



# The Founders Academy

*A Public Charter School for Grades 6-12*

May 27, 2016

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## From the Dean of School



Happy Friday!

This morning, there was a Moment of Silence in observance of Memorial Day. Founders appreciates, thanks and remembers Veterans.

We wish our band and chorus students the best of luck at the annual Great East Festival today! Mr. McKenzie, Ms. Prindiville and students always do an excellent job.

There is no school on Monday for Memorial Day. Have a good three-day weekend!

Sincerely,  
Maureen Mooney  
Dean of School

## School News

### U.S. History

*U.S. History is the cornerstone subject at The Founders Academy. Here's what the class is doing this week with Mr. Van Ewyk:*

Students will be taking the End of Quarter Assessments this week and continuing their review for Finals.

### Teacher of the Month: Mrs. Lopez

We are very proud to have Ana Lopez as a member of our staff at Founders. She has accomplished a great deal in her young life. She is a great math teacher, who says she loves working with numbers. She is highly qualified to teach math with two masters degrees; one in elementary education, grades K-8 and a second in middle school math.

Mrs. Lopez grew up in Russia and came to New Hampshire as a nanny to improve her English speaking skills. She met her husband at church. He grew up in Columbia. So Ana also speaks fluent Spanish since she lived with his family for five years. They have three little children, one a baby who was born this year. Mrs. Lopez speaks Russian to her children, and they understand it, but usually



respond to her in English.

In order to fit both her teaching and her family into every day, Mrs. Lopez rises at 4:30 every morning. She makes lunch for her children before leaving for Founders. She is usually at school between 5:30-6:00 a.m. every morning to correct papers and prepare for her classes. Then she leaves school quickly in the afternoon to spend the afternoon and evening with her children.

Mrs. Lopez says she loves the Founders mission of a classical education and she also like the opportunity to create her own curriculum.

## Science Fair Winners!

This past week, the winners of the Science Fair were announced and presented with prizes! Congratulations to the following:

Grade	Rank	Name of Student	Title of Project
6	First Place	Graham O.	Music to the Brain
6	Second Place	Dolan C.	Thermal Conductivity of Coffee Cups
6	Third Place	Erin P.	The Anxious Dog
7	First Place	Alex S.	Do Closed Ecosystems Work?
7	Second Place	Darren L.	Got Paintball
7	Third Place	Jasmine H.	Color and Emotion
9	First Place	Jaimason L.	Application of Bernoulli's Principle to Wing Design
8	Second Place	Emily A. and Allison O.	Sodalicious-Blood Pressures
8	Third Place	Garrett O.	Randomness
7	<b>Overall Best of Show</b>	<b>Sarah F.</b>	<b>How do Temperature and pH Affect Catalase Enzyme Activity?</b>



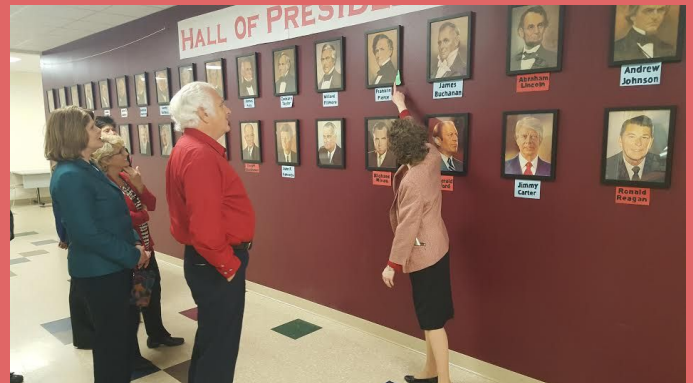
A big congratulations to these well-deserving students, and a special THANK YOU to Mrs. Bechis and Ms. Griffin.

## State Representatives Visit Founders

Numerous State Representatives visited Founders on Tuesday, May 24. They enjoyed meeting student ambassadors, getting an overview of the school, hearing a student speaker (Fiona H.) and receiving a tour. The representatives each support charter schools in New Hampshire. Furthermore, they are very grateful for what our teachers do at Founders! Keep up the good work!

The following State Representatives visited Founders on Tuesday the 24th:

- Rep. Dick Hinch, Majority Leader - Merrimack
- Rep. Dick Barry - Merrimack
- Rep. Jeanine Notter - Merrimack
- Rep. Jordan Ulery - Hudson
- Rep. Ralph Boehm - Litchfield
- Rep. Frank Edelblut - Wilton
- Rep. Barbara Biggie - Milford
- Rep. Laurie Sanborn - Bedford, Amherst

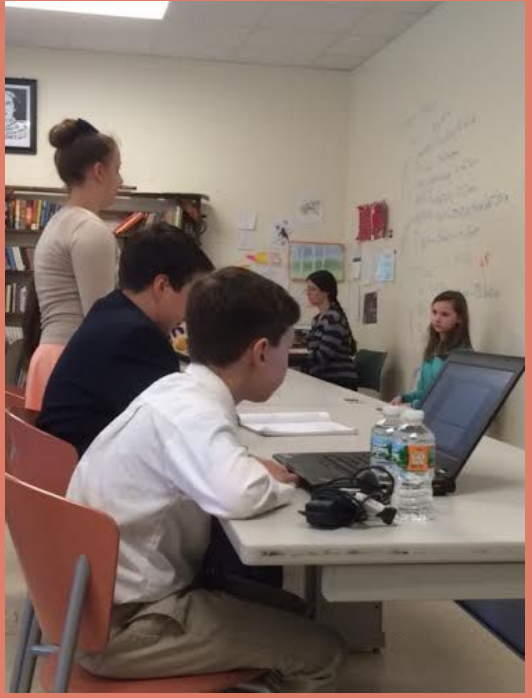




### Mock Trial with Ms. Small

Students in Ms. Small's English classes learned about point of view and persuasive writing while they prepared to put Achilles on trial for war crimes committed in the Trojan War. Students studied examples of mock trials, and wrote their own opening statements, both for the prosecution and for the defense. Then, we conducted actual mock trials, and three English classes found Achilles guilty. The fourth class acquitted him of all charges, thanks to a stellar performance by the defense attorneys. The mock trials were conducted with seriousness and ceremony.

Thank you to all the students who dressed up, practiced their roles, and brought their best to our courtroom in Ms. Small's English class.





## Faculty Reflections - Mrs. Bechis

### Quality Learning and Leader Development at The Founders Academy

By: Mrs. Bechis

What distinguishes The Founders Academy among schools is its Honesty, Transparency, and Comprehensiveness in the development and use of carefully-crafted syllabi and curricula that provide students (and their supportive parents) ALL the information necessary to succeed in their coursework and satisfy the school's Mission by developing into well-educated citizens of character willing and able to become leaders. Our syllabi are posted on our website so that both students and parents have easy access and can use them as a reference and guide anytime throughout the school year.

We encourage you to continue reading and view the exemplary syllabi provided at the end of this document.

Founders Syllabi are works in continuous improvement with the goal of providing our students, parents, and Founders Academy community detailed answers to the following questions:

1.) **What will students be learning and what are the learning goals?** - subject content, what each student needs to know and demonstrate mastery of at the end of the course.

In addition there is a Round Table syllabus by grade to explore the themes of the school: character, leadership, citizenship and American culture.

2.) **How will they be learning the material?** - lectures, class discussions, collaborative group work, guided inquiry, guided reading, labs, in- and out-of-class projects, student presentations, mock trials, debates, field trips, science fair projects, entrepreneur activities, etc.

3.) **How will they be assessed; what is the weighting of assessments and the grade scale?** - to determine that they are proficient in the subject area and have met the school's mastery requirements- assessments include but are not limited to quarter, mid and end of year tests, quizzes, projects, research papers, web quests, digital portfolios, computer work, music practice cards, recitals, classroom participation, homework, etc.

4.) **How does the curriculum for that course and level fulfill The Founders Mission?** - in creating citizens of good character willing and able to take leadership positions in government, technology, industry, science, academia, world affairs and all fields important to mankind.

5.) **What are the teachers' expectations of students?** - what materials students will need to bring to class, homework policies, late work policies, makeup work, class behavior, classroom climate, types of assignments that will be provided so that students falling short of mastery have an opportunity to achieve mastery, safety protocols for science labs, appropriate and responsible use of the internet, internet courtesy, plagiarism, academic honesty and integrity, policy for getting extra help from the teacher.

6.) **What are helpful study and organization tips?** and ways to succeed in the coursework.

7.) **What are the detailed curricula and schedule?**- what topics will be covered in sequence with a week by week breakdown. Dates for the end of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters are provided. Important deadlines for major projects are listed, deadlines for field trip permission slips, etc. are listed.

8.) **What resources will be used?** - Textbook to be used in the course or appropriate online textbook, websites, videos, tutorials, books, other publications, etc.

9.) **Are there prerequisite courses?** - required for high school courses

10.) **How do I contact the teachers?** - Contact Information, availability of teacher through email, phone call, personal visit etc.

Excellent examples of comprehensive syllabi are Mrs. Lopez's Level 1 and Level 2 Math classes, Mrs. Marcotte's Technology classes and Ms. Mote's Level 2 English Classes

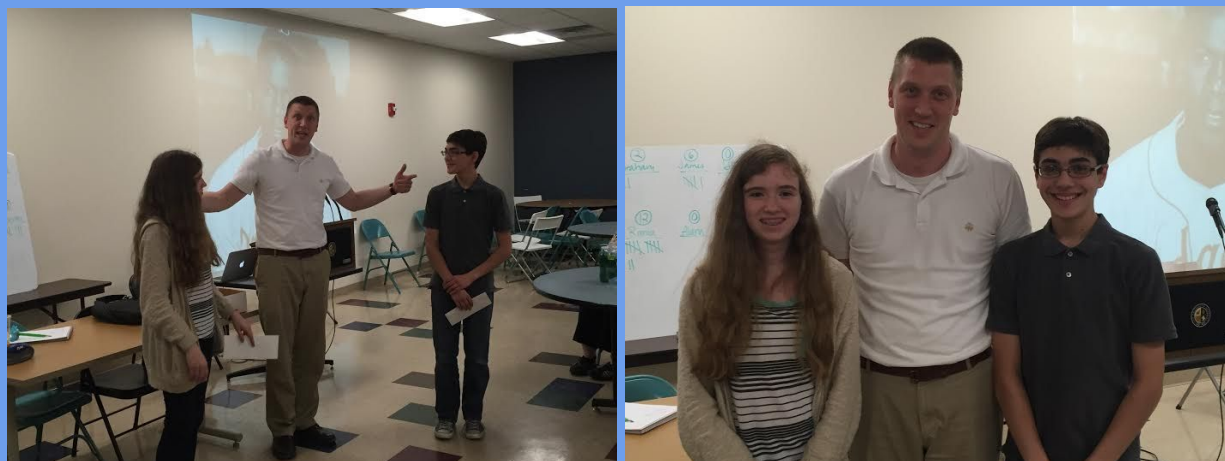
<http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1207671&pageId=1370089>

<http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1207671&pageId=1368927>

<http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1207671&pageId=1639532>

## History Bee - Mr. Van Ewyk

The Founders Academy hosted its first ever History Bee on the night of May 12th. Frank R. placed first and won the \$30 cash prize! Leah M. placed 2nd and won the \$20 cash prize! It was a phenomenal bee season and we will return next year with another installment of the Spelling, Geography, and History Bees!



## Landscape Committee - Mrs. Humphrey

### Landscape Committee Report

With the indispensable help of Keith Lacasse, architect and father of students Jaimason and Macie, the Landscape Committee went through the process of designing the space behind the lower cafeteria for student use in the future.

The plan includes an outdoor classroom and theater, spaces for picnic tables, ten trees representing the 10

Amendments of the US Bill of Rights, a swing set, a basketball court, and a paved area for chalk games and possibly ice skating during the winter months.

The paved areas of the plan will be put in place this summer. Other pieces of the plan will be put in place as funds become available.



## Field Day - June 8

The Founders Academy Leadership Committee is planning a Field Day on **June 8th**, with a rain date of June 9th. Join us for a day full of competitions, games, contests, and so much more! . . .

On Field Day, Wednesday, June 8, Round Tables will be organized into an Olympic Games with each Round Table being a country with its own flag. The opening ceremony will a procession as the band plays. The activities will be, for the most part, competitive, and students will win points for their Round Tables. At the closing ceremony the chorus will sing as student line up by Round Table. Awards will be announced and students will return to their Round Table classrooms. During the day, students will move around to events that they have signed up for previously. They will not be required to stay with their Round Table. Parent volunteers will help at all the stations, freeing teachers to participate as they see fit.

**NOTE #1:** Parent/guardian volunteers are needed! Please contact [robin.gage@tfanh.org](mailto:robin.gage@tfanh.org) if you are able to help for the full day or part of the day! Thank you in advance!

**NOTE #2:** Parking for parent volunteers is in the back/rear of the building either directly behind teacher cars or near the loading dock doors.

**NOTE #3:** There will be a slight delay in parent pick up on the afternoon of June 8. Please be patient as Field Day finishes and clears the front of the building.

A schedule and list of the different events can be found [here](#).

## Final Assessments

Final Assessments are coming up and we want to be sure that students are prepared. Depending on the teacher, the final assessments can be either an exam or project/presentation. A detailed rubric will be provided for a final assessment that isn't an exam.



Final Assessments are scheduled for May 23 - June 3. Subject areas have been assigned specific days in which they will give their assessments so that students do not have too many assessments on one day. The assessment schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 23 - World Language

Tuesday, May 24 - World Language

Wednesday, May 25 - NONE ("Everyday" classes may choose to give part of an exam on this day)

Thursday, May 26 - English/History

Friday, May 27 - NONE

Monday, May 30 - No School (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 31 - English/History/Art

Wednesday, June 1 - Computers/Music/Art

Thursday, June 2 - Math/Science

Friday, June 3 - Math/Science/Computers/Art

The daily schedule will run as normal - assessments will be given during a class' normal meeting time. (So if a student has French on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Fridays at 8:30, they will have their assessment on Tuesday 5/24 at 8:30.) Nightly homework will stop being assigned by teachers on Wednesday 5/25 - unless that homework is for a project/presentation that is part of a Final Assessment grade.

#### NOTES ABOUT THE FINAL ASSESSMENTS:

Those in 9th grade have the privilege of going home early during final assessment week.

Parents/guardians may coordinate to pick their students early after 12:45pm (assuming their final assessments are done for that day). If a 9th grader doesn't have final assessments on a day designated as such, he/she may stay home to study (please indicate this absence by emailing [attendance@tfanh.org](mailto:attendance@tfanh.org)).

To review how final assessments are factored into middle and high school grades, please refer to section 3.2 of the handbook.

Teachers have the discretion to decide whether or not students will be exempt from taking finals in their classes. However, if a teacher determines a student will be exempt, then the reason will be for the following:

- a 3.67 (unweighted) grade point average (or higher) achieved in the current quarter and the immediately preceding quarter.

## Math Tutoring

In preparation for the 7th grade math final exam, the FIRST Lego League coaches and Manchester CHAOS team members are hosting weekly math tutoring sessions Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30, starting May 3rd for 5 weeks. The format will be a mix of concept review, test question review, test taking techniques, real world examples and a game each week. Limited to 12 students at a cost of \$20 per week, for snacks and

prizes. Come for one or all the sessions. Proceeds going to the TFA's FLL Team and Manchester CHAOS Robotics teams (some of their team members are coming to help). Email Chris Mikus at [christopher.mikus@tfanh.org](mailto:christopher.mikus@tfanh.org) for more information.

## Student Life

### Summer Camp Programs 2016

Information has been posted about Summer Camps 2016! Enrollment has begun! Camps include:

- Leadership Academy
- Art Lab
- LEGO League Camp
- Math Foundations
- Exploring World Literature Through Short Stories
- Bikes and Books
- Sports and Fitness Camp
- Math Madness
- Board Game Camp
- Middle School Prep
- Poetry Workshop
- Spain and Its Culture/Spanish Conversations
- Novel Writer's Toolbox
- DIY - Crafts and Scrapbooking

The programs are set to run the weeks of July 11, July 18 and July 25.

Information about some of the camps being offered can be seen on the school website; go the [www.thefoundersacademy.org](http://www.thefoundersacademy.org) and click on "students/summer camp program," or click [here](#).

We also have a page about the camps up on [www.parentingnh.com](http://www.parentingnh.com).

Check the site often for updates as the summer gets closer!

## Fundraising

### \*New\* Donors Choose Project - Please Contribute!

I want to make sure my students have the materials they need to succeed, so I just created a request for my classroom at [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org):

[Founders Academy Green Room](#).

If you chip in to help my students, you'll get awesome photos and our heartfelt thanks.

Thanks so much,  
Joanna

P.S. If you know anyone who may want to help my classroom, please pass this along!

Here is a picture of Ms. Marcotte and the Chromebook computers from her last successful DonorsChoose.org project:



## La Carreta Fundraiser - June 9

La Carreta Mexican Restaurant in Manchester is holding a fundraising night on the Thursday before school ends (**June 9th**). The restaurant will donate 10% of all receipts received that night back to the school. (Dine in only).

The flyer below contains more details, and **please be sure to bring it in with you that night** in order to get credit for the attendance and purchase.

[FLYER](#)

This is a great end of the year event/date night on behalf of the school!

## New to Founders: Empties4Cash

The school has launched a fundraising project with the help of an inkjet recycling company Empties4Cash. Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured.

Our school will receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge turned in. This will directly benefit our school and the students, not to mention, it is great for the environment.

You can help!

Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type.

Be on the Look Out!  
**WANTED**  
Empty Cartridges On The Loose



If found, please turn in to:

The Founders Academy

We have been searching far and wide for them.

Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Brother, Dell, Canon, or Apple printer?

Bring in your empty OEM inkjet cartridges (placed in the original box that you would have thrown away to keep it safe from spills and damages, or a Ziploc bag) to the school.

For more information and a list of approved inkjet cartridges, go to [www.empties4cash.com](http://www.empties4cash.com).

## Miscellaneous

### Food Pantry Needs

We're running low on supplies for our food pantry!! This is where we grab lunch for students who forgot theirs. If anyone has extra nonperishable food items (cup mac & cheese, cup ramen, crackers, etc), we'd appreciate any donations!

### Wanted: Volunteer Substitute Teachers, Lunch, Interns & Study Hall Monitors

Founders is seeking volunteer substitute teachers, interns, study hall monitors, and lunch monitors! If you are interested in helping Founders for full days, half days or even a period or two, please contact Deb Waitt at 603.952.4705 or [debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org). We'll add you to the list!

## Club/Committee News

To see all clubs and committees (and more to come), click [here](#).

## Important Dates

School calendar online link: <http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/calendar>

May 27, 2016	School wide Moment of Silence in observance of Memorial Day
May 27, 2016	Great East Music Festival Field Trip.
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day. No School.
May 23 - June 3, 2016	Final Exams.

June 6, 2016	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
June 7, 2016	Band Concert at 7pm.
June 8, 2016	Founders Field Day (all day) organized by the Student Leadership Committee.
June 10, 2016	Last Day of School.
June 10, 2016	Fourth Quarter grades close.
June 17, 2016	Fourth Quarter Report Cards emailed to student and primary parent/guardian.



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