



On the first day back to school, Riley Keezer (l) and Madisyn Brayshaw work together on an exercise in Mr. Hubbard's third grade class.

Staff photo: Charlie Darling



Members of the Andover One Wheelers travel team stand in front of a float depicting the New Hampshire state seal before the start of the Belmont Old Home Parade. (L-r) Betsy Abrahamson, Tiffany Poulin, Alicia Barry, Erin Hanscom, Elizabeth Labrie, Ben Yusko, and Hannah Veinotte. Erin is holding an "I love it here!" sign as part of VisitNH.com's Dream Vacation photo contest. Photo: Lisa Hanscom

AE/MS SWINGS INTO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

By Jane Slayton
Principal, AE/MS

We're back...

As I write this, the summer is quickly coming to a close, and we are excitedly anticipating the arrival of students ready to start a new school year. It will be nice to have the building filled with the hustle and bustle of students and teachers. The start of a new school year is always such a special time. Students and staff are re-energized, enthusiastic, and almost eager to get back into the routine that the school year brings with it.

The building has fresh paint in most places, and some classroom locations have changed. There are shiny new blue lockers waiting to be filled with backpacks, jackets, and snacks.

In order to free up more space for learning in the classroom, we are having the third grade students store their "stuff" in lockers in the upper hallway. We have also removed the cubbies from the fourth grade classrooms, but those students will have lockers assigned in the middle school hallway. I think the third and fourth grade students will be pretty delighted with this new arrangement.

The huge world map in the upper hallway has been replaced with an updated map. Come and check it out.

A big change that AE/MS families will see has been the removal of the ugly fence between the Andover Afterschool Program and the parking lot. There are now boulders and tiger lilies there instead. I am sure you will agree this is much more aesthetically pleasing. What a difference it makes.

Also, Brendan Coll, an Andover secondary student, has done some planting and landscaping work near the school sign at the entrance. We are pleased Brendan offered to do this as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Also, nine massive trees have been removed by the playground, which has opened things up more.

Food Allergies

We have also expanded our cafeteria to provide a "nut-free" area. All students are welcome to eat in the new area, but lunches, whether from home or school, should not contain certain food allergens. Since we have an increasing number of students and staff impacted by food allergies, we want to minimize the risk of accidental exposure and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic members of our school community.

The kindergarten classroom has moved back upstairs by the cafeteria. See AE/MS on page 47

MVHS Has PRIDE In New Mission Statement

From the MVHS newsletter

Our new Mission Statement and Core Values:

The Merrimack Valley High School community is dedicated to the pursuit of an education that will prepare all of its members for their future. To achieve a 21st-century learning experience, the school and its members will act with PRIDE:

Pursue high academic standards through challenging and diverse learning opportunities

Respect self and others

Instill interpersonal skills useful in both local and global communities

Develop a plan for personal success

Engage in behaviors that promote wellness and a safe, healthy environment.

Proctor To Greet 356 Students For New School Year

Twenty-one are from Andover

By Chuck Will
Proctor Academy

Proctor opens the school year fully enrolled with 356 students, of which 97 are local "day students." Twenty-one are residents of Andover, and ten of these are new this year. One hundred and twenty-seven students are new to the school and will be hiking in 18 small groups through the White Mountains September 8 through 13 on Wilderness Orientation.

Proctor students come to Andover from 30 states and 15 foreign countries. One hundred and twenty students (34%) are New Hampshire residents; 95

are from Massachusetts; 19 hail from Connecticut; 11 are New Yorkers; 10 attend from Vermont, and 9 are from Rhode Island.

Other states represented are California (7), Maine (7), Maryland (7), Texas (6), New Jersey (4), Louisiana (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (2), Georgia (2), Florida (2), North Carolina (2), Ohio (2), Pennsylvania (2), Virginia (2), Washington DC (2), Washington (2), Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and South Dakota.

Foreign nations represented are South Korea (8), Canada (5), People's Republic of China (3), Germany (2), Cameroon, Pakistan, Sweden, Ber-

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Watch Out For School Buses!

Please keep our students safe! Remember these important safety rules:

Stop For School Buses!

School bus yellow caution lights come on at least 100 feet before a planned stop. Watch out for students who may cross the street before the red lights start flashing.

School bus red lights mean **traffic in both directions must stop!** **Never** pass a stopped school bus on the right!

Violations Can Be Costly

Being convicted of ignoring a school bus' flashing red lights can mean up to \$1,000 in fines and suspension of your license for 30 days.

Being convicted of passing a stopped school bus on the right can cost you up to \$1,200 and up to a 120-day suspension.

And who knows how much it will cost you in increased auto insurance premiums, and for how long!