

Souhegan Students “Stand and Deliver”

Souhegan High School seniors will be involved in the capstone experience of their twelve years in school during Senior Project Week beginning Thursday, May 14th through Wednesday, May 20th. They will present their projects to the community on Thursday evening, May 21st. Each of them must present a senior project to their peers, families, and a panel of educators and must pass this project in order to graduate from SHS. Most college graduates in our community were not required to exhibit their learning in such a public, high-stakes way whether as under graduates or even as graduate students. But for SAU39 students, they have been preparing in many ways for this exhibit of their learning.

Consider that first grade student who is carefully guided through her “show and tell” presentation. Or those upper elementary students who proudly exhibit and explain their projects at the science fair and the invention convention. And the middle school research teams who spend weeks researching international charitable institutions and present their findings to their classmates at an Oxfam banquet. Throughout high school, students are graded in every class according to seven learner expectations, one of which is “effective communicator/producer.”

The arts always have been in the business of presenting learning publicly. The months of May and June are filled with concerts and art shows that not only entertain, but also show off hard-earned skills. By the time a music student makes it to his or her last concert at Souhegan, she has been on stage over a dozen times...each time more familiar with her surroundings.

With this background, most Souhegan students will stand and deliver their senior project with ease and confidence. Our graduates often report that at college they are head and shoulders above their classmates in communications skills their freshmen year. Thank you faculty and parents who have contributed to this. We’ve all worked hard to find something worth saying and then saying it well. Good luck to all seniors in the final lap of their years with us!

Mary Athey Jennings, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools