

# Schools

## School Administrators Announce New Math Initiative

# Math Initiative Has Highest Priority

By CLIFF ANN WALES

AMHERST - Back to school can be filled with challenges – bus schedules, lunchroom, new friends, different teacher and extracurricular activities. This year the big challenge students and teachers will face together is a new and improved math program. It will be launched this fall in three school districts from kindergarten through high school in the Amherst, Mont Vernon and Souhegan School Districts. SAU #39 has taken a very bold step by implementing a mathematics initiative aligned with state, national and global standards.

“Math will be our biggest initiative this year,” said Nicole Heimarck, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development for SAU #39. Faced with the facts that American students are falling behind students from around the globe in math test scores, school districts are seeking math experts to show the way to an improved and deeper math curriculum.

After a two-year review of the math program by the Mathematics Program Review Committee in all three districts with input from parent and community representatives, Heimarck explained, “We are launching a new curriculum and action plan this fall.” Mahesh C. Sharma Provost and President of Cambridge College, Cambridge Massachusetts is the consultant on this project. Professor Sharma who is also the director of The Center for Teaching/Learning Mathematics of Framingham and Wellesley, MA is known nationally and internationally “for his ground breaking work in mathematics education.”

Teachers will have instructional opportunity, training on new programs and resources and work sessions to prepare them to implement the program. “Dr. Sharma will return in September for workshop sessions with teachers and in classrooms to provide feedback,” said Heimarck. Dr. Sharma will be available throughout the school year to provide support to faculty and ad-

ministration as the curriculum and instruction are implemented.

Heimarck describes the program as having more rigor pre-K - grade 12 with measurable standards at all levels. “The exciting news is there will be fewer standards at each level but a deeper understanding.” She continues, “Our kindergarten, first and second grade teachers will be true pioneers. They will be at the beginning of fully implementing the program for their students.”

Superintendent Warburton says, “We are very excited about the new initiative. We can’t continue to let kids not know math facts.” He explains that each school in the district will have a math coach to assist teachers in training, support and implementation of the program.

The program employs eight mathematical practices to be developed in students: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, model with mathematics, use appropriate

tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make use of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

The curriculum also delineates non-negotiable standards at each grade level that students must meet. Example: Kindergarten – Know the ten numbers well and recognize important and common objects. Grade 1: Additive reasoning – understand and learn additive reasoning – automatize 10 x 10 addition facts. Grade 2: Mastering additive reasoning (the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction, able to convert an addition into subtraction problem, fact and statement. At each grade level teachers will have the same timeframe to cover the curriculum.

“It will take 3 to 5 years to see measurable improvement,” says Heimarck.

Parents will have a big roll to play. Success will require that parents be informed and supportive. Their child will learn from mistakes and self-esteem will grow with success.

## Robotics Team Seeks Mentors – 2011/2012 Season

The Souhegan High School FIRST Robotics team is in urgent need of mentors to assist with mechanical engineering, software engineering, website design, & animation project for the 2011/2012 season. The FIRST robotics program uses the excitement of a sporting competition to inspire students to the potential career possibilities of science and engineering fields. The program enables students to work hand-in-hand with professional engineers & scientists in solving a unique engineering challenge.

The SHS robotics team usually meets once a week from October through December. We receive the FIRST game challenge the first week in January and have six weeks to develop a robot concept, design the robot subsystems, fabricate parts, assemble the robot, and integrate/test the subsystems. The team competes at the Granite State Regional in Manchester (March) & at least one out-of-town event (April).

The mechanical team usually consists of 10-16 students. The mechanical team is responsible for the design, fabrication, assembly, and

test of the mechanical structure and game piece manipulator. The team uses AutoDesk Inventor or Solid-works CAD tools to design & build a 120 lb robot using FIRST provided motors.

The software team usually consists of 6-12 students with varying programming experience. The team uses the Wind River workbench and C programming language running on National Instruments’ cRIO hardware. Many robotic functions are available by tapping the WPI robotics library resource.

FIRST teams are invited to create a 30-second animation clip in six weeks that best depicts a FIRST specified theme using Autodesk 3ds Max® software. This is the same tool professionals use in film, game design visualization. The animation team usually consists of 5-10 students.

Interested parties willing to support this noble activity are encouraged to contact Bill Price (biilp@yankeepub.com or 673-1355) or Brian Walters (bfwalters@comcast.net or 424-8360) for more information.

## Students in the News

### Area Residents Make DePaul University’s Spring 2011 Dean’s List

CHICAGO, IL - DePaul University announced the following local area residents made the Spring 2011 Dean’s List from Amherst: David Arsenault and Stefanie Rahaim.

### Syracuse University Dean’s List For Spring 2011

The following students from Amherst were named to the Syracuse University Dean’s List for the Spring 2011 semester. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must achieve at least a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

Aimee Belak (College of Arts and Sciences)  
Jesse Fortier (L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science)  
Andrew Sagon (Martin J. Whitman School of Management and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications)  
Kelly Sullan (S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications)

### Local Residents Graduate from Massachusetts College of Art and Design

BOSTON, MA - Emily Jeanne Beaulieu of Amherst was awarded a

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, MA.

### Wentworth Celebrates Summer Commencement

Boston, MA - Wentworth Institute of Technology awarded 644 degrees at its Summer Commencement ceremony on August 21, 2011.

Local student Matthew Desureault of Amherst, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture, was among the graduates of the Class of 2011.

### Wentworth Institute of Technology Announces Dean’s List Recipients

Boston, MA - Wentworth Institute of Technology announces the names of students who have earned Dean’s List recognition for the Summer 2011 semester. Those earning Dean’s List recognition from Amherst are Teresa Atwood and Matthew Dessureault.

### Amherst Resident Kelsey McKay Graduates from the College of Saint Elizabeth

MORRISTOWN, NJ - Kelsey McKay, a resident of Amherst, was one of 434 graduates from the College of Saint Elizabeth and received a BS in Biology at the 2011 Commencement.

## SHS Class of 1996 Reunion

The Souhegan High Class of 1996 is preparing for its 15th reunion. It’s amazing to think that as 8th graders in 1991 we had never heard of the Coalition of Essential Schools, yet we spent the subsequent four years learning from outstanding teachers, caring staff, dedicated administrators, our families and each other. Those four years were transformative, memorable, and challenging and on Nov. 25th at 7pm at Martha’s Exchange we aim to celebrate and reminisce. Please join the SHS ‘96 facebook group, or email Ashley (Buchanan) Magidson at ashley1977@gmail.com to be forwarded the evite. Tickets are \$30pp by Oct. 1st or \$40 at the door, teachers are free. If you have questions about the event please call Katie (Scollin) Flowers at (315) 781-3687. We’re also hoping to connect with classmates for whom we don’t have contact information.



The new officers of the Souhegan Scholarship Foundation – Left to right: May Balsama, President; Kim Ommundsen, Vice President; Laurie Holbrook, Secretary; Ken Fordham, Treasurer.

## Souhegan Scholarship Foundation Announces Election of Officers

AMHERST - – The Souhegan Scholarship Foundation based in Amherst announces that it has elected new officers for the 2011-2012 scholarship year. The newly elected officers are as follows: President, May Balsama; Vice President, Kim Ommundsen; Treasurer, Ken Fordham; and Secretary, Laurie Holbrook.

The Souhegan Scholarship Foundation (SSF) serves the students of the Souhegan Valley, specifically in Amherst and Mont Vernon, NH. It was formally established in 2003. The Foundation’s Board of Directors consists of local citizens who administer the SSF, raise money for scholarships, evaluate the students’ scholarship applications, and grant awards to the students best meeting the criteria. This is a formal process requiring an interview for the finalists and is conducted in an impar-

tial and strictly confidential manner. The scholarships are awarded to assist students demonstrating academic achievement with financial need. Our local high school students have shown dedication to scholarship and community service, and donations from the public have assisted these students with the high costs of higher education. To date, the SSF has granted more than \$50,000 in scholarships.

Applicants must be high school seniors, with permanent residency in Amherst or Mont Vernon. Attendance at a four-year college is not required as long as the program of study is full time and will result in a degree or diploma. All applicants must demonstrate scholastic achievement and promise. Financial need will be considered.

Please visit the SSF website for more information and applications, or to make a donation: www.souheganscholarshipfoundation.org

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## Souhegan High School

# Fall 2011 Evening Enrichment Courses & Workshops

### General Information:

Check <http://www.sprise.com/shs> for a detailed schedule and courses descriptions.

### To register:

Call 673-9940 ext “5317” during school hours or email mpaul@sprise.com to register. Course size is limited to space available. The courses will be filled with the first registered and payments before the first class will secure your seat. The cost of the course is based on the number of weeks the course meets and residence in the SHS School District.

All courses and workshops meet at Souhegan High School – 412 Boston Post Rd. Amherst, NH 03031.

### \*\*\*Please check the start date!

### Monday

#### Wild Words Creative Writing Workshop

Teacher: Ute Carbone  
Dates: Monday September 26, October 3, 17, 24, November 7, 14  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm.  
Cost: \$70 .00 for residents, \$80 .00 for non-residents

#### Having Fun in the Kitchen!!

Teacher: Elizabeth Skipper  
Dates: Monday September 26, October 3, 17, 24, November 7, 14  
Time: 6:00 – 9:00pm.  
Cost: \$100 .00 for residents, \$110

.00 for non-residents plus a lab fee for ingredients. Enrollment limited to 12 students. The instructor is Elizabeth Skipper, an accomplished personal chef and culinary teacher, of The Everyday Epicure in Amherst. www.theeverydayepicure.com

### Tuesday

#### Watercolor Painting

Teacher: Kevin Dadoly  
Dates: Tuesday, September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1  
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm  
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

#### Fly Tying for Beginners

Teacher: Peggy Brenner  
Dates: Tuesday September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1  
Times: 6:00 – 7:30pm  
Cost: \$50.00 for residents, \$60.00 for non-residents  
Deed and Probate Research for Genealogy & House History  
Teacher: Jackie Marshall  
Dates: Tuesday September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1  
Time: 7:00-8:30pm  
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents

#### Stained Glass Lamp

Teacher: Susanna Ries  
Dates: Tuesday September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1  
Time: 6:00-8:00pm  
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

### Wednesday

#### Beginning Hoopdance

Teacher: Kate Walsh  
Day: Wednesday September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 11  
Time: 6:30-8:00pm  
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents

#### T-shirt Quilt: Preserve those Memories!

Teacher: Jean Cannon  
Dates: Wednesday September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 11  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm  
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

#### Gluten Free Baking & Cooking with Onagh

Teacher: Onagh Williams  
Dates: Wednesday September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 11  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm.  
Cost: \$70.00 for Amherst residents, \$80.00 for non-residents  
Lab fee to be determined by the chosen menu

#### Pottery Studio

Teacher: Mary Salmon  
Dates: Wednesday, September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 11  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm  
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents \$20.00 lab fee for supplies.

6 Weeks of studio experience creating with clay. Pinch, coil, and slab construction as well as wheel throwing. Decorative glaze and texturing techniques will be explored.

### Thursday

#### Save \$\$\$ Couponing and Beyond

Teacher: Julie Koitzsh  
Dates: Thursday, September 29, October 6, 13, 20, November 3, 10  
Times: 7:00 – 9:00pm.  
Cost: \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents

#### Colorful Copper, Whimsical Wire

Teacher: Karen Mitchell  
Dates: September 29, October 6, 13, 20, November 3, 10  
Times: 6:00-8:30pm  
Cost: \$80.00 for residents, \$90.00 for non-residents

#### Understanding Music

Teacher: Ann Morrison Spinney  
Dates: September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27  
Times: 6:30-8:00pm  
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents

#### Conversational Italian for Intermediate Level I

Teacher: Susi Ehrenstein  
Dates: Thursday, September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13\*\*\*  
Times: 6:00 – 7:30pm.  
Cost: \$50.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents

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