



Summer Institute 2022 picture from *the Knightly News*

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During the summer of 2022, from June 27th until July 14th, a group of Nottingham students from grades 5, 6, and 8 worked to solve a real-life problem. This problem was broken down into four components: Nottingham's Tricentennial, Improving School Grounds, Social and Emotional Wellness, and T-shirt Design. The students involved were Braydan Behr, Steven Boulard, Riley Cloutier, and Noah Santry-Merrill. They worked under the supervision of teachers Rose Breslin-Dawson and Barbara Henderson.

Students were asked to find two ways to publicly display aspects of the history of the town of Nottingham. The team decided to research the many old schools in Nottingham. Mrs. Cooke from the Historical Society came in as a guest speaker and loaned the group resources from the Dame School Museum. Using these materials, we created an instructional bulletin board outside the school office indicating the location of all the 13 one room school house old schools in Nottingham. Old photographs were added along with facts about the individual schools.



Old schools in Nottingham

The second project the students undertook was to display the Tricentennial flag which had been created by Summer Institute 2019 students. The flag is 60 inches by 37 inches on a white cloth with a green and gold ribbon for the border. It displays some of the Revolutionary War flags as well as serving as a pictorial timeline from the glacial boulder drop over 10,000 years ago to the present day. The flag is currently being displayed in the front foyer of the school as a wall hanging suspended from a white paper birch branch, the state tree of New Hampshire.



The Tricentennial flag

The second component asked students to find at least one way to improve school grounds in front of the building. After walking around, it was determined that the white birch that was located in the front of the building was no longer vital. It was decided that it should be replaced with a hardier tree. The students researched various trees, and calls were made to local nurseries and the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. It was decided that a Heritage River Birch would replace the existing paper birch. The teachers tagged a seven-to-eight-foot Heritage River Birch tree at Pawtuckaway Nursery on Route 125. Students also observed that the Patriots' Garden, developed by a former Summer Institute group, was in great need of upkeep. They made short work of the multitude of weeds.



Heritage River Birch

The third component asked students to explore ways to address the School Board's goal of social and emotional wellness for Nottingham students. The teachers checked with the guidance counselors since this is their teaching field. They told us about an acronym they will be using in next year's guidance classes. Using a Nottingham Knights' theme, a Medieval bulletin board was created around this acronym.



Nottingham Knights' theme as an acronym.

The final component was to create a T-shirt design that incorporated and reflected the aspects of their real-life problem. Because we were so pleased with the outcome of the bulletin board of old Nottingham schools and because this is still Nottingham's Tricentennial year, it was decided to use that bulletin board image on our T-shirts.

On July 14th, after their Jury Panel presentation to administration, the Summer Institute team of students and teachers, administration, and custodial staff enjoyed a delicious potluck cookout to celebrate their many successes. We would like to thank the students' parents for their ongoing support.

What a great student learning adventure. They did the school, the town and 300th anniversary proud. Thank you.