**School District MSAD 15**

**Contact Information**: Bruce Beasley, Superintendent, bbeasley@sad15.org

Maine School Administrative District 15 approaches learning by having a challenging curriculum of standards that provide choices and pathways to adequately prepare students for college, career, and life. MSAD 15 has organized its K-12 system around engaging students in 21st century skills working at their developmental levels and advancing only when they have demonstrated proficiency. The elementary and middle schools have been using proficiency-based education for several years and the district has begun the vertical expansion of the model through the high school. Instruction is research based and data driven so that students’ specific learning needs are met without constraint of time or structure. Technology enables each teacher and student to develop and be accountable for a dynamic, customized learning plan that promotes global connections and anytime/anyplace learning. Students are assessed through learning objectives that provide them with multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency, and all instructional staff are expected to be collaborative leaders in the development and delivery of high quality curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

**Gray-New Gloucester Middle School**

**Contact Information**: Karen Caprio, Director of Curriculum and Instruction,

kcaprio@sad15.org

**Location**: Gray, Maine

**Grades**: 5th-8th

**Number of Students**: Approximately 630 (SY 2011-12)

**Phone**: (207) 657-4994

**Website**: <http://www.msad15.org/gngms/>

**Approach to learning**: Gray-New Gloucester Middle School uses a proficiency-based model for their team organized grade levels. Single grade teams have two teachers who teach math/science and language arts/social studies. Vertical teams, with students in multiple grades, have four teachers who teach math/science or language arts/social studies. Core team teachers work together, along with students and parents, to develop a supportive relationship that can maximize student growth and learning. A Unified Arts team instructs students in art, music courses, physical education, health, computer and technology, and Spanish. Additionally, students who may struggle with completing assignments and/or want additional help can use the Academic Assistance support system which allows teachers to support students beyond the regular school day.

**Gray-New Gloucester High School**

**Contact Information**: Karen Caprio, Director of Curriculum and Instruction,

kcaprio@sad15.org

**Location**: Gray, Maine

**Grades**: 9th-12th

**Phone**: (207) 657-3323

**Website**: <http://www.msad15.org/gnghs/>

**Approach to learning**: Gray-New Gloucester High School uses a proficiency-based model that aims to build pathways that give students the choice to be college and career ready. Incoming freshmen are assessed against standards on a combination of the traditional 100 point scale and the 1-4 scale, while students in grades ten and higher are only assessed on a 1-4 scale. Students are provided with options that allow them to personalize their experience, including online learning programs such as APEX[[1]](#footnote-1), Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework, hands-on vocational training at PATHS[[2]](#footnote-2), preparation for 21st century careers through their classes, and technology integration with the application of iPads in classes. In addition, faculty members participate in an advisory program that provides students with support and guidance to help them accomplish their goals.

1. Apex Learning has been a digital curriculum since 1997 and is one of the leading providers of digital curriculum for secondary education to the nation’s school districts. Apex Learning offers web-based digital curriculum in math, science English, social studies, world languages, fine arts, and health/PE in both general studies and Advanced Placement. Apex Learning can be used in core programs, alternative schools, credit recovery, intervention/bridge, remediation, acceleration, and virtual schools. <http://www.maine.gov/education/technology/molp/profile/apex.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Portland Arts and Technology High Schools (PATHS) is a hands-on program oriented towards uniform national standards that prepares students for academic success and qualified career placement. PATHS serves twenty-two schools in the Portland, Maine area by offering around twenty different programs to its students. Students at PATHS acquire new skills and can improve their work practices so that they are better prepared for the future employment in business, service, the arts, and industry. <http://paths.mainecte.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)