



Maine Regional School Unit 21
The Schools of Arundel, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport

"Preparing responsible, contributing citizens in a global society."

Andrew R. Dolloff, Superintendent of Schools
James W. Barnes, Business Administrator

Dr. Patrick M. Manuel, Assistant Superintendent
Susan M. Mulsow, Director of Special Services

Kennebunkport Consolidated School earns Blue Ribbon Nomination

Each year, the Maine Department of Education has an opportunity to nominate schools to the federal government for consideration for the "Blue Ribbon Schools Award". On December 18, 2009 KCS Principal Katherine Pence received written notification that Kennebunkport Consolidated School is one of three Maine schools being nominated this year. There are two categories under which schools can be nominated; High Performing and Improving. Consolidated School is being recognized in the "High Performing Schools" category, based on our students' exceptional scores on the Maine Educational Assessment, which place KCS students in the highest 1% of all students in Maine.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools. A Blue Ribbon School flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence, a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program sets a high standard that should represent a goal for all schools that strive for excellence. For the past 27 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 6000 of America's most successful schools.

Our nomination by our state is the first step in a fairly lengthy process. We will complete an application that requires additional information about KCS, touching on not only our MEA scores, but also curriculum, instruction, and other programming. The application will be completed by February, and the decision regarding the selection of national Blue Ribbon Schools will be made in September, 2010.

While we are extremely pleased to have KCS recognized and honored by our state, we are also very aware that test scores are but one indicator of good schooling. This great opportunity offers us a chance to be reminded that no school should be judged, positively or negatively, on their test scores alone. One of the many reasons for our pursuit of accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is our preference for that global view of a school, which is expressed throughout their high standards. We know that there are many aspects of our school that contribute to its success. The importance of community, which is a central theme for us, cannot be stated strongly enough. Each person...every staff member, our parents, our students and members of the community...plays an important role in the accomplishments of Kennebunkport Consolidated School. Therefore, we want to thank each of you for this recognition for KCS.

