



New Hampshire Charter School Office

Best Practice Submission Form

School Name:	Seacoast Charter School
Best Practice Title:	Half/Whole School Meetings
Applicable Categories:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accountability and Performance Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Business Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community/Student Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum Design <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership & Governance <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment and Retention (Staff or Student) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
School Mission:	<p>The mission of Seacoast Charter School is to provide excellence in core academics and the arts while cultivating the individual qualities and strengths of each child. At the Seacoast Charter School, arts and academics go hand in hand. We believe that the arts bring us joy, and when we feel joy, we learn more deeply and effectively. Through a rich and varied arts program, our students learn to look closely, listen carefully, respond thoughtfully, and work collaboratively. Opportunities for creative expression and independent thinking are an integral part of our rigorous academic program. The combination of challenging intellectual and artistic endeavors develops our students' hearts and minds and enables them to live more fully in the world.</p>
Purpose:	These brief, weekly gatherings unify us as a community and allow us to share a common experience.
Summary:	<p>Every Friday, our students begin their day in Half School Meeting. We divide our homerooms into groups with both groups spanning the K-8 grades. These meetings last about 15 minutes and at each meeting, a teacher- including our art, music, and PE teachers, sign up to share the work students are doing. Students present their work ranging from the progress or the product of an ongoing project to a skit or a poem. Their work is celebrated by the community. Students develop presentation skills and receive real-time feedback on their work from peers. These presentations also allow teachers to hear what is happening in other grade levels, and often make connections for their students following half school meeting. The meeting ends with our 7th and 8th graders leading the group in a silly, call and response song which strengthens their leadership skills and gives them an opportunity to serve the entire school community.</p>



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	<p>We begin and end our year with an outdoor whole school meeting we call our Rose Ceremonies. At the first Rose Ceremony, 8th graders present roses to our incoming Kindergarten class to welcome them to our school. At the end of the year Rose Ceremony, those kindergarteners present roses to the 8th graders to wish them well on their next adventure following their graduation from Seacoast Charter School.</p>
Partner(s) in Development:	
Contact Person:	Nicole Outsen, Head of School nicole@seacoastcharterschool.org
Resources or Documentation:	