Education Progress findings indicate that most students have mastered writing basics, but few are able to create precise, engaging, and coherent prose. This information substantiates the need to make writing across the curriculum a focus area for professional and curriculum development.

Curriculum, instruction, and assessment must meet the educational needs of all students and result in steadily improving student achievement. Accomplishing this requires that:

- Effective short-term intervention or long-term support is provided to all students who need it.
- Consistent core materials are available in every classroom.
- Current research based instructional practices for diverse learners are implemented in every classroom.
- Systems that assist in the continuous monitoring of student progress toward meeting the state and local benchmarks are implemented.
- Systematic, long-term, intensive, professional development is provided with in-classroom support as needed.
- Instructional technology is fully supported and consistently utilized.

These needs guide the planning process and the allocation of resources in the District.

HWRSD Academic Performance
Donna M. Scanlon, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

Since its inception in 1998, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) has increasingly become a major source of information with regard to student achievement, curriculum evaluation, and diagnosis of individual student strengths and weaknesses.

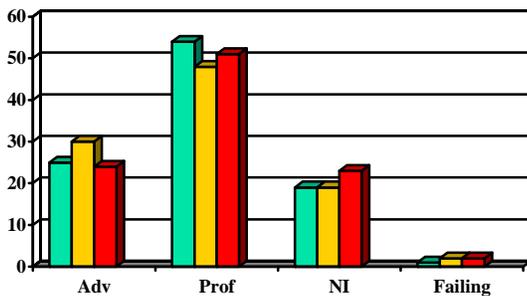
The chart below displays the percentage of HWRSD students who scored at the Advanced or Proficient level in 2002, 2003, and 2004. State results are provided as a frame of reference for comparison.

MCAS	HWRSD Results: Percent of Students Scoring <i>Advanced/Proficient</i>			State Results: Percent of Students Scoring <i>Advanced/Proficient</i>		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Grade 3 Reading	85%	87%	77%	67%	63%	63%
Grade 4 English Language Arts	71%	64%	75%	54%	55%	56%
Grade 4 Mathematics	50%	56%	58%	39%	40%	42%
Grade 5 Science & Engineering/Tech	N/A	70%	76%	N/A	51%	55%
Grade 6 Mathematics	62%	65%	59%	41%	42%	42%
Grade 7 English Language Arts	77%	77%	83%	64%	65%	68%
Grade 8 Mathematics	39%	56%	54%	34%	37%	39%
Grade 8 Science & Engineering/Tech	N/A	62%	51%	N/A	32%	33%
Grade 10 English Language Arts	78%	77%	75%	59%	61%	52%
Grade 10 Mathematics	66%	65%	70%	44%	51%	57%

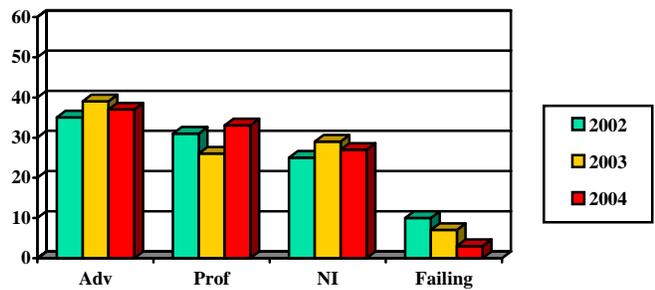
Members of the graduating class of Minnechaug are required to pass both the grade 10 English Language Arts and the grade 10 Mathematics MCAS tests as one condition for receiving a high school diploma. It is important to note that:

- ◆ The percentage of 10th grade students who scored at the Failing level in English Language Arts has decreased from 23% to 2% since spring of 2000.
- ◆ The percentage of 10th grade students who scored at the Failing level in Mathematics has decreased from 36% to 3% since spring of 2000.

The charts below show the degree of improvement in performance at the Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Failing levels at grade 10 from 2002 to 2004.



Grade 10 English Language Arts



Grade 10 Mathematics

The state testing system has been evolving continuously for the last seven years. By 2006, the MCAS program will test all third through eighth grade children in reading and mathematics every year. This change is required by the “No Child Left Behind Act”, which was signed by President Bush in January 2002. Other subjects will continue to be tested in the targeted grades.

In order for students to be appropriately prepared for MCAS and its high stakes, as well as for multiple career and educational options in the 21st century, it is essential that teachers, administrators, parents, community, and students work together knowledgeably over the long-term. Fortunately, the necessary partnerships in the District are vigorous and effective, with a shared commitment to continuous improvement at all levels.

SAT Accomplishments - Carolyn Lewis, MRHS Guidance Director

Verbal	2003-2004 Comparison of SAT Averages	Math
529	Minnechaug	550
518	Massachusetts	523
508	National	518

The graduates of the Class of 2004 at Minnechaug Regional High School represent a group of academically accomplished students. About 90% of this class was accepted at and attend post-secondary institutions of higher education. Of these students, 70% enrolled in four-year colleges and 20% attended public and private two-year colleges. Many of these students are attending highly competitive colleges and universities including: Barnard College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, Bucknell University, Colby College, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, George Washington University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Middlebury College, Northeastern University, Smith College, Stonehill College, United States Naval Academy, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School of Business), and Vassar College.

Mile Tree Elementary School - Lynne Kimball, Principal

Mile Tree School's faculty, students, and parents are focusing on this year's theme "Reaching Out To Others." Rarely a day goes by without some ongoing activities supporting this theme. Just to highlight a few:

- Mystery readers from throughout the community delight our students with surprise visits to read favorite books.
- Several interns from MRHS assist in classrooms and many area college students are completing their practicum teaching requirements at Mile Tree School.
- Our very active PTO has sponsored many interactive assemblies, math and science nights, "Anything Goes" nights, roller skating parties, holiday craft activities, Life Care Center visits, monthly guesstimate contests to support our Investigations Math program, Saturday pancake breakfast, family fun walks, and field trips at all grade levels.
- Over 480 pounds of food was donated to the Community Survival Center as part of the "Food for Kids from Kids" program
- Students collected \$1,000 in pennies for the Indian Pines Elementary School in Lakeworth, FL whose school was damaged by hurricanes

Mile Tree School Council developed a School Improvement Plan which focused on three goals:

1. To promote writing across the District.
2. To continue the National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation Process.
3. To create a safe, positive school climate to enhance students' social and emotional well-being.

Mile Tree School, parents, teachers, and children work together. Our teachers spend countless hours preparing their classrooms and lessons and networking with parents. Our paraprofessionals are always busy preparing materials and assisting children. Our secretaries update records and files, answer countless phone calls, and provide correspondence to keep everyone informed. Check out our building, which is always shiny and sparkling, compliments of our custodial staff. Our cafeteria staff has created new menus and presentations for students and staff. We welcome parent and guardian involvement and encourage them to have lunch with the children, volunteer in classrooms, and take part in all school events. We couldn't accomplish what we do without everyone being part of our theme, "Reaching Out To Others."

Green Meadows Elementary School - Deborah Thompson, Principal

For Green Meadows Elementary School, 2004 was an exciting year! The building project that began nearly two years ago was essentially completed in December. Students, teachers and parents have enjoyed using the wonderful new areas of the school, and the town Recreation Department began using the new gym for basketball. It is a pleasure to see the community using the wonderful new facilities at Green Meadows!

Students have been enjoying the new Library/Media Center. The 24-station computer lab is available to all classes for large group instruction. In addition, the faculty has taken advantage of our 24 wireless laptop stations so that instruction and use of the Internet can be accomplished right in the classroom. The District's Library Coordinator did an excellent job setting up the new library. It is fully automated which allows books to be scanned for easy tracking. Students have learned how to use the computer-based card catalog for locating books on various topics. We would like to extend our thanks to the Hampden Free Public Library for their wonderful support during our renovations. Ellen Bump, Director, was instrumental in arranging a schedule for all Green Meadows classes to visit the library during construction. Classes will continue to go to the public library throughout the year to promote its use by our students.

Volunteerism and community service are important aspects of our school community. We are lucky to have such dedicated and committed volunteers who spend a great deal of time helping out within the school. They work in classrooms assisting teachers throughout the day, help with copying tasks and working with the nurse to provide fluoride treatments to our students. Our student body also learns the importance of community outreach with several community service projects. Early in the fall students and their families contributed canned goods to the Salvation Army. During the holidays students did acts of kindness that were then turned into toys for needy children by Hasbro Corporation. We also celebrate our sense of community by coming together several times throughout the year to celebrate special days and events at our school-wide assemblies.

The school theme for the last two years has been *Construction Now, Instruction Always*. The students at Green Meadows enjoyed the experience of watching the building being transformed into the wonderful facility it is today. Although the construction could sometimes make our days unpredictable, the real-life learning that the students experienced will be long remembered. We wish to thank the Hampden community for its support for the building project.

Memorial Elementary School - **Deborah Thompson, Principal** (through summer 2004)
Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal (beginning fall 2004)

From Principal Deborah Thompson: In the spring of 2004, Memorial School students and teachers participated in a school-wide literacy project about the history of Quabbin Reservoir. The purpose of this unit was to expose all the students to the wonderful local history of Quabbin by tying it to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks of Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. In addition, this unit fostered cross-grade level activities, school-wide events, and a sense of community.

Students in grades two and three read the book Letting Swift River Go by Jane Yolen, and the students in the upper grades read Someday by Jackie French Koller. Clif Read, head warden at Quabbin, visited Memorial School on several occasions to speak to all students about the history and science of watershed development in Massachusetts. In

March, Jackie French Koller spoke to all students about the process of becoming a writer and her motivation and research for writing Someday.

Our culminating event in June was that every grade level visited Quabbin Reservoir. Clif Read guided us around the Visitor Center and we hiked around the reservoir learning the history of Dana, Prescott, Enfield and Greenwich. It was a memorable experience for all!

From Principal Marguerite Myers-Killeen: At the end of July, 2004, I was proud to accept the position as the Principal of Memorial School. Although I was not able to fully assume leadership of my new school until October 1st, I immediately began working with Mrs. Thompson to learn all I could about the Memorial community. My first challenge at the beginning of October was to get to know the students, families and staff. To help in this endeavor, I spent time visiting all the classrooms, reading to the students, and joining them for lunch and recess. I continue to spend time with students as much as possible.

At the end of November, we introduced our school-wide community service project of collecting non-perishable food items for the Community Survival Center. In December at our "Giving Tree" assembly, we proudly presented our donation of 755 pounds of food to the director of this organization.

Also at the end of November, I introduced the new motto for Memorial School which is "*Never hurt anyone on the inside or the outside*" along with our school song which elaborates on these words, and we are trying our best to make these words a part of our every day lives.

My goals for the New Year are to further strengthen the sense of community which exists at Memorial School and to continue to make Memorial School a great place for our children to grow and learn!

Soule Road Elementary School - Rosemary Brosnan, Principal

Soule Road School serves 378 students in grades Pre-K, two through six. Dedicated staff members collaborate to provide the highest quality educational experience for all of the Soule Road School students.

The mission of the Soule Road School community will be to provide the best possible education available to its students. With this in mind, the Soule Road School Council developed the School Improvement Plan. The plan's goals ensure that our education environment is a place where all students thrive and achieve to the best of their abilities. The goals are:

1. To promote writing across the curriculum.
2. To use technology to enhance the learning experience.

3. To promote social awareness

The programs and activities from the writing, technology, and social awareness goals provide numerous opportunities to enhance student performance in all areas. As they develop their diverse potentials, students will be encouraged to become capable problem solvers, able to cope with and adapt to the ever-changing world about them.

At Soule Road Elementary School, 2004 was a very exciting year for students. Some of the highlights from the past year were: In January, 23 students nominated by their classmates received the "Peaceful and Kind Student Awards" because they personified the qualities of courage and non-violence echoed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In February the staff presented the play "Sir Bookworm." Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday was celebrated in March with a special assembly with Daisy the Pig and Farmer Minor. The PTO's second annual ***Souleto Festival 2004*** was held in May and highlighted student's artwork, photography, poetry, short stories, instrumental & dance performances and drama selections. "Retro Bill," the official D.A.R.E. Safety Buddy, visited the District's schools in September and spoke about child safety and self-esteem. In October the Soule Road and Thornton Burgess schools were recipients of a \$47,120 competitive grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety, which made it possible for Soule Road to continue to implement the Second Step program and to offer an after-school component, *Peers Making Peace*. Toward the end of the year, the PTO-funded mural project began with "Artist in Residence," Susan Boss, and Art teacher Carol Gauthier collaborating and incorporating student artwork depicting the two themes of community and seasons in the large mural. And finally, the Technology Committee sponsored their third annual raffle. Proceeds have enabled this committee to purchase computers, printers, Accelerated Math scanners, computer supplies and software programs for the classrooms and computer lab.

Stony Hill Elementary School - Rebecca S. DeSmith, Interim Principal

Through implementation of its School Improvement Plan, Stony Hill has partnered with the local community to provide students with opportunities to see themselves as part of something bigger. One of the school's goals is to increase opportunities for students to learn from real life experiences within the school day. In 2004, students in grades two, three and four were part of Junior Achievement Program, where they learned basic tenets of business management, marketing and global economic issues appropriate to the grade level. Stony Hill has also partnered with Country Bank to initiate what has become a very successful banking program with over 100 students starting a savings program and enthusiastically bringing their passbooks to school to record their savings.

Also in keeping with providing students with insights into community life, Stony Hill sponsored Career Day with members of the community visiting the school and offering presentations on specific careers. Represented were members of the police and fire

departments, the medical field, human services, local businesses and town administrators. Our students learned about the contributions these people make to life in and around Wilbraham.

The sixth grade students again became “breakfast partners” as they worked alongside Stony Hill cafeteria workers and the Wilbraham Senior Center to provide a holiday breakfast to Senior Citizen guests. This program gave these students experience in leadership and service to the community.

Stony Hill continues to join with the District on the major initiative to increase writing skills across the curriculum. Every teacher has been trained at some level with the Collins Writing Program. Regular assessment of the implementation of the program helps maintain the focus of this important initiative and helps our students see the correlation between writing and learning in all subjects of the curriculum.

Our schools belong to our communities, and when community-school partnerships are encouraged and supported, they are sustained. Stony Hill is doing its part in making our school accessible to all who are stakeholders of education. We are proud of the learning taking place at Stony Hill and proud to share our goals with the community.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School - Noel Pixley, Principal

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School’s School Improvement Plan focused on four strategic goals for the 2003-2004 school year. Improving academic growth in the areas of math and language arts continued to be a major focus. In addition, the school improvement goals continued to address the need to promote a safe school environment for staff and students, while improving the overall school climate. Preparing students for the MCAS, and the increasing challenges that they face as they progress through each grade level, continued to be a focus for all staff. We are pleased to report that due to the improvement in student performance demonstrated by our 2003 MCAS scores in English Language Arts and Mathematics, Thornton Burgess School students are among the top performers in Western Massachusetts in both categories. According to our 2003 mid-cycle AYP report, students are performing on target to above target in all areas. Teachers and administrators at Thornton Burgess School continued to be actively involved in various grade level study groups and became immersed in curriculum review, curriculum mapping and various other professional development activities.

For the third year in a row, the staff made the unanimous commitment to continue participation with the “Foundation for Excellent Schools” (FES). During the 2003-2004 school year, each grade level team established an FES initiative that created enriching opportunities for all of our students. These initiatives included: Grade 4 - a math fair for all students; Grade 5 - students prepared for the National Geographic Geography Bee; Grade 6 - students established a pen pal program with West Springfield Middle School. to strengthen writing skills; Grade 7 – students mentored 4th grade students in

Language Arts classes and students enrolled in the Critical Reading and Writing Skills classes participated in an “Early Awareness Day” at Westfield State College where they learned about college life and opportunities that will be available to them in the future; and Grade 8 - selected students were trained in leadership skills at American International College and a leadership club was established with goals formulated to improve the overall school climate. Many thanks to Springfield College, American International College, Smith College and Westfield State College, all of whom volunteered to be our FES partners.

Also during the 2003-2004 school year, the exterior of Thornton Burgess Middle School underwent significant changes. As outlined in the School Council’s “beautification proposal,” old trees were replaced with new plantings, and the stonewall structures at the front entrance of the building were downsized for safety considerations. A new school sign will be constructed at the entrance of the parking lot signifying the final phase of this project. Many thanks to the following people for donating either the time, resources or funding to make this beautification project a success: Hampden Highway Department, Billy Bond Excavating, Hampden Lions Club, Hampden Nurseries, Hampden PTO, and HWRSD Maintenance Dept.

As in the past, the administration and faculty would like to recognize the parents, PTO, and VIPS for their continued support. Through their remarkable and continued support, the school is able to offer meaningful field trips and in-schools programs. Volunteers provided by these groups help in countless ways throughout the school year.

Wilbraham Middle School - Barbara Lukis, Principal

Wilbraham Middle School has had the involvement of many of our parents through the PTA and School Council. Our parent volunteers have aided our school in a variety of ways. We have had two groups of parents who gave up their weekend(s) to paint the cafeteria and the band room. Parents volunteered to help with our magazine drive. The profit from this drive enables the PTA to offer such programs as the Camfel Production on respect, which is one of our core values, and programs from the Boston Science Museum. Another parent volunteer donates her time to co-chair our Student Advisory Board whose purpose is to bring concerns to the administration from the students. Other volunteers gave talks during lunch on nutrition and the value of eating the right foods. The PTA organized a very successful Career Day with more than 30 volunteers sharing insight about their various jobs. During International Week the Foreign Language teachers worked with volunteers to organize a week of foods from different countries and some international students visited the school to share their culture.

Our students gave of their time and money to raise funds for Camp Sunshine, which provides a camp experience for children with cancer and their families. This year our students raised money for the troops by buying phone cards so that the men and women serving our country overseas would be able to talk to their loved ones. Our students also provided food to the Food Pantry during the holidays.

Minnechaug Regional High School - John K. Logan, Principal

Minnechaug Regional High School continues to excel in the academic, social, and physical education of its students. The faculty and administration remain firmly committed to the school's mission of "striving to prepare students to be responsible, creative, and productive world citizens who can live and work in a global society. Family, school, citizenry, and business actively participate in student development. A comprehensive educational approach blends the traditional and the innovative in all areas, directing students toward the productive use of information in a technological age. The school environment fosters respect for the dignity and self-worth of each individual and encourages the development of values of honesty and integrity." The following reports from the various departments highlight just some of the commendable educational activities offered at the high school.

English: The department offers skills-based courses freshman and sophomore year and a broad range of courses for juniors and seniors. The junior and senior courses are designed to build on the skills taught the first two years. These courses include AP English, Shakespeare plays, Blues and Literature and American Literature. Our AP students continue to do well in the AP exams with over 75% of the students receiving a grade of 4 or 5 on the exam. The MCAS scores are also exceptional with a passing rate of over 98%. Notable awards include the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement in Writing, a prestigious writing award from Scholastic Magazine and various awards for our literary magazine and newspaper

Family and Consumer Sciences: During the year interdepartmental activities took place with the Technology Department to provide baking demonstration videos for the town cable access channel and with the Foreign Language Department for a Mexican feast featuring cultural and language lessons. The Child Study classes continue to document direct contact hours for students seeking licensing by the Office of Child Care Services.

Fine Arts: Over 700 students were involved in MRHS Fine Arts Department courses during the school year. Six dedicated music and art teachers designed and instructed the 22 courses that make up the Fine Arts program. Art offered 11 courses that provided opportunities and experience in a myriad of art forms and techniques, and a number of students were honored with BOSTON GLOBE Scholastic Art Awards. Music courses were offered to nearly 400 music students in 11 courses. Minnechaug's three choirs had 120 participants, and the three bands grew to 180 strong. Intense fund-raising provided a financial base for marching band uniforms, culminating in a terrific concert starring music legend Gene Pitney. MRHS musicians were well represented at the Western District, Quabbin Valley, Plymouth State and All-State Music Festivals.

Foreign Language: All language department teachers, both from the middle schools and the high school, had an active year discussing first-year language course curriculums and the FLARE program. Latin students participated in a field trip to the Worcester Art Museum, French students visited the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, some French

students voluntarily took the National French exam, Latin students participated in the National Latin exam, and select Spanish students participated in the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association 2004 Essay Contest.

History and Social Science: This department was active throughout the year with its display case, guest speakers, and curriculum development. Teachers and students participated in programs dealing with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, the Iraq War, Media Fest, the Phi Alpha Theta State Historical Conference, Model U.N., Model Congress, and Mock Law. The Senior Seminar class spent a Saturday working with archeologist Dr. John Patrollo and the Hampden Historical Society on an archeological dig at Old Cemetery. In addition, the department spent the year preparing to shift curriculum offerings to align with the new History and Social Science Frameworks.

Mathematics: The department continuously works to enhance curriculum and this year developed new curriculum time lines for several courses. Based on student need, the Carnegie Cognitive Tutor for Algebra 2 was purchased and successfully implemented. In order to improve MCAS scores at the intermediate level, this curriculum was also enhanced by the use of the Carnegie Cognitive Tutor. In addition, all new teachers were trained on the "Tutor" and are ready to assume responsibility for its use in their teaching. Accelerated Math was purchased and is now used as a supplement to our level one program for those students who may be experiencing difficulties with fundamental skills. The use of graphing calculators has increased as more teachers have been trained in its use as a teaching device. Special recognition was given to five students from the Math Department for their scores on the American High School Mathematics Competition. This was the first time in a number of years that MRHS students made it past the first level.

Physical Education/Health: The department continued to update curriculum guides and manuals, which are invaluable reference materials for new teachers. Two new activities were incorporated into the existing curriculum - orienteering and a walking for fitness unit. Guest speakers augmented classroom instruction in the areas of alcohol and substance abuse, tobacco, fire safety, human sexuality, and sportsmanship.

Science: For the first time the Science Department will offer AP Physics. The Science Olympiad Team placed first in Western Massachusetts and 8th in the State. The Environmental Team placed 7th in the State, and a Chemistry Olympiad Team was organized. Sabra Dickson's article entitled, "Using a Biology Portfolio," was published in the November/December issue of the "American Biology Teacher".

Technical Education, Computers, and Business: These three combined departments continue to present a diverse offering of technical, applied and fine art classes at many levels in several subject areas. Of particular interest in the past year: computer students in Nancy Dugre's class took first place at the Western New England College Programming Contest; two students in Richard Scott's graphic class won Honorable

Mention Awards for their stop-action video animations at a film festival and Diane Jeserski's Entrepreneurship class took 3rd place and an Honorary Mention in the annual Springfield Technical Community College's Business Plan Competition. New teacher Bob Melnik is exploring different ways to teach Engineering and Design and visited the Electrathon competition for a possible future entry by Minnechaug. Department Chairman Dan Balsler, Nancy Dugre, and Richard Scott are spearheading the effort to bring Virtual Classrooms to Minnechaug through a joint effort with WNEC.

Interscholastic Athletics: Throughout the year, Minnechaug's student-athletes competed and excelled in 30 athletic offerings. State championships in Girls' Basketball and Boys' Volleyball were testaments to this very competitive and diverse athletic program. Academic excellence continued to accompany athletic success. Virtually every team, at every level, received the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's Academic Excellence Award, recognizing the teams' grade point average. Sportsmanship and a winning tradition were at the core of Minnechaug's very well respected, comprehensive and successful program.

Guidance Department: The department continues to offer a variety of programs to serve students and their parents. Services include: Guidance brochure, "welcome" telephone call to all freshmen, workshop on writing college essays, college financial aid night, college night for juniors and their parents, follow-up program for seniors and their parents, orientation program for eighth grade students and their parents, reception for transfer students, "Coffee with Counselors" morning, prep sessions and practice tests for SAT's, SAT 1, SAT II, ACT, PSAT, and A/P exams, which are administered at Minnechaug. The internship program for seniors continues to grow, and the Tech Prep program has expanded and provides excellent opportunities for students. The counselors meet with their students to assist in developing course schedules, making career and college choices, and dealing with personal issues. Counselors also work with students through the Developmental Guidance program.

Student Activities: Members of the 44 co-curricular student activity programs had another exceptional year. The As Schools Match Wits, Chess Club, FBLA, Technology Honor Society, Mock Law, Model UN, Science Olympiad, and SMOKE SIGNAL won group or individual first-place awards. Other teams excelling in championship play included the Environmental Team, Falcon Yearbook, Investment Club, Mathletes, Model Congress, One Act Plays, and more. The various groups donated thousands of hours of volunteer time and thousands of dollars to the greater community. The department also assisted six classes with their reunion planning. At the Evening of Recognition, 206 students were recognized for service, scholarship, and academics. In June, 271 seniors graduated, with most participating in the Prom, High Meadow Day, Graduation, and the Ultimate Party, which is hosted by a volunteer parent group. We thank the many community members and businesses that worked with our groups and contributed so much to our success!

Media Center: During the year the Media Center added a number of new titles to its

reference, non-fiction, and fiction resources, continuing the process of updating the print collection with materials that link to the curriculum. In addition, a new online research database was purchased, enabling students to have greater access to information both in school and at home. More than 950 classes visited the Media Center during the course of the school year and another 8,000 students came on an individual basis. More than \$500 was raised for books through the collection of empty printer cartridges for recycling.

Student Services Department - Thomas Philpott, Director

Student Services comprises special education and related services such as speech therapy occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, and school adjustment counseling. Over 700 students with various disabilities benefit from these services that are designed to promote effective academic and social progress.

The Student Services Department is also responsible for the assessment of over 300 students each year to determine the existence of an educational disability, and if a disability is found, whether or not it inhibits the academic progression of the student in the general education program. If a student is found to have an educational disability, a continuum of service interventions is available to provide the student the most effective support possible in the least intrusive manner. These services range from consultation and monitoring to partial placement in a resource room to full time placement in a specialized District program or, in a small percentage of cases, placement in a collaborative or private school.

Federal and State grants have allowed the expansion of the assistive technology resources, creating an important link between the disabled student and his or her ability to access the general curriculum. These grants have also funded workshops and consultation services to District professional and paraprofessional staff in order to develop a better understanding of the impact educational disabilities have on a student's learning capability. A State grant has continued to support an Autism Specialist who is able to develop programming that will enhance our ability to work with such students within the District, thus reducing our dependence on costly out-of-district programs and consultants.

Central to the goal of ensuring that all students make appropriate academic and social progress is the close cooperation between regular education and special education administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals. Regular education initiatives such as the Student/Teacher Assistance Team (S/TAT) and the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) are expanding the continuum of services the District is able to provide to students with diverse learning needs.

Poppy Nelson, RN, BSN, NCSN - Nurse Leader

The nurses of the District continued to provide quality healthcare and health promotion during the school year with 14,678 students given first aid, 18,653 illness assessments completed, 14,970 student medications administered, and 5,627 parent phone calls and meetings accomplished. Overall, there were 49,619 student health clinic visits during the school year. The nurses also gave the Hepatitis B vaccine three-part series and flu shots to District employees, as requested.

Through a generous donation from Lori Russell and the Ed Russell Memorial Heart-Safe Fund, all schools in the District have an automated external defibrillator (AED) in their building. Gagliarducci Construction Company also donated an AED to the Athletic Department at Minnechaug. Thank you so much to these caring “angels.” Some faculty and staff in each school have been CPR/AED trained through the Wilbraham Fire Department, American Heart Association, and Joe Kellner. This will continue to be an on-going process.

The Department of Public Health again sponsored the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program. This year we increased our children served to all first and second graders in the District. Thank you again to the parent volunteers as we couldn’t do it without them.

We participated in the Massachusetts “Student Asthma Surveillance Summary” in Kindergarten through Grade 8. We found that 7.8% of our students in those grades report being treated for asthma compared to the estimated statewide average of 9.2%.

The Nurse Leader continued to work closely with the Community Health Network Area of Greater Springfield, the Mass. Department of Public Health, and Claudia Considine, RN, Wilbraham’s Public Health Nurse, on many issues including emergency preparedness.

Once again, the nurses thank Marge Trimble, Betty Worthington, and the members of the Wilbraham Women’s Club for volunteering to test the vision and hearing of hundreds of our children from pre-school through tenth grade.

Adult Community Education and Recreation - Ned Doyle, Director

The Adult Community Education and Recreation Program, “New Beginnings,” continues to provide the communities with diverse enrichment opportunities. In 2004, well over 2,000 participants enjoyed the program offerings and feedback was extremely positive. The 2004 “Summer Programs ‘R’ You,” serving the youth of the communities, was once again, the most popular program. However, the numerous spring and fall adult offerings were also well attended and afforded participants excellent enrichment opportunities. The “New Beginning” program anticipates a very bright future, as it continues to meet the needs of the community.

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District wishes to acknowledge the effectiveness of the School Councils and to thank them for volunteering their personal time to pursue a commitment to the education of our young people. We would also like the community to recognize the services rendered by these parents and citizens of the HWRSD. The School Councils were:

MILE TREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lynne Kimball, Principal
Amy Basile
Patricia Boylan
Beth Cebula
Ginny McKeon
Pam Pearson
Martha Ross
Denise Salerno

GREEN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

T. Jeffrey Sullivan, Principal
Kate Asher
Pam Hayes
Rick Moriarty
Tina Murphy
Heidi Schwendenmann
Suzanne Simons
Mary Ellen Shea
Nancy Thompson

MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Deborah Thompson, Principal
Jeff Jones
Susan Medeiros
Pat O'Connor
Kim Saso
Gail Smead
Sharon Tellier
Lisa Vartanian
Dennis Young

SOULE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal
Susan Cary-Borysyk
Andrew Cohen
Meg Cyr
Stephanie Harju
Betty Howarth
Cathy Mahoney
Tom Moran
Karen Rossi
Missy Taft

STONY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Eleanor Fernands, Principal
Judy Farrar
Stacy Gilmour
Mary Beth Laliberte
Shawn Lawrence
Nan O'Connor
Mary Beth Laliberte
Nan O'Connor

THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Noel Pixley, Principal
Mary Argenio
Diane Baron
Donna Benoit
Marilyn Berrett
Bonnie Howell
Phyllis Hultstrom
Wendi Obuchowski
Andrea Tarczynski
Catherine Zawrotny

WILBRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Barbara L. Lukis, Principal
Carole Alderman

MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

John K. Logan, Principal
Patricia Casey

Christopher Eagan
 Kevin Fogarty
 Ellen Murphy-Mancini
 Nikki Nadeau
 Audra Quintin
 Debra Vartanian

Elizabeth Contant
 Patricia Gordon
 Wilbur Jenkins
 Clifton Johnson
 Meredith Malysz
 Gary Manuel
 Patricia Pastoreck
 Linda Pickreign
 Sarah Petzold
 Susan Raimer
 Jane Robinson
 Gregory Schmutte

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
<i>Through May 2004</i>	<i>As of May 2004</i>
Mary Anne Morris, Chairperson	Peter T. Salerno, Chairperson
Peter T. Salerno, Vice Chairperson	Scott R. Chapman, Vice Chairperson
William Bickley, Jr.	William Bickley, Jr.
Scott R. Chapman	Marianne Desmond
Marianne Desmond	D. John McCarthy
Lois R. Megliola	Mary Anne Morris
Gilles Turcotte	Gilles Turcotte

RETIREMENTS DURING THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR WERE:

Susan M. Agnew, Wilbraham Middle School
 Joan L. DeNucci, Stony Hill Elementary School
 Eleanor F. Fernands, Stony Hill Elementary School
 James E. Girotti, Minnechaug Regional High School
 Martin A. Kibbe, Minnechaug Regional High School
 Patricia A. Metzger, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District
 John S. Przybylowicz, Jr., Minnechaug Regional High School
 Richard Scortino, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District
 Robert A. Silva, Minnechaug Regional High School
 Richard A. Studeny, Wilbraham Middle School
 Thomas J. Sullivan, Green Meadows Elementary School
 Andrew J. Whalen, Minnechaug Regional High School

FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Grade	1999 – 2000			2000 – 2001			2001 - 2002			2002 - 2003			2003 - 2004		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	50	144	194	63	193	256	61	180	241	59	179	238	58	161	219
P-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	67	177	244	59	176	235	65	210	275	65	192	257	65	180	245
2	57	175	232	66	179	245	62	189	251	71	201	272	62	191	253
3	91	213	304	64	185	249	63	184	247	58	197	255	66	202	268
4	72	204	276	96	217	313	64	195	259	68	184	252	71	209	280
5	72	240	312	75	210	285	95	229	324	64	205	269	61	200	261
6	82	213	295	80	244	324	80	216	296	93	232	325	68	205	273
7	84	216	300	88	221	309	76	251	327	83	217	300	66	219	286
8	64	217	281	88	219	307	88	227	315	79	251	330	95	232	326
9	89	245	334	60	192	252	87	243	330	96	233	329	81	257	338
10	73	209	282	77	200	277	66	222	288	88	240	328	86	254	340
11	63	190	253	82	231	313	72	218	290	59	207	266	79	224	303
12	69	182	251	68	229	313	79	208	287	79	218	297	81	222	303
Other			88			85			87			72			79
TOTAL	933	2625	3646	966	2696	3747	958	2772	3817	962	2756	3790	939	2756	3774

**HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2004 DIRECTORY OF SCHOOLS**

Mile Tree Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 1)

Lynne Kimball, Principal

625 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone (413) 596-6921

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Green Meadows Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 3)

T. Jeffrey Sullivan, Principal (*retired*)/Deborah Thompson, Principal (*as of 8-30-04*)

38 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – Telephone (413) 566-3263

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Memorial Elementary School (Grades 2 – 6)

Deborah Thompson, Principal/Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal (*as of 10-1-04*)

310 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone (413) 596-6821

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Soule Road Elementary School (Grades 2 – 6)

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal

300 Soule Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone (413) 596-9311

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Stony Hill School (Grades 2 – 6)

Eleanor Fernands, Principal/Rebecca DeSmith, Interim Principal *(as of 11-1-04)*
675 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone (413) 599-1950
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School (Grades 4 – 8)

Noel Pixley, Principal
85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – Telephone (413) 566-8950
School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wilbraham Middle School (Grades 7 – 8)

Barbara Lukis, Principal
466 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone ((413)) 596-9061
School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 –12)

John K. Logan, Jr., Principal
612 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone (413) 596-9011
School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

Superintendent's Office

Paul C. Gagliarducci, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – Telephone (413) 596-3884
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.