

Report of the Abington School Department

Dear Abington Community Members:

It is with great appreciation to our residents that I present this report to you as your Superintendent of Schools. The Abington School Committee includes Wendy Happel, Chair; Christopher Coyle, Vice-Chair; Danielle Grafton, Secretary, Julie Groom and Heidi Hernandez, Members. Elizabeth Lindo serves as the Student Representative. I would like to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of Jaclyn Abrams and Lisa Augusta, who resigned from the Abington School Committee after three years of dedicated volunteer service.

The Committee also accepted with regret the retirement notices of the following faculty and staff:

Judith Catalano – Cafeteria Worker
Robin Gilpatrick – Elementary Teacher
Beth Golden – Paraprofessional
Susan Peck – Paraprofessional
Diane Salvetti – Science Teacher
Katherine Sullivan – Paraprofessional
Jennifer Whitman – Tutor

These individuals have served the children of Abington well, and we wish them health and happiness in their retirement years.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has created the second consecutive year where there has been varied combinations of fear and sacrifice for students, families, faculty, staff and administration. Keeping the schools open has been essential for our children. I am proud of the professionals, parents and caregivers who worked so hard to keep the schools open and provide everything we could for Abington's students in these difficult times. Keeping the schools open has meant all school community members have been required to wear masks, to date 787 individuals have isolated for testing positive to COVID-19 and thousands have endured multiple day quarantines due to exposures.

Our mission, *“to provide all students relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community,”* is best achieved without the burden of a pandemic. The end of 2021 has provided hope that the ordeal is shifting to a more manageable endemic. Our students will have academic, social and emotional deficits as we recover. We are fortunate that we have a gifted and dedicated professional team coupled with resilient students, families and community.

Student Achievement and Activities

Our program and our teachers are well preparing students for the future regardless of the circumstances. The proof of this is in the success our students upon graduation. In fact, the Class of 2021 found approximately 76% of the graduates furthering their education with 54% going on to four-year colleges and 22% to two-year colleges or technical schools. Eleven percent (11%) of the graduates planned to go directly to work.

Additionally, many students received prestigious academic awards and scholarships from national, regional, state and local organizations. Eight students at Abington High School earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams.

National Honor Society – Thirty-five Abington High School students were inducted into the Abington Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Abington Middle School – Charlotte Hernandez was the Project 351 Ambassador.

School councils continued to focus on promoting learning environments which are academically challenging, supportive, attractive and safe for both students and staff in their school improvement plans.

In closing, thank you to the administrative team, the PK-12 faculty and all support personnel for their assistance and dedicated service to children. I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to the members of the Abington School Committee for their hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Schafer
Superintendent of Schools