

# GREEN MOUNTAIN UNION HIGH SCHOOL

## Principal's Report

August 2019

### Celebrations and Student Activities:

#### Opening day

Students from the National Honor Society greeted grade 7 students on August 27 and all students on August 28 with green and gold beads and "Welcome Back to School" pencils.



All students, grades 7 to 12, gathered in the Green Mountain auditorium for a brief opening day assembly. They were introduced to the new teachers and staff members, and then heard information about the wide variety of student clubs, sports, and field trips available at GM.

#### Open House

Open house was held the evening of Thursday, September 5. Parents visited their children's classrooms and also heard teachers talk about what proficiency based education looks like in each subject area and grade. High school parents traveled to all of their children's A and B day classes and were then invited to a gathering in the auditorium to answer any additional questions. Middle School parents began in the auditorium to get an overview of the middle school structure and process and then rotated to all of their children's core teachers. This was a slightly different approach than previous years (when parents would decide which teachers they wanted to visit and simply go to those classrooms -- which resulted in teachers not being sure that all parents heard all the information they wanted to share.) Feedback about the change was positive from both teachers and parents.

## Athletics

Boys and Girls soccer -- Varsity, JV, and Middle School -- are all underway, as are Co-ed Varsity Golf and Co-ed Varsity Cross Country. Keep up with all the Chieftains at [GMUHS Athletics](#)



## Fall Play

Auditions for the High School fall drama production, *Almost Maine*, will be held after school on September 11 and 12. This year, the director position will be filled by Cynthia Austin (Chorus teacher), Keith Hill (MS Social Studies teacher), and Alex Brady (Band/Music teacher). *Almost Maine* is a series of 9 scenes exploring love and its aftermath set in a remote Maine town. It is one of the most popular and frequently produced high school plays in America. The play will be performed the first week in November.

## Curriculum and Instruction:

**Professional Development** Teachers and paraeducators at Green Mountain engaged in professional development on the morning of Monday, August 26, and Tuesday, August 27. From 8:00 to 11:00 on each day, we discussed PBE grading strategies, aligning assessments with standards, and inquiry/data cycles. Teachers did an activity to practice making predictions about student performance relative to baseline data, applying strategies and then reassessing. This will be part of all teachers' practice this year -- to set goals based on defined student learning outcomes, measure progress, and adjust instruction. During the afternoon on both days, teachers met with colleagues for collaborative work and/or worked on setting up their classrooms and preparing lessons.



**New Teacher**

GM welcomes another new teacher, special educator Patrick Wheeler, to the school on Monday, September 9. Patrick joins us from Pennsylvania, where he has been teaching outside of Philadelphia for the last several years.

**NWEA Testing**

The NWEA reading and math assessments, which are used for diagnostic and placement purposes, will be given to grade 7 and grade 8 on September 16 and 17.

**Presentation at Black River**

Green Mountain will participate in a presentation of educational options being given to students and parents at Black River on Monday, September 16. GM, along with 6 or 7 other schools, will give a ten-minute presentation on the academic, athletic, and co-curricular opportunities available at our school. The presentations will be followed by time for individual Q and A.