To: Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Mr. Mike Lucas, Principal, Tantasqua Regional High School  
RE: January School Committee Report, 2019

**Department Spotlight: Foreign Language**

**Foreign Language Department Goal:**
By the end of the 2018 – 2019 school year, in an effort to increase student achievement, teachers in the Foreign Language department will use common time to create/revise and share technology-centered activities and common assessments.

**Professional Development:**
The Foreign Language department has spent the fall of 2018 focusing on increasing student achievement through incorporating technology. Foreign language teachers are using Google classroom to make announcements and create assignments. All teachers are continuing to search for useful technology to increase student learning.

There is an on-going effort to spend common time analyzing and discussing data from common assessments. Throughout the fall semester, teachers have analyzed the data from common assessments and made revisions to assessments and instruction when necessary. Teachers will continue this process during the second semester.

The department is also focusing on sharing best practices. Ms. Reece created a team drive on Google for teachers to more easily share work and access common assessments. Teachers can now share, access and edit everything from lesson plans to assignments to quizzes and exams.

Ms. Reece also spent time over the summer creating curriculum for a new Spanish VI course. The course will focus on advanced conversation and composition. Students will use the vocabulary and grammar to communicate orally and in writing about family, community, technology, science and global challenges, as well as other topics. Culture will focus on current events in Spanish-speaking countries.

The department hopes to complete the same revisions and assessments for French courses this summer.

**Instruction:**
The Foreign Language classes at all levels continue to develop communicative skills for both modern and classical languages. Students work to demonstrate their fluency and accuracy in the target language.

Foreign language classes are gearing up for first semester final exams. Many students will continue on to the next level of their chosen language. Some students will switch language or add a second foreign language.

Latin students will be taking the National Latin Exam in March. Last year 70% of our students earned awards, compared to 30% awarded nationally, and 80% scored above the national average. Students recently researched Roman housing (one of the indicators for the ACL National Standards for Classical Learning 2.2) and built Roman-style gingerbread houses.

**Student Council**
On Friday December 14th Student Council held a Parent's Night Out Babysitting event for students enrolled in grades 1-5 in the elementary schools in the five towns - we had 14 students attend. Pizza was provided for dinner and there were over 30 StuCo volunteers who did arts and crafts and played games with the kids.

Student Council also hosted a successful Warrior Day of Service on Saturday December 15th with the Junior High Student Council. There were about 150 students in attendance and they made 28 blankets to be donated to a Veterans home in
Worcester, 84 Blessing Bags for homeless shelters in Worcester (which were made possible with generous donations from the Pubick House, local dentist offices, and the US Army recruiter office), over 100 dog toys and treats and food for Second Chance Animal Shelter, Cards for local PD, EMS, and Fire Departments in the 5 towns, and paper flowers for the senior center. We look forward to continuing to see this event grow!

We are so excited for Unified Bocce on Sunday January 13th at Oxford High School - we have one team playing and over 30 fans in the stands!!!!

Chorus
The Show Choirs within the Tantasqua Regional School District (Encore, Radiance, and Maestros) are gearing up for their competition season which starts the first weekend of February.

Congratulations to the following vocal students who were accepted into the Massachusetts Central District Chorus: The rehearsals and concert will take place the third week of January, with a performance at Mechanic's Hall in Worcester on Saturday, January 19.
Grace Ahlstrand--12th grade
Aras Bellahcene--12th grade
Mai Caslowitz--10th grade
Cody Leeman--9th grade
Matthew Morales--12th Grade
Daniel Reeve--11th grade
Zoe Watson--12th grade

Another congratulations to the following students who earned an Massachusetts All State Chorus audition based on their high achievement during the Central District audition process: The Massachusetts All-State Chorus auditions will take place on Saturday, January 26.
Grace Ahlstrand
Mai Caslowitz
Matthew Morales
Zoe Watson

Band
Good luck to the following students as they audition this month for the annual Massachusetts Music Educators Association (CDMMA) Chorus and Band. If accepted, they will perform among the top high students in state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>All State Audition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Ahlstrand</td>
<td>Soprano Voice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mai Caslowitz</td>
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<td>Chorus</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Morales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Wade</td>
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<td>Zoe Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garret Webb</td>
<td>Baritone Sax</td>
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Congratulations to the following students for their acceptance into the 2019 Central District Massachusetts Music Educators Association (CDMMA) Chorus, Band, and Orchestra. These students will perform among the top high school musicians in central Massachusetts. You can see them showcase their performance Saturday, January 19 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Concert begins at 4:00pm.

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<td>Nina Ellison</td>
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<td>Cody Leeman</td>
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<td>Tyler Locke</td>
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<td>Adon Osimo</td>
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<td>Daniel Reeve</td>
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**National Honor Society**

This month, NHS members participated in the Warrior Day of Service sponsored by Student Council. We had approximately 16 students participate in this event.

During the month of January, NHS will be conducting a senior technology seminar at Wales Senior Center. Members are also volunteering to work concessions during the winter sports season for the Tantasqua Athletic Booster Club.

**Guidance**

The months of December/January continue to be a very busy time in the guidance office. Our freshman counselor will begin to meet with all ninth students in small groups and classrooms to present our College and Career Planning PowerPoint presentations. This presentation reviews important information regarding how to be successful in high school and access resources of support. After these group meetings, our ninth grade counselor will meet with each student individually to review their future plans and make specific recommendations to help them reach their post-secondary goals. Counselors of sophomores met with all students individually for a College and Career Plan meeting to introduce ourselves (as they are all new to our caseloads this year after having the sole ninth grade counselor) and review important information about Grade Point Averages, an individualized four-year math plan, National Honor Society eligibility, state university admission standards, standardized testing, Naviance, and requirements for graduation. Upper classmen counselors will now begin meeting with all junior students individually to review their College and Career Plans, which utilizes Naviance to assist in career exploration and preparation and reviews important information regarding graduation and college and career planning.

Counselors of seniors have been meeting with students to ensure that college application documents are submitted by deadline and that all related questions are answered. Counselors will also spend much of the months of December and January writing any remaining letters of recommendation for their caseload and preparing for the upcoming local scholarship season. As an offering for seniors, the Guidance Department held our fifth annual Alumni Day on December 22nd, where twelve former students were invited back to speak about their post-secondary paths. We had students from four-year private and public colleges, the Air Force Academy, ROTC Program at UConn, QCC, and the Army, as well as students employed in architecture, machining, and electrical fields, return to speak to our students. Additionally, a representative from Quinsigamond Community College recently held an information session here at Tantasqua, outlining the admissions process, current academic programs, and new initiatives. This representative returned for two Instant Decision Days, where sixty senior students interviewed, applied, and were conditionally accepted to Quinsigamond “on the spot” that day.

In addition to these activities, counselors will be giving multiple presentations to students and families in the New Year. In early January, juniors interested in attending a four-year college will participate in a college planning assembly. Presentation topics include college acceptance factors, college entrance standardized testing, a suggested college entrance testing schedule, college research tools, public and private college admission standards, resources found on the Tantasqua
guidance website, and future information sessions to be held this spring and next fall. This presentation will be repeated for parents of junior students, as well. In early February, the guidance department will host its annual Early College Planning workshop for parents/guardians of 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students. Finally, preparations are underway for the course selection process for next school year. The Tantasqua Program of Studies is under revision and the 2019-2020 version should be available on the Tantasqua High School web page sometime in early February. Course selection assemblies for each grade level are planned, as well as an evening information session for parents and guardians of eighth grade students.

**Athletics**
The 2018-2019 winter athletic season is off to a great start for the student-athletes of TRHS. There are 250 student-athletes participating in winter sports.

Both the Boys and Girls Swim and Dive teams have had strong starts. The girls are currently 4-3 and the boys are currently 5-2.
The Girls Basketball team is also off to a strong start. They currently sit at 5-4.
The Boys Basketball team has a record of 3-2.
Both the Indoor Boys and Girls Track teams have had great starts! The boys are currently 5-0 and the girls are 4-1.

Two of our fall student-athletes were selected to the T & G Superteam:
   Sean Farland in Football
   Aiden Casinghino in Boys Soccer.

Tantasqua has been selected to be the host site for the MSSAA State Cheer Tournament which will be held on Sunday, March 10th.