MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207



SPRING 2021

New Spaces Opening Up at All Three Schools



Maine East Strength and Conditioning Teacher Chris Hare instructs students on the use of the new TRX equipment inside the recently opened weight room and fitness center at the school.



The Maine West fieldhouse opened recently and the first group of students played volleyball and other sports in the new facility.



Maine South students take part in culinary class in the newly remodeled space at the school.

Residents can stay up to date with all construction related information in many ways including the district's website at **www.maine207.org/construction**. The website contains videos and photos of the construction progress and new spaces.

Several spaces are opening up for student and staff use as part of the District 207 renovations. Those include the new fieldhouse at Maine West, the new dance studio and fitness center at Maine East, and the new cafeteria at Maine South. These are just a few examples in addition to the many renovated classrooms that have new floors, ceilings, lighting and paint. Additionally, most of the HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems at all three schools are being replaced or upgraded.

"We are so pleased to begin to see the benefits of all the hard work over the past several years to modernize our schools and make them more conducive to learning for our students," Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace says.

The work continues at each school even though school returned to in-person learning for any student who choose to attend school after winter break. This summer more major projects will be worked on including the current cafeteria and indoor track at Maine West being transformed into a two-level cafeteria and

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student resource center. "Center Court" at Maine East will be completed and will include the relocated library and support services for students. In addition, the renovated cafeteria will be finished at Maine East. At Maine South, the current work is centered around the student union and entry lobby and that will be ready for the fall. It will provide easy access to the main office, the College and Career Resource Center and provide collaborative learning space for students.

Effectuating Collective Efficacy to Impact Student Learning

District 207 is on a journey, striving for the research concept of collective efficacy. What does this mean in basic terms: it's when an organization creates conditions to support each of its members, in this case teachers and students, to be their best. While it sounds simple, in practice it is complex work that only a few districts across the country are doing and even fewer are doing very well.

"We strive to provide a set of constructs for our students and teachers so they can be on a continuous path of growth," says Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace. "We want everyone to have a shared understanding of what a learning community looks like. In order to accomplish this goal, we do many unprecedented things to support our staff and our teachers."

One prime example is that the district is in its 7th year of "All in Coaching," meaning every single teacher at Frost Academy, Maine East, Maine South and Maine West has a coach and a coaching plan. The district's graduating class of 2018 was likely the first class in the country whose teachers, for all four

years, had instructional coaching and a personalized coaching plan for the sole purpose of improving learning conditions for students.

Another example of collective efficacy in action are the multitiered systems of support that are in place for District 207 students. There are many examples of supports that are in place to meet students where they are and provide them with the assistance they need to be

successful. One of these is the utilization of instructional routines to teach vocabulary in several curricular areas. This has led to increased reading proficiency among students previously identified as not meeting reading standards.



Maine West teacher Joel Walsh teaches English to students. All teachers are a part of the collective efficacy journey in District 207 which includes "All in Coaching" and multi-tiered systems of support for students.

District 207 Featured in Recent Book titled "Leading Collective Efficacy"

District 207's work in collective efficacy, led by Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace and Director of Adult Learning Dr. Jill Geocaris, is featured in

> a recently published book by Stefani Arzonetti Hite and Jenni Donohoo titled "Leading Collective Efficacy -**Powerful Stories of Achievement and** Equity."

"Being a part of this important book, co-written by Jenni Donohoo who is a co-researcher with John Hattie, one of the world's pre-eminent researchers

on what works in schools, is an incredible honor and truly a tribute to the talented teachers, administrators and staff who have helped us develop a shared vision for how to serve our students well beyond their time in our high schools," says Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace.

Chapter 2 of the book is focused on the collective efficacy work in District 207. The chapter is titled "Goal Consensus," and shares many of the key elements that have led the district to be sought out among educators as a model in this key area. The chapter discusses District 207 approaches including its unique adult learning model, opening access for opportunities to all student learners in the system and the district's robust coaching program. It also discusses the student achievement gains reached due to these approaches.

Another multitiered system of support entails utilizing responsive strategies including an early warning dashboard system to screen for

school.

students who may be at risk. This allows the team to respond in real time to support a student rather than a system where a student could go weeks or months without an intervention from the

"These two initiatives work in a symbiotic way to ultimately provide students with a high quality learning environment that allows them to reach their full potential," says Dr. Wallace. "By utilizing both systems we are able to provide a more personal and equitable learning

Watch the District 207 **Collective Efficacy Video**

experience for our students."



Anyone interested in learning more about the district's approach to collective efficacy, a video was recently created that shares the story from multiple perspectives.

Access the video through the district's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/District207 or watch the video at: http://bit.ly/207video.



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District Earns \$30,000 Grant to Increase Financial Literacy

In order to help meet the District 207 vision and goals for its financial literacy offerings at all three schools, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department chairs applied for a grant through Next Gen Personal Finance. The purpose of this grant is to recognize and support schools that provide a financial literacy course as a graduation requirement, which District 207 added for the 2021 school year. As part of the course, all District 207 students will explore potential careers and corresponding educational costs to ensure each student understands the return on investment of their pursuit. District 207 was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the organization.

There are many planned uses for the funding:

- A continuation of the deep connection with the Integrated Career Services department to identify mentors and guest speakers that help provide a different perspective for students
- Field trip opportunities to expose students to various careers connected to financial literacy
- Purchase resources and materials that support the curriculum
- Teacher professional development

"This is beyond just 'financial literacy' in the conventional sense," says Superintendent Dr. Ken Wallace. "It will also include strategies

for students to develop a 'Return on Investment' profile of their career paths."

Career and Technical Education
Department Chairs Erica Tuke (Maine South),
Sabrina Benjamin (Maine East) and Samantha
Archer (Maine West) helped secure a
\$30,000 grant to expand the financial
literacy of students in District 207 schools.

