

LETTERS & OPINIONS POLICY

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome (by the 15th!) civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

You'll find a much longer discussion of what we consider civil and reasoned, and why, at AndoverBeacon.com/Letters. Please read it carefully before you write!



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LETTERS

AE/MS is an Excellent School

How is AE/MS doing? Objective data says quite well.

Niche ranks AE/MS 64th among the state's 545 elementary/middle schools. The school and the town can proudly point to the ratio of one teacher to every 10 students. The NEA ranks New Hampshire second in the nation in teacher-student ratio and last in funding.

The school has a professional staff – 11 teachers, all certified and professionally educated, holding appropriate degrees, and many with extensive post baccalaureate education and multiple certificates.

Supporting classroom teachers are:

- seven classroom assistants,
- two special education specialists,
- two special education case managers,
- two academic intervention specialists,
- two curriculum leaders, and
- a school nurse and school counselor.

The school's motto, "Soaring to be the BEST we can be!" captures the school's dedication to excellence. That is also found in its mission statement and the Eagle Pledge (Always be re-

Annex extend the school day, and basketball teams compete into the evening.

AE/MS today is the historic successor of a public education tradition in America, going back to Horace Mann, the first great American advocate of public education. He believed that, in a democratic society, education should be free.

Andover took part in that tradition from its earliest days. The Tucker Mountain School (1837 to 1893) attests to the town's support for public education.

I am proud to support AE/MS for the excellent education it provides for all of the town's students.

Kent Hackmann
Andover

Avoiding Unnecessary Tragedy

In the Holidays 2021 issue of *The Andover Beacon*, State Representative Louise Andrus expressed her opinions about masks being a matter of choice. About vaccines she wrote "it's sad and disgusting what we are doing to people in that they are losing their jobs," and ends her article by hoping that 2022 will be a better year for all of us.

What I believe is sad is that treating masks as a matter of choice is acting like it's a fashion item rather than something that protects you and those around you.

What I also feel is sad is that 2021, health wise, could have been a better year if more people had been vaccinated.

But what I truly believe is sad is that the opinions of Representative Andrus, which I feel are misguided, could lead to, inadvertently, more unnecessary tragedy in 2022.

Ron Charles
St. Louis, Missouri
a *Beacon* subscriber



Your opinion matters! Please send a letter to the *Beacon* expressing your thoughts on any local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

spectful, Everyone respected, Make good choices, and Safety first, last, and always). The Eagle Pledge follows the daily Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

And there is more. The students hold poetry readings, concerts, commemorations (Veterans Day has been one of my favorites), grandparent Thanksgiving dinners, and dramatic productions. After-school clubs and enrichment in the

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