



December 18, 2023

Kevin Towle, Principal
Indian River School
5 Royal Road
Canaan, NH 03741

Dear Principal Towle:

On behalf of the NELMS and its Board of Directors, I wish to thank you, members of the professional and support staffs, and students for the time and hospitality provided to our visitation team on November 13th as part of your Spotlight School application process. Based upon evidence gathered during several meetings, classroom observations, and a tour of the facility during our recent visit I am pleased to inform you that Indian River School will be designated a NELMS Spotlight School!

During the visit, the NELMS Visiting Team identified a range and variety of indicators that demonstrate your school's commitment to effective instructional and assessment practices, collaboration, teaming, and a solid understanding of the young adolescent based on current research and middle level best practice.

The New England League of Middle Schools wishes to commend Indian River School for the following:

- A staff and Administration committed to the whole child.
- School leaders demonstrate strong collaboration with staff and students and value the opinions of others.
- An introductory, standardized advisory program has taken root as an encouraging and necessary beginning for meeting young adolescents' socioemotional needs.
- Experiential learning experiences, such as Roots outdoor program, draw direct connections between the interests of the students and the content of the curriculum.
- Common planning time for teacher teams with an emphasis on assessing all students' socioemotional and academic needs is an exemplary model for all middle level schools.
- Schoolwide PBIS is in place and students have been responsive ("Tiger Bucks")
- Communication processes between school personnel and caregivers is a definitive strength.
- Students feel safe in their learning environment and School Counselors are frequently accessible to students.
- the leadership opportunities for students

To continue your improvement and commitment to best middle level practices, NELMS makes the following recommendations:

- A late bus for students who want to participate in after school extracurricular activities would create more equitable opportunities for many students: research shows that students participating in after-school clubs and activities are safer, learn to make healthier choices, and it leads to stronger community connections.
- Expanding the advisory program to more diverse opportunities and activities beyond what exists in this standardized program, particularly for 7th and 8th graders.
- Continued focus on restorative policies and practices which build upon a positive and supportive learning environment which encourages students and faculty to take healthy academic risks, leading to increased student learning.

Please note that renewal of your Spotlight School status in three years may be contingent upon successful implementation of the above recommendations.

We are pleased to congratulate and honor Indian River School as NELMS' newest Spotlight School. Soon you will be provided with a Spotlight School banner that we ask you to display in a public area of your building as well as to note that you are a NELMS Spotlight School on your website. If you wish to have a formal banner presentation, please contact my office at 877-402-7627.

Sincerely,



Jeff Rodman
Executive Director



Jason Webster
Spotlight School Coordinator

cc: Jason Webster, Spotlight Schools Coordinator
Robert Griffin, New Hampshire-North, NELMS Board of Directors Representative
Amanda Isabelle, Superintendent, Mascoma Valley Regional School District-SAU 62
Tim Josephson, Chairperson, Mascoma Valley Regional School District, School Committee

**Spotlight School Agreement between NELMS
and
Indian River School
December 18, 2023**

General Information

- ❖ A Spotlight School will receive 50% off full registration fees at any NELMS conference or professional activity except for school-based professional development.
- ❖ A Spotlight School will welcome visitors. School visits can be arranged through the NELMS office. If arrangements are made directly with the school NELMS should be informed.
- ❖ The school and NELMS will collaborate to promote positive and effective middle level education.

School Responsibilities

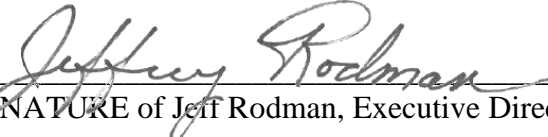
- ❖ Annual Membership to the New England League of Middle Schools is required for the term of the Spotlight School status.
- ❖ Respond to inquiries and surveys from NELMS in a timely manner.
- ❖ Be willing to host visitors.
- ❖ Register and keep accurate records of visits and provide this information to NELMS.
- ❖ Collaborate with NELMS on a schedule and arrangements of visits.
- ❖ Collaborate with NELMS to enhance middle level best practices of which the school is proud.
- ❖ Supply NELMS with a list of exemplary practices that the school wishes to showcase.
- ❖ Share expertise and provide support by attending and presenting at the NELMS Annual Conference and/or other professional development options.
- ❖ NELMS encourages the school to participate in our Middle Level Distinguished Student Awards Celebration
- ❖ Provide NELMS with the URL link to the school's website.
- ❖ Provide a short introductory informational write-up about the school that can be used on the NELMS website.

NELMS Responsibilities

- ❖ Present the school with a Spotlight School banner at an event to be determined by the school.
- ❖ Publicize this recognition in Mid Lines, on its website, and via local and regional press releases.
- ❖ Collaborate with schools to schedule visits.
- ❖ Collaborate with the school to provide ongoing support to enhance middle level best practices.

The above terms and conditions are acceptable.

_____ Date _____
SIGNATURE of School Representative

 _____ Date December 18, 2023
SIGNATURE of Jeff Rodman, Executive Director, New England League of Middle Schools

Revised 12/14/2023