

# MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207



SPRING 2019



The renderings above show the commons area at Maine East (top), remodeled lunch room at Maine South (center) and fieldhouse at Maine West (bottom).

## Planning Underway

UPGRADES AND CONSTRUCTION SET  
TO BEGIN IN SPRING OF 2020

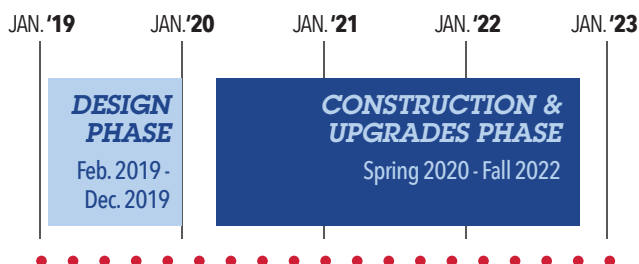
District 207 has been working for months with its architects and construction management firm to create specific plans that will be completed in phases over the next several years and result in major upgrades to Maine East, Maine South and Maine West high schools.

The work will improve many aspects of the three schools including higher levels of safety and security, updated plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, and upgraded classrooms and labs that will improve the learning environment for students. In addition, new fire suppression systems will be installed and access for students with special needs will be increased.

***“These upgrades will help us achieve our goal to provide a more collaborative approach to learning, as well as dramatically increase the life of our school buildings.”***

In November of 2018, voters approved the sale of \$195 million in referendum bonds to cover most of the upgrades. The remaining \$45.7 million needed to complete the projects will be taken from the district's reserve funds.

“These upgrades will help us achieve our goal to provide a more collaborative approach to learning, as well as dramatically increase the life of our school buildings,” says Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace. “We are planning for today's students and future learners as we design these improved learning spaces.” ■



Referendum updates are posted on the district website ([www.maine207.org](http://www.maine207.org)) regularly.



# Helping Students Develop a Path to Success After High School

**Imagine landing your first job out of college in your field of choice ... only to find out the work is nothing like what you thought.** Imagine graduating college with so much debt it will take you 20 years before the loans plus interest are paid off. Imagine not being able to secure a job out of college because the number of candidates far exceeds the number of positions available.

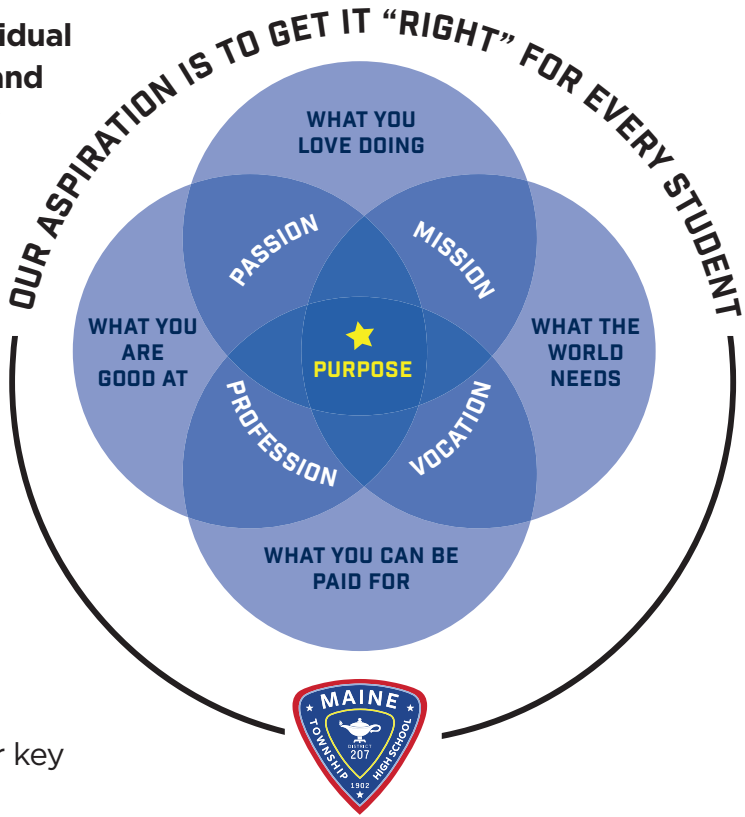
Unfortunately, these scenarios are reality for many young people today. That is why District 207 is so focused on helping high school students learn their passion and then assisting each student determine his/her best path forward.

“The career and post-secondary focus in District 207 is based upon ensuring every student has relevant career experiences in high school in order to improve their decision-making process about post-high school choices,” says District Career Coordinator Dr. Laura Cook. “Those decisions might include a certification program, an apprenticeship, a path directly to work out of high school, a two-year college or a four-year college.”

**In order to determine the right path for an individual student, a lot of information must be gathered and analyzed.** In order to do that, District 207 is likely the only district in the country using a unique suite of programs to help guide students. One of the tools is YouScience which helps students determine the types of work that best fit with their interests and aptitudes. The pathwayMANAGER tool helps students take advantage of all the opportunities within their chosen career path, including signing up for career experiences and aligned coursework.

In order to help with return on investment (ROI) career advisement, the district utilizes JobsEQ. This program includes up-to-date information about supply/demand for careers, starting salary by region of the country and other key employment information linked to zip code.

Maine South students Michael Frazier (left) and Brian Campbell have participated in hands-on learning with the Niles Fire Department about potentially becoming firefighters. Michael participates in the Explorer program and Brian has an internship.



587  
BUSINESS  
PARTNERSHIPS

District 207 has established business partnerships to provide students with career experiences.

## BUSINESS PARTNERS NEEDED

District 207 is looking for local business partners to provide career experience opportunities for students.

- Provide real-world experience for students
- Guest speakers, job shadow and/or internship hosts needed

### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Contact Career Coordinator Laura Cook at [lcook@maine207.org](mailto:lcook@maine207.org) or 847.384.6668

District 207 has also established nearly 600 area business partnerships to provide students with the opportunity to attend career panels, participate in job shadows and/or complete an internship.

“After participating in career experiences, students return with valuable information about what they liked or did not like and what skills they possess, which helps them realize success or identify what areas they still need to improve upon,” Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace says. “They have discussions with their family, teachers and counselors, and then adjust or maintain their individual career plan based on this new information to achieve ROI advice on a career and education path.”

**The career advisement in District 207 recognizes that the education needed for students to reach their career goals will not be the same for all students.** Therefore, the district has expanded its dual credit partnership with local colleges and universities as well as added career and technical education programs to provide courses like Algebra and Manufacturing, a course invented and designed by District 207 teachers. In addition, the district is partnering with the IBEW Electrical Contractors Association Technical Institute to provide District 207 students with a career path they can follow in high school that could lead to a select apprenticeship with IBEW upon graduation.

“Students who know why they are going to college, trade school or to professional training have a much higher success rate after high school,” Dr. Wallace says. “We are working diligently to make sure we ‘get it right’ for every student. It’s a big lift for any district, but we feel it is worth the effort and necessary for the success and happiness of our students.” ■

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**MAINE TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207**

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## District 207 Named One of the Most Innovative Districts in the Nation

District 207 was one of just 25 school districts in the U.S. to be honored as one of the “Most Innovative School Districts” for its unique approaches to expand and support teacher learning and student success both during and after high school.

The award was provided by The School Superintendents Association and the Successful Practices Network. A case study was written about the district to provide educators across the country with insights into District 207’s innovation in many areas including:

- attracting and maintaining high quality educators.
- creating a personalized coaching program for teachers that is unique in the country.
- fostering teacher innovation and risk taking.
- personalized learning for students.

“We are incredibly proud of everyone in our organization for all of the efforts that have taken place over many years to evolve our practice to better serve students in a way that is uniquely innovative and a hallmark of this incredible public school district,” says Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace.

### Among the many specific reasons the district was selected included:

- The graduating classes of 2018 were likely the first in the country whose teachers for all four years each had instructional coaching and a personalized coaching plan for the sole purpose of improving learning conditions for students.
- The unique approach to career/college advisement that benefits students (highlighted on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter).
- The approach to technology that is at the forefront of cloud and 1-to-1 computing. ■

