**School System RSU 2**

**Contact Information**: Virgel Hammonds, Superintendent, vhammonds@kidsrsu.org

Regional School Unit 2 began implementing standards-based grading more than a decade ago and was one of the first to develop a proficiency-based system. The mission of RSU 2 is to provide an educational environment designed to encourage each student to acquire the necessary skills and perspectives needed for a meaningful life and career in the 21st Century. Schools in this system strive to encourage students to form desirable habits that are necessary for them to become responsible informed citizens with attitudes and practices necessary for satisfying, worthwhile lives. In order to achieve this goal, the staff at each school in RSU 2 seek to ensure that all children master the Maine Learning Results standards. To do this they provide instruction that is appropriate to each individual with respect to methodology, goals, and assessment. Staff are asked to view students in their totality as physical, mental, social, and aesthetic beings which requires knowledge of child growth, development, and instructional pedagogy. Staff members are also asked to establish goals for themselves and engage in a self-evaluation process for the purpose of self-improvement. Lastly, RSU 2 recognizes that within our highly technological 21st Century society demands that students learn how to cope with change and learn to accept that ‘learning’ is a continuous process.

**Monmouth Academy**

**Contact Information**: Rick Amero, Principal, Contact Virgel Hammonds

**Location**: Monmouth, Maine

**Grades**: 9th-12th

**Phone**: (207) 933-4416

**Website**: <http://www.monmouthschools.org/index.php/academy>

**Approach to learning**: Monmouth Academy uses a proficiency-based model that focuses on student-centered learning. Through a school district consolidation, Monmouth transitioned to RSU 2’s proficiency-based approach three years ago. Students are guided by both the pacing calendar and the teacher-pace during each of their classes. The pacing calendar is a yearly plan of when Measurement Topics[[1]](#footnote-1) are taught, guiding teachers on when to complete all the measurement topics for a particular course in one school year. Student progress is periodically checked to ensure that they are on track and to provide targeted support when necessary. Teachers determine progress using a combination of indicators, including student work in class, in out-of-school time programs, at home, and school flex time (coined the ‘Help Yourself Period’).

**Hall-Dale High School**

**Contact Information**: Mark Tinkham, Principal, mtinkham@kidsrsu.org

**Location**: Farmingdale

**Grades**: 9th-12th

**Phone**: (207) 622-6211

**Website**: <http://www.halldale.org/index.php/hs>

**Approach to learning**: Hall-Dale High School uses a proficiency-based model to help prepare its students to become college and career ready. RSU 2 implemented standards-based grading more than a decade ago and was the first to develop a proficiency-based system, starting in Elementary School and working to full scale implementation through high school. There are several programs in place that students can access to help them become better learners and aid them in planning their future once they graduate from high school. Students have the opportunity to take supplemental courses at the Capital Area Technical Center, attend classes at one of four nearby college campuses, engage in a variety of summer programs, and take online courses through VHS Collaborative Course Offerings[[2]](#footnote-2), Odysseyware Course Offerings[[3]](#footnote-3), or AP4ALL[[4]](#footnote-4). Also, technology is in place to help students remain on track with their school work and the online resource ‘Digital Hail Mary’ provides students, teachers, and parents with additional guidance on how to integrate technology into everyday learning.

1. Measurement Topics are the standards for learning, outlined by the Maine learning Results. They are the curriculum framework that guides teachers in their instruction and lesson planning, and the standards that all students must achieve. <http://www.kidsrsu.org/index.php/learnercenterednews/measurement_topics_and_learning_targets> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. VHS Collaborative provides online curriculum that help with blended learning, accelerated students, and professional development. Courses are offered in semester and full year terms, and though courses follow a set academic schedule students can complete their work online at anytime of the day as long as they meet their specified due dates. Programs include Advanced Placement, Middle School, Gifted and Talented, Summer School, and Credit Recovery. <http://thevhscollaborative.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Odysseyware provides online curriculum and eLearning for charter, public, and virtual schools across the United States. Odysseyware has been helping students for over thirty years and continues to adjust as technology changes. Courses are offered in history and geography, math, language arts, science, and a variety of electives for elementary, middle, and high school students. <http://www.odysseyware.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. AP4ALL is offered by the Maine Department of Education and provides online Advanced Placement courses free of charge to any student who resides in a Maine school administrative unit who is educated at the public expense. Courses are taught year-long, from early September though one week after the scheduled date for the AP Exam for the course. While not all AP courses are offered, some of the classes taught include AP Art History, AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP Computer Science, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Environmental Science, AP European History, AP Latin, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP Music Theory, AP Psychology, AP Spanish Language, AP Statistics, AP Studio At, AP US Government and Politics, AP US History, and AP World History. <https://sites.google.com/a/students.halldale.org/guidance-counselor-s-corner/program-of-studies/online-courses> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)