

Leonard Middle School

September
2011

NEW STAFF

This summer we only had 2 teachers and 2 ed techs to hire. We welcome Melissa Lewis as our new 7th grade teacher. She will be working with the Moose Team to truly integrate the middle school curriculum in that team. Melissa was an MAT teacher here at LMS last year and she made such a great impression we brought her on permanently. We are very lucky to have her and we hope to hold on to her for as long as we can. Corrie Puhlick is our new Gifted and Talented coordinator. She is coming to us all the way from Arizona and is very excited about the position. The three ed tech positions, 2 special education and one Title 1, were all filled over the summer. We welcome Brian McDormand, Larry Klein and Asia Campbell into our school community. Both Brian and Larry hold coaching positions in the district.

Enrollment status

We have some interesting things to report here. Our overall enrollment has increased by 21 students and we are presently at 311. This is the highest enrollment at Leonard Middle School for at least the last five years. We have actually enrolled 26 new students but we had 10 students move away. The rest of the increase comes from a larger fifth grade class. The other part of this situation is that, of the 26 new students we have enrolled 12 will require special education services. While we are extremely excited about all the new students we have received this year we are definitely scrambling to get all services in place and get these new students settled in. It is a great problem to have and we look forward to the school year. Our new sixth graders are all wide eyed and happy and the new three two teacher teams seem to be working very well so far. All in all it has been a really smooth opening and while the additional students have posed challenges in scheduling and services, we are well on our way to a great school year.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

September 26 –

Picture Day

September 21 –

School Board
Meeting

September 26 –

Laptop Orientation
for Parents**THANKS TO THE
CUSTODIANS
ANDS
SECRETARIES
FOR THEIR HARD
EFFORTS TO GET
SCHOOL READY
FOR OUR STAFF
AND STUDENTS
THIS FALL****CIPS APPEAL IS WON**

Last June we made an appeal to the DOE to consider other elements in deciding CIPS status. Remember, if a school does not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) on state testing and according to NCLB standards, then they become a Continuous Improvement Priority School (CIPS) At that time the DOE gets involved with your school improvement efforts.. Our appeal was won and we are now reset to Monitor status. This means that we made AYP last year in all areas. Since CIPS is a three-year process we still receive funds this year for implementing our school improvement initiatives. All of this is great news and great for our school. I am very proud of the hard work that all teachers and ed techs have done to have our students perform so well on the annual State test, NECAP. We will be taking these again in October and are looking for another year of improvement.

New Structure, New Team Name at LMS

In the sixth grade this year we have implemented a new structure for creating smaller learning communities. Smaller learning communities are a research proven method to create a safer and more productive learning environment for middle school students. The new feature is that we now have three two-teacher teams, as opposed to two teams where one had three teachers and one had two teachers. Already we are seeing the benefits of keeping all teams small. We can take care of students much better in the transition to middle school where each teacher is only responsible for roughly 38 students. The Bobcat Team has been around for a while. The Falcon team was named last year at Step Up day and this year the third team chose the Dolphin name. All are Maine animals and yes, there are three kinds of Dolphins in the Gulf of Maine!! We intend on getting a sculpture made with all of our team names. More on that later!!