

Dear Merrimack Families~

As you know from previous messages, Merrimack High School is competing in the Granite State Challenge and our team continues its amazing and successful run towards the state championship.

**THIS SATURDAY AT 6 PM**, our MHS Granite State Challenge team is in the **SEMIFINALS**. Tune in at **6PM** to watch Scott Peyton, Alex Jobin, Troy Church, Andrew Peyton, and alternates Nick Gacharna and Aidan Remick take on the Sabers of Souhegan.

If we win on Saturday, we will go on to the finals for only the third time in school history (having lost to BG in '87 and Nashua South in '16). This is a very exciting time for the students, as this current group has actually lost the past two seasons in the semifinals to the eventual champion, so there's a bit of pressure on them this weekend.

It goes without saying that these students deserve most of the credit for their successful run. They are excellent examples of their peers in our high school, all of whom make us proud. We are all, indeed, in good hands if students like these, and all their high school peers, are part of our future. Credit also goes to their families, the Merrimack community, and all their teachers, all the way through our school system, for developing these young minds. I am sure they would be among the first to agree that their success is a function of all the support they've received from all their helpers along the way. I must also point out that their coach, Dr. Campbell, and their assistant coach, Mrs. Mandra, have been instrumental in creating the conditions for this team's great success so far. Like all teachers, they have worked tirelessly to support these students in every way possible. Great students and great teachers equals success—no matter what happens on Saturday, they are champions to us.

These are tough times. Our Merrimack High School Granite State Challenge team, and the great students and teachers and family and community they represent, gives us reason to smile and appreciate the many good things that are happening with and for our students every day despite these tough times.

Let's tune in Saturday night and cheer on our team!

Stay well.

Mark McLaughlin  
Superintendent