7th Grade Celebration Day
Fifty-six seventh graders went to Boulder Beach at Groton State Forest June 11. Almost everyone went swimming, despite the sixty-degree weather. Some students fished, some played frisbee, some hiked to the camp store. The enthusiasm at being outside, together, unmasked, was palpable. The day had begun with the Silly Seventh Grade Awards, in which each student received an award from a teacher lionizing some silly moment during the school year.

8th Grade Celebration Day
On Friday June 11th the 8th grade class at Oxbow celebrated the survival of the school year 2020-2021. Our rainy morning started with movies complete with concessions. Students then gathered in the auditorium for an end of year awards assembly honoring academic achievement in all subject areas, perfect attendance and class citizenship. Students were also recognized for the President’s Education Awards Program (A- or above in all classes for 7th and 8th Grade). Parents joined in this celebration via zoom (https://zoom.us/rec/share/8puESN3Q3mSxnfxfZfYdIPNizVURKQRTa0OkC9m0_N64M_cffSyC2Pq3sVby8N7YFAWJ_6ehlqg9N), and a link to this ceremony was posted to the 8th grade website and sent out via email. In the afternoon, students gathered for a picnic pizza lunch on the grass, and then participated in small group and whole class outdoor activities (including a nail biting game Capture the Flag with the whole class!). Students took a break in the middle of
these activities to give the OHS Girls Softball team a special send off. Finally, students gathered back in their classrooms and enjoyed an ice cream social before dismissal.
9th Grade June Term

Athletic Report June 2021

The spring athletic season wraps up this week with four Oxbow Track and Field athletes competing in the Vermont State Decathlon. After a fall and winter season full of modifications and changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this spring started to feel much more back to normal. Students were able to wear masks less outside during practice and competitions, and it was great to have crowds back at games supporting the student-athletes.

Our Middle School Baseball and Softball seasons were a success, and both teams had strong participation numbers. We were able to welcome Waits River students to join these teams, with four on the baseball team and three on the softball team. This was a great introduction for the Waits River 8th graders who are planning on attending Oxbow next fall, and it was great to have this opportunity for our school. Both the baseball and softball teams had much success on the field as well, and it shows great promise for the future of both programs.

The track program was led by a very young core who continued to best their personal records throughout the year. On the Middle School side, we had the fortunate opportunity of joining up with schools in southern Vermont to offer multiple middle school meets throughout the spring. This is a very ambitious group of middle schoolers who had fantastic performances in some very competitive meets. As for the high school team, they did not have a senior join them this spring. However, this young group was able to try many different events, and had a strong showing at the state championships. The boys finished 8th overall and the girls finished 9th within the division. On the girls side, Freshman Sophia Hayes won the D3 state champion in the Javelin.

The varsity baseball team had a rebuilding season, with many Freshmen getting lots of playing time. Due to our alignment in the Capital League of the NVAC, this group had to compete against many D2 schools, which was challenging at times. Even though they lost in the first round of the playoffs, they played very well against a Hazen team that narrowly lost in the state semi-finals. With a strong young core returning, this team shows much promise for the future.

Finally, as many are aware, the Girls Varsity Softball Team won the Division 3 State Championship with a 8-6 win over BFA-Fairfax. This is the program’s 9th State Championship overall and their first since 2018. This was a group of girls that had much to overcome this spring, with many injuries and absences due to COVID-19 and contact tracing. As with many of our spring high school teams, this is a young group that will return many contributing members of the State Championship team. Considering how difficult this year was for everyone, it was great for this group of girls, the school, and the community to cap the school year off with a State Championship.

Respectful,

Derek Cipriano
● The bi-annual AHERA 6 month periodic surveillance inspection statement is complete.
● We continue to replace failed pneumatic controls with electronic as required. The music room and A19 are the next two to be done.
● Although the Covid cases and restrictions are winding down in the state, we continue to have difficulty getting parts and equipment due to shortages and extended lead times. The plow truck we were planning to replace this fall will now have to wait until the spring of 2022.
● We are adding Point of Service water filters where required due to the state mandated water testing for lead.
● Engineering services are underway for the primary electrical power that needs upgrading.
● Current items on order are 2 new exit door assemblies RiverBend and replacement fridge and freezer for the Oxbow kitchen.
● The upgrade of the boys locker room showers is expected to be complete soon
● The summer projects include:
  ● Updating the girls locker room showers
End of year letter to families
June 15, 2021

Dear Parents:

The intent of this letter is twofold - to recognize the stress COVID has put on families and the school system, and, to outline Oxbow’s plan to re-design curricula to best re-engage students. It also includes your student’s Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) for students in grades 7, 8 and 9; and Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) for students in grades 8 and 11.

On behalf of Oxbow, thank you for being our partners as we ventured through learning during a pandemic. It looks like we made it! Last summer the decision was made to offer a range of learning opportunities to meet our students’ needs - hybrid, remote only, 4-day. Although this variety of options seemed confusing at times, our students benefited greatly by this flexibility. I appreciate your patience as we navigated through this unprecedented time. It has not been easy for anyone, especially students and parents. Thank you for being our partners.

Oxbow is using data from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), Renaissance STAR, and Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) to inform instruction for next school year - finding ways to re-design curricula and re-engage students. The analysis of Oxbow data has revealed:

- some gaps in our students’ understanding of pertinent content, skills and knowledge
- students who struggled with remote/hybrid learning and will need intervention to get caught up
- students who excelled with remote/hybrid learning and are ready to be challenged in new and creative ways
- students who will need to be re-engaged in education

Oxbow will continue to assess and redesign curricula and programs to meet our students' needs. Here are a few examples that have already been implemented:

- A wing emergency exit update for ADA
- New seats on the North side of the bleachers
- Basketball Scoreboards
Courses will be offered to fill the gaps noted above, such as two sections of Pre-Algebra.

4 sections of core classes, allowing for smaller class sizes and more individual instruction.

3 interventionists will be fully integrated - English/Language Arts, Math, and Behavior.

A credit recovery session will be offered to all high school students during the week of June 28th and will be modeled after the very successful credit recovery program we offered during February vacation.

Students are participating in re-engagement activities this spring - 9th grade is participating in a June-Term where learning is taken out into our environment and community; and, class trips to local state parks and attractions.

Activities are planned for fall that will re-engage students in school, including, ropes course adventures and team building activities.

A newly organized advisory program will be implemented in the fall. All students will be assigned to an advisory that meets for 30 minutes each day. Advisory curriculum will include - character building, community responsibilities, leadership, academic support, and, college/career counseling and personal learning plans development. Some of the topics covered include, self-advocacy, collective responsibilities (community belonging and service learning), bullying, substance use, and, planning for your future.

Enclosed you will find a copy of your child’s SBAC (grades 7,8,9), and VTSA (grades 8,11). You will not have SBAC or VTSA results enclosed if your child was in grade 10. We all acknowledge that testing data during this past year may give unprecedented results. However, our students were encouraged to do their best so that we could use the data to inform our instruction in the future. According to a memo from the Vermont Agency of Education,

Typically, we interpret the results of our statewide summative assessments understanding that the instruction students have received throughout the year aligns with the content covered on the assessment. This year, beyond anyone’s control, the ways that students learned (i.e., remote, in person or hybrid model) and the breadth and depth of instruction/learning all varied across students, schools and districts. Knowing this, we cannot interpret this year’s results assuming all students had the opportunity to learn all content included on the assessment. For example, a student may have responded to an item incorrectly because they did not master the skill that was taught (typical interpretation), or a student may have responded incorrectly to an item because their learning of that area was limited this year. We also know that testing experiences and conditions were not typical this year. Some students were entering the school building for the first time as they approached testing. Other students may have encountered staggered opportunities to test due to several factors. We do not know how students would have performed on these assessments if schools were fully
opened during the entire 2020-2021 school year or if there was not a pandemic. We also know that participation in testing this year is not typical and we may not be able to interpret school, district or state results as we normally would, especially when we consider subgrouping used for reporting.

We wish you the best as you relax and recharge over the summer. Please be looking for our summer mailing that will be sent in July. This will include information for School Year 2021-2022. If you have questions and concerns, please contact me directly through email (jean.wheeler@oesu.org) or by phone (802-222-5214). This will allow us to work together to find solutions.

Sincerely,

Jean Wheeler
Principal

Summer Credit Recovery
Summer Session is a week-long extended learning opportunity designed for students who have already taken an Oxbow course but have yet to achieve a passing grade. This year’s Summer Session was offered to 25 students who were in need of credit recovery. We currently have 14 students enrolled in the program. Oxbow’s Summer Session will be taught by Marsha Sutherland (math instructor) and Amy McQuade (special educator) and will utilize a computer program known as A+. This program walks students through lessons identified by their classroom instructors as proficiencies they have yet to demonstrate in order to achieve credit in their Oxbow class.

Transportation, breakfast and lunch will be provided to students who participate in the program. The program will be happening at Oxbow High School between June 28 and July 2 from 8 AM to 12 noon. This opportunity for our students is paid for with our Title 1 funds. This is similar to our Winter Session which took place in February which was utilized and successful for 13 of our at risk students.
9th Grade June Term

For the last two weeks of school (June 7-June 18), the 9th grade has been partaking in a special June Term that explores the topic, “Health and Wellness through Covid.” Students have been led by staff through various activities to promote physical, emotional, and mental health, including hiking Mt. Cube and Mt. Cardigan, a yoga session, various team sports, community service cleanup in the town of Bradford, as well as a special, nutritional breakfast.