

**MESSAGE FROM DR. THOMAS FARRELL  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

As I begin my third year as the Educational Leader in MSAD 71, I continue to be impressed by the commitment of our staff and community to provide a quality education for all of our students. Our mission is *“to prepare all learners with the academic knowledge and personal skills need to be responsible, contributing citizens.”* With this in mind, we continue to do well academically, and our recent Maine Educational Assessments (MEAs) are good indicators of our students’ academic success. All schools in the district made the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) list, and our fourth grade students tested in the top 1% of all Maine fourth graders in all four testing disciplines. Our eighth graders were in the top 9% on average scores, while our eleventh graders tested in the top 12% in the state. In addition to this positive assessment in academics, Kennebunk High School had nine students recognized for outstanding scores in the SATs. Five students were recognized as commended students, and four others became National Merit Semi-Finalists. Although we are never completely satisfied with our students’ academic achievements, we are comfortable that we are heading in the right direction. We will continue to stress high academic standards for all students.

We believe that encouraging or planning relevant professional development and hiring highly qualified staff are essential in our efforts to raise staff and student expectations. We continue to attract quality teachers and administrative candidates, and we are in the process of making professional development even more relevant for all staff.

Although we do place academic achievement high on our priority list, we also stress the value of character education. We expect our staff and students to model ethical behavior and be supportive of one another. *“Making the right choice”* is a common theme throughout the district.

MSAD 71 takes pride in being an outstanding school system, and we expect decisions to be based on what is best for students. With a supportive School Board and helpful community, dedicated staff, and bright students, we will continue to strive to be America’s finest school district.