

**ANNUAL REPORT
BOW HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
2008 - 2009**

In this time of economic challenges, Bow High School continues to maintain high standards of excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. This annual report will summarize a variety of new initiatives and highlight a number of events that reflect the efforts of staff and students to continue the legacy of excellence that characterizes Bow High School.

As this school year began, Bow High School was expected to have completed the process of defining course competencies, assessments, and rubrics for every course offered at our school, as required by the New Hampshire Department of Education. This comprehensive two-year focus of professional development centered around the question "What do we want students to be able to learn, and how do we know they learned it?" With our course competencies completed, this school year has been focused on the moderation of competencies, assessments and rubrics, and their alignment with our existing course curriculum. Further professional development activities have reviewed various approaches to reporting course competencies, through a competency-based report card. This will continue to be an area of professional focus for staff members throughout this school year, as we strive to improve teaching and learning at Bow High School.

The emphasis on course competencies in New Hampshire public high schools has also led to other opportunities for students at Bow High School, and students now have more alternative options for learning than they ever have had before, including virtual learning, independent study, internships, and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) which allow students different options for completing BHS graduation requirements. This information is covered in greater detail in Bow School Board Policy documents - found on the Bow School District website - as well as the 2009-2010 BHS Program of Studies.

At the beginning of this school year, BHS teachers piloted an online grade book portal through our current district-wide student management system. Our goal was to provide parents and students with online access to students' grades, as well as creating a stronger communication link between school and home. As we went through the process of reviewing this online grade book program, we discovered that there were some major flaws in the program that have prevented us from adopting it for use as an online portal, which it was incapable of doing effectively. For that reason we are now exploring other options which will allow us to move forward with our goal of offering students and parents online access to grades and assignments.

Several outstanding artistic events became smash hit highlights of this school year at Bow High School. Alice in Wonderland was performed in front of crowds filled with delighted youngsters and their appreciative parents, and this spring will see the much anticipated production of the musical Godspell. This winter's Holiday Concert was a great success, with numerous students recognized by NH All-State for their exemplary skill in jazz, chorus, and band. This year's Spring Concert is also highly anticipated, as another opportunity to showcase the many talents of Bow High School's musicians.

This past fall The Capitol Center for the Arts performed a one-act, one-man production of *The Kite Runner*, seen by our junior World Studies students as well as students from several surrounding schools. This spring The Capitol Center will return with another production at Bow High School, when *The Secret Life of Bees* is performed to what we

hope will be a full house. Another artistic highlight from this school year that we are looking forward to with great excitement is the presentation and workshops being offered at BHS by two Macarthur Genius award winners, David Macaulay and David Carroll, an event that will be hosted by Rebecca Rule. This NH Council on the Arts production will allow our students and staff the opportunity to interact with two extraordinarily talented and successful authors/illustrators.

Bow High School athletic teams continue to produce state champions, and the following teams and individuals rose to the highest levels across the state. In the spring of 2008, the Boys' Lacrosse Team won the state championship, though that spring the Girls' Lacrosse Team had to settle for second place in the state (it was, after all, an even numbered year!). That same spring, our Baseball Team defied all odds to become the state runner-ups, overcoming many challenges along the way. During this winter, the Boys' Nordic Ski Team was crowned State Champions, while the Girls' Nordic Ski Team and Boys' Alpine Ski teams each came in second place in the state. In individual titles, Jake Hughes won as State Champion in the Giant Slalom, and Richard Jenkins won as State Champion in Swimming for the 200 Free and 100 Backstroke. Congratulations to all of our student- athletes, coaches, trainers, parents, and the Bow Boosters for their dedication and commitment to fair play, great sportsmanship, and consistently high levels of athletic achievement across all sports and seasons.

Several other noteworthy events have served to define this school year. Our Chinese language program continues to grow in its second year, and this fall we hosted a group of Chinese students here in Bow as part of our student exchange program with Bohai Petroleum HS in Tianjin, China. In the spring of 2009 we will send a group of twelve students to Bohai as we continue our exchange program. We will also send a group of fourteen students to Denmark this spring, as part of an exchange program with Haslev Gymnasium.

There has been a great deal of work done on the outdoor campus of Bow High School as we strive to create a trail system that will support our ability to host Cross Country Running matches as well as Nordic Ski events. Student athletes and coaches from these teams as well as parents have volunteered many hours to clear, upgrade, and maintain our current trail system, and grant funding will allow us to move forward with our plans this spring, which will also include maintaining a high quality outdoor education challenge course, as well as planning for student artwork and landscaping to be interspersed throughout the campus.

School safety continues to be one of the top priorities at Bow High School, and during the past year members of each of the three schools' Safety Teams have met regularly and completed online courses that have helped us to implement the national Incident Command System, which has led to very clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and procedures for all staff members in the event of a drill or actual crisis.

There are always many highlights to report annually, but perhaps this year's greatest highlight was how the school and community worked together to address and resolve the challenges that we are now faced with. At Bow High School, we are very appreciative that we work with such dedicated colleagues and a supportive community.

Respectfully submitted,

John House-Myers