
SST TODAY

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Whether you are a parent contemplating whether SST is the right choice for your child, an SST graduate waiting to hear about acceptance into veterinarian school, or a community member who has been a supporter of SST for years, you need to know that there have been many changes at SST in the last few years. Every single change has happened deliberately and intentionally to improve the education of our students. It is our charge to provide them with the most innovative and technologically advanced programs possible. The work we do at SST is particularly important today as we face a challenging economy. Never before have skilled, qualified technicians been more valuable nor more in-demand. We are able to make our charge a reality because we have outstanding teachers and state-of-the-art equipment. In this letter I hope to convey to you some of the wonderful changes at SST and achievements of students and faculty which are having a positive impact on students' lives. **Did you know that the Seacoast School of Technology has**

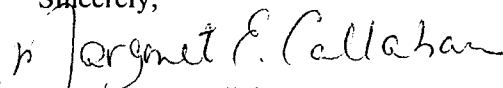
- Successfully completed an \$8.5 million renovation providing all programs with newly- renovated spaces, updated technology and equipment which will ensure the School's place as a leader in Career & Technical education well into the 21st century.
- Established an after-school English program, through the Alternative Education Grant. This grant is aimed at credit recovery and dropout prevention. Many SST students find great success within our walls in their technical programs and now they have the opportunity to earn English credit here, too. Teacher, Dr. Joyce Robinson, has created very personalized programs for the students in her classes.
- Recognized Computer Programming and Pre-Engineering Teacher, Norm Messa, in a national publication about best practices for his work with middle school and high school students, as well as, his mentoring of many SST teachers.
- Invited middle school students to experience SST via Technology Fun Nights, held one Friday night each month. Students learn engineering, computer programming and graphics through various software applications with different topics featured each month. Up to forty students have been taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity which is designed by Pre-Engineering and Computer Programming teacher, Norm Messa.
- Hosted a statewide Welding Competition in the new Welding shop, complete with fourteen booths, a gas arc manifold with ten stations and a state-of-the-art exhaust system. Teacher, Jonathan Theberge, organized the competition which included support from Maine Oxy.
- Connected with the lab of the Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, Dr. Roger Tisen. Biotechnology teacher, Bruce Van Dyke contacted his former colleague and has established a partnership for SST students to work on transformation of bacteria using multi-colored proteins.

- Passed another NATEF certification milestone. SST was the first NATEF certified Automotive Technologies program in the state of New Hampshire and has an official NH Inspection Station. A new Hunter Alignment Machine, donated to the School by the Exeter Area New Car Dealers' Association, ensures that each student in the Automotive Technologies program is trained on the Hunter and has several opportunities to use it prior to graduating. Teachers, Bob Nienhouse and Sean King, oversee all training in the new 13,000 square foot, 13-bay Automotive Technologies building.
- Opened our brand new Dining Room and Conference Center as part of the Culinary Arts program. Teacher, Jim Collins and his students frequently serve up to 700 guests each week in the new dining room. Culinary Arts students are enjoying the fruits of their new kitchen, which is fully equipped for production, as well as, teaching.
- Wowed students in the region with video conferencing! Student Services Counselor, Sam Bruno, visited regional sending schools with a live video feed back to SST, enabling Epping students, for instance, sitting in the media center to interact with SST students from Epping working in their biotechnology lab. Gee whiz!
- Completed another successful Career Fair Days week during which about 1,200 students from the region (Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools) visited SST to learn about the school and visit their top two programs of choice.
- Added another Project Running Start course to our Marketing Education program. Teacher, Sandy Flannigan, is offering *Principles of Marketing* for first-year students and *Business Management* for second-year students. There are currently ten programs offering Running Start credit and about 200 SST students who are earning college credit through Running Start.
- Welcomed New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture, Lorraine Merrill, to the Animal & Plant Science program. Teacher, Anne DeMarco, along with her students in full FFA attire showed-off the new program space, including an aquaculture lab, a small animal lab and a greenhouse, to the Commissioner.
- Developed a partnership with new neighbors from the Squamscott Community Commons. The very creative and artistic Digital Communications students are creating a brochure for the Tuck Learning Campus under direction of teacher, Kristine Groleau. Students are using the brand new video production studio and its new equipment for the first time this semester.
- Communicated scholarship opportunities to all seniors at SST. The deadline for applying for SST scholarships is Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Thirty-four scholarships were awarded to SST students representing each program at last year's Certificate Ceremony.
- Programs collaborating on lessons in order to best serve students. Civil Engineering and Architecture teacher, Vaso Partinoudi, recently included Building Construction students along with their teacher, Jim Klingensmith, in a lesson on sustainable architecture with guest speaker, Doug Bencks, UNH's architect.

- Been given a pictorial and documented history of the Seacoast School of Technology. Former Principals, Lang Plumer and Nancy Pierce, worked on this project for nearly two years. Practically every event since ground was broken in 1979 can be found in chronologically ordered albums in the conference room. Feel free to visit.
- Modernized the Building Construction program under the direction of teacher, Jim Klingensmith. All new, safe and modern equipment, including the Saw Stop, now occupies the shop and the worksites of this program.
- Applauded the creative lessons being designed by the Early Childhood Education program students under the direction of teacher, Carla Ranks. Children's literature and songs are used by our high school students as they plan lessons to use with the students in the Wright Start Preschool. Teachers Janel Holmes and Stacey Jordan oversee the preschool and the 30 youngsters who attend the school.
- Great reason to be proud of the Health Sciences and Technologies program. Under the guidance of teacher, Linda Cutler, twenty students graduated with an LNA last year. This year's seniors are completing CPR certification and begin internships, which can lead to an LNA, next week. Juniors are working on First Aid certifications.
- Provided all SST students with a Work-Based Learning experience under the watchful eye of Career Advisor, Marilyn Kellogg. Some are at a job site and some are through networking meetings which happen here at the school. Many students from several programs take advantage of internship opportunities at dozens of locations including McFarland Ford, Exeter Hospital, UNH's Microbiology Lab, Raymond Fire Department and Brentwood Animal Hospital. All students leave SST with a professional portfolio.
- An outstanding website. Please visit **SeacoastTech.com** to find out the latest events happening at SST or to learn more information about a particular program.
- **A deadline of March 6 for new applications.** Please be sure your student turns in an SST application to his or her guidance counselor by March 6. Current Year I SST students wishing to return to SST for a second year turned in completed applications to their SST teacher on February 17.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to be able to work each day with students who are engaged and focused on their work at SST. My good fortune includes the outstanding faculty and staff who make countless, unique opportunities for students possible. I could not be any prouder of the important work the SST faculty does to ensure that our students leave this school with marketable skills. The Governing Board, which consists of the superintendent and a board member from each of the six districts, has been enormously supportive of our programs. The Exeter Region Cooperative School District Board has been extremely helpful and encouraging as we forge new paths. Look for summer camps for middle school students and classes for adult learners to be happening at SST soon. I have included a calendar of important dates on the next page for your convenience.

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Callahan
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 23-27	No School/February Vacation
March 6	Applications for NEW students due to sending school guidance counselors
March 13	National Technical Honor Society Inductions/9:45 a.m./Talbot Gym
March 20	No School/Teacher In-Service
April 1	Open House for Middle School Families
April 8	Small Business Showcase and Business After Hours hosted by Marketing Education/4:00 p.m. Talbot Gym
April 14	SST Scholarship Applications Due
April 15	Information Session for all Newly Accepted Students 6:30 p.m./Talbot Gymnasium
April 23	Early Childhood Education & Wright Start Preschool Beatrix Potter Tea Party
April 27-May 1	No School/Spring Vacation
May 15	Early Release/No PM Session
May 25	No School/Memorial Day
THURSDAY, MAY 28	CERTIFICATE CEREMONY/ 5:30 P.M. EXETER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM