

Letter to the Team #6 - January 27, 2023

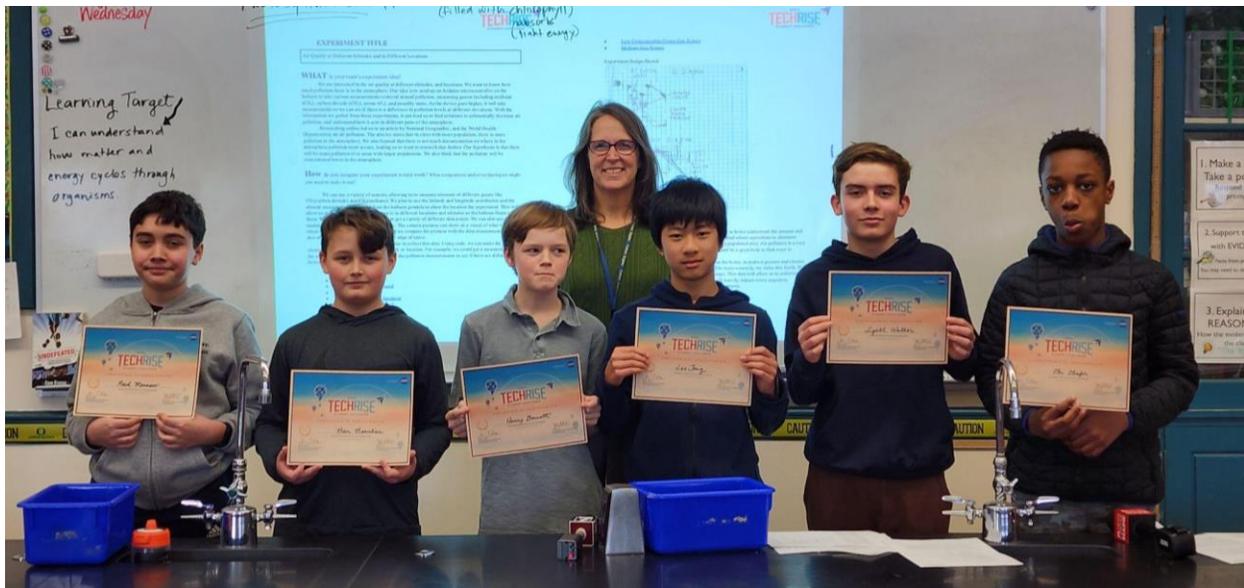
Snow Day

One of our esteemed School Committee Members shared with me the positive effect of a snow day. The explanation was that we all have a lot of things on our plates and sometimes it's good to just get outside with family, breathe the winter air, and watch the snowflakes fall to gain a brief respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. From my personal perspective, calling a snow day is a very stressful decision to make the "right call," which ultimately lies in the eyes of the beholder. Multiple collaborative conversations occur, which linger on throughout the predominantly sleepless evening or prior to the break of dawn, in order to come to a conclusion. Please know that in making a snow day decision, I will try my best for students, families, faculty, staff and the community.

I'll share a secret with you: once a snow day decision is made and after completing my work day, I put on my headlamp, lace up trail shoes, and go for a run throughout the City of Bangor to enjoy the winter air and create new footsteps through the freshly fallen snow. During my gratitude run I often think of the people in my life that I am grateful for and ponder a "Belief for What is Possible." In Bangor we have approximately 3,500 students; thus 3,500 reasons to be grateful.

NASA TechRise Student Challenge

Six seventh-graders from William S. Cohen School won a national experiment design competition offered by NASA. The team is one of sixty groups of middle and high school students selected to participate nationally in the NASA TechRise Student Challenge administered by Future Engineers. The William S. Cohen School team has the only students to receive this honor from Maine.



In their proposal, the team of students will be working to discover ways to limit, reduce, or end air pollution. The team stated in their proposal, "We want to be the generation that changes the world for the better, to make a greener and cleaner world."

Props to teacher Margaret Pietrak for presenting this challenge to her students. Commenting on the NASA TechRise Student Challenge, Margaret expressed the value of enriching learning by stating, "Each of those are real experiments that a professional scientist would do. Students are amazing whether they're a first grader or a senior in high school, each one of them is creative and has their own talents. If you listen, you can learn a lot from them."

Maine Jazz All State Festival

Bangor High School recently served as host of the 2023 Maine Jazz All State Festival and received commendation from Andrew Forster, President of the Maine Music Educators Association for hosting a well-run event while specifically mentioning BHS music teachers George Redman and Matt Tipton. Music students from across the state, dedicated teachers, and nationally recognized conductors attended this event.

On a related note, if anyone would like a fun night out, the Pep Band is performing at many of the high school basketball games. After the pandemic's interruption of many activities, it's so nice to hear live music again at all of our schools!

Korean War Legacy Fellowship

Shout out to history teacher, Jaime Jarvis who gained acceptance in the Korean War Legacy Fellowship. Jaime has a passion to preserve the legacy of the Korean War. Through this opportunity, Jaime will be able to assist teachers in the Bangor School Department in the development of curriculum related to Korea and the Korean War. She will also be working on archiving oral histories of veterans and developing curriculum resources.

Maine's Positive Story of the Day



The Bangor High School Knitting Club spent the last few months knitting hats to be donated to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. This picture tells the story of the value of serving others.

Enthusiastically yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Tager".

Jim Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department