

# THE BEACON



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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

At this time of year more so than others, people think about what they are thankful for. It would be difficult to list everything we have to be grateful for at the Seacoast School of Technology. Without a doubt, our supportive parents who understand the value of an SST education would be very close to the top of the list. What follows are stories from parents who have had one SST student and parents who have had many. Enjoy!

- *Marian Guidoboni, mother of Julia '10, Animal & Plant Science, Nicholas '12, Computer Science and Owen '16, Biotechnology, Sanborn Regional High School*

Three children who couldn't be more different than one another. One common thread - SST. For our family, SST has been empowering! Our children gained confidence in themselves and their abilities by experiencing learning hands-on. Our first child found it difficult to make connections in the typical school environment until Animal & Plant Science at SST. Having the opportunity every day to work with animals by using her natural abilities and knowledge learned at SST made those years successful. Our second child loves technology and like many young adults these days, has a love of computer gaming. When the realization hit that a high-tech gaming computer was out of our financial future it didn't stop him. He made his own! Watching him receive the National Technical Honor Society ribbon was a moment that won't be forgotten. Now, our youngest is enrolled in the Biotechnology program and is currently studying the HeLa Cancer Cells. Who knew that these slides under a microscope would give us an evening of conversation with a 16 year old, at the dinner table no less! I'm thinking future cure for cancer, why not!! Our children have found their strengths through SST but more importantly the staff and teachers there instilled in them a love for learning and confidence to take that extra step. We are very fortunate to have had SST be a part of our family.

- *Jane and Richard Anzalone, parents of Dan '08, Welding Technologies and Alison '12, Marketing Technologies, Raymond High School*

We are proud to say we are parents of two former SST graduates. Our son graduated in 2008 from the Welding Technologies program. He continued his education in welding at a local community college and graduated with an associate's degree and a certification in welding. He is working as a welder with a large company and has worked his way up to a welding foreman. He enjoys what he does and we credit his positive experience to SST. Our daughter also graduated from SST in Marketing Technologies in 2012. She did not continue her education in the marketing field but her experience at SST was also positive. She is currently studying to become a paralegal. Having had the experience of the Marketing Technologies program increased her knowledge in all aspects of her career path. SST is a wonderful opportunity for students to get hands-on experience and a great start to a career of their interest. The faculty and staff go above and beyond to make it a positive atmosphere.

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**The Seacoast School of Technology is a regional career and technical center serving Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools.**

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- *Russell E. Prescott, father of Maggie '08, Biotechnology, Sanborn Regional High School*

I am writing on behalf of my daughter, Maggie (Prescott) Matern. As a student at the Seacoast School of Technology, Maggie was able to find her passion for biology and develop the necessary skills that served her well at the University of New Hampshire where she received her bachelor's degree in genetics. Maggie is now in a doctoral program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore for Human Genetics and Genomic Medicine, and expects to be both sought-after in her field and highly-compensated for her work. This all comes from the curriculum, the support, and the structure of SST. I highly support their work and encourage any high school student looking to get into STEM fields to consider this program.

- *Tammy and Mark Keene, parents of Jacob '12, Automotive Technologies I & II, Welding Technologies I, Exeter High School*

Our son, Jacob had a passion for working on cars and four wheelers with his dad at a very young age. When he was a junior in high school he decided to pursue his interest in cars by taking the Automotive Technologies program at SST. This gave him a wonderful opportunity to work in a state-of-the-art facility while he was attending high school. He participated in the SkillsUSA competition in the Automotive Service Technology event & placed 6th overall which helped him gain confidence along with being a great experience for him. While at SST, he was able to earn college credit through Manchester Community College. His senior year at SST he decided to take Automotive Technologies II along with Welding Technologies I where he gained even more of an interest in working in the automotive field. He was also fortunate to be one of the two students chosen to do a summer internship at BMW of Stratham where he has continued to work since graduating high school and while attending Manchester Community College. SST has given him the knowledge, skills and confidence to become a successful automotive technician.

- *Rosemary Sheehy, mother of Philip '14, Building Construction Technologies, Winnacunnet High School*

My son, Philip Sheehy, attended SST from 2012-2014. In the Building Construction Technologies program, Phil was able to learn valuable hands-on skills that will be used throughout his lifetime. He gained the knowledge to work on projects and the self-confidence to see the projects through to the end. He is proud to travel around the local area and point out buildings that he helped build with other members of his class. Mr. Klingensmith taught the students the safety skills they needed to become independent in their work and knew when to challenge them. Students were required to create a portfolio which is incredibly valuable to them as they get ready to enter the work force. I was extremely impressed by the requirements for this portfolio and the quality of the work.

- *Robert & Martha Martel, parents of Caroline '14, Biotechnology I, Health Science Technologies I & II, Exeter High School*

Ever since Caroline was in elementary school, she had shown an interest in a career in the health care profession. As parents of Caroline, we are very grateful for her three years at SST. Not only did she gain a great deal of experience and practice in a lab setting through Biotechnology, but she also was able to explore the vast opportunities offered in health care through Health Science Technologies. During Caroline's senior year at SST, she was able to have an internship where she shadowed a health care professional, a radiologist. She's now a freshman at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts and is majoring in Biotechnology/Mathematics.

- *Melody LaMore, mother of Christine '14, Health Science Technologies, Newmarket High School*

As I write this, I am thinking how to squeeze all the wonderful things I have to say in just one paragraph. I cannot thank the SST program enough for all the ways they helped our daughter, Christine. Christine entered into the Health Science Technologies program for her junior and senior years wanting to walk away with her LNA and that she did. Today, she still talks about how her teachers taught her so much and that she is ahead of the game where she is employed. She has been able to help other nurses by showing them techniques that she learned throughout the SST program. She comes home telling me how much more she learned from SST than the other students who took classes on the side. SST's extra effort really has shown throughout our daughter's performance and this has helped to build Christine's confidence. We watched our daughter take off and want to strive even harder as her teachers and other staff members of SST supported her every move. SST gave her that helping hand to realize her potential and instilled in her the belief that she could indeed fulfill her dreams. Because of her high academic average and strong attendance, Christine was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. I am happy to say that as of today our daughter is thriving in every attempt she takes on. We owe so much to SST.

- *Mark and Carolyn Johnson, parents of Zachary '11, Pre-Engineering and Alyssa '14, Culinary Arts, Exeter High School*

We are the proud parents of two SST kids! Zachary took Pre-Engineering with Mr. Messa during his freshman, sophomore and senior years. Alyssa took Culinary Arts with Chef Collins during her junior and senior years. When our kids showed interest in SST we thought it would be a good way to "test the waters" prior to having the pressure and expense of college. We quickly discovered it was so much more! They were both exposed to every aspect of their chosen fields. They both had highly-skilled teachers, who became role models that they respected. While attending SST, Zac and Alyssa discovered what they wanted to do when they "grew up." Both Zac and Alyssa are attending college in the fields that they discovered at SST. We've seen several kids switch out of college majors trying to find the right fit. One out of every three engineering students in the U.S. does not stay in the program. Zac is in his fourth year and has the grit to stay with it, thanks in part to SST. When Alyssa chose culinary we thought...hot kitchens, hours on her feet...really? REALLY! She was exposed to every part of the culinary field, fueling her passion to be in the kitchen and is now excelling in college...grit.

- *Cathy Willard, mother of Holly '14, Animal & Plant Science, Raymond High School*

SST was a real turning point in Holly's life and development. I am not shy about telling people that I was not sure at first about her attending SST. I am also quick to say that I am embarrassed that I placed the old views of a voc school on SST. Her experience was nothing that my preconceived notions told me it would be. SST was truly a place of nurturing, acceptance and excellence. I have had the pleasure of getting to know a number of staff through Holly's two years and through my work with the parent organization in Raymond. Also, thanks to the generosity of Animal & Plant Science teacher, Anne DeMarco, I had the pleasure of spending a day observing during my student teaching. This enabled me to see the school through the lens of an educator instead of a parent. Holly is now a successful student at Unity College and she credits SST and Ms. DeMarco with her success.

- *Katherine Knight, mother of Henry '15, Charlie '10 and Alex '08, Wright Start Preschool*

My three boys have all attended the Wright Start Preschool – the youngest is in his last year. My house is filled with apple print paintings, tea cups, self-portraits and memory books. And gratitude. Because I can't think of a better first school. It is kind, fun and so incredibly well thought out. The teachers (when I write teachers I mean all of the teachers, the high school students and the adults) take time every day to understand the children. When one of my boys had articulation problems all of the teachers worked together, some understanding one word, some another, to piece together what he was saying. It wasn't easy. It was so important for him to be heard. When another one of my boys was afraid to go to school the same teacher came out to the car every day and stuck by his side as long as he needed. She became his best friend and he began to have fun. The teachers here empower the children to try new things and keep trying them. The children have jobs, too. They get to ring the bell or set the table for snack. They love how valued they are at the school. And I do too. There's a lot of learning. The children learn how to tell each other how they feel and how to make it better. They learn their letters and counting, too. Mostly, though, it seems they learn that school is a warm place to explore and try new things with friends. My children didn't want to leave the Wright Start Preschool, but when they did, they left ready for kindergarten.

- *Beth Mooney Cargill, mother of Megan '10, Careers in Education, Exeter High School and Michael '13, Pre-Engineering, Great Bay eLearning Charter School*

My daughter, Megan Cargill, attended the Early Childhood Education program as a student teacher for two years. The knowledge that she obtained during this time at SST gave her the confidence to apply to one of the best teaching schools - the University of Maine at Farmington. She arrived at college with the ability to jump right into her classes with a leg up. Megan just graduated this past May with two teaching certificates and a grade point average that earned her the title of Cum Laude. I credit her success in college with the knowledge and confidence that she obtained with the outstanding teachers of SST, Mrs. Ranks, Ms. Stacey and Ms. Janel. My son, Michael, had the opportunity to attend SST in the Pre-Engineering program with Mr. Messa. He also had an incredible opportunity to discover if engineering could be a passion for a lifelong career. The knowledge that he obtained from his two years with Mr. Messa convinced him that engineering was his passion. This experience along with the opportunity to build a submarine and attend the International Submarine Races in Bethesda, Maryland, confirmed that he was in the right field. I am an Exeter High School graduate from the class of 1978, the year they started construction of SST. I can't help but to wonder what opportunities I missed not having the option for an educational opportunity at this school. I am so thankful that my children had the opportunity to attend SST.

Are you an SST parent? Do you know an SST graduate who is now a successful, independent adult, putting skills learned at SST to use each day? Tell your neighbors and friends about these successful students. Enrollment for next year begins soon! The application deadline is February 13, 2015.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan  
Principal