

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL

DISTRICT

2006

From the Superintendent

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

As I review the 2005-2006 school year, one word comes to mind: security. During much of the school year, many efforts were focused on developing strategies to improve security in all our schools. This was a task that clearly exceeded our expectations and required a tremendous effort on the part of many staff members. Gina Kahn, Risk Prevention Services Coordinator, should be congratulated for her efforts to secure funding from the State and Federal governments. We began the year utilizing funds from a \$100,000 grant and concluded with a seven-district collaborative application effort to secure funding to regionalize a combined approach to safety and security. We found that securing buildings and protecting students is more than a one time activity, it is an ongoing process. To quote School Committeeman Peter Salerno, "Security is not a destination but a journey." As we look to the future, we will continue to concentrate on this issue.

The reports presented by building principals and other district administrators illustrates that we continue to focus our efforts on improving our district from a systemic approach. We no longer look at just one school, but attempt to see the "big picture" and how success in one area can be shared and replicated elsewhere.

We are proud of what our staff and children do each and every day. Our commitment to continuous improvement is strong. While there were many accomplishments during the school year, few of us will forget November 12, 2005. On that day our high school athletic teams accomplished something that had never been done before by any high school in Western Massachusetts: they won four championships on a single day! Congratulations to the boys' soccer, girls' volleyball, field hockey and soccer teams. On that day, according to the Springfield Sunday Republican, it was 'Chaug Heaven at Minnechaug Regional High School!

Curriculum

Donna Scanlon, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has a rich and rigorous core curriculum that is designed to develop the unique talents of individual students and to celebrate excellent accomplishments. The curriculum renewal process is ongoing and ensures continuity and consistency in grades PreK-12. The District has established equity in access to high quality curriculum materials and resources. All teachers use these assets 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. Through sound planning, incremental investment, and creative allocation of staffing, the information centers have become the hub of every school. The level of technology integration across the curriculum has intensified with improvements in staffing, infrastructure, equipment, reliability, and professional development.

The District has launched a district-wide goal promoting the concept and practice of differentiated instruction within the general education program. Differentiated instruction meets the needs of individual learners and provides all students with the appropriate level of challenge and support to help them reach learning goals. A differentiated classroom offers multiple ways for students to access content, to process and make sense of concepts and skills, and to develop products that demonstrate their learning.

Competitive funding awarded from the U.S. Department of Education Elementary School Counseling Initiative allowed the District to provide various education, prevention, and intervention services, which are essential to removing barriers to learning and promoting academic achievement. The project, locally known as *Starting Strong, Staying Strong*, is developed around the theme of resiliency, and has significantly increased the District's capacity to integrate academic and social learning as a solid foundation for future success.

Below are some highlights from across the curriculum areas:

- The reading program incorporates National Reading Panel recommendations which address the five components of literacy learning: vocabulary/oral language comprehension, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and reading comprehension. Supplemental services, with varying degrees of intensity for students who are experiencing difficulty, include: *Reading Recovery* and small literacy groups for first graders, as well as other intervention programs for students who require specialized instruction.
- Students in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District write a great deal across the curriculum areas. Writing is critical to language development, learning content, and developing thinking skills.
- The mathematics curriculum is designed to develop understanding of mathematic concepts through student-centered activities while enhancing skills through meaningful practice.
- The science program helps students to advance scientific reasoning as they investigate and solve complex problems. Standards-based science units are studied in the classroom and, at the elementary level, are enriched through a weekly science lab with a specialist.
- History, geography, civics, and economic concepts and skills are addressed through engaging units of study in each grade.
- For all children at all ability levels, the arts play a central role in human development. Cognitive, language, and social-emotional development are positively impacted by participation in the arts.
- As an integral part of the total educational process, health and physical education opportunities develop a lifelong physically active lifestyle, as well as respect for self and others, through a safe learning environment.
- D.A.R.E. and School Resource Officers have provided the officers and schools the opportunity to develop relationships that build safe schools and align with the principles of prevention research.

HWRSD Academic Performance

Donna Scanlon, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for 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 a summary of MCAS performance data for 2002 – 2006:

Grade	Subject Tested	Percent of Students Scoring <i>Advanced/Proficient</i>					Percent of Students Scoring <i>Warning/Failing</i>				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
3	Reading	85%	87%	77%	80%	80%	2%	0%	3%	2%	2%
3	Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	68%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5%
4	English Lang. Arts	71%	64%	75%	62%	59%	4%	3%	2%	4%	5%
4	Mathematics	50%	56%	58%	50%	55%	10%	5%	5%	7%	7%
5	English Lang. Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	69%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3%
5	Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10%
5	Science/Engineering	N/A	70%	76%	72%	71%	N/A	4%	3%	4%	4%
6	English Lang. Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	83%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2%
6	Mathematics	60%	65%	59%	61%	61%	8%	9%	9%	8%	10%
7	English Lang. Arts	77%	77%	83%	77%	77%	2%	2%	3%	1%	4%
7	Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11%
8	English Lang. Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2%
8	Mathematics	39%	56%	54%	65%	54%	18%	13%	14%	11%	12%
8	Science/Engineering	N/A	62%	51%	59%	51%	N/A	10%	14%	6%	8%
10	English Lang. Arts	77%	77%	75%	86%	88%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%
10	Mathematics	66%	65%	70%	78%	80%	10%	7%	4%	5%	5%

Members of the graduating class of Minnechaug Regional High School are required to pass both the English Language Arts and the Mathematics MCAS tests as one condition for receiving a high school diploma. Starting with the graduating class of 2010, students will also need to pass a Science MCAS test in order to satisfy State regulations.

The District is proud to announce that in each of the last three years, 90 or more students were eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, which provides a tuition waiver to State colleges and universities for four years. Students qualify for this award by scoring in the Advanced category in English Language Arts or Mathematics and Advanced or Proficient in the other subject area on the grade 10 MCAS assessments.

In addition to MCAS performance, the District’s educators use a range of information to monitor student achievement. One example of the data considered to be relevant is SAT scores. The table below provides longitudinal SAT results for students graduating from Minnechaug Regional High School.

MRHS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Verbal Mean	531	534	512	517	506	519	518	517	529	531	501
Math Mean	535	536	519	523	515	527	530	529	550	550	526

In order for students to be appropriately prepared for high stakes tests, 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 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.

Guidance Department

Carolyn Lewis, Director

The Class of 2006 granted degrees to 309 graduates, 90% of which were accepted and attended college. Many of those students were admitted to highly competitive colleges and universities, including Bentley College, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brown University, Bucknell University, Colby College, Dartmouth College, Hamilton College, Lehigh University, Mount Holyoke College, New York University, Rutgers University, Simmons College, Skidmore College, Smith College, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Wake Forest University, Washington University, Wellesley College. Three students received National Merit Letters of Commendation. Two seniors earned AP Scholars Awards and two earned AP Scholars Awards with Honor. The program of studies at Minnechaug prepares students to make the transition to and meet the demands of college-level academic work or further study.

Green Meadows Elementary School

Deborah Thompson, Principal

It was a year of growth for Green Meadows Elementary School! It was exciting to welcome the 4th grade back after nine years at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School. The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Early Childhood Program also returned to Green Meadows after being housed at Soule Road School during our construction project. As a result, enrollment grew from 251 students in 2005 to 369 students in 2006. The 4th grade team of teachers brought much enthusiasm and excitement to Green Meadows. They readily joined our collegial staff to expand our sense of community and outreach to students and families.

With the addition of the 4th grade and Early Childhood program, it was necessary to reassess how to meet the many diverse needs of our students. Two major changes were the addition of a shared Information Specialist and the development of a District Intensive Resource Room to service children with more significant needs, such as Autism and Downs Syndrome. Teachers have spent the year collaborating with the Information Specialist to utilize the wonderful technology in the Richard Moriarty Information Center. Teachers and students are using several new software programs such as *Enchanted Learning*, *Kidspiration*, and *Read, Write and Type*, as well as *Accelerated Math and Reading*. Teachers also use many wonderful websites to enhance learning in the content areas of Science and Social Studies. They continue to implement differentiated instruction in all areas of the curriculum to maximize the learning of all students. As a result, our MCAS scores continue to show improvement.

In addition to academic activities, it is the philosophy of Green Meadows Elementary School that students learn the valuable lesson of community service. Throughout the year students and families were very generous in their support and contributions to the Giving Tree with Acts of Kindness that were transformed into toys for needy children. Families also donated over 450 food items to the Community Survival Center. It was truly amazing when the Green Meadows School community raised \$3000 for the Picayune Mississippi School District as part of our outreach to Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Our thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who work at Green Meadows Elementary School daily. The PTO, VIPS, community members and parents play a vital role in the success of our students.

Memorial Elementary School

Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal

Memorial Elementary School is a learning community comprised of approximately 330 students in grades two through six, and fifty staff members. Everyone strives daily to be responsible to do his/her part to make our school a special place for everyone.

During the year we had a total upgrade to our technology lab, including a Smart Board and a computer/television hook up in every classroom. With the addition of a part-time Information Specialist and a Computer Technician to the Memorial staff, our school's technology skills have blossomed. All staff members reported increased comfort and skill level using technology to enhance their curriculum. Some examples of technology related curriculum projects completed this year include travel brochures, "Get to Know Your Bus Driver" booklets, graphing the results of the Olympic Games, Power Point Presentations and use of the Smart Board to demonstrate acquired skills.

We were very pleased to note our MCAS scores showed improvement from previous test scores. The Memorial staff spent a significant amount of time analyzing prior results and developed specific action plans to address areas where students demonstrated weakness. To help in the math area, all classrooms were equipped with technology to implement the Accelerated Math program with teachers and parent volunteers trained to use this program.

One of our school improvement goals was to continue to build a strong sense of community at Memorial School. Improvement in this area has been made with all teachers implementing the Responsive Classroom philosophy and strategies, which include the components of a daily morning meeting and establishing rules with logical consequences as a class activity. All our students are contributing members of their classroom community, as well as the Memorial School community. Sixth graders were given the privilege of serving the school as members of the M-Team, a group of students who voluntarily help to make our school a better place by performing a variety of special school-related tasks.

Memorial School is fortunate to have a very dedicated group of parents who serve our school in a variety of ways. The PTO members volunteer a great deal of time to plan activities, raise money, and provide special programs/opportunities for our children. This year's group worked

diligently to raise a large amount of money for a new playground. They also sponsored two family dinner nights which helped strengthen our school community. Memorial School has many parents who help out regularly in a variety of ways to make our learning community even better for students and staff.

Memorial School is a very special place for our children to grow and learn. We are proud to be partners with our parents and our community to make this school a vibrant part of the town of Wilbraham!

Mile Tree School

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal

Mile Tree Elementary School's mission is *all children can and will learn well*. Dedicated staff members collaborate to provide the highest quality early childhood educational experience for all Mile Tree students. Mile Tree Elementary School provides rich, developmentally appropriate learning experiences in all physical, social, emotional, language, aesthetic and intellectual areas. Mile Tree Elementary School has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which is the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

Mile Tree's School Council is composed of parents, a community member, faculty, and the school's administrator. The School Council is charged with setting the school's annual goals, writing and implementing the annual improvement plan, and reviewing the school's budget.

Mile Tree's strong PTO is actively engaged in providing enrichment activities to enhance the learning climate of the school. Through successful fund raising efforts they provide many cultural activities and assemblies. Parents and community volunteers play a key role in the education of children at Mile Tree. Volunteers donate numerous hours of help, from copying for teachers to chaperoning field trips.

Mile Tree School students participated in many fundraising activities during the year. One of the highlights was the "Presidents for Picayune" which raised money for the Picayune Mississippi School District, which was adopted by our district after Hurricane Katrina.

Mile Tree School was awarded a \$1000 W.H.A.T. grant for a "Good Nutrition" program. During "National Nutrition Month", students participated in a "Taste of the Green" (a sampling of green fruits and vegetables) on St. Patrick's Day and saw a "Food Play" performance.

Mile Tree School students read 5,649 books during their "Spring Into Reading" program! As a result of their success, the students were treated to a "Pig Out on Reading" program presented by Farmer Minor and Daisy the Pig. The Friendly Corporation donated \$500 to the Mile Tree School library in honor of the successful completion of the reading program.

Soule Road School

Stephen Hale, Principal (through 8/06)

Mary T. Goodwin, Principal (as of 8/06)

As elaborated in the school mission statement, Soule Road Elementary School continuously strives to provide the best possible education for our students. Last year the dedicated school community collaborated to address our identified School Improvement Goals of improving the quality of our students' written work and continuing to meet the unique needs of all student learners through designing and implementing differentiated instruction lessons.

Our students continued to use the Collins Writing Method in every content area to focus their writing strategies, enhance their use of mechanics, and expand topic development. Our staff worked diligently to incorporate strategies to support and enhance the writing potential of every child. Through District initiatives on differentiated instruction, multiple professional development opportunities were available for staff during the year. The resulting classroom lessons expanded the potential and abilities within every child by providing learning opportunities at their individual readiness level. The long-range result will be children who possess skills necessary to contribute to society in a meaningful way.

For the 350 students served in grades two through six at Soule Road Elementary School, it was a very exciting year. Spirit Day, March Madness, Roller Skating Parties, and Movie Nights fostered a sense of school spirit and community. The PTO generously sponsored many educational programs and social activities. The popular Souleto Arts Festival showcased the various outstanding artistic talents of our students. Professional illustrator Jeff Mack served as an "artist-in-residence" during the month of February. "Science Guy" Jeff Danglo amazed our students, and the powerful Ellis Island program captivated the audience. The Sally Spin Slade program stressed the importance of physical health and healthy lifestyle choices. Our fourth, fifth and sixth grade writers worked with noted children's author Barbara O'Connor, who led classroom workshops designed to expand students' use of descriptive vocabulary and vivid topic development. In light of continuing concerns about school and child safety, Soule Road was fortunate to work collaboratively with the Free Masons and the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to introduce the CHIPs (Child Identification Program) to our families.

Looking to contribute to needs outside of our building, Soule Road students and families generously contributed to Pennies for Patients and various food drives. During the holiday season, Soule Road Elementary School "adopted" children from the Children's Study Home, and we continue to make birthday greeting cards to cheer the residents of the Soldier's Home each month.

The Soule Road Elementary School is a learning community where students, families and staff work collaboratively to provide a rigorous curriculum and a healthy social and emotional environment in which all students can thrive and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Stony Hill Elementary School

Rebecca S. DeSmith, Principal

Stony Hill Elementary School students, teachers and parents are working hard in the three areas of our school improvement plan: writing, differentiated instruction and Stony Hill's 50th birthday celebration.

In writing, we are moving up the ladder of accountability by meeting with a Collins Education associate regarding the use of the cumulative writing folders. Stony Hill teachers and students are more familiar each year with the Collins Writing Program, and this folder evaluation is the next logical step in sustaining our improvement.

Working toward ensuring quality education which meets the needs of every learner, Stony Hill has spent time learning, discussing and practicing the tenets of differentiated instruction. As principal, I spent four days in the summer training with the leading expert in this field. Inservice days and faculty meetings have been centered on theory, strategies and techniques for delivering instruction that is not “one size fits all.” Stony Hill joins the District in this effort as we move toward a more inclusive model for special education students.

As Stony Hill celebrates 50 years of existence in 2007, a highly organized and energetic group of parents has embraced this birthday as a school spirit event. On May 19, 2007, friends and families of Stony Hill will gather at Fountain Park for an extensive school carnival. As students prepare for that date, we will tie in our goals in writing and differentiation as we research “the way things were” back in 1957 compared with education today.

Stony Hill continues to serve the community in the presentation of our annual Senior Citizen Breakfast. We continue to work with our friends at Country Bank to provide a banking program for all students. We also offer enrichment courses in Accelerated Math and Mad Science, as well as the opportunity to work on a school newspaper. Learning is happening in exciting ways at Stony Hill!

As always, we are grateful for the effort and support of our PTO and School Council as we search for ways to enhance education in our community.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School

Noel Pixley, Principal

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School’s School Improvement Plan focused on three important strategic goals. Improving students’ level of writing continued to be a major focus as teachers continued to implement the Collins Writing Program, the purpose of which is “Developing Writing and Thinking Skills Across the Curriculum.” Professional development took place throughout the school year in order to reinforce the “Writing Across the Curriculum” goal at Thornton Burgess.

Another important action step pertaining to the writing goal dealt with MCAS results. The analysis of MCAS data was another means used in gaining insight to students’ strengths and weaknesses. Teachers then provided scored models, discussions, and practice to increase student performance.

In addition, the school improvement goals addressed the need to improve students’ math learning and performance at all grade levels. We supported students in mathematics by offering a variety of supplemental materials, experiences and support, such as Title I services, Accelerated Math

after-school support, Math Exploratory courses, and participation in the American Mathematics Contest and the Mathcounts Competition held at AIC.

An emphasis was placed on professional development opportunities in the area of mathematics, and training was also offered in the area of differentiated instruction so that teachers could utilize these strategies in all content areas. We were pleased to have Suzanne Whittle, Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, present elements and instructional strategies to our faculty to support differentiation.

Our final goal was to promote the use of technology by fostering a climate conducive to the physical and educational needs of students and staff. The Information Specialist at TWB held workshops concerning hardware, software, computer programs and online programs that would assist teachers in improving and enhancing student learning. Staff was supported by the Information Specialist and the Tech Support team in using the computer, creating spreadsheets, making Power Point Presentations, demonstrating how hypermedia is an extension to hypertext that supports linking graphics, sound, and video elements in addition to text elements, and trouble shooting computer difficulties. There were also workshops provided to help teachers use the GradeQuick program and report cards and progress reports for some grades were electronically generated using this program.

Numerous technological programs and websites were accessed by students and teachers to further facilitate learning, including HeyMath!, MassOne: Virtual Education Space, <http://Trackstar4teachers.org>, www.doe.mass.edu/MCAS, and the District email. During participation in the related arts cycle, students were taught the general function of the technology available in the new computer lab, including SmartBoard and SmartBoard Notebook Gallery, digital camera, video camera, file/folder management/sharing, and how to use PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel, and Word within Microsoft Office. Students were also educated in computer and internet safety using the Netsmartz.org website. Before students were issued an "Internet Drivers License", they had to pass an internet safety course on this website. Furthermore, technology literacy was implemented in grade appropriate strands and the fair use policy was taught to all grade levels.

Beyond the goals of the School Improvement Plan, the faculty and staff of Thornton W. Burgess Middle School continued to promote a positive and safe school climate. Character education was taught through advisory class and a variety of safety initiatives took place throughout the school year. We are very proud of the accomplishments that we as a school have achieved, and we welcome the challenge of improving on our performance both academically and socially in the years to follow.

Wilbraham Middle School

Barbara Lukis, Principal (through 8/06)

Stephen Hale, Principal (as of 8/06)

Wilbraham Middle School serves 425 students in grades seven and eight. Our students benefit from the school's committed staff, dedicated PTO, and caring community, who all work together to support the academic, social, and emotional needs of our adolescent learners.

Wilbraham Middle School's School Improvement Council outlined three goals in its improvement plan, inspired by our mission statement and striving to meet the greater community's expectations. 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 following goals are being currently implemented:

1. Increase Wilbraham Middle School's capacity to meet the individual math learning needs of diverse student learners.
2. To continue to improve student writing by incorporating comprehensive writing strategies, experiences, and assessments throughout the curriculum.
3. To improve the science program by incorporating analysis of MCAS results and introducing grade level formal assessments which align with the Massachusetts State Frameworks and the HWRSD Curriculum Maps.

At Wilbraham Middle School, it was a very exciting year for our students. Student Council instituted a "Spirit Week" with a pep rally conducted by the students and the Student-Faculty volleyball game highlighting the week. In addition, Student Council opened the "Eagles Supply Closet", a school store where students can purchase school supplies and Wilbraham Middle School apparel.

International Week was sponsored by the PTO in conjunction with the WMS Foreign Language Department. All week different activities took place throughout the school including announcements made in another language, cultural music played over the loud speaker, foreign films that dealt with different cultures, and performances by two international dance groups. An Art Show highlighted students' various talents.

Technology resources took a big leap forward with the creation of a second computer lab for teachers and students. In addition, all faculty received new computers in their classrooms which created more computer access for students. Through a large donation from Big Y Foods, additional computers and upgrades were made in the school's library.

In summary, it was a very successful year for the Wilbraham Middle School community where local support, grant funding, and PTO assistance helped create lifelong educational experiences for our students.

Minnechaug Regional High School

M. Martin O'Shea, Principal

From Principal M. Martin O'Shea: 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."

The major goals of the School Improvement Plan, developed by the School Council, are to increase the effectiveness of reporting student progress to parents to better enable them to support student achievement; to continue our efforts to incorporate our mission and our stated “expectations for student learning” into every classroom; and to increase the capacity of general education to meet the needs of diverse student learners. The following reports from the various departments highlight just some of the commendable educational activities at the high school.

The **English Department** offered skills-based courses freshman and sophomore year and a broad range of courses for juniors and seniors, including 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. The MCAS scores were also exceptional with a passing rate of over 99%. Seven students won Gold awards from the prestigious Scholastic Writing Awards of 2006. There were 50,000 entries with 3,000 chosen for national competition. One MRHS student was a finalist for the Nancy Thorp Poetry contest. The Classic Drama class presented four plays that were open to the public. Emeralds Literary Magazine and Smoke Signal newspaper won national awards. Thanks to a grant from the Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust (W.H.A.T.) all sophomore students attended a production of Macbeth presented by the New Rep Theatre.

The **Family and Consumer Science Department** was actively involved in showcasing their students’ skills and knowledge. The Child Growth class carried out a Community Service Learning project entitled “Box for Tots”. The students created a box of various objects for nine area preschools to have available in case of an emergency situation. The Food Technology classes catered ten after-school events, highlighting their culinary experience. Wilbraham Cable Access Television presented videos of students from the Principles of Baking classes. Guest speakers from local colleges spoke with classes in the department and two Principles of Baking students plan to further their education at Johnson and Wales University and five of the eight students enrolled in Child Study III plan to continue their education as education majors at area colleges.

The **Fine Arts Department** continued to gain much recognition both locally and state-wide. Music students were nominated for and participated in the Western District, Quabbin Valley, All-State and All-Eastern Music Festivals, and The Springfield Republican Newspaper “Talented Teens in the Arts” program. Music students also dignified themselves with numerous performances both at school and within the greater Hampden-Wilbraham community, including the bands’ first appearances wearing their new marching band uniforms. Art students were rewarded by nominations for The Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award and Art All-State. Selected Art/Music staff members updated curriculum guides to reflect NEASC recommendations.

The **Foreign Language Department** experienced many changes during the year with three retiring teachers. In addition to our staff, other educators and various activities helped to enrich the curriculum, such as the guest Chinese teacher who treated the students to an introductory Chinese language and culture lesson. The department also participated in the Minnechaug Intern Program with four interns. Latin students took field trips to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Worcester Art Museum, and the Botanical Gardens at Smith College.

French students spent an evening in Boston having dinner and attending “Les Miserables,” and took a trip to Quebec during April vacation. Spanish students also participated in various class enrichment activities this year, and two of them will be hosting a Spanish student this summer as part of the “Year of Study Abroad” as designated by the U.S. Senate.

The **Guidance Department** continues to offer a variety of programs to serve students and their parents. Some of the services are: guidance brochure, “welcome” call to the homes of 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, and a reception for transfer students. A practice test for the SAT Reasoning test is offered, in addition to an ACT test taking strategy workshop. The SAT Reasoning and Subject tests, the ACT, PSAT, ASVAB and AP exams are administered at Minnechaug. Our Internship program for seniors continues to grow, and the Tech Prep program has expanded and provides excellent opportunities for students. The counselors meet individually with their students to assist in developing course schedules, making career and college choices and dealing with personal problems. They also work with students through the Developmental Guidance program in group sessions.

The **History and Social Science Department** was active throughout the year with its display case, guest speakers, curriculum development and preparation for the Social Studies MCAS. Teachers participated in workshops sponsored by the DOE and the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association. Students were successful in department sponsored events such as Media Fest, the Phi Alpha Theta State Historical Conference, Model U.N., Model Congress, and Mock Law. The Model Congress Club, working with Representative Gale Candaras, prepared legislation that would mandate schools practice shelter in place drills during the school year. The bill has been filed at the State House in Boston.

Throughout the year Minnechaug’s **Interscholastic Athletics** student-athletes competed and excelled in 30 athletic offerings. Ten Western Massachusetts Championships are a testament to this very competitive and diverse athletic program. Almost 1,200 participants enjoyed the interscholastic athletic experience, and academic excellence continued to accompany athletic success. Sportsmanship and a winning tradition were, once again, at the core of Minnechaug’s comprehensive, well-respected and successful program.

The **Mathematics Department** remains active with curriculum revisions throughout the year. Curriculum must constantly evolve in order to remain current and most effective. The Statistics course was offered this year for the first time in several years. A teacher attended the Mathematics Science & Technology/Engineering Institute, which provided a unique, intense immersion experience and prepared them to explain algebraic concepts at the student’s point of readiness and through the student’s learning preference. Three teachers enhanced their current knowledge in teaching math through the use of the graphing calculator by attending the Texas Instrument Conference sponsored by Math West. Some exciting math application projects were completed by various teachers, including the BC Calculus class held a “marble launching” contest that applied projectile motion to hit the target, and the “Goat Problem” completed in BC Calculus sparked the interest of the admissions office at Brown University after one of the students used it for his college essay. In Algebra 1 part 2, the students conducted experiments to

study vertical motion due to gravity and the Algebra 2 students conducted an experiment to study the mathematics involved in landing a ball bearing into a can or thimble. Our Mathletes team placed 6th out of 19 competitors for the Western Mass Math League and were invited to the State competition.

The **Media Center** continued to be a busy place this past year, with multiple classes visiting every day and a constant stream of students worked on individual assignments. The Media Center also played host to several events during the year, including Media Fest presentations and Business Entrepreneurship class presentations, among many others. We are fortunate that two sources of monthly book donations continued this year, with former teacher Susan Kline and the Falcon Corner School Store providing valuable resources.

The **Physical Education/Health Department** continued to update curriculum guides and manuals, which are valuable reference materials for new teachers. The department incorporated a Walking for Fitness Unit. Guest speakers augmented classroom instruction that covered a variety of health related topics. The Health Education Department continued to grow and improve and made great strides within the health field.

The **Science Department** developed an innovative blend of Earth Science and Biology curriculum framework strands for the “Natural Science” course to be offered to freshmen beginning in the fall of 2006. The shift of the Ecology and Evolution strands to the grade 9 curriculum allows sufficient time to cover the newly incorporated Human Body strands in grade 10, while preserving many important Earth Science concepts as part of a comprehensive science education. These changes were enacted to ensure adequate preparation for the MCAS Biology exam required for graduation beginning with the class of 2010. In addition, preparation began for adding an AP Chemistry course, tentatively scheduled for enrollment beginning in the spring of 2008.

Student Activities had another exceptional year by offering a tremendous variety of activity programs; alumni reunion planning and assistance; student recognition programs such as Renaissance, Student of the Month and perfect attendance; as well as academic and service awards and scholarships. There were numerous fundraising events with about \$300,000 collected. A selection of individual activity program highlights includes:

- Class of 2006 held step-up events, Peach Festival booth, breakfasts, Senior-Faculty Basketball Game, Flag Football Game, High Meadow Day, Prom, Graduation, and more
- Class of 2007 held Peach Festival booth Scarecrow fundraiser, Flag Football, Magazine Drive, Battle of the Bands, Senior-Faculty Basketball Game, step up luncheon, and more
- Class of 2008 held Entertainment Book sale, carwashes, Senior-Faculty Basketball Game, hole in one contest, and more
- Class of 2009 held Calendar Raffle, carwash, bottle drive
- Key Club participated in over 50 service events throughout the community and Western Mass. and provided scholarships while about 225 active members were doing thousands of hours of community service during the year
- National Honor Society offered a tutoring program for MRHS, WMS, and Soule Road, as well as food drives, caroling, snow shoveling, Christmas gifts for the needy, the Peach King Pageant, scholarships worth a total of \$1500 and donations totaling over \$2600

- Pep Band had about 150 members who participated in parades, football games, pep rally and held numerous fundraisers raising about \$12,600 to purchase uniforms, carry bags, and equipment
- Student Council held their annual Semi Formal Dance with about 800 students attending and also had ten dress down days, the annual Toy for Joy fundraiser, two Red Cross blood drives, Homecoming, scholarships and donations to groups in excess of \$2000, Senior night recognition ceremony and supported numerous other groups and projects throughout the school
- Student Host and Hostesses assisted at about ten evening events with program distribution and ticket sales
- School Store sold about \$35,000 of products to students and parents throughout the year, gave thousands in scholarships, and donated books to the Media Center.

The **Technical Education, Computers and Business Department** continued to present a diverse offering of technical, applied and fine art classes at many levels in many subject areas. These departments, with their wide-ranging interdisciplinary approach, assist students in all areas of the Massachusetts State Frameworks. With obvious strengths in critical thinking, problem solving, and the design process, our applied technology classes continue to thrive and play a large part in the “greater good” of the student population. Of particular interest in the past year: computer students took second place at the Western New England College Programming Contest; the metal technology classes tackled the first of what will hopefully be many custom vehicle prototypes, the platform for which was an old Craftsman lawnmower that was donated to the Technology Department; the Technology and Engineering course was recently redesigned for better alignment with the State Frameworks giving students better preparation for the MCAS test; and the Entrepreneurship classes had a student finish second in the Springfield Technical Community College Young Entrepreneurial Scholars Business Plan Competition of Western Mass.

Student Services

Thomas Philpott, Director

Student Services essentially encompasses special education and services to students who have a primary language other than English. The Student Services Department is responsible for providing a wide variety of related services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, and school adjustment counseling. These services, along with specialized instruction, are designed to assist the unique learning needs of students with disabilities and language needs and to ensure these students have full access to all educational programs and activities in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

The Student Services Department is also responsible for the comprehensive assessment of students each year in order to determine whether a student’s lack of educational progress is related to an educational disability or some other factor. Each of the District’s eight schools have Student/Teacher Assistance Teams that have been established to provide immediate accommodations and strategies that may enable the student to become more successful in school.

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has a reputation as a provider of quality educational services to all students, including those whose disabilities would otherwise inhibit school success if not for the support provided by the various dedicated educators and related services therapists.

Federal and State grants have provided critical financial support to supplement the district's budget to meet the increasing cost of providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students regardless of intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, linguistic or other issues. These grants have also funded workshops and consultation services to the District's professional and paraprofessional staff in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of instruction.

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has made a significant commitment to the full inclusion of special education students in all our schools, classes, and activities and realizes that this goal can only be accomplished through the strong determination of our regular and special education staff to commit to effective collaboration and to work in concert with the parents of our students to create a school district that we can all be proud of!

School Nurses

Poppy Nelson, RN, BSN, NCSN
Nurse Leader

As usual, our school nurses had a busy year caring for the students and staff of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. First aid was given to 13,104 students; 16,797 illness assessments were completed; 12,348 student medications were administered; and 5,104 parent phone calls and meetings were accomplished. Overall, there were 46,419 student health clinic visits during the school year. Two part-time substitute float nurses were hired through funds provided by the Essential School Health Services grant, and we were grateful for the help they offered the students and nurses.

We again partnered with Springfield College Health Education students to provide instruction to elementary students in several health topics. We worked with Elms College to provide student nurses to Minnechaug Regional High School, Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, Wilbraham Middle School, and Wilbraham and Monson Academy one day per week for six weeks. The student nurses helped with patient care in the health clinics, as well as occasionally taught health classes and shared their final presentations.

With the help of the Wilbraham Fire Department we offered CPR/AED training to our staff. Our nurses administered the Hepatitis B vaccine three-part series and flu shots to District employees and, with the help of dedicated parent volunteers, ran the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program for first and second grade students. Our nurses also participated in the statewide Asthma Surveillance Project and found that our student's asthma rates are similar to the average for the Commonwealth.

A quality control project was completed using the services of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. This involved a random parent satisfaction survey, which showed the following results: 98% of parents were very satisfied with the care their child receives from the school

nurse, 100% feel they can reach the school nurse for help without a problem, 90% feel the school nurse keeps them informed about their child, 92% feel their child can get nursing care quickly at school in an emergency, 95% feel the school nurse treats their child with respect, and 95% value the advice given by the school nurse.

Lastly, as always, the nurses thank 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. The care, respect, and smiles they offer our students are greatly appreciated.

Adult Community Education and Recreation

Ned Doyle, Director

The Adult Community Education and Recreation Program, "New Beginnings," continues to provide the Hampden and Wilbraham communities with diverse enrichment opportunities. Over 2,000 participants enjoyed the program offerings and feedback was extremely positive. The "Summer Programs 'R' You," serving the youth of the communities, was once again the most popular program. However, the diverse spring and fall adult offerings were also well attended and provided 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. The School Councils for the 2005-2006 school year were:

Mile Tree Elementary School

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal
Kurt Anderson
Karen Anti
Amy Basile
Terry Goodrich
Ginny McKeon
Kristina Stone

Green Meadows Elementary School

Deborah F. Thompson, Principal
Ellen Collins
Carol Fitzgerald
Becky Orr
Melanie Patterson
Beth Richards
Warren Schoonover
Nancy Trevallion
Cheryl Willis

Memorial Elementary School

Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal
Jessica Carroll
Nancy Douglass
Denise Fisher
Rachel Lyons
Peggy McNeff

Soule Road Elementary School

Stephen Hale, Principal
Maureen Burke
Meg Cyr
Julie Kibbe
Becky Lefort
Jill Pszeniczny

Susan Mederios
Jack Pedace
Nancy Piccin

Stony Hill Elementary School

Rebecca S. DeSmith, Principal
Lori Berg
Stacy Gilmour
Mary Beth Laliberte
Michelle Mistalski
Nan O'Connor
Mary Pajak
Kathy Reid
Sue Toomey

Wilbraham Middle School

Barbara L. Lukis, Principal
Mary Goodwin, Assistant Principal
Scott Berg
Janice Flynn
Judi LaBranche
Abdoulaye Ngom
Mary Pajak
Cindy Zielenski

Ellen Schmutte
Georgianne Small
Georgina Trebbe

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School

Noel Pixley, Principal
Sara Bandoski
Karen Burzduk
Denise Fiedler
Phyllis Hultstrom
Catherine Mahoney
Deana Murdza
Charlene Normandeau
Gina Pantuosco
Mark Taylor

Minnechaug Regional High School

M. Martin O'Shea, Principal
Sam Boyd
Patricia Casey
John Costello
Stephanie Dunaj
Patricia Gordon
Sandra Himmelwright
Clifton Johnson
Gary Manuel
Bruce MacDonald
Patrick Moriarty
Tom Petzold
Linda Pickreign
Jane Robinson
Gregory Schmutte

Retirements During the 2005-2006 School Year:

JoAnne E. Dalmolin – Minnechaug Regional High School
 John H. Deely – Minnechaug Regional High School
 Jean E. Godek – Green Meadows Elementary School
 Deborah L. Gormley – Soule Road Elementary School
 Daniel R. Hanscom – Minnechaug Regional High School
 Irene S. Kraft – Mile Tree Elementary School
 Barbara L. Lukis – Wilbraham Middle School
 Joyce G. Sager – Minnechaug Regional High School

Five-Year Enrollment History

Grade	2001 – 2002			2002 - 2003			2003 - 2004			2004- 2005			2005- 2006		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	61	180	241	59	179	238	58	161	219	64	165	229	70	181	251
P-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	65	210	275	65	192	257	65	180	245	61	168	229	64	173	237
2	62	189	251	71	201	272	62	191	253	74	177	251	63	174	237
3	63	184	247	58	197	255	66	202	268	62	193	255	74	188	262
4	64	195	259	68	184	252	71	209	280	66	211	277	64	198	262
5	95	229	324	64	205	269	61	200	261	75	213	288	71	213	284
6	80	216	296	93	232	325	68	205	273	67	205	272	75	213	288
7	76	251	327	83	217	300	66	219	286	72	205	277	60	205	265
8	88	227	315	79	251	330	95	232	326	70	219	289	73	211	284
9	87	243	330	96	233	329	81	257	338	105	258	363	78	220	298
10	66	222	288	88	240	328	86	254	340	76	235	311	93	250	343
11	72	218	290	59	207	266	79	224	303	79	240	319	72	219	291
12	79	208	287	79	218	297	81	222	303	79	223	302	78	245	323
Other			87			72			79			75			78
TOTAL	958	2772	3817	962	2756	3790	939	2756	3774	950	2712	3737	935	2690	3703

Hamden-Wilbraham Regional School District School Committee:

Scott R. Chapman, Chairperson
 William Bickley, Jr.
 Marianne Desmond
 D. John McCarthy
 Lisa Morace
 Peter T. Salerno
 Gilles Turcotte

Directory Of Schools

Mile Tree Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 1)

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal
625 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-6921
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Green Meadows Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 4)

Deborah Thompson, Principal
38 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-3263
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Memorial Elementary School (Grades 2 – 6)

Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal
310 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-6821
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Soule Road Elementary School (Grades 2 – 6)

Mary Goodwin, Principal
300 Soule Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9311
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Stony Hill School (Grades 2 – 6)

Rebecca DeSmith, Principal
675 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 599-1950
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School (Grades 5 – 8)

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

Wilbraham Middle School (Grades 7 – 8)

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

Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 –12)

M. Martin O'Shea, Principal
612 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (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 – (413) 596-3884
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.