

# CHAPTER SEVEN

# SCHOOLS

Reports of the Athol Royalston  
Regional School District &  
Montachusett Regional Vocational  
Technical School



1

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (ARRSD)**  
*Annual Report for the School Year 2013-2014, and the first half of the 2014-2015*  
*Prepared for the Annual Town meetings in Royalston (5/8/15) and Athol (6/8/15)*

**TO THE SELECTMEN & THE CITIZENS OF  
THE TOWNS OF ATHOL AND ROYALSTON;**

The Athol-Royalston Regional School District presents this Annual Report to the citizens of Athol and Royalston.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The District continues to find it difficult to find the appropriate funding for the needed resources to operate, and to make the requisite improvements demanded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Staff lost over the previous five years has not been restored because of budgeting issues. The District enrollment has leveled off over the last few years but it is lower than it was 10 years ago. Nevertheless, there is a need for funding to implement the District's next five-year Strategic Plan which begins in September of 2015.

The annual budget process should start every year with an examination of the performance of our students. This should be followed by recommendations from educators and parents as to how to improve student performance. These recommendations are then cost out and placed into the budget. During the budget process, priorities are created within these recommendations and brought before the School Committee for final approval. Because of a lack of revenue, this process has not been followed for the last six years. Our basic annual budget process, because of limited revenues, is simply to determine if we have enough resources so that we do not have to cut or layoff staff. Our non-negotiables in our budget (transportation, energy, utilities, insurance, special education, etc.) increase every year. With no more than very slight revenue increases, it is the always the educational side of our budget that is limited.

The reasons for our revenue problem have been the same for years: 1. The exhausting of all District-funded resources 2. The school "choice-out" cost to the District of \$1.9 million 3. The negligible increases in State aid through Chapter 70 4. Over \$1 million in special education tuition for students placed in DCF foster placements in Athol and 5. The difficult financial situation of our member Towns.

In our discussions with the FWAC of Athol and the Fincom of Royalston, it is clear that they understand and commiserate with our plight. We recognize and respect that our Towns have limited resources as well, and that they do the very best that they can for us. However, the State aid to our District pays for approximately 89% of the cost of educating our students. We are among the top five school districts in Massachusetts in the percentage of State aid received. At an All-Boards' Meeting held in March, the Towns said they would try to increase their assessments to the District over the next five years.

As always, we do not see this financial situation as an excuse for not doing the very best for our students. We see it as a challenge to our District and our Towns. It does mean that the District and the Towns need to find more ingenious and creative ways to do better for our students -- regardless of the available funding.

**FACILITIES**

Construction has begun on the new Athol Elementary School which is being built behind the Athol-Royalston Middle School. We again thank the citizens of Athol for their support and trust in being able to provide a state-of-the-art school for our children in grades PreK through 4. The groundbreaking for the new school took place in December of 2014, and the plan is that it will be ready to accept students in September of 2016.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visited Athol High School a year ago. In its report, it stated that the District will have to do something soon to refurbish or renovate the existing athletic and physical education locker rooms facilities there. We are trying to address the issue in two ways. First, we will continue to ask the State through the MSBA (which is funding much of our Elementary School Project) for funds to renovate the locker rooms. However, it is unlikely they would assist us until the new Elementary School is completed. The estimated cost is \$1 million, of which 80% would be paid by the State, if and when they would approve us. Second, we will ask the Towns to put aside money in their capital planning accounts



2

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (ARRSD)**  
***Annual Report for the School Year 2013-2014, and the first half of the 2014-2015***  
***Prepared for the Annual Town meetings in Royalston (5/8/15) and Athol (6/8/15)***

over the next five years to help defray the cost of renovations should State aid not be forthcoming. The condition of the locker rooms is critical to maintaining our full-accreditation at the High School.

ARRSD is always in the process of renovating and improving its athletic fields. There was some damage to the High School football field as a result of the snow removal for the Thanksgiving Day game last fall, and it is being repaired this summer. The District has funded much of this with the assistance of the Athletic Association, and they deserve kudos for helping us keep our athletic facilities as good as they can be for our students and the community.

### **DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

We always ask the citizens of Athol and Royalston to check out our web site at [arrsd.org](http://arrsd.org). There, you can find all of the reports that are issued regarding the District by the State and other outside agencies. The newest report which should be posted by May will be the one-year evaluation of the Turnaround Plan for the Riverbend-Sanders Street Schools. The State report is positive and shows strengths in most areas of the report and positive growth in others. The report highlighted a positive culture and climate, illustrated a solid classroom organization, and provided suggestions for improving instructional support. That Turnaround Plan is in effect for two more years. We believe that the Level 4 status of the Riverbend-Sanders Street schools will be upgraded to Level 3 in June of 2016.

Also posted on that web site will be the detailed Strategic Plan for the next five-years that will be sent to the School Committee for approval in June.

Although it is not on the web site yet, the District is now in the process of preparing a Vertical Articulation Plan (VAP) to more deeply connect the Middle School and the High School in curriculum development, instruction,

assessment, student interventions, and guidance. That Plan is being developed now by parents, teachers, students and community members. It will be given as a report to the School Committee with recommendations in the fall.

### **STUDENT BODY**

District enrollment has remained stable for the last three years and the number of students in Special Education, while very high has stabilized as well. The District's special education population is still amongst the highest in Massachusetts. The number of students who receive "free and reduced lunch" continues to grow with over 60% of our students getting assistance.

The number of student families who "choiced-out" of ARRSD increased by thirty-six this year, however the number of students who "choiced-in" to our District, has increased by twenty-five students. As mentioned previously, the net loss in revenue due to School Choice is \$1.9 million per year in Chapter 70 school aid. A recent survey was done regarding the reasons why parents "choice out" their students. These results can be found on our web site. We will soon survey the "choiced-in" families to see why they send their children to ARRSD. Either way, the bottom line is the District must continue to improve and upgrade its quality of education, and the achievement of its students, to decrease the number of families who choice out.

### **ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL — Class of 2014**

The AHS class of 2014 consisted of 75 students. Sixty nine of these students received diplomas and six received certificates of attainment. Of the 69 graduates, 42 of them continued their education by attending either a two-year or four-year college.

Twenty nine members of the class of 2014 were awarded a total of \$79,875 in local scholarships to assist them in their post-secondary education. Twenty three members of the class of 2014 continued their education at Mount Wachusett Community College, MassBay Community College, or Greenfield Community College. Additionally, 19 members



of the class of 2014 chose to attend Anna Maria College, Bentley University, Brandeis University, Bridgewater State University, Emerson College, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Lyndon State College, Salem State University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of New England, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Westfield State University, and Worcester State University.

Academically, the class of 2014 had a SAT Critical Reading score of 488, Math of 494, and Writing of 468. In 2014, AHS had 61 students take a total of 81 AP exams. Of these students, five were recognized with AP scholar awards, two with AP scholar with honor awards, and 1 with an AP scholar with distinction award.

During the 2013-2014 school year, there were two drama productions at AHS, *Midsummer Night's Jersey* and *High School Musical*. Additionally, there was the Lip Sync Competition, Mr. Athol High, and the Spirit Week Competition. The seniors won the spirit week competition. Their class quote was "We've spread our wings now watch us soar, we're the class of 2-0-1-4."

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Athol Royalston Regional School District continues to make it a priority to improve student achievement. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) measures student achievement using data from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). ARRSD is devoted to improving MCAS scores in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Science, and Mathematics. All Massachusetts schools and districts are classified into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing Level 1 and the lowest performing Level 5. Within ARRSD each school has its level for 2014. Athol High School is Level 3, Athol-Royalston Middle

School is Level 3, Pleasant Street School is Level 3, Royalston Community School is Level 3. The Riverbend/Sanders Street School is Level 4. The state assigns the level for each district according to its lowest performing school. So, even though there are only 58 students assessed in the Riverbend/Sanders Street School among the 1400 students in the District, we are designated a Level 4 district.

### **THE NEW MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATORS EVALUATION SYSTEM**

The District completed the first year of the Educator Evaluation System during the 2013-2014 school year, and it is now finishing up on year two. The District adopted the Massachusetts model for the Educator Evaluation System which provides a process for professional development and growth. During the process all educators begin with a self-assessment, and set goals based on that self-assessment with the evaluator. The evaluator and educator work together to establish a plan to meet the goals. The educator works on the goals throughout the plan period (one year or two year plan durations). The evaluator observes each educator for 7-10 observations during the plan period, and provides written feedback for the educator. At the end of the evaluation cycle educators provide the evaluator with evidence demonstrating the work towards and/or the attainment of the goals and effective teaching practices as outlined by the rubrics in the Educator Evaluation System.

Recommendations for improvement for teachers are included in the final summative report and will be followed with requirements of steps for improvement. We feel the Educator Evaluation System has dramatically helped to improve the quality of instruction in our Schools and look forward to further growth in the years that follow.



## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **District PD**

All educators in the District participated in professional development during the 2013-2014 school year to learn about the Educator Evaluation System. The focus of the activities was improving quality instruction in the classroom. The teachers also participated in PD targeting aligning the curriculum to the state standards and using data to inform instruction.

### **English Lang. Arts (ELA) Elementary PD**

The District contracted with Teachers for Teachers (PD consultants) for the ELA PD through the Reader's Workshop Model. Teachers participated in content area workshops beginning in January of 2014 and have continued through the 2014-2015 school year. In addition to content area PD, the ELA PD providers work in schools during on-site visits, providing coaching and modeling to teachers. During the site visits the teachers were grouped by grade level – each group met with the ELA PD provider for 30 minutes, then went to classrooms to observe a lesson modeled by the ELA PD provider, and completed the visit with a 30 minute de-briefing following the modeled lesson. The focus of the PD changed each visit based on data collected during the previous visits. During visits the ELA PD provider also reviewed data with teachers and made plans for instruction using “messy sheets” or planning templates.

### **Mathematics Elementary PD**

The District contracted with Looney Math Consultants to provide Math PD through a Math Workshop Model. The Math PD is constructed in the same manner as the ELA PD, with a greater focus on content and less modeling for year one (2014-2015). The teachers participate in content area PD. The teachers were also grouped by grade level and worked in small groups reviewing the Engage NY/Eureka math

materials while analyzing student data and planning for instruction.

### **Middle and High School PD**

The teachers in the middle and high schools worked with the DESE District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) to implement “Learning Walks”. Learning walks involve a group of teachers trained in the process, similar to what doctors do in hospitals when they conduct “rounds.” The group of teachers travel to various classrooms and are attempting to see trends in instructional practices. After visiting the classrooms the teachers share out at faculty meetings what trends were observed. As a result the faculty works together to build upon strengths and improve areas of need.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES**

The District presently serves 402 students with special needs age 3 to 22 representing 27.5 percent of the total student population. The District follows all state and federal regulations requiring a full continuum of services for students to ensure access to the general education curriculum. 29 students, including 6 whose families moved in this year, are served out of the District in other placements due to their intensive instructional, physical and emotional needs. Others have been placed in residential settings by the Dept. of Children and Families. Extended year services serve approximately 40 students to prevent significantly regression in their academic and/or social-emotional skills over the summer break.

### **LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

In the 2013 – 14 school year, ARRSD has 25 students, grades pre-k – 12, spread over 5 schools, who qualify for direct English language instruction according to state and federal laws. For the majority, Spanish is the first language, but Greek, Haitian Creole, German, Gujerati, Chinese and Vietnamese are also represented. Currently, these students receive services from a



licensed E.S.L. teacher, but this does not provide the requisite number of hours of E.S.L. instruction which the State recommends. The district ELL program is in compliance with all other state requirements. Despite its small size and diffuse geography, the ELL student community is tight. There is an English class for parents and community members as well. Student progress is formally measured by the annual ACCESS test as well as the MCAS test, and while there are sizable individual fluctuations in growth rates, there is generally growth.

For the past 2 years, the district has been a participant in the RETELL initiative. It has offered several DESE funded, on-site, graduate-level courses for all math, social studies, reading, special education, English/language arts, and science teachers in the district. These courses stress best practices for teaching the limited English students at all levels of fluency in their classrooms. So far, over 30 teachers and administrators have taken the training. Not only are these strategies shown to be excellent for ELLs, they are also excellent for all students who enter school with limited vocabulary and insufficient expressive language. These methods dovetail well with the Common Core requirements and other district initiatives, such as Reader's Workshop and Looney Math. Through the RETELL initiative, all teachers are now consciously language teachers while they teach their content, which should benefit many language-limited students in the ARRSD. The RETELL initiative lasts one more school year.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

In preparing students to meet the demands of the core curriculum and current standards for integrating technology in education, the technology department updates its goals based on classroom needs and available hardware and software. These tools serve students, teachers and administration in a cost effective manner.

The goals leverage how new and donated equipment can best be utilized to support the diverse and varied learning environment. The technology department has partnered with up to a dozen educational resources across the northeast for additional computers, interactive whiteboards, projectors, printers, WiFi and other equipment on a donated basis.

The beginning of the academic year saw a transition to a different internet service provider for most schools. This offered an increase in speed which in turn served more students and teachers resulting in even more access to learning, teaching and research materials. By the end of the year, a further transition from traditional broadband to fiber and much higher speeds was realized for most schools.

The beginning of the year also saw the introduction of the state's teacher evaluation system. Portable tablets received through grants assisted teachers and evaluators with the process by consolidating data collection and evidence gathering.

The Family Portal website experienced higher levels of activity during its second year as more families have been included and connected to their students' assignments, projects and grades on a more immediate basis.

Further efforts at the end of the year prepared the schools to implement MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments for grades K-11 by the addition of laptops through a grant. The results of the three times per year "snapshots" of the students' academic progress can immediately inform teaching practices which can translate to better student learning.

We need to note that the District has little to no funds in its annual budget to buy, lease or refresh technology. All technology improvements are the result of donations and grant funding to the District.



### **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GRANTS**

As always, we would like to thank the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation which offers individual teachers and schools mini-grants for specific classroom or school projects. For many years their efforts and funding have made a significant difference in the quality of what we do for our students.

Currently the district administers over 20 State and Federal grants. However, those grants continue to be cut by the State and Federal governments by close to 10%/year. We expect that to continue next year as well. The grants have provided much needed support to us in the areas of teacher quality improvement, special education, funding for at-risk students, and the Title I reading program. Ongoing annual grants continue in the areas of additional support for special education, kindergarten, early childhood, academic support, and improving professional development for teachers. Special competitive grants received by the district still include funding for our anti-bullying efforts, community service projects, voc-tech programs at Athol High School, Advanced Placement courses, literacy, and drug-free schools. District administrators and principals continually seek funding opportunities through grants to improve and augment student programs for the district.

### **ATHLETICS**

The 2013-2014 school year showed a slight growth in Interscholastic Athletic participation throughout the district. The District continues to support the Athletic Department with proper funding to meet all safety and seasonal equipment needs. The Athol-Royalston Athletic Association and the Athol Booster Association continue to be strong community organizations that provide a great deal of support for all of our athletic teams.

***The data regarding the entire Athletic Program over the last year is presented at the end of this Report.***

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

If there are any questions, comments or concerns regarding this Annual Report, we ask that you call ARRSD's Central Office at 978-249-2400 or submit an email via the District's web site.

The School Committee, administration, students and staff extend their thanks to the Towns of Athol and Royalston for their continued support. Even in these challenging economic times, the District persists in moving forward to improve its programming and assistance to our students and their families. Our commitment is to become a strong school district in Central Massachusetts. It is our pleasure to be of service to the residents of Athol and Royalston.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Nancy Melbourne, Chair,  
ARRSD School Committee***

***Anthony T. Polito, Supt. of  
Schools,  
ARRSD***

### **FURTHER DISTRICT INFORMATION?**

Please go to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District web site @ [arrsd.org](http://arrsd.org) for more information on the following:

- Strategic Planning
- Other important District and School Committee policies
- All District updates
- New Elementary School Documents and updates on construction
- District Evaluation Reports
- Family Portal and information



**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SALARIES PAID DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES	EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES
ALDRICH, DENISE R	15.00	BRENNAN, LINDA A	2,087.75
ALLEN, EILEEN R	81,807.40	BRIGGS, DONNA M	29,513.16
ALLEN, TERESA M	22,909.45	BRIGHENTI, MARY J	43,263.09
ALVAREZ, ANNETTE	5,527.74	BRISTOL, DANIEL J	3,825.00
AMES, JENNIFER L	67,040.94	BROOME, KELLIE R	1,837.50
ANDERSON, BARBARA L	43,313.38	BROUILLET, ERICA S	121,976.00
ANDERSON, KURT M	52,847.01	BROWN, CAROLYN A	9,971.18
ARCHAMBEAULT, WHITNEY S	30,148.20	BUCKLAND, LAURIE J	225.00
ARPIDE, JENNIFER L	52,041.58	BUCZEK, CHRISTOPHER R	53,405.39
BACIGALUPO, BONNIE L	22,171.18	BULGER, CHERILYN A	57,775.33
BAILEY, CHRISTINE M	1,200.00	BUTLAND, BRENDA A	43,835.00
BALZARINI, HENRY L	2,430.00	BYRNE-BEGIN, KATHERINE T	72,733.44
BANNISTER, COLLEEN A	3,425.00	CALDWELL, WILLIAM J	38,435.35
BARILONE, SAMANTHA R	425.25	CALVI, MYRA J	72,325.44
BARRUS, SHIRLEY M	1,725.00	CARNIE, MARY C	73,415.22
BARTLETT, LYDIA L	58,575.66	CARPENTER, LUCILLE L	600.00
BASSO, JENNIFER A	1,237.50	CARTER-DUPRAS, BETH E	912.75
BATES, SHELLY A	58,339.67	CASCONE, JUSTIN M	375.00
BECK, BRIAN E	6,864.00	CASELLA, MARY K	16,281.59
BELLUARDO-COBB, SUZANNE E	2,225.25	CASIELLO, CATHERINE P	7,527.71
BENJAMIN, BONNIE B	78,467.85	CASTONGUAY, MARCIA A	25,731.80
BERGERON, DEBRA M	69,510.64	CASTONGUAY, SARA L	1,650.00
BERGQUIST DARLING, LORI S	8,658.24	CETTO, HOLLY A	58,353.09
BERLINGER, JOHN A	40,186.44	CHAGNON, MELISSA L	2,680.00
BERRY, JILL E	9,457.00	CHAMBERLAIN, RACHAEL M	33,652.00
BERTHIAUME, NANCY E	2,905.00	CHASE, ELLEN M	22,870.93
BERTRAND, LAUREEN G	71,744.25	CHAUVETTE, KEVIN P	1,386.00
BEVIS, DANIEL R	30,901.27	CHAUVETTE, SHARON A	27,451.64
BEZIO, JOYCE I	13,534.65	CHIASSON, SCOTT A	39,649.48
BILLINGHAM, DIANE L	39,048.80	CHIASSON, WILLIAM B	14,533.60
BILLINGHAM, GEOFFREY J	906.78	CLEGG, CAROL	500.00
BISHOP, RHONDA	11,400.52	CLEVELAND, TIMOTHY L	3,425.00
BLAKE, KATHLEEN M	10,598.87	CLIFFORD, PAUL P	5,487.75
BLANKENSHIP, ANDREA M	4,301.05	COLEMAN, CADY L	225.00
BODINE, BONNIE J	70,111.16	COLMENARES, KATHY J	80,509.96
BOND, ELIZABETH A	150.00	COOLEY, ANGELA M	79,491.66
BOUDREAU, SAMANTHA A	37,436.97	CROSBY, LAURA I	1,563.85
BOUTELL, DONNA	22,673.79	CUNHA, DAWN M	112.50
BRADY, DENNIS M	43,071.11	CUTTER, JOY C	675.00
BRAGADOTTIR, SIGRIDUR	2,625.00	DARCY, THOMAS A	22,282.44
BRAILEY, JENNIFER MARIE	3,090.17	DEASY, MICHAEL J	72,284.46

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SALARIES PAID DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES	EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES
DEVAULT, BUNI B	22,801.96	GESNER, LAURA A	32,890.18
DEVENEAU, ANGELA J	22,185.25	GIANCATERINO, JENNIFER L	33,996.16
DICKSON, ROBERT	70,760.27	GILL, BRIAN C	500.00
DIVOLL, REBECCA J	17,224.52	GIROUARD, ERIN J	59,089.51
DONOVAN, JASON P	3,953.00	GLADDEN, COLLEEN R	21,880.47
DREW, CYNTHIA L	70,747.70	GODIN, DEBBIE J	51,139.00
DROUIN, CINDY E	71,677.53	GOLDTHWAITE, DARLENE E	72,926.13
DUFOUR, KATHLEEN C	8,199.17	GOSPODAREK, ELIZABETH A	63,707.78
DUGAS, DIANNA E	5,175.34	GRAHAM, MELISSA S	48,693.58
DUPLESSIS, SCOTT A	41,191.06	GRAHAM, SHEILA L	787.50
DUPRAY, AMIE L	2,380.00	GREEN, DOROTHY C	150.00
DURETTE, EMILY R	1,860.00	GROSKY, MITCHELL R	3,919.52
EASTMAN, DEBRA A	72,035.91	GRUTCHFIELD, MARY SCHISSEL	70,032.49
EDMONDS, GRACEMARIE S	9,050.18	HAGER, CYNTHIA C	21,993.80
EGAN MD, RONALD D	5,487.00	HAINS, FRANK E	73,832.37
ELIASZ, CHRISTINE L	71,325.44	HALL, SHEILA D	55,431.20
ELLIS, DIANNE M	91,080.00	HAMMONDS, MARALYN A	90.00
ELLIS, LISA M	19,414.74	HANDY, MARIE JANE	105,328.00
ERICKSON, KRISTIN M	6,430.94	HATCH, SHANNON M	1,087.50
ERICKSON, PATRICIA	38,188.80	HAYDOCY, TERRI-LYNNE	22,092.36
ERVIN, ELIZABETH N	115,642.00	HENDERSON, JANET G	1,137.75
EUVRARD, SHARON L	54,259.07	HERK, HEIDI A	11,391.43
FAHEY, DEREK A	2,245.00	HERK, TIMOTHY M	1,746.00
FAIRBANK, DONALD G	7,231.50	HEUER, HEIDI S	68,216.92
FERRANTI, JEFFREY L	104,545.00	HOLDEN, JENNIFER A	900.00
FISHER, NATHAN	1,386.00	HOPKINS, BRENDA J	16,631.00
FLAGG, APRIL L	12,065.67	HORRIGAN, KATHLEEN E	70,574.01
FLEMING, KATHLEEN C	450.00	HUBBLE, JENNIFER C	5,075.25
FOLMSBEE, MICHELE J	60.00	HUGHES, CYNTHIA A	38,406.80
FOSTER, THERESA L	22,262.49	HUGHES, MARGERY E	72,325.44
FRANCK, BARBARA	69,443.44	HUME, JAIME D	39,526.56
FRASER, RACHELLE	3,997.50	HUME, LORNE K	5,487.88
GABRENAS, JOSHUA P	31,211.54	HUNTER, ELLY T	67,847.49
GABRENAS, JOYCE	31,677.32	HUNTER, SCOTT A	70,441.13
GADAROWSKI, JESSICA A	3,020.00	HUTCHINSON, RONALD K	5,052.23
GAIGNARD, HYMELED E	8,175.00	IRIZARRY, JULITZZA	860.00
GALVIN, JESSICA L	1,503.11	JACKSON, JOHN W	2,185.00
GAMBILL, TRACY L	6,521.66	JACKSON, LINDA A	6,306.53
GATAUTIS, SUSAN R	2,450.25	JASKOVIK, LINDA L	71,239.91
GATES, TABATHA E	4,329.59	JEFFERY, BRANDON J	1,746.00
GAUVIN, MATTHEW	72,290.43	JELLEY, CHERYL A	58,300.59

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SALARIES PAID DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES	EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES
JENNINGS, LAURIE J	4,252.75	MARYNOK, JULIE M	60,033.00
JOHNSON, TRACY E	55,596.39	MCBRIDE, TAMMY	16,733.55
JOHNSON, VICKI L	4,876.00	MCCARTHY, DONNA M	50,319.72
JOHNSTONE, SHERRY A	23,681.61	MCDONALD, SHARON S	66,201.15
JOLLY, TREFFLE J	5,362.50	MCGRATH, PAMELA J	24,565.96
JONES, CHRISTOPHER S	3,839.43	MCGUIRK, BETTY J	7,707.98
JONES, LEAH M	71,088.61	MCLAREN, BARBARA J	10,000.00
KIMBALL, KIMBERLY P	1,581.30	MCLAUGHLIN, MARYELLEN A	70,721.72
KIMBALL, RICHARD E JR	45,953.33	MELANSON, CORINNE M	1,150.34
KING, DAVID P	76,661.45	MELANSON, DEANNA M	18,943.17
KING, DENISE M	10,903.16	MELANSON, VICTOR G	19,390.89
KING, SARAH S	80,177.36	MELLO, MARIE F	165.43
KNECHTEL, SALLI A	56,732.97	MELUS, CATELYNN D	45,222.40
KOULISIS, CATHERINE	15,462.39	MERCIER, CAROL ANN	150.00
KOZIAK, AMY-BETH	64,057.78	MERCIER, JAMES A	16,780.48
L'ECUYER, AMANDA J	1,087.50	MERRON, BERNADETTE H	78,380.45
LABOMBARDE, PATRICIA A	87,092.15	MERRON, KYLE M	19,928.34
LAJOIE, DONNA R	72,042.16	MERWIN, LINDA M	25,640.18
LAJOIE, MARIE A	31,749.12	MEUNIER, LUKE D	600.00
LAJOIE, NICOLE M	37,638.22	MEYER, STEVEN C	112,161.04
LAKE, JOHN E JR	450.00	MICHELSON, MICHELE C	1,110.00
LAMOTHE, LORENE B	58,339.45	MILLER, MARY ANN	73,225.76
LAROCHE, JENNIFER	60,468.41	MIRANDA, CHRISTINE A	74,325.44
LAROSE, WILLIAM P	80,167.98	MITRANO, KEVIN M	40,418.91
LATHAM, KAYLA A	16,761.71	MOOMAW, CHRISTINA GRACE	2,262.75
LATOUR, JANET P	10,662.50	MORRIS, CLAIRE A	31,174.08
LAWRENCE, ROSE I	31,677.32	MOSALL, ALISON M	43,052.91
LAWTON, MARLENE A	53,349.28	MUZZY, MELISSA A	29,590.70
LEANDER, MICHAEL S	86,800.00	NEEDLE, JENNIFER E	4,117.86
LEESHA, KIMBERLY M	52,275.45	NEEDLE, JOSEPH G	47,696.38
LEIGHTON, AMANDA N	2,450.00	NEEDLE, KELLYANN	6,474.49
LEWANDOWSKI-HARDING, TINA M	71,007.42	NEEDLE, MICHAEL J	1,890.54
LITCHFIELD, NANCY L	38,188.80	NEWTON, BONNEY J	25,374.09
MACKINNON, KERI A	53,504.87	NYE, AMANDA J	900.00
MAGAZU, AIMEE	75,554.75	OLSEN, JEANNE M	18,239.77
MAGEE, ROSEMARY	76,949.78	OTTO, KAREN S	68,212.15
MAILLET, VICKI M	55,239.14	PAGAR WEIN, AMANDA BETH	61,061.30
MALLET, DAYNA R	7,160.18	PANDISCIO, NATALIE J	1,050.00
MANN, THERESA L	24,596.87	PARKER, ALLYSON J	637.50
MANNING, KEVIN W	75.00	PARKER, AMBER M	4,878.00
MARTIN, SUZANNE L	26,210.34	PARKER, CHERYL A	24,984.36

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SALARIES PAID DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES	EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES
PARKER, RENEE A	17,969.96	ROBINSON, JOSEPH E	12,644.82
PARKER, SAMANTHA L	937.50	ROBINSON, LAURA L	67,324.72
PARKER, TERRY L	5,199.23	ROBINSON, LINDA A	74,497.06
PARTRIDGE, JEAN S	7,007.01	ROGERS, CAROL	32,193.96
PATRIA, BRIAN E	2,082.00	ROGERS, KEVIN A	54,708.48
PEREZ, MELISSA J	80,815.85	ROSS, DEBRA A	71,935.91
PIERCE, SUSAN M	54,516.43	ROSS, MALYNDA J	51,354.39
PIEROPAN DETHIER, MARIA D	75,902.39	ROULEAU, CHRISTINE M	16,074.40
PIRAGIS, DEBORAH M	70,587.53	ROULEAU, ROBERT G	49,425.30
PISCITELLO, ALECIA M	63,611.93	ROULEAU, THERESA A	9,240.40
PISTORINO, JULIE	67,696.02	ROY, ANNE M	81,545.18
PLOTKIN, CORLENA M	70,502.37	SAISA, PHILLIP E	4,391.00
PLUMMER, TINA J	1,960.00	SAWIN, JOY D	20,421.74
POLITO, ANTHONY T	173,250.00	SCHWAB REHORKA, RACHEL A	67,643.52
POLLARD, JUDITH M	20,944.52	SEPPALA, CARL W	62,334.44
PORTER, BRENDA J	7,022.30	SHAUGHNESSY, MEGAN E	8,790.00
POWERS, ANN M	2,400.00	SHERIDAN, DENIELLE K	3,468.00
PRICE, LYNN M	3,275.25	SHERIDAN, ROBERT L II	23,223.39
PROGEN, SHAWN T	36,629.73	SILVAR, CHRISTINE A	2,187.75
PROVENCHER, KATHLEEN	16,061.19	SIMKEWICZ, LAUREN J	66,706.45
PROVOST, LOIS C	71,235.96	SKUTNIK, EDWARD W	93,000.00
QUINTON, JOSEPH P	74,989.53	SLYVA, JILLIAN M	47,612.94
QUINTON, SALLY A	68,412.15	SNELL, BRIAN E	63,118.74
RANUCCI, CATHERINE H	3,425.59	SOLTYSIK, JESSICA M	1,387.50
RATHBURN, MARK A	23,399.61	SONN, CONSTANCE J	72,390.91
RAYMOND, CAROL	1,762.50	SOUCIE, ANN M	93.92
REARDON, ELAINE A	68,580.90	SOUCIE, CATHERINE M	2,278.25
REED, GRACE M	17,547.42	ST.CYR, AMY L	22,459.59
RENNIE, BRENDA S	75.00	STANLEY, JULIE A	77,542.46
REXROAD, KAREN	24,408.30	STARKEY, CHARLES D	40,297.81
RIBEIRO, JASMINE L	51,737.53	STEVE, KATHRYN A	75,825.44
RICHARDSON, JANET R	71,755.64	STEWART, ASHLEY TM	1,912.50
RIDDELL, CASEY L	961.97	STIMSON, CYNTHIA C	69,061.72
RIX, DENISE M	23,987.11	STJEAN, DAVID D	64,348.22
ROBERTS, ANN-MARIE	33,518.96	STJEAN, EILEEN M	62,409.26
ROBERTSON, ANDREA C	5,600.25	STONE, SALLY A	74,825.44
ROBERTSON, ROBERT E	3,425.00	STOPEN, LYNNE E	72,956.73
ROBERTSON, ROBYN C	70,656.94	TADDEO, ANTHONY S	39,447.75
ROBERTSON, RUTH K	35,716.02	TALBOT, GWEN L	24,021.63
ROBICHAUD, BRENT M	240.00	TALBOT, JOSHUA M	3,148.00
ROBICHAUD, SUSAN	712.50	TAMULEVICH, CHRISTOPHER W	31,645.96

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SALARIES PAID DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES	EMPLOYEE	GROSS WAGES
TANDY SONGER, SUSAN R	72,159.42		
TARBELL, LISA A	2,525.25		
TARGETT, KELLEY M	55,955.33		
TELICKI, THOMAS D	89,660.39		
TENNEY, LISA A	68,411.60		
THURBER, MIKAELA A	72,025.44		
TRASK, JANICE M	24,585.68		
TRIFILO, RAE-ANN E	30,240.00		
TRIOZZI, DAVID M	70,275.13		
TRIOZZI, JACQUELINE	71,035.91		
TRUEHART, CAITLYN M	11,160.05		
TURNER, DAWNA L	2,399.95		
VAIDULAS, KENNETH A	8,492.70		
VARGELETIS, VIVIAN K	28,972.49		
VERHEYEN, HALEY C	1,386.00		
VEROCK, JESSICA M	56,520.06		
VITELLO, MARIA L	19,407.49		
VOUTILA, CYNTHIA A	75,682.64		
WALLACE, SEAN A	53,248.53		
WALSH, RUTH E	10,137.75		
WEBB, SHEILA M	64,434.53		
WEBSTER, JAY C	53,661.94		
WENTZ, ANGELA C	6,817.00		
WESSEL, DOUGLAS C	73,322.53		
WESTON, JEFF	82,481.34		
WHIPPIE, CHRISTINA L	5,601.55		
WHITE, CATHLEEN J	1,403.75		
WHITESTONE, JANICE A	300.00		
WHITMAN, DANIELLE M	450.00		
WHITMORE, PETER D	68,259.94		
WILLHITE, JESSICA L	49,602.50		
WILLIAMS, JANETH H	100,000.00		
WILLIAMS, KEITH W	74,344.44		
WILLIAMS, MEGHAN K	4,000.00		
WINTERS, SUSAN J	27,995.50		
WOESSNER, MICHAEL D	68,582.09		
WOLFE, JOSHUA M	3,162.35		
ZIGULOSKI, JAMIE L	18,591.98		

Athol-Royalston Regional School District  
2013-2014 School Year

Athletic Department Report

**INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS**

	<b>VARSIITY</b>	Participants	Paid Coaches	Volunteer Coaches	Record	Tournament Appearance
1	Football	18	2	1	3-8	No
2	Boys Soccer	14	1	1	9-7-2	Yes
3	Girls Soccer	19	1	0	10-8-4	Yes
4	Girls Volleyball	10	1	0	18-4	Yes
5	Field Hockey	14	1	0	0-18	No
6	Football Cheerleading	12	1	0	n/a	n/a
7	Boys Basketball	10	1	0	2-18	No
8	Girls Basketball	9	1	0	19-3	Yes
9	Wrestling	13	1	1	8-8	n/a
10	Basketball Cheerleading	12	1	0	n/a	n/a
11	Boys Indoor Track	9	1	0	3-6	n/a
12	Girls Indoor Track	11	1	0	3-6	n/a
13	Baseball	12	1	1	13-10	Yes
14	Softball	12	1	2	14-6	Yes
15	Boys Volleyball	10	1	1	14-5	Yes
16	Boys Track and Field	11	1	0	0-7	n/a
17	Girls Track and Field	24	1	0	4-4	n/a
		220	18	7		

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

1	Football	10	1	0
2	Boys Soccer	14	1	0
3	Girls Soccer	16	1	0
4	Girls Volleyball	13	1	0
5	Field Hockey	8	1	0
6	Boys Basketball	10	1	0
7	Girls Basketball	10	1	0
8	Baseball	11	1	0
9	Softball	10	1	0
10	Boys Volleyball	14	1	0
		116	10	0

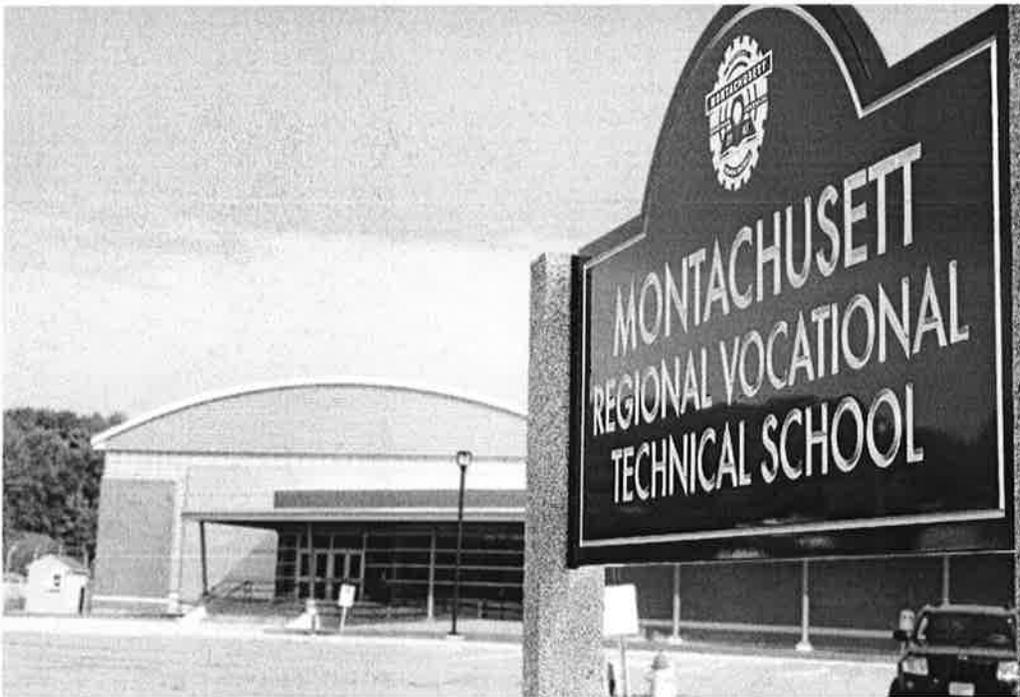
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1	Football	35	2	1
2	Boys Soccer	15	1	0
3	Girls Soccer	18	1	0
4	Field Hockey	0	0	0
5	Boys Basketball	15	1	0
6	Girls Basketball	15	1	1
7	Wrestling	13	1	1
8	Basketball Cheerleading	12	1	0
9	Baseball	15	1	0
10	Softball	15	1	0
11	Track and Field	30	1	0
		183	11	3

Undefeated Season



# 2013 - 2014 Annual Report



**Montachusett Regional  
Vocational Technical School**  
1050 Westminster Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
978-345-9200  
[www.montytech.net](http://www.montytech.net)



Having only been recently named the Superintendent-Director of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, I am honored and delighted to present the district's 2013-2014 annual report. It was a year marked by student achievement, faculty and staff distinctions, and leadership development - as well as transition. Compiling information for the enclosed report has provided me with an opportunity to get to know the students, faculty and staff that comprise this wonderful school, and to reflect upon their tremendous achievements and activities. I am fortunate to work closely with a talented leadership team, many of whom have contributed to this report, and given great insight into some of the more notable highlights of the 2013-2014 academic year, including:

- Students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement. In the spring of 2014, Monty Tech's passing rate on the MCAS English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 98%, and Biology 99%.
- Competing in three categories: network security, digital forensics, and Cisco networking, a team of six talented students captured second place at the CyberPatriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association.
- Class of 2014 graduate, Jessica Shattuck of Fitchburg was presented with the *Legion of Valor* award, the highest award a JROTC cadet may receive, recognizing academic excellence and extraordinary leadership skills.
- Ten students advanced through local, district and state competitions to earn the right to compete at the National SkillsUSA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Monty Tech national delegation returned with a bronze medal in Action Skills.
- Monty Tech continues to participate in the highly selective Student Spaceflight Experiment Program, representing the only vocational school in the nation to have a student science experiment launch into space, and providing students with an opportunity to study the effects of gravity on their science project.

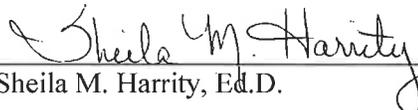
As you know, a Monty Tech education is grounded in workforce preparedness, balanced by a rigorous academic curriculum. Everyday at Monty Tech, one guiding principle is evident - our students must be ready for both college and career. Students are prepared with industry-recognized credentials and skills to be successful in the world of work. And for those students whose future may include higher education, Monty Tech offers dual enrollment courses, articulation agreements, and Advanced Placement courses that may significantly reduce the amount of time and money spent on a college education.

We are so proud of the educational programs offered here at Monty Tech, yet we continually strive to improve upon them. Collaborating with area colleges and universities, we are ensuring our curriculum and instruction is rigorous and relevant. Sharing best practices with vocational-technical colleagues from across the state - and nation - we give and take some of the best ideas, with one thing in mind - what is best for our students.

We hope you will find this report a comprehensive review of the quality education you have come to know and expect from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. You may notice that each of the eighteen member cities and towns are reflected in this report, and that students performed services in almost every community last year. Providing our students with an opportunity to give back to the communities that support them - and support our school - is a pleasure.

I am honored to serve as Superintendent-Director of Monty Tech, a school that continues to transform secondary education in North Central Massachusetts, bringing to life lessons learned in a classroom, at the workplace, and in the community - all while consistently maintaining high standards of fiscal responsibility. Our FY14 Annual Budget was unanimously accepted by each of the eighteen member communities, and reflected only a 2.0% increase over the 2012-2013 Educational Plan. We recognize that we are in the midst of some difficult economic times faced by public education and so we will continue to seek creative ways to reduce member town assessments, while maintaining our high standards of academic and vocational-technical success.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.

**Our Mission**

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

**Our District**

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of:

Ashburnham	Harvard	Princeton
Ashby	Holden	Royalston
Athol	Hubbardston	Sterling
Barre	Lunenburg	Templeton
Fitchburg	Petersham	Westminster
Gardner	Phillipston	Winchendon

**Leadership**

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the Superintendent and Principal, the team has been able to transform the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

*Sheila M. Harrity, Superintendent-Director*  
*Tom Browne, Principal*  
*Tammy Crockett, Business Manager*  
*Kim Curry, Dean of Admissions*  
*Francine Duncan, Director of Technology*

*Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs*  
*Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs*  
*Richard Ikonen, Director of Facilities*  
*Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator*  
*Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services*

**Enrollment**

On June 1, 2014, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,403 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district: Ashburnham (54), Ashby (37), Athol (93), Barre (35), Fitchburg (364), Gardner (158), Harvard (3), Holden (68), Hubbardston (61), Lunenburg (70), Petersham (4), Phillipston (21), Princeton (17), Royalston (22), Sterling (56), Templeton (100), Westminster (77), and Winchendon (133). The remaining thirty students were from out-of-district towns, including Clinton, Leominster, Natick, Orange, Pepperell, Rutland, Shirley, West Boylston, and Worcester.

Throughout 2013-2014, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2013, approximately 1,000 district eighth graders participated in the annual "Tour Day" event. Students toured our twenty-vocational/technical areas and learned about the school's challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return in the evening with their family members, to further explore the facilities and talk with staff members.

Each year, the Dean of Admissions conducts school visits, student interviews, and accepts applications for admissions. 2013-2014 proved to be an exceptionally busy year for her, as the school received 730 applications for admission. Of those, 642 were from students hoping to enter our incoming freshman class. The balance of the applications came from students hoping to enter the school as upperclassmen. Because

there are only a limited number of students the school can accept each year, 367 freshmen and 19 upperclassmen were admitted.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) offers area seventh and eighth grade students the chance to visit Monty Tech after school, and participate in hands-on learning experiences across a variety of vocational/technical areas. The program continued to attract a large number of students during the 2013-2014 school year, serving approximately 600 area students.

### **Class of 2014 Awards**

Members of the Class of 2014 were awarded approximately \$50,000 in scholarships. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$34,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$250 to \$2,500. The Foundation also awarded \$6,000 to the practical nursing graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves, are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. Well over 60% of the graduating class of 2014 reported plans to enroll at either a 2-year college, 4-year college/university, or a technical/trade school upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will benefit by saving both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

### **Financial Report**

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration and staff. The final fiscal year 2013-2014 Educational Plan totaled \$24,785,280, which represents a 2.0% increase over the 2012-2013 Educational Plan. As a result of changes to the final FY14 State budget and the District's decision not to increase the already-approved community assessments, the District's FY14 budget was approximately \$200,000 below the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70.

The District was audited in August 2014 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and a very good report is anticipated.

### **Grants and Contracts**

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds assist in providing many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2014, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$842,780. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Social Intervention and Mediation, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, and Summer Academic Support.

In addition to state and federal grant sources, Monty Tech was also the recipient of private and competitive grant awards totaling \$525,000. Included in that total are a number of highly competitive awards, including a \$400,000 award from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, used to provide

training in the new vocational-technical education frameworks to over 350 educators across the Commonwealth, and a \$42,500 award from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, used to purchase one adult patient simulator, which will provide our Health Occupations students with unprecedented training opportunities, as the device manifests vital signs, clinical signs and symptoms. Allocation and competitive grants totaled \$1,367,780 for fiscal year 2014.

### Academic Achievement

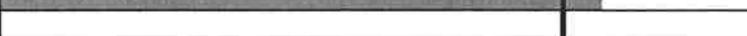
In 2013-2014, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable MCAS scores in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Biology. In the spring of 2014, Monty Tech's passing rate on the English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 98%, and Biology 99%.

English Language Arts	2012	2013	2014
Students Tested	361	352	364
Passing	100%	99%	100%
Advanced/ Proficient	95%	95%	95%
Needs Improvement	5%	5%	5%
Failing	0%	1%	0%

Mathematics	2012	2013	2014
Students Tested	360	352	366
Passing	99%	98%	98%
Advanced/Proficient	87%	80%	84%
Needs Improvement	12%	18%	14%
Failing	1%	2%	2%

Biology	2012	2013	2014
Students Tested	361	398	351
Passing	98%	97%	99%
Advanced/ Proficient	73%	73%	74%
Needs Improvement	24%	24%	25%
Failing	2%	3%	1%

The district continues to make progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps. Students in all subgroups have met their progress and performance targets, continuing the school's Level 1 Status distinction.

Student Group	On Target = 75 or higher	Performance	Progress
All Students		81	Met Target
High Needs		79	Met Target
Low Income		84	Met Target
ELL and Former ELL		-	-
Students with Disabilities		81	Met Target
American Indian/ Alaska Native		-	-
Asian		-	-
African/American/Black		-	-
Hispanic/ Latino		93	Met Target
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		-	-
White		84	Met Target

## *Vocational Projects in the District Communities*

Unlike students in traditional, comprehensive high schools, students at Monty Tech are asked to put their education into practice on a daily basis. Students across the twenty different vocational-technical education programs are building homes, reconstructing damaged properties, repairing service vehicles, making walkways more accessible, and performing countless community services.

The 2013-2014 school year was a busy one for our vocational educators, as each trade aimed to provide practical, hands-on learning experiences for our students, while helping to improve each of the eighteen member communities.

Auto Body: Collision Repair Technology: Throughout 2013-2014, the program completed seventy requests for service and repair work. Students detailed police vehicles, installed new fenders and repainted several town vehicles, benefiting the school, police and fire departments in local communities. With assistance from several other departments, the program hosted the annual car show, which was a tremendous success. Students also competed in the *World of Wheels* competition, held in Boston, and were awarded first place in the pedal car building competition. (Total enrollment: 60; 36 males, 24 females)

Automotive Technology: The Automotive Technology program saw a very busy year, marked by curriculum changes that instructors believe will benefit every student. Aligning state frameworks with NATEF standards, instructors purchased new textbooks and developed new lessons, designed to enhance the learning experience. The program also successfully completed the NATEF Master Automobile Service Technology recertification process, which occurs every five years. Because the Monty Tech program continues to hold this rigorous certification, students qualify for articulated credits at area colleges upon program completion. A top student, Brian Nielsen of Ashby was awarded a gold medal at the SkillsUSA state competition, and traveled to the national competition in June 2014. The program also supported eight students in the co-operative education program, and a total of fourteen students were employed within the industry. These students gained valuable workplace experience, applying the skills they learned in the rigorous automotive technology program, and received high praise from their employers. Finally, in addition to all of these accomplishments, program students and instructors completed work on more than 400 vehicles, including those of faculty, staff, retirees, district residents, and municipal vehicles. (Total enrollment: 54; 44 males, 10 females)

Business Technology: Students and instructors in the Business Technology program continue to enjoy an increased presence in the school community, providing assistance to shops and offices throughout the school by coordinating bulk mailing, labeling, organizing, and collating jobs. Offices that receive direct support from the Business Technology program include: Monty Tech Nurses' Office, front office, Monty Tech Tea Room, and Student Support Services. Students also assist wherever there is a customer service need, as in the annual greenhouse project, directed by Mr. Dylan Hager. Students serve as customer service representatives and cashiers for this very busy seasonal operation. Students also run a successful school store, The Gear House, refining their skills in cash handling, customer service, organization, and marketing. (Total enrollment: 76; 14 males, 62 females)

Cabinetmaking: The Monty Tech Cabinetmaking program is delighted to report the acquisition of a new and much-needed piece of equipment – a CNC Machining Center, which effectively utilizes a variety of software programs. Having this new equipment will allow instructors to teach specific skills that the industry and area employers demand. Throughout the year, students spent a great deal of time building and installing cabinetry in a number of public offices throughout the Monty Tech district, including: Westminster Town Hall weights and measure scale cabinet; Cherry sign for the Fitchburg Fire Department; two podiums for the Town of Athol; a cherry buffet for the United Way offices in Fitchburg; display cases for the Gardner Elks; and counter tops built and installed at the Barre Police Station. Finally, the program saw nine students benefit from co-operative learning experiences with area employers. Both students and employers reported enjoying the mutually beneficial experience. (Total enrollment: 72; 46 males, 26 females)

Cosmetology: Providing students with opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and certifications is a guiding principle in the Cosmetology department. Twenty-three seniors sat for the State Board Exams, and all twenty-three passed and are now licensed cosmetologists. More than half of the graduating seniors remain in the industry. Students in their junior year of the program, who are primarily responsible for managing the “clinic floor”, provided numerous services that resulted in total sales in excess of \$9,000. Monty Tech Cosmetology instructors continued to promote community service, and as a result, this year the program supported a classmate’s Youth Venture Club project, raising more than \$650 for this very worthwhile organization. (Total enrollment: 90; 1 male, 89 females)

Culinary Arts: Students and instructors in the Monty Tech Culinary Arts program are among the busiest in our school. In addition to operating a full-service dining room and bakery, which serves 90-120 patrons daily, culinary students showcase their talents at trade shows and competitions throughout the year. In 2013-2014, culinary arts students participated in three hot food competitions, and placed first on two of the events, where they were competing against area hotels, restaurants, and professional chefs. The program provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as support staff, for a number of events for public organizations, including: Fitchburg Rotary Club, Montachusett Home Health Care, Senate Ways and Means Committee, Gardner AARP, and the Fitchburg City Council. The program was also fortunate to receive new equipment, including a combination steam convection oven, a kitchen video monitoring system, two new butcherblock tables, and a custom stainless steel bench with power supply. (Total enrollment: 101; 35 males, 66 females)

Dental Assisting: During 2013-2014, the Dental Assisting program placed 3 students in co-operative educational placements, working with area dentists. Fourteen students earned externships, while twelve students participated in affiliation. All sophomore, junior, and senior students attended the Yankee Dental Convention in Boston, and learned about the most current trends and practices in the field. While national passing averages for Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exams range from 69% - 78%, the Monty Tech dental students earned a 94% passing rate on the Infection Control exam and an outstanding 100% passing rate on the Radiology exam. The program supported four students who traveled to the SkillsUSA national competitions. For the fourth consecutive year, Monty Tech welcomed Community Health Connections, a school-based dental hygiene program whose goal is to provide dental services to students in need. Through this initiative, thirty-two students were examined by a dentist, had their teeth cleaned, and had sealants or temporary fillings applied as needed. Monty Tech Dental Assisting students were given hands-on, practical experience, as they assisted the staff from CHC during each dental procedure that was performed. (Total enrollment: 62; 5 males, 57 females)

Drafting Technology: Students in the Drafting Technology program earned well-deserved recognition for their achievements in 2013-2014. Four seniors held co-op positions, four students were recognized for outstanding SkillsUSA achievements, and 90% of the program’s graduating seniors continue in the field of drafting, either by selecting a related college major or by entering the workforce in a related field. The shop continued to provide countless community services in the form of banners, signage, building plans, interior design plans, and decorating for school-sponsored events. Some of the more notable projects in 2013-2014 included: railings design for Harvard Public Schools; designed a Habitat for Humanity duplex in Fitchburg (*to be built by Monty Tech students and instructors 2014-2015*); landscape design services for the Forbush Library in Westminster; and completing the Fitchburg Fire Department seal. (Total enrollment: 56; 33 males, 23 females)

Early Childhood Education: Jordan Patricks earned a gold medal at the 2014 SkillsUSA state competitions in Action Skills. From there, she traveled to the national competitions, placing 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was accompanied by her classmate, Jessica Shattuck, who served as a National Voting Delegate and was also awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Award. These students represent the Monty Tech Early Childhood Education program well, as the program is known for a strong emphasis on community service, academic and vocational-technical excellence, and a commitment to continued education. During 2013-2014, Early Childhood Education students participated in the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children’s Recognition Dinner, constructing twenty 3-dimensional children’s games to serve as centerpieces for the event. Students

volunteered at the *Boston Strong* relay held in Winchendon, organized and led children's activities at the annual ARC Christmas Party, and provided child care services for the mental health symposium held here at Monty Tech in May 2014. The Monty Tech Childcare Center continues to operate at full capacity, serves as a co-operative education site for two students, and successfully prepares their young students for transition into Kindergarten. The Center's Director, Ms. Kelley Booth, visits with prospective parents almost daily and handles frequent calls for Fall placement. (Total enrollment: 65; 2 males, 63 females)

Electrical: The Electrical program at Monty Tech continues to be one of the busiest trades in the school. During the 2013-2014 year, students and instructors completed a number of "outside projects" that include: installing new lighting at the Turkey Hill Middle School in Lunenburg, adding additional lighting receptacles at the Bromfield School in Harvard, adding additional receptacles and internet outlets in Barre, and rewiring a data network in Winchendon. Countless electrical projects were also completed in-house, including: library renovations, LED lighting on the outside of the school, and new equipment installations in a variety of vocational programs. The Electrical program is also particularly proud to have trained fourteen students who benefited from a co-op placement during the 2013-2014 school year, successfully applying what they have learned at Monty Tech in workplaces across North Central Massachusetts. (Total enrollment: 87; 76 males, 11 females)

Engineering Technology: The Monty Tech Engineering program continued to enhance their curriculum and instruction by embedding three Project Lead the Way courses into the already rigorous vocational-technical curriculum. Students performed quite well on the end of course assessments affiliated with the Project Lead the Way coursework, with nine students earning college credit in Principles of Engineering, seven students earning college credit in Introduction to Engineering Design, and eight students earning credit in Digital Electronics. These students may apply these credits at colleges and universities across the country. The exploratory program during the 2013-2014 school year yielded positive results for the program, with 12 students selecting Engineering Technology as their first choice. All thirteen seniors graduated, and reported plans to continue their education or continue working in the engineering field. Finally, instructors were pleased with the work done in their instructional space, citing better organization and increased safety. Instructors also look forward to further renovations in the instructional space, including a dropped ceiling, refinishing the floor, new work benches, and the installation of a second SMARTboard. (Total enrollment: 57; 45 males, 12 females)

Graphic Communications: The Monty Tech Graphic Communications program is pleased to have graduated twenty students, all of whom were accepted at a variety of colleges, including 2-year, 4-year, public, and private institutions. Throughout the 2013-2014 school year, the shop continued to produce large quantities of print projects for district towns and community service organizations. This year, the shop produced approximately three hundred twenty "outside" print projects, billing in excess of \$18,000 and saving area town offices and school districts over \$125,000. The shop also produced yearbooks for local institutions, saving each school approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000, as the billing only reflects the cost of materials. The Graphic Communications program also completed numerous "in house" projects in our student-operated copy center, including: over two million black and white copies, two hundred fifty thousand color copies, and over five hundred wide format prints. By industry standards, this would cost the district \$275,000. Our cost to complete these projects was only \$55,000, which resulted in a substantial savings of \$219,500. The program was fortunate to receive a number of equipment upgrades and pieces of new technology, including: Konica Minolta High Speed Copier, a Konica Minolta Office Color Copier, and ten (10) new iMac computers, each equipped with CS6 software. (Total enrollment: 83; 28 males, 55 females)

Health Occupations: The Health Occupations program at Monty Tech continues to educate a large number of students, providing a rigorous education grounded in current medical knowledge and practice. With guest speakers including a mortician, an emergency room physician, the American Red Cross and representatives from Battered Women's Resources, instructors aim to provide students with critical exposure to a variety of health-related career options. The program, which boasts an enrollment of more than one hundred students, continues to participate in community service programs, including Red Cross Blood Drives, Pediatric Day (in

conjunction with students from the Early Childhood Education program), and a “baby shower” for women living in a local battered women’s shelter. The Health Occupations program is dedicated to providing all students with opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials, and as a result, students earn the following credentials: Medical Terminology Certificate; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour certification; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Certificate through the American Heart Association; Certified Nursing Assistant License through the American Red Cross; and Certified Clinical Medical Assistant credential through the certifying board of the National Healthcare Association. (Total enrollment: 103; 7 males, 96 females)

House Carpentry: Most of the work done by the students and instructors in the Monty Tech House Carpentry program is done off-campus, completing renovation, building, and repair work for member communities. Some of the more notable projects from the 2013-2014 school year include: building two baseball dugouts (wood frame and asphalt shingle roofs) for Phillipston Elementary school; building four dugouts (wood frame, corrugated metal roofs, and PVCF trim); installing interior wall partitions, renovating exterior walls, and installing new windows at the Templeton Senior Center; building and installing cabinets at the Templeton Food Pantry; renovating the “booking room” at the Barre Police Station; installing a guard rail, small shed, handicapped ramp guardrail, and Police Station sign for the Town of Hubbardston; replacing deteriorated aluminum trim around the school entrance at the Lunenburg Primary School; and reconstructing and reroofing the West Fitchburg Gazebo. (Total enrollment: 61; 36 males, 25 females)

Industrial Technology: In 2013-2014, the Monty Tech Industrial Technology program added instructor Matt McGee to the talented team of educators. Mr. McGee’s great enthusiasm for the subject matter has been a welcome addition to the program, as he brings a wealth of both industry and teaching experience. Additionally, his immediate contributions to the program have resulted in revised and improved curriculum in interpreting technical drawings and prints, and troubleshooting problems in heating and cooling systems. In a program where students are called on for “a little bit of everything,” a great deal of work was done to assist local municipal offices in building upgrades and renovations. Some of the more notable outside projects include: conducting an energy audit for the Sterling Municipal Light Department, and making necessary upgrades to the Department of Public Works main building, in an effort to reduce energy consumption at this aging facility. The co-operative education program continues to be a highlight for students in the Industrial Technology program, as seven students were awarded co-op placements during the year. (Total enrollment: 54; 47 males, 7 females)

Information Technology: As with any school, Information Technology provides key services to the educational community. In addition to the critical in-house Help Desk services offered by the program, students and instructors performed in excess of four hundred hours of repair, upgrading, and troubleshooting computer problems for Monty Tech community members. Competing in three categories: network security, digital forensics, and Cisco networking, a team of six talented students (led by instructor Richard Duncan) captured second place at the CyberPatriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association. A team of seven Information Technology students travelled to Fitchburg State University, and participated in a highly competitive programming event. The team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in a field of more than forty teams. Finally, to ensure program graduates are armed with valuable industry-recognized certifications, program instructors offer students the following certification opportunities: CIW Web Foundation certification (passing rate 56%), TestOut PC Pro certification (passing rate 69%), IC3 certification (passing rate 75%), Discover I Networking course (passing rate 100%), and Cisco IT Essential Course for Computer Repair and Maintenance (passing rate 88%). (Total enrollment: 60; 55 males, 5 females)

Machine Technology: The Monty Tech Machine Technology department was pleased to add a new piece of equipment to the training program, a Sinker Electrical Discharge Machine (EDM), which will enable instructors to better prepare students to enter the workforce, and making them more marketable to area machine shops that utilize similar equipment. Two students advanced from the SkillsUSA district competition to compete at the state level, one in Precision Machining and the other in CNC Milling. The program is particularly proud of student efforts in Precision Machining at the state SkillsUSA competition, where a

Monty Tech student won a bronze medal. A total of thirteen (13) students were offered co-op employment, and were able to put their vocational education into practice at area machine shops. Students who remained at the school refined their skills by completing a number of special projects, including: manufacturing brass plaques to mark projects within the school and outside projects in Monty Tech communities, laser engraving plaques for the school's annual car show, and collaborating with Auto Body students to manufacture the rims, steering wheel, pedals, dashboard, and license plate for the pedal car that was entered into the *World of Wheels* competition, winning first prize. (Total enrollment: 63; 58 males, 5 females)

Masonry: Students and instructors in the Monty Tech Masonry program were busy on our campus, as well as in many of the member communities throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Community services included: building four block dugouts at Quabbin High School in Barre, installing concrete anchors for a batting cage at Ashburnham's Little League field, installing stone veneer on a concrete wall at Bromfield School for Harvard Access Television, installing a tile floor at the Barre Police Station, replacing a concrete floor for the Winchendon Housing Authority, completing tile and concrete repairs at Lunenburg High School, installing benches for Phillipston and Templeton Little League, and tiling three bathrooms and a stone veneer at the Westminster Senior Center. When students weren't busy in our district communities, they were preparing for and competing in the Massachusetts Trowel Trades Association (MTTA) competition. The annual event was held at Monty Tech, which brought seventy-two competitors and a total of two hundred fifty people to our campus in the spring of 2014. Finally, Masonry students performed particularly well in the district and state SkillsUSA competitions, where one student was awarded a gold medal and earned the right to travel to the national event in Kansas City, Missouri in June 2014. (Total enrollment: 71; 60 males, 11 females)

Plumbing: The Plumbing program welcomed a new instructor, Ms. Melissa Blanchard to the team of talented instructors, filling a vacancy that was left after longtime Plumbing instructor, Mr. John Dolen, retired after more than twenty years of service. Ms. Blanchard is a welcome addition to the program, whose depth of both industry and instructional experience is a steady and valuable resource for students and instructors alike. Prioritizing employability, the Plumbing instructors worked closely with the district's Co-Op Coordinator, Ken Baer, to provide all students in their junior year an opportunity to develop a comprehensive professional resume, and participate in the mock interview program. This experience will help students as they transition into the world of work. The Plumbing program is particularly proud to have trained seven students (more than 20% of the junior and senior class) who were given an opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills in a co-operative educational placement. The Monty Tech Plumbing program, like others throughout the school, is committed to community service, and as a result, during the 2013-2014 school year, students and instructors completed rough drainage work at the Templeton Senior Center, and installed plumbing and heating systems in an unused space at the Bromfield School in Harvard, which is now home to the Harvard Community Cable Access Group. The Monty Tech Plumbing program proudly graduated sixteen students in the Class of 2014. Two students, in particular, received prestigious trade awards/recognitions: Matthew Parmenter (Winchendon) was named a Vocational-Technical All-Star by the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association of Massachusetts; and Shane Lashua (Westminster) was awarded the highly competitive Central Massachusetts Plumbing & Gas Fitting Inspectors Association scholarship. (Total enrollment: 69; 67 males, 2 females)

Welding/Metal Fabrication: The Welding/Metal Fabrication program is charged with successfully completing numerous projects on the Monty Tech campus, including repair work, layout, design, and installation. In conjunction with other trades at the school, students and instructors in the Welding/Metal Fabrication program are instrumental in the successful completion of many of the school's building renovation initiatives. In addition to the more than 60 miscellaneous projects successfully completed by students during the 2013-2014 school year, students and instructors worked collaboratively to complete the following community service projects: fabricated and welded a 31 ft. multi-section guard rail for the Bromfield School in Harvard; rebuilt a 10 ft. plow for the Winchendon Schools; fabricated and welded edge protectors for the Winchendon Housing Authority; fabricated and welded a handrail for the Hubbardston Slade Building; fabricated signs for the Town of Ashburnham fields; designed, fabricated, and welded six park benches for the Johnny Appleseed Trail Association in Fitchburg; and fabricated and welded wall mount brackets for the Fitchburg Fire Department.

The program was pleased to place ten top students in co-operative education work experiences across the district. (Total enrollment: 59; 52 males, 7 females)

### *Special Services*

During the 2013-2014 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special services to approximately three hundred students – measuring progress of over two hundred students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and just under one hundred students adhering to individualized Section 504 plans. While the Student Support Services (SSS) Department encompasses special education, the department provides support and is available to all Monty Tech students.

The department includes a full-time nursing staff that administers medications, performs state-mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the special education team for a student's IEP meeting. The department benefits from a full-time school social worker who participates in departmental meetings and assists students who have needs concerning finances, family issues, homelessness, maternity, health issues, and proper food and clothing. The school is also fortunate to have on staff a full-time psychologist, whose role it is to evaluate all students referred for an initial evaluation or who require a three-year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full-time speech pathologist, who is available to assist students with disabilities, assess these students and consult with teachers. Our students also have access to the services of a full-time adjustment counselor and part-time school psychologist. All of these individuals are available for scheduled counseling sessions and mental health emergency treatment, as well as crisis intervention.

The school's Director of Student Support Services oversees the district's Special Education Program, which is reviewed annually in May, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The comprehensive review and evaluation are done in collaboration with the Parent Advisory Council, and the results of the evaluation are used to improve the special education procedures and programs in place at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

### *Technology*

In 2013-2014 Monty Tech continued the process of improving our network infrastructure to meet future needs. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's initiative to replace the current MCAS student assessment testing system with PARCC, an online student assessment testing system, is the driving force for such improvements in school districts across the state.

Monty Tech has completed the upgrade of the network core switch and other network switches throughout the building. Internet bandwidth was increased, and will increase further in 2014-2015. A second firewall was added to reduce the possibility of internet downtime. In July 2013, the school installed building-wide wireless access. We believe these improvements put the school in a position of being ready for the new PARCC assessment pilot testing scheduled for Spring 2015.

In December 2013, the library re-opened after a lengthy renovation. The library is equipped with laptops and a high-resolution projection system, and is home to two "quiet rooms" and one classroom, equipped with laptops and a SMARTboard.

Monty Tech continues to replace and add technology equipment and software so that students and staff gain experience with newer technology. The school added SMARTboards in several classrooms during the year. In addition, the Special Education department began using iPods as an e-reader assistive technology tool. Administrators began using iPads and Teachpoint teacher evaluation software to meet the reporting

requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) educator evaluation system.

### *SkillsUSA*

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America had a skilled workforce. Through our association with Skills USA, our students develop job skills, leadership and professional skills, as well as provide community service.

Led by co-advisors, Ms. Kelsey Moskowitz, English teacher, Anne Marie Cataldo, Early Childhood Education Instructor, and Brad Pelletier, Special Education teacher, 2013-2014 proved to be a remarkable year for the Monty Tech SkillsUSA chapter. Highlights of the year include:

- Fitchburg resident, and Dental Assisting student, Brittany Velez, served as SkillsUSA National Secretary.
- Fifteen students attended the Annual Fall State Leadership Conference. The conference spanned three days, and presented the students with an opportunity to develop leadership skills and perform community service at an area YMCA Day Camp.
- The SkillsUSA local competition was held in December 2013/ January 2014. The competitions took place over a three-week period, and included leadership competitions as well as technical and skill based competitions. The event culminated in a Local Awards Ceremony, held at the school on January 29, 2014.
- Winners from the local competition advanced to the district competitions, held at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School. There, a grand total of thirty-nine (39) medals were captured by Monty Tech students - fourteen (14) gold, fourteen (14) silver, and eleven (11) bronze medals. Three students also qualified to run for the State Executive Council.
- Two students, Jessica Shattuck (Early Childhood Education) and Cassandra Campbell (Drafting Technology), served on the State Advisory Committee to help aid in the planning of the State Conference.
- A total of sixty-seven (67) students attended the State Leadership and Skills Conference, also held at Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School. Traveling to the highly competitive conference were twenty-nine (29) District Medalist and qualifiers, thirteen (13) local leadership contestants, three (3) state officer candidates, and twenty-two (22) voting delegates. The event culminated with fourteen (14) medals and ten (10) students earning the right to compete at the National Leadership & Skills Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri in late June. Russell Holbert, Jessica Shattuck and Cassandra Campbell were selected to be national voting delegates.
- Five students also traveled to the National Conference, where they received the coveted President's Volunteer Service Award.
- In June 2014, fifteen students and six instructors attended the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo. There, Jordan Patrick, a junior in Early Childhood Education (from Holden) received a bronze medal in Action Skills.

- Throughout the year, students participated in a number of community service projects, including: a “Change for Children” Campaign; a holiday party and celebration for children in the Fitchburg area; Salvation Army “Christmas Angels” were distributed to collect toys and gifts for underprivileged children; Raffle to benefit Be Like Brit Foundation and The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

### *Marine Corps JROTC*

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (MCJROTC) had an eventful school year with enrollment exceeding 190 students. For the first time in its twelve-year history, the Monty Tech program was proud to see a cadet awarded the *Legion Of Valor* award. This is the highest award a deserving cadet may receive, recognizing academic excellence and extraordinary leadership skills. The *Legion of Valor* award was presented to Jessica Shattuck of Fitchburg by the Commanding General of Marine Corps Training and Education Command.

The JROTC Cyber Security Team, led by First Sergeant Paul Jornet and Information Technology Instructor Richard Duncan, once again captured national recognition by placing second in the Air Force Association’s National Cyber Security Competition held in Washington, DC.

The 2013-2014 Corps of Cadets completed over eighty-six hundred hours (8,600+) of community service throughout the district. The corps conducted a major canned food drive, worked side-by-side with the Marine Corps in a national Toys 4 Tots campaign, and spent four weekends working with the Salvation Army. The cadets also supported their adopted charity, Canines For Combat Veterans, raising more than \$21,000 through its annual "March-A-Thon".

One hundred Monty Tech cadets attended adventure training and leadership camps, hosted on Cape Cod and Boswell, Pennsylvania, where they were joined by cadets other JROTC units from across New England. Both camps provided cadets with both individual and team development opportunities.

During the summer of 2014, our Cyber Team was again asked to support three Cyber STEM camps. The Cyber Team coordinated the implementation of three, one-week long camps that focused on defending cyber networks from attacks. The camps also offered an introduction to robotics programming using the VEX Robotics System. The camps were attended by 300 students, representing twenty states.

The Monty Tech JROTC program was honored by a recent invitation issued by Senator Brewer, who asked the unit’s Color Guard to present colors in the senate chamber for the 2014 Memorial Day observation at the Massachusetts State House. This recognition was a true honor for our cadets. The Cadet Corps continues to support community and patriotic functions throughout the district.

### *Women in Technology*

The past year marked the 12th year that the North Central Massachusetts Women In Technology program has been providing opportunities for young women from area high schools to learn firsthand about careers in high-tech and business. Participants spent two days a month working on real-world work projects under the mentorship of company managers at SimplexGrinnell and Tyco Safety Products in Westminster, subsidiaries of Tyco International, a Fortune 500 company.

Students from Monty Tech, Leominster’s Center for Technical Education Innovation, Oakmont, Quabbin, Gardner, Fitchburg and Narragansett participate in the program. Their completed projects are unveiled at an annual end-of-the-year presentation held in Monty Tech’s Performing Arts Center. Corporate sponsors, along

with families, friends and teachers, are invited to attend and see what the students have accomplished during the school year.

This long-standing program continues to offer opportunities to young ladies interested in gaining work experience in a corporate setting. Affiliation with the program, and skills acquired through participation in the Women in Technology program, open doors to career opportunities not otherwise available to high school students. Graduates of the program are also equipped with a foundation to better meet the challenges of an ever-changing and demanding work force.

Each year, graduates of the program go on to rewarding and well-paying careers, made possible by this unique experience.

### *Student Athletics*

The Monty Tech athletic program continues to expand in scope and skill each year. More students and teams compete every season. In fact, during the 2013-2014 school year, the Monty Tech Athletic program saw a record number of student athletes participating in competitive sports programs, more than 450 participants! During the fall of 2013, Monty Tech was well-represented by eighteen teams. In the winter months, there were thirteen teams, and wrapping up the year, spring saw fourteen teams come together at Monty Tech.

Last fall, the Varsity Football team started out strong, winning 5 of their first 7 games to qualify for the playoffs in the new football playoff system. They played a very tough game against St. Bernard's, losing 29 – 22. This may have taken a bit out of their sails as they finished the season 5 – 6. The JV Football team was 8 – 1 – 2 and the Freshmen Football team was 3 – 4. The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished at 8 – 6 – 3, qualifying for the post-season tournament, where they lost to Douglas, 3 – 0. The JV Boys Soccer team was 8 – 5 – 1, another improvement over the last year. The Varsity Golf team was 5 – 11 – 1 overall, while the JV Golf team participated in three tournaments, gaining valuable experience on the links. The Varsity Field Hockey team was 12 - 4 - 2, qualifying for the Central Mass Tournament for the fourth consecutive year. They beat Blackstone Valley, 2 – 1, in the first round, and lost to Narragansett 2 – 0 in the quarter finals. The JV Field Hockey team finished at 6 – 5 – 1. The Boys Cross Country team was 11 - 3 and finished 2nd in the Colonial Athletic League with a 5 – 2 record. The Girls Cross Country team was 9 – 3 overall and 5 – 1 in the Colonial Athletic League, finishing 2nd. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team went 4 – 16. They had their annual Bump-Set-Spike competition in October, raising more than \$3,000 to help the fight against Breast Cancer. The JV Girls Volleyball team was 10 - 10 and the Freshmen Girls team continued to improve with an 8 – 6 record. The Varsity Girls Soccer team was 11 – 7 and qualified for the post-season where they lost to Assabet 1 – 0. The JV Girls Soccer team finished at 12 – 3 and will send some fine players to the varsity next year.

The Girls Varsity Basketball finished at 11 – 8 on the season, qualifying for the Central Mass Tournament in Steve Newingham's last season as coach. They lost to South Lancaster Academy, 51 – 46 in the first round. The JV Girls were 11 - 6 and the Freshmen Girls were 10 – 5. The Varsity Boys Basketball team finished at 9 – 10, missing an opportunity for the post season because of a snowed out game. The JV Boys Basketball team was 15 – 4. The Freshmen Boys were 13 – 6. The Wrestling team (a co-op team comprised of students from Fitchburg, Oakmont, Murdock, and Monty Tech) participated in many dual meets and tournaments finishing at 3 – 8. Tyler Popp, a freshman, participated in the State Tournament at the end of the year. The Ice Hockey team (a co-op team comprised of students from Fitchburg and Monty Tech) missed the playoffs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. The JV Ice Hockey team played very well and we should be better next year. We participated in a Co-op Swim team with Leominster, North Middlesex and Oakmont and had 7 swimmers from Monty Tech participating. They swim at the Fitchburg State University pool, one of the best in the area. Indoor Track & Field student athletes each participated in 7 meets, and recorded some fine individual performances.

In the spring, the Varsity Softball team qualified for the Central Mass Tournament with a 12 - 8 record. They beat AMSA, 14 - 1 and lost to Assabet 11 - 5. The JV Softball team was 8 - 5. The Varsity Boys Volleyball team was 17 - 3 and 10 - 0 in the Colonial Athletic League, winning the league title for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. They beat Worcester Tech 3 - 0 in the first round of the State Vocational Tournament, before losing to Greater New Bedford Vocational 3 - 0 in the finals. The JV Boys Volleyball team played strong all year and finished at 13 - 1. The Varsity Baseball team finished at 10 - 10 and qualified for the post-season tournament, where they lost to Auburn, 8 - 0. The JV Baseball team was 13 - 4 and the Freshmen Baseball team was 9 - 5. Due to poor field conditions, both the Varsity and JV teams played a lot of home games away using the Fitchburg State University and Oakmont fields for games, while the freshmen played a number of their games at the Westminster Babe Ruth field. The Boys Track & Field team was 7 - 1, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Colonial Athletic league with a 6 - 1 record. The Girls Track & Field team was 6 - 2, also placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Colonial Athletic League with a 5 - 2 record. The Varsity Boys Lacrosse team played in 17 games going 2 - 15. The JV Boys Lacrosse was 10 - 3 - 2, as we look to the future. The Girls Lacrosse team, a co-op with North Central Charter School, finished at 2 - 11 on the year. We had two boys and seven girls play for Fitchburg High School in Boys and Girls Tennis in a Co-Op agreement. He made the Sentinel and Enterprise All-Star team his first year on the team. We may try to add girls to the Co-Op at Fitchburg in tennis next spring.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Male and Female athletes for 2013-2014, Patrick Fenton and Brandi Richard.

### **Postgraduate and Continuing Studies**

The Postgraduate & Continuing Studies Program, also known as Monty Tech Nites, continues to update and add courses that emphasize a commitment to excellence by offering affordable, quality, and enjoyable educational experiences. For the Fall of 2013, Monty Tech offered 101 courses "in-house" and another 400+ were offered online. Approximately 840 seats were sold for Fall 2013 courses. In comparison, there were 92 "in-house" courses and, again, over 400 on-line courses offered during the Spring 2014 semester. Approximately 790 seats were sold for Spring 2013 courses.

In March 2014 the postgraduate program successfully graduated our third class of fifteen Emergency Medical Technicians. The students took their practical exam at Monty Tech and proceeded to take their written exam at a state-designated facility. Several graduates have already found employment in their chosen field.

The Director of the Postgraduate & Continuing Studies Program actively seeks information to develop new (and expand existing) certificate and licensure programs that align with regional workforce needs and employment trends.

### **Practical Nursing Program**

The Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare graduates to practice safely, ethically and in a caring manner for patients who are experiencing common variations in health status in diverse health care settings. This mission, which is consistent with the philosophy and goals of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, accomplished the following:

- Identifies a strong relationship between academic and vocational preparation
- Stresses the importance of developing critical thinking skills to function safely, effectively, and productively in an ever-changing technical and diverse society
- Supports the maintenance of a positive and caring learning and practice environment

In June 2014, thirty-three (33) students graduated and entered the nursing profession. The class achieved an initial NCLEX pass rate of 88%, and just over 91% of the 2014 graduates are currently working in the North Central area as LPNs in various health care settings from long term care, sub-acute care, clinics and prison health care.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to develop the "LPN to BSN Bridge" relationship with Fitchburg State University. Additionally, the program is proud to report an expanded partnership with Fitchburg State University, as both institutions were recently awarded a grant known as the "Nurse of the Future" initiative, awarded by the state Department of Higher Education. The grant funding will assist veterans hoping to transition from military to civilian healthcare fields, granting academic credits for previous military training and experience in related fields. The goal of this unique partnership is to have five students enrolled in the program at both Monty Tech and Fitchburg State University annually.

### Looking Ahead

While the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District educational community is certainly proud of the achievements of our talented students, faculty, and staff, we continue to have an eye toward the future, always committed to improving our vocational and academic programming, strengthening key partnerships, and maintaining facilities that contribute to student success and achievement. As we look ahead, there are a number of programs and initiatives that we expect will have a positive impact on our school and students for years to come.

Expand partnerships with area colleges and universities: Building upon an already strong partnership with area colleges, Monty Tech hopes to bring additional vocational-technical training opportunities to students that may result in articulated credits. Providing students with an opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school will not only save the students time and money, it validates their very rigorous educational programs in place here at Monty Tech. In 2014-2015, school officials hope to work closely with area college leaders to also accomplish the following:

- Embed MWCC's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate program into Monty Tech's Health Occupations program, which would result in students earning an additional eight (8) college credits before leaving Monty Tech;
- Work closely with MWCC and Becker College to develop a Cyber Security certificate and/or degree program that aligns with Monty Tech's already very successful Information Technology (and Cyber Security) program;
- Establish a branch office of a financial institution (*to be named later*), which would allow instructors in the school's Business Technology program to expand the scope of their curriculum to include financial literacy, bank teller employability training, as well as provide a much-needed service to the Monty Tech educational community. Upon the establishment of this banking institution, Monty Tech school officials will work to develop articulation agreements with area colleges who will honor the valuable experiences learned from the expanded curriculum;
- Continue discussions regarding the development of a \$30,000 Baccalaureate Degree program with leaders at four Central Massachusetts public higher educational institutions: Fitchburg State University, Mount Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, and Worcester State University. Upon completion, Monty Tech graduates will benefit from an agreement that outlines a "stackable pathway" of college credits that are guaranteed to transfer across these institutions, saving students in Central Massachusetts time and money as they pursue advanced education and training.

Expand AP offerings: While Monty Tech currently offers a limited menu of Advanced Placement coursework, district officials anticipate expanding AP offerings in the coming years. Grounded in the belief that because today's vocational programs are rigorous and complex, high school academic offerings should be as well. To that end, administrators have considered introducing courses such as AP Environmental Science, AP United States History, and even AP Computer Science Principles (*available Fall 2016*).

Seek grant funds to support the addition of cutting edge vocational-technical educational programming: In an effort to maintain currency, appeal to a broad spectrum of students, and address documented, regional workforce needs, Monty Tech officials are actively seeking grant funding that would support the establishment of a new vocational-technical program, Animal Science/ Vet Tech. District officials, in collaboration with post-secondary partners, seek to establish a cutting edge veterinary science program, addressing a documented need in the career/technical education offerings in North Central Massachusetts, significantly bolster the local workforce, and create an opportunity for students to successfully bridge from secondary to post-secondary education. There are only five Chapter 74 animal science programs in high schools across the Commonwealth, and students in the Monty Tech sending districts do not have access to any of these programs. As a result, our students are at a distinct disadvantage for related employment opportunities.

Expand Summer Camp offerings: The school's Dean of Admissions has developed an expanded Summer Camp program that will bring additional opportunities to interested 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in our eighteen sending communities. Students will be invited to attend one of eight innovative summer enrichment programs, each designed to introduce students to vocational programming, familiarize them with our school, and culminate in an exciting field trip! Additionally, thanks to the continued generosity of the Monty Tech Foundation, scholarships will be available to students who qualify for free/reduced lunches, and all costs associated with the field trip will be covered for every participant.

*The Monty Tech School Committee*

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee is comprised of twenty-two dedicated individuals, whose expertise proves invaluable in advising the district's operations, policies, and procedures.

Our students continue to benefit from the broad scope of their experience and varying perspectives, and we are thankful to the following members of the 2013-2014 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Eric Olson, Phillipston  
*Chair*

Barbara Reynolds, Lunenburg  
*Vice Chair*

Diane Swenson, Ashburnham  
Peter Capone, Ashby  
Toni L. Phillips, Athol  
John Scott, Barre  
Claudia Holbert, Fitchburg  
Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg  
Ronald Tourigny, Fitchburg  
LeRoy Clark, Fitchburg  
Helen Lepkowski, Gardner  
Eric D. Commodore, Gardner

*TBD*, Harvard  
James Cournoyer, Holden  
Kathleen Airoidi, Hubbardston  
Edward Simms, Petersham  
John P. Mollica, Princeton  
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston  
Dr. Kenneth I.H. Williams, Sterling  
James M. Gilbert, Templeton  
Walter Taylor, Westminster  
Burton E. Gould, Jr., Winchendon

Terri Hillman, Winchendon  
*Secretary*

Norman J. LeBlanc  
*District Treasurer*

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sheila M. Harranty, Ed.D.  
Superintendent-Director  
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School  
January 12, 2015

---

**Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School**  
**1050 Westminster Street**  
**Fitchburg, MA 01420**  
**(978) 345-9200**  
**[www.montytech.net](http://www.montytech.net)**