

ARRSD NEWS

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Comprehensive District Review

During the week of January 14, 2019 the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will send a team to do a comprehensive district review. The comprehensive district review supports local school districts in establishing or strengthening a cycle of continuous improvement. The review considers carefully the effectiveness of system wide functions, with reference to the six district standards used by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE): leadership and governance, curriculum and instruction, assessment, human resources and professional development, student support, and financial and asset management. Reviews identify systems and practices that may be impeding improvement as well as those most likely to be contributing to positive results. The district has completed a draft schedule of the visit and will distribute the schedule as soon as the state has approved it. All district employees should monitor their mailboxes for a copy of the schedule early next week. A special thank you goes out to all those who contributed to the creation of the schedule.



ACES Winter Reading Workshop with Mrs. Calvi and Mrs. Mann

A special thank you to all our teachers who filled the air with holiday spirit!



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Superintendent's Corner

**Elementary student
Achievement is
moving in the right
direction!**

ACES

ELA

Fall	Winter	Diff.
44%	50%	+6%

Math

Fall	Winter	Diff.
48%	54%	+6%

RCS

ELA

Fall	Winter	Diff.
67%	70%	+3%

Math

Fall	Winter	Diff.
56%	63%	+6%

Athol-Royalston Regional School District continues to move in the right direction! Teachers are frequently and often assessing students, not for the purpose of grading, but rather to further understand what students have learned. Teachers are using this information to troubleshoot problems, accelerate learning and provide remediation to students when needed. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends this data decision-making model as a means for improving outcomes in the classroom. Our data for the district shows at both the elementary and high school level the process is working. Student performance and student growth is up. In grades 1, 2 and 3 the district has met or exceeded the MAP Math benchmark assessment predictions for growth. In reading the district has done the same in grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10. Please see the chart to the left for specific details.



The Athol-Royalston Middle School Spirit Rally



AHS Wall of Pride Continues A great example of how to build relationships!

This year our school district continues to look for ways to promote good relationships among students and staff. The high school has come up with a strategy to do this through creating a Wall of Pride; postings in the main hallway of appreciation for each and every student. According to an article in the January 25, 2018 edition of ASCD, “relationships are perhaps the most important part of establishing a school culture that is perceived as and breeds caring.” When people feel valued, staff and students alike, they are likely to work harder, stay the course, and enjoy their work. When students feel liked and respected by their teachers, they find more success in school, academically and behaviorally (Lewis, Schaps & Watson, 1996). It should be the goal of all staff in a school to foster and forward positive relationships with students and among peers. This can become contagious, and can become the mantra of a school building; one which promotes and celebrates kindness among all. What are some ways that we can promote positive relationships in our schools? Here are a few.

Tips from ASCD:

- Model behaviors we want in our community
- Praise and celebrate Wins
- Get input from all on shared vision for school and consequences when individuals do not uphold them.
- Promote outside of school the positive things happening in the building

Health Clinic at ACES

Heywood Hospital, working in conjunction with the school district has just obtained a grant to open a health clinic at ACES. Details will be forthcoming over the next few months. Thank you Heywood Hospital for your continuous support of our students.