



Supporting One  
Child At A Time

September 28, 2018



# Top Improving School

## Royalston Community School Top 52

On Thursday, September 27, 2018 Royalston Community School was recognized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Boston Globe for its high growth and exceeding of state targets on the MCAS. Royalston Community Elementary School's accountability status is the highest it has ever been at 56 out of 100. In previous years the school's highest designation was 26 out of 100. This school cares for students! This was recognized last year when the school out-scored the state in almost every indicator on a climate survey given during last year's MCAS. In addition, the school worked tremendously hard to use data to drive their decision making with students. The school constantly monitored student progress and provided remediation when the outcomes merited a need for extra support. Royalston Community School students, teachers, staff and parents are to be commended for their dedication to education and raising caring children.



RCS Parent Night

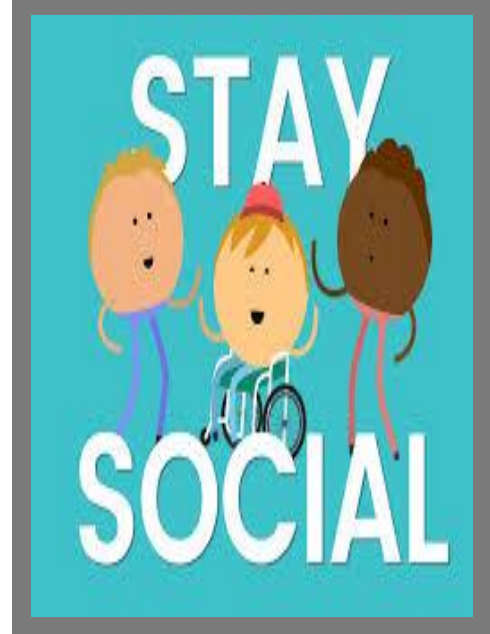
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## Did you know the brain is a social being?

The brain's first priority is always to ensure that it feels safe. When the brain does not feel safe it will shut down making it impossible for it to learn. Often people believe safety is physical safety only, but it is not. It goes well beyond this. If the brain feels there is a negative relationship with a person, that there is some sort of tension, it will shut down making learning impossible. The environment does not have to be hostile; it can just be unwelcoming for the brain to shut down. A way to counteract this in the classroom is through creating safe ways for students to build community within the classroom.



## Engagement: Major Focus of District Strategic Plan

### Academic (Cognitive) Engagement



**Academic Engagement** is commonly thought of in three different phases of the educational process. The first is setting the standard for students; the second is equipping students through instructional and supportive methods; the third is student demonstration of achievement.

### Social Emotional Engagement



**Social Emotional Engagement** is the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education.

**Academic Engagement and Social Emotional Engagement work in tandem. No learner will be successful if both are not present in the classroom.**



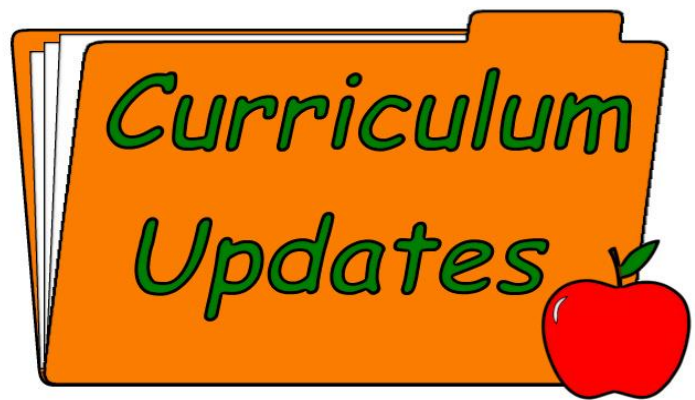
Staff welcomes students and families at ARMS Open House.

## Upcoming Events

- 10/2 - MCAS Analysis Day
- 10/3 - DSAC Walk ACES
- 10/3 - Principal's Meeting/  
Data Meeting
- 10/4 - AHS Walkthrough
- 10/5 - Curriculum Meeting
- 10/8 - Columbus Day No School
- 10/9 - District Learning Walk ACES
- 10/10 - District Learning Walk  
ARMS
- 10/11 - District Learning Walk RCS
- 10/12 - District Learning Walk AHS



The elementary guidance department has begun launching its new curriculum. The new curriculum is founded on the principles of the Positive Behavior Intervention System and zones of regulation. Students in the class last week were asked to review specific social situations and critique them. Students had to identify what behavior was inappropriate, how it made the person involved feel and why someone would have that response. Students were then asked to come up with a better response and they had to explain how the new response would make the person feel. Students were fully engaged in the class and were intrigued by how they could advise someone to respond more positively to each situation.



Over the course of the last two weeks, teachers in the district have been exploring what student engagement looks like in the classroom through brainstorming. To the left you can see a chart created by a set of classroom teachers that begins to actualize what engagement looks and feels like in the classroom. Teachers will begin watching videos and creating sample lessons to further represent what it looks like.