Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Making connections with middle school students has long been a priority at the Seacoast School of Technology. Two of the many ways that SST starts building relationships with middle-schoolers are through Technology Fun Nights and SST Summer Camps. **Technology Fun Nights**, which run throughout the school year, began in 2003 and have served over 3,500 attendees. **SST Summer Camps**, which have run for the past six summers, have provided over 700 students with the opportunity to participate in 15 different career camps. Neither of these terrific initiatives would be possible without the vision and talents of our dedicated teachers. Many of our current students came to SST once upon a time as middle school students with only a vague idea of their future plans. Today, their goals are more focused. Here are some of their inspirational stories:

- *Jason Waleryszak '17, Pre-Engineering, Newmarket High School*

  Currently, I am in the second year of the Pre-Engineering program at SST. The two years so far have given me a great overall view of many different engineering fields. Before coming to SST as a student though, I had taken part in the Tech Fun Nights, as well as several summer camps that SST offers. The Tech Fun nights are great – they allow kids to learn about a vast range of different computer programs ranging from 3D modeling to photo editing to games about physics, along with many others. Now, being an SST student, I go to Tech Fun Nights to help out. The summer camps are a great experience to give a more defined look into some of the different programs offered at SST. When I was in middle school I took two different summer camps, Engineering taught by Mr. Messa and Architecture taught by Mrs. Partinoudi, both of which were amazing and a big reason why I decided to come to SST in high school. It is great to be part of the SST community.

- *Morgan Leet '16, Culinary Arts, Exeter High School*

  I attended the SST Culinary Arts summer program for two weeks in seventh grade because I heard it was fun and I already had a passion for cooking at home. Not only did I have a great time, but this experience really helped me decide that Culinary Arts is the path I want to take in my future. I learned a lot in the kitchen and I was motivated to practice my skills at home and apply my knowledge. After attending the summer camp, I got involved in the SST mentor program and was able to learn even more about what is involved in the profession. I also attended two of the SST Chef's Table nights. Now that I am finally here as a student I am ready to learn all that I can and I am very excited for a great year. I have toured The Culinary Institute of America twice already and I think it's the place for me. Thanks to SST's many educational programs in Culinary Arts I have found my passion.

- *Aton Scott '16, Computer Science, Winnacunnet High School*

  I first went to SST in the seventh grade when I started going to Tech Fun Nights once every month for three years. One of the programs that we used at Tech Fun Nights is one of the programs that we currently use in Computer Science class. I eventually started attending the summer camps that were available like Computer Programing and Digital Film Making. Near the end of my sophomore year, I applied to take Computer Science at SST during my junior year. Going to events like Tech Fun Night is helpful to people looking to take a computer-related class at SST.

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

- *Ron Spaulding '15, Automotive Technologies, Exeter High School*

  I went to the automotive camp when I was in the 6th and 8th grade. I loved it and the people who were helping me there were great. We tore apart an engine and put it back together, which was the first engine work I ever did. When I started the camps I didn't know what I wanted to do when I grew up. After the camps, I had my mind made up that I wanted to take Automotive Technologies in the 11th grade. I have always been a hands-on person and worked with my father growing up. I'm in the Automotive Technologies program now and I don't regret one bit of my decision. After my junior year, I was asked to be a mentor to the middle school auto campers. When I was a camper, I loved being there and I wanted these middle school kids to have the same experience that I did – having the auto camp be the best experience they ever had. I look forward to coming here every day. I want everyone to know that if you love cars, Automotive Technologies at SST is the place for you!

- *Brigid Auclair '18, Pre-Engineering, Raymond High School*

  I first got connected with SST when I started taking summer camps. I think I started the summer after I was in 6th grade. I first took the culinary camps because I had originally planned on becoming a chef when I grew up, but last year I took a different camp called "Baking a Raspberry Pi" with Mr. Messa, where we got to program/build our own computer. I had a lot of fun in the summer camps and even in 6th grade I knew I wanted to take classes at SST when I got to high school. Right now I am taking Pre-Engineering. I really enjoy taking the class and I am glad I was able to take it as a freshman. After I graduate I hope to find a job as an engineer. I'm not entirely sure what I want to be, but I think it would be cool to be an aerospace engineer. I've enjoyed being a part of SST so far and I look forward to taking Pre-Engineering for the rest of this year.

- *Grahm Larkham '16, Computer Science, Sanborn Regional High School*

  SST has been a fantastic resource for me and has helped me narrow my interests into what I want to do in my future. I'm still not fully decided yet, but even today I'm still using SST to help narrow my options down. I started going to SST in middle school utilizing their summer programs just to find something that interested me. Back then, I enjoyed cooking and at the same time was interested in arts and crafts, which led me to join the culinary and woodworking camps. Although I'm no longer interested in either of those things, the camps were amazingly helpful in narrowing down my interests. I also went to SST's Technology Fun Nights, as well as their Hour of Code sessions. I went to a lot of these and, although they were pretty basic, they helped me decide that I wanted to go more in depth into the world of computers. Today, I'm in the Computer Science program and still exploring my interests for the future with their wonderful programs.

- *Nathan Daniels '16, Digital Media Arts, Winnacunnet High School*

  By the time I was in the 5th grade, I had my own computer at home and my parents understood that I thought the computer was the most fascinating thing in my life. I went to Technology Fun Nights at the Seacoast School of Technology and whenever my mom would pick me up after the classes were done, I would tell her the same thing; "That was so much fun! Sign me up again!" Every class was different; some nights we played games that used thinking skills and some nights we would learn how to use new creative programs for making 3D Pictures and Models. Next, I took the Digital Video camp during my summer between 7th and 8th grade, which was the first time I met my current SST teacher, Ms. Groleau. There, I learned the basics of shooting video clips, using a green screen, broadcasting news, how to edit and add effects to video clips and how to make hilarious commercials. I knew then I was going to pursue Digital Media in high school. This is where I am now and I've made it to exactly where I wanted to be 4 years ago. I now look forward to the future and instead of being completely clueless on what I want to do for a career (like when I first stepped into high school), I know now that I'm most interested in Music and Video Production. As I keep venturing through my last two years of high school, I'll keep discovering new opportunities for me to follow my dreams, and I know SST will continue to help guide me to reach my goals.

- *Nicholas Dubin '15, Automotive Technologies, Exeter High School*

  I first started getting into cars when I was in middle school. I used to work on cars at home with my step dad. In 8th grade I got the opportunity to do a summer camp at SST and I was excited to work in a real shop. Working on cars was never something I wanted to do as a career, but that started to change that summer. That summer my friend and I got to completely take an engine block apart and put it back together. How many 8th graders get to do that? Then, junior year, I started the Automotive Technologies program at SST and am currently in my second year of Auto. In addition to that, I volunteered as a mentor in the same program I took as a kid and now I'm a teacher's assistant for kids doing exactly what I did when I was their age. SST has so many opportunities for kids and we just have to take advantage of them. I don't know exactly what I want to do but I know I want to go to a tech school and do something automotive-related when I'm older.

- *Corinne McNulty '16, Health Science Technologies, Exeter High School*

  When I was in 8th grade my history teacher asked for volunteers for the SST mentor program. I didn't know much about it but I figured hey, why not, and said I'd like to do the Health Science Technologies program. It was so much more fun than I had expected. I spent time in both the Health Science Technologies program, learning about diseases and what to do in the healthcare profession, and the Culinary Arts program, shadowing the waitresses. Today, I am in the Health Science Technologies program and it's my favorite class of the day. I'm hoping to someday be a radiation oncologist, and this course helps me get one step closer to my goal.

- *Sam Zwicker '16, Building Construction Technologies, Newmarket High School*

  When I was in middle school I attended many of the Tech Fun Nights, which gave me a place to relax, unwind and socialize as I created games with Scratch, movies with Alice, animations with Pivot and 3D objects with Bryce. It was just a great place to have fun and learn about computers at the same time and it was one of the reasons I signed up to take Mr. Messa's Pre-Engineering class when I got to high school. As a middle-schooler, I also took Mr. Klingensmith's two-week Building Construction camp, where we got to start building things right off the bat. One of the projects we did was a rectangular bench, which I have used ever since, and it still looks just as good now as it did the day I brought it home. I enjoyed the construction summer camp so much that it inspired me to take the first year of Building Construction Technologies this year and now I am planning on going into construction when I finish high school.   I can't wait for my second year of this class - nothing bad can be said about SST and the rare opportunities that it presents. It is an amazing use of the town's tax dollars.

- *Stephen D. Goudreault '15, Welding Technologies, Automotive Technologies, Exeter High School*

  When I was in 8th grade I signed up for the Engine Overhaulin' summer camp with my friend Nick. I remember going over parts of the engine and what makes them tick. I had my picture taken and put in the newspaper with other kids in the program, and that newspaper clipping is still tacked to my wall at home. That summer camp was what originally turned me on to SST. My junior year I took Welding I, and now, as a senior, I am participating in two SST courses. This year I'm taking Automotive I in the AM session and Welding II in the PM session. I just registered myself at Great Bay Community College to take the Welding certificate course at SST next fall. I plan to go on to become a welder and work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

- *Cameron Aylward '16, Welding Technologies, Newmarket High School*

  In the summer of 8th grade, I attended two Seacoast School of Technology summer camps - the automotive camp, Engine Overhaulin' and the Architecture camp - which allowed me to see what SST is really all about before I got into high school. Although I ended up taking the Welding Technologies program, the camps were a good experience to have. In the future, I plan to go to college to study and get a degree in engineering and further my welding possibilities. Both the camps and class provide a really cool, hands-on experience which can really help your future because of the practicality and early development of skills that can enhance your abilities as an adult.

- *Tyler Dutile '15, Pre-Engineering, Building Construction and Automotive Technologies, Exeter High School*

  I started out at SST at the end of eighth grade when, in the summer, I took Automotive Technologies and Building Construction camps for two weeks each. The next year, as a freshman, I started the Pre-Engineering program and took Principles of Engineering and Introduction to Engineering Design. In my sophomore year, I finished up with Digital Electronics and Civil Engineering & Architecture with Mr. Messa. My junior year, I took Building Construction and my senior year I am taking both Automotive Technologies I and Building Construction II. Overall, my time at SST has enabled me to work in an environment that is hands-on. SST is and has been one of the best high school classes and experiences that I've had. Throughout the past five years, I have learned more through hands-on activities than at my homeschool with the traditional learning. The different way of teaching at SST changes the way that a student can learn the curriculum in core competencies and the curriculum meets or exceeds the entry-level standard for most jobs.

- *Tyler Silverwood '18, Pre-Engineering, Exeter High School*

  I've been coming to SST for the past five years. Whether it be for a joyous Tech Fun Night, full of kids eating pizza, or a summer camp, it was certainly the best part of my week. I can remember always wanting to actually be a student at the school, hoping to enroll in the Computer Science program. At the Tech Fun Nights I made sure to get to know the teachers so I would be well prepared when I finally reached that daunting freshman year. I really enjoyed going to both the Tech Fun Nights and the summer camps. I attended camps for those years and they were honestly some of the best times of my summer. Whether we were creating tiny little robots to navigate a maze or utilizing a tiny little computer (called the "Raspberry Pi") to perform some mundane tasks, it was an experience to remember. Having finally reached my freshman year, I enrolled in the Pre-Engineering course at SST. It is definitely one of my favorite parts of the day, and each day I cannot wait to take that fifteen-minute bus ride at 9:05.

These students have been SST students from the minute they walked through our doors! Registration information for Summer Camps will be available and distributed to all regional schools just after February vacation. Be sure to sign up right away as the camps fill up quickly each year and it took less than four hours for the November Technology Fun Night to sell out! Please spread the word about these initiatives and introduce middle school students you know to SST.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal