

THE BEACON



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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

We've Got Company! In addition to offering twelve spectacular Career & Technical programs to regional high school students, the Seacoast School of Technology hosts and supports a variety of events throughout the year. We always have company and that is how we like it! I have highlighted some such special events below:

- Once again, SST will welcome about 250 students from around the state as we host more than 25 events for the state-wide SkillsUSA spring competitions in March. Students placing first at these events have the opportunity to represent New Hampshire at the SkillsUSA National Conference in June. SkillsUSA is the Career & Technical Organization (CTSO) for programs such as Culinary Arts, Building Construction Technologies, Pre-Engineering, Automotive Technologies and Welding Technologies. As the name suggests, marketable skills are essential to be successful in this CTSO, as in life.
- Under the leadership of Computer Science teacher, Norm Messa, a day-long workshop for Computer Science teachers from around New England was held in the fall. Thirty teachers participated in this professional development during which they learned how to build, configure and use the Raspberry Pi, an inexpensive, credit-card sized computer that plugs into a keyboard. Teachers were given a variety of interdisciplinary projects to use in their classroom curricula. Activities included both software and hardware projects.
- Quite often, SST teachers are asked to host other teachers from around the state so that they can learn what we are doing so successfully. One such example was the Nashua Computer Science teacher who wanted to observe what a two-year Computer Science program looks like. Another was a visit from Dover to see how SST manages enrollment.
- Great Bay Community College offers a Welding course at SST, taught by SST Welding Technologies teacher, Jonathan Theberge. The nine-month program is currently in its second term. So far, both classes have been filled to capacity.
- Each October, SST hosts its College and Career Fair which includes two and four-year colleges, technical schools offering certifications, all branches of the military, City Year and several local businesses to include the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Milton CAT, DOT and Lindt. All SST students attend this event and all GBeCS, Exeter Alternative Program and Exeter Adult Education students are invited as well. Culinary Arts students serve lunch to our guests.
- Biotechnology hosted an epidemiologist from the Albany Medical Center who was part of the Ebola response team for New York, giving students a rare opportunity to learn and ask questions about the disease from someone working to control it.

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

- The All-Advisory Committee meeting is held each September. Advisory Committees are made up of local people who support the program related to their own lines of work. For instance, Ken Deem, Shop Foreman at BMW of Stratham, serves on the Automotive Technologies Advisory Committee. More than 100 such people gather to enjoy a light supper, hear an overall update on SST, then get to work with their specific Advisory Committees. These people serve SST in countless ways including: classroom visits; equipment donations; offering advice and providing job shadows and internships.
- Digital Media Arts hosted Alan Dorson from McIntire Business solutions in the print production lab for a professional training and education session on the hot and cold laminator.
- The Raymond Coalition for Youth is welcomed each January. All Raymond 7th graders travel to SST to attend this day-long event which is all about making good choices in life on everything from alcohol to the internet to healthy eating.
- On two very special evenings each year, Culinary Arts hosts the Chef's Table. A celebrity guest chef from a local restaurant is invited to demonstrate how to make some of the dishes he or she is best known for. While the chef is cooking for the guests, our students are preparing and serving each course. It is very much like being a part of a program on the Food Network. With oversight from Culinary Arts teacher, Jim Collins, and the Friends of SST Culinary Arts (Advisory Committee), these fundraising events always sell-out. The next Chef's Table is May 7!
- One Friday night each month for 11 years, SST has hosted Technology Fun Nights. These two-and-a-half-hour evenings are filled with the learning of new technologies, pizza, door prizes and software-to-go. These events are open to students in grades 5-9 and typically fill up within hours of the registration being open!
- After hours, SST shares many of its rooms with Exeter Adult Education. This is a very old relationship and one that works well for everyone!
- SST hosts more evening Open Houses than most schools. A fall Open House is held so that parents can meet teachers and learn about the program their student is taking. An Open House in February takes place just after the Sneak Peek, an event designed especially for those prospective students who visited SST during the Sneak Peek and are so excited about coming to SST, they just have to show it to their parents! An April Open House is designed for those students who have been newly and officially accepted to SST. This is a great chance to meet teachers and learn about the program before the fall.
- The partnership between Exeter High School's Drama Department and SST Culinary Arts is a perfect match! A Friday night in January saw the second Dinner Theatre event, held in Julia's Restaurant. Exeter High School students entertained, while SST Culinary Arts students prepared and served a delicious dinner.
- The 7th Annual Summer Camps for Middle School Students will take place this summer. For two weeks each summer, SST offers camps related to the programs offered at SST. Most of the camps sell-out quickly. SST teachers say they truly enjoy these camps because they are meeting their future students.
- Marketing Technologies seniors welcome close to 80 local businesses to the Small Business Showcase each April. This event is open to the public and also serves as terrific business-to-business networking.

- Each year during New Hampshire's Manufacturing Week, SST hosts a number of local manufacturers interested in our programs which prepare students for the many, varied, career opportunities in manufacturing in our state. Pre-Engineering, Computer Science and Welding Technologies are SST programs that prepare students for careers in manufacturing.
- The entire first grade at Swasey Central School visits SST each May. These students get their first peek at SST, while spending time working in the greenhouse with Animal & Plant Science students. Each first grader goes home with a plant!
- Each month SST's Governing Board meets at SST. The Governing Board is comprised of the superintendent and a school board member from each of the six districts whose students attend SST: Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools.
- In December, SST welcomes all regional guidance counselors, case managers and the Governing Board to learn about opportunities waiting for students at SST. Known as Counselor Information Day, this event ensures our regional partners are up-to-date on SST and able to encourage appropriate placements.
- The Department of Education has paid SST two visits so far this year. The first, back in September, was for the State Monitoring Visit. Every five years, Career & Technical schools like SST are thoroughly reviewed by the DOE. SST fared quite well during this visit. In January, tours of SST were given to two new DOE employees who will be working exclusively with Career & Technical schools.
- Culinary Arts students host the public in their restaurant, Julia's. The schedule is listed on our website SeacoastTech.com. Reservations are required for these theme-oriented lunches, which are sure to delight!
- Clip clop and neigh! Yes, that is right, horses! SST will be the host site for this year's FFA State Horse Judging Career Development Event on a Saturday in late March. FFA members from around the state will start the day at different horse farms judging horses for confirmation both in hand and under saddle. Later in the day at SST, students will work with experienced horse trainers through a knowledge test, oral reasons, a team activity and a business practical. Special thanks to host sites for this event: Green Acres Stable in Dover and Boulder Brook Stable in Lee.
- As soon as the Hour of Code was publicized as an international event (and need), Computer Science and Pre-Engineering teacher, Norm Messa, was ready to host an event at SST. In 2013, SST held an Hour of Code on three nights in December with 70 guests attending. In 2014, the event was held on two December nights with 80 guests. The ages of those participating in the Hour of Code ranged from 4 to 79.
- Health Science Technologies students have hosted the Santa Spaghetti Supper for many years. It is an opportunity for families to come to SST, enjoy an inexpensive family dinner prepared by Culinary Arts students, dance to some great holiday music with Party Time DJ and get a picture with Santa. More than 100 guests enjoyed the event this year.
- About 1,200 sophomores from our region are invited to the Sneak Peek, an event giving all prospective students an opportunity to spend time in their top two programs-of-choice before applications are due.
- If it is Voting Day, SST opens its doors to welcome all Exeter voters.

- Each year we get visits from the Board of Health, State Board of Nursing and Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles, for inspections and recertifications in our Culinary Arts, Health Science Technologies and Automotive Technologies programs, respectively. Our teachers work hard to ensure certifications are maintained.
- In April, Peter Rabbit is invited to the Beatrix Potter Tea Party! This event brings parents and grandparents of Wright Start preschoolers dressed in their Sunday best. Careers in Education students arrange and decorate for the event, each Culinary Arts student prepares an appetizer, Animal & Plant Science students provide live bunnies and Digital Media Arts students film the event. This event is SST at its finest, in its finest!
- Every single month for the last ten years, a representative from the Great Bay Community College admissions office comes to SST to meet with seniors to assist them with college applications. The representative also meets with juniors at least once each year.
- The Cooperative Middle School has been sending mentees to SST for seven years. One day each month SST seniors serve as mentors to middle school students with a career interest in a particular program.
- Culinary Art teacher, Jim Collins, has hosted the SAU 16 food service workers on several occasions to share with them ways in which to cook healthy and use foods not typically served in school cafeterias. Cooking with ancient grains was the topic of a recent session.
- In mid-March SST welcomes the proud families of students who are inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Students must have an average of 90 and fewer than seven unexcused absences during their first three semesters at SST. Following the induction ceremony, Culinary Arts students prepare and serve a luncheon for inductees and their teachers.
- Thanks to Marketing Technologies teacher, Sandy Flannigan, the Business Roundtable is making a comeback this year! Local business people, many of them Advisory Committee members, will conduct interviews with students in the program related to their field. Much like speed dating, students rotate from interviewer to interviewee to gain experience with that all-important piece of securing a job.
- Swasey Central School 5th graders have been pen-pals with seniors in the Animal & Plant Science program all year. In the spring, these students will come to SST, meet their pen-pals and work on a New Hampshire Fish & Game project planting lupine. The lupine will later be planted in the Concord area in an effort to bring back the Karner Blue Butterfly, currently on the critically endangered list.

It's a lucky thing we enjoy entertaining! If you are considering holding an event at SST or partnering with one of our programs, you had better book early!

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal