

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District  
Superintendent's Report  
Thursday, January 21, 2016

William H. Lupini  
Superintendent of Schools

Early College Program

Essex Technical High School and North Shore Community College launched the Early College Program officially on January 13th, with 44 ETHS students participating. Specifically, 42 students are enrolled in the three courses, Biology--the Basics of Life (19); Information Technology and its Applications (9); and Introduction to Business (14). In addition, two students are taking NSCC's Emergency Medical Care course; these students are in a course with other NSCC students because there were insufficient ETHS students to run the course as part of the Early College classes that are exclusively for ETHS students.

As approved by the School Committee, the District is funding all of the students at \$89/credit; students are paying \$100/credit. We are providing an additional \$50/student to offset costs of books and supplies (receipts must be submitted to receive a reimbursement). The total expense to the District will be slightly less than \$8K. We are currently collecting the final payments for tuition, which were due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. NSCC will invoice the District according to the agreed upon cost of each course, based on 11 students enrolling at \$89/credit. Nancy Dashcund and curriculum directors will be meeting with NSCC Early College administration next month to outline the Fall 2016 program.

Several parents requested transportation support. To address transportation to NSCC, students can ride the Route Two bus or the Route Two Late Bus to get to the campus. Kathy Russo indicated there is adequate space on the after-school bus to accommodate any students choosing it, and those taking the late bus will simply sign up on the days needed.

My thanks to Nancy Dashcund for her great work in making this important program a reality for a significant number of our students.

Student Recognition

Andrew Walton, a senior in the Masonry program, has recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. Andrew's Eagle Service Project was the creation of a Memorial Garden at Our Lady of Assumption School in Lynnfield. The garden was dedicated to the memory of Benjamin "Sonny" Tropeano, a 10 year old boy from Lynnfield who died suddenly last summer.

Congratulations to Andrew on this terrific accomplishment!

NEASC Accreditation

In November we requested that the first decennial evaluation of Essex Technical High School by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) be rescheduled from Fall 2017 to Spring 2018. On December 16, 2015 we were notified that this request was approved and that we will be on schedule to begin the self-study process no later than Fall 2016.

Brad Morgan has asked Jennifer Skane (Associate Principal, Animal and Plant Sciences Academy) and Shannon Donnelly (Associate Principal, Life and Natural Sciences Academy) to Chair our NEASC Accreditation efforts.

### Mid-Cycle Review (Special Education)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently conducted a Mid-cycle Review of our District. In the Mid-cycle Review the Department monitors selected special education criteria to determine district compliance with special education laws and regulations. The review consists of a district self-assessment and information gathering staff interviews, review of student records, examination of documentation, and/or observation of instructional spaces.

We are very pleased to report that the Department has found our District to be in compliance with all of the criteria monitored during the Mid-cycle Review. Thanks to Janet Norris, Sue Stevens and our special education team for their work in ensuring that we adhere to all DESE compliance indicators, while meeting the needs of our students.

### Ninth Grade CTE Placements

Ninth grade students are currently involved in selecting their CTE program areas. During the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>, grade 9 students who did not earn placement in one of their top selections will meet with Ms. Goldstein (Guidance and Admissions Coordinator) or Mr. Connors (9<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor). Final notifications will be provided to student on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will begin their CTE programs on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

We will provide the School Committee with a complete report on 9<sup>th</sup> grade placements at our February meeting.

While this is still a “work in progress” for at least the next few days, there are a number of things that we already know about the selection process for this 9<sup>th</sup> grade class, including:

- 312 of the 356 students in this class (88%) earned their first choice of a CTE program;
- Eight (8) of our CTE programs filled with only first choice students;
- Six (6) of our CTE program areas appear to be somewhat to significantly under-enrolled with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. The high school administration is already discussing strategies for improving these numbers, including examining the exploratory program in these programs.

Thanks to Sandy Goldstein and Dan Connors for their work in making the 9<sup>th</sup> grade CTE placement process a positive experience for teachers and staff.