



ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The Athol-Royalston Regional School District is committed to providing challenging educational experiences that inspire students to acquire the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens in the global community.

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Superintendent of Schools

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Administrative Assistant

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Director of Pupil Services

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6-12 Curriculum Director

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Elementary Curriculum
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Athol High School

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Athol-Royalston
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Principal
Athol Community
Elementary School

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Principal
Royalston Community School
Title I Director

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Facilities and Transportation

Lynn Bassett
Business Manager

Edward Skutnik
Director of Technology

To: All Teachers and Staff
From: Darcy Fernandes, Superintendent
Date: August 21, 2017
RE: Opening Days

As the summer comes to a close and we prepare together for the upcoming academic year, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you back. The start of the year is always a special time, with students, parents and teachers full of energy, ready to engage, and learn new things.

The parents and students that I have met this summer describe the district as an enjoyable place, where people care about kids. The district continues to show a consistent increase in the student population over the last three years from 1412 students in 2015 to 1494 students currently registered for this school year. In addition, the district data shows three out of four schools SGP in math to be at average to above average and student attendance rates have increased from 92.9 to 93.2 over the last 4 years.

We still have work to do, but these indicators demonstrate that we are moving in the right direction. Our MCAS scores from last year are due out at the end of the month; we are all hopeful that there will be more to celebrate.

Our focus this year as a district will be:

- Promoting a culture where students are consistently the focus of the Athol-Royalston School Department through creating classrooms in which students are fully engaged.
- Develop, implement and maintain for all subject areas, curriculum that is in alignment with the MA Curriculum Frameworks along with state and federal regulations. This will be done through revising pacing guides to new framework revisions, developing assessments that align to guide and creating curriculum units in areas where school scores have been low on state testing.
- Ensure that time and resources are available for high quality professional development in the areas of open response writing by creating well structured, rigorous, standards-based lessons with aligned assessments.

The areas identified are directly obtained from the district plan and have been narrowed based on detailed data analysis of the district by teacher leaders and administrators.

I hope you have time to enjoy the last of the summer before you dive into the new school year. Attached is the schedule of PD and the new teacher orientation. **Please note special education teachers should go to the session that best fits their assignment.** I look forward to seeing all of you on opening day.

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| New Teacher Orientation | August 22, 2017 |
| 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM | Meet and Greet |
| 8:30 AM- 9:00 AM | Superintendent Overview and Intro of New Staff |
| 9:00 AM -10:30 AM | Quality Instruction Design Workshop |
| 10:30 AM-10:40 AM | Break |
| 10:40 AM -11:40 AM | Quality Instruction Design Workshop |
| 11:40 AM-12:00 PM | Mentor and Mentee Survey |
| 12:00 PM-1:00 PM | Lunch Arms Café/Meeting with Principals |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | District Tour of Athol/Royalston |

New Teacher Orientation is only for new teachers and their assigned mentors.

| Elementary/Secondary | August 24 | Elementary | August 25 |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| 7:15 AM | Breakfast | | |
| 8:00 AM- 8:30 PM | Welcome Dignitaries HS Auditorium | 8:00AM- 2:30PM | K-2 Writing with Teachers for Teachers in ACES Library |
| 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Superintendent Overview HS Auditorium | 8:00AM- 2:30PM | 3-5 Math Teachers with Looney Math at ACES in Room A113 |
| 9:30 AM-10:30 AM | Union Orientation HS Auditorium | 8:00AM- 2:30PM | 3-4 ELA Teachers Wonders Pilot in Aces Room 117 |
| 10:30 AM-11:00 AM | Break | 8:00AM- 2:30PM | 5 Grade ELA Teachers ACES Room A108 |
| 11:00 AM-11:45 AM | Lunch | | |
| 12:15 PM-2:30 PM | School Orientation | | |
| | | Secondary | August 25, 2017 |
| | | 8:00 AM- 2:30 PM | Keys to Literacy Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS Teachers ARMS Café • MS Teachers ARMS Library |
| | | 8:00 AM- 2:30 PM | Math Open Response Writing <u>Math Teachers</u> <u>6-12 Only</u> Music Room ARMS |

| Elementary/Secondary | August 28 | Elementary/Secondary | August 29 |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8:00 AM- 2:30 PM | Looney Math K-2 Library ACES | 8:00 AM- 11:00 AM | School Based Orientation |
| 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM | Quality Instruction 3-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café ARMS | 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM | Lunch on your own |
| | | 12:00 PM- 2:30 PM | Work in Classrooms |