James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Annual Report
2021-2022

At James Mastricola Upper Elementary School (JMUES) we are committed to working collaboratively with all members of our educational community including students, families, teachers, specialists, support personnel, and the JMUES administration. We are dedicated to helping children reach their true potential academically and socially. As presented at the school board meeting in the spring of 2022, we promote voice and choice for all our students while encouraging them to be empathetic and engaged citizens.

During the 2021-2022 school year, our educators continued to provide instruction using a variety of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies and guidelines to meet the individual needs of each learner. We applied our knowledge of the UDL practices and continued to develop life-long learners by supporting their skills in self-regulation, sustaining effort, and fostering a classroom community. Our school-wide instructional goal for the 2021-2022 school year was on designing flexible, goal-directed, and standards-based educational experiences.

JMUES was awarded the Promising Futures Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Education. This grant provided students and educators an opportunity to explore self-regulation and mindfulness strategies (paying attention on purpose) that support all of the social-emotional skills that we hope our students develop throughout the course of their education in Merrimack, including stress management and coping skills. Whitney Tave, a consultant with expertise in mindfulness in schools, worked with teachers and students within every classroom at JMUES. Mrs. Tave also provided workshops for families and caregivers about ways to support their students at home.

During the year we continued our annual campaigns to promote respect, responsibility, safety, and kindness. Students participated in several anti-bullying activities. On October 20, 2021 students and staff wore orange to celebrate Unity Day to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. Additionally, each student and staff member created an anti-bullying badge, which was displayed at the front entrance as a reminder of our commitment to being bully-free and classrooms developed original anti-bullying slogans to hang outside of their doors. With guidance from the student support team, staff members and students created "Chains of Kindness". Each link represented an act of kindness that was given or received. The end product was hallway chains that created a meaningful continuous visual display for our whole learning community. Anti-Bullying posters illustrating the 2021-2022 school theme, "Bully Free Starts with Me!" were submitted and shared with the school community. Winning posters were framed and displayed in the main office hallway for all to see.

JMUES continued to collaborate with the Merrimack Police Department to offer students the PACT program, Police and Children Together. Led by Detective William Vandersyde, the program is comprised of a variety of lessons that encourage students to make good life choices. After completing the program, students were recognized by the administration, teachers, and Detective Vandersyde for their efforts.

In June, Mrs. McGill, Dr. Rheault, and Assistant Principal Elect, Meaghan Fowler were very excited to be able to visit all of the fourth-grade classrooms at James Mastricola Elementary School, Reeds Ferry Elementary School, and Thorntons Ferry Elementary School to begin the transition process to the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School. The year concluded with a fabulous Jaguar Jamboree field day and a Moving-On Ceremony to celebrate our grade six students.

In June of 2022, educators, staff, students, parents, and the Merrimack community celebrated the retirement of Marsha McGill, Principal of JMUES from its opening in 2004. Mrs. McGill dedicated 47 years of her life towards educating students, with 36 of these years being in Merrimack. We applaud her leadership and love for the students she served.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Nicole Rheault, Principal