Making Learning Stick
Connecting Community Assets with Flexible Learning Pathways

Deer Isle-Stonington High School
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Preparing All Students For College & Modern Careers

Our goal is to make sure that each student who enters our school earns a diploma and is prepared for all aspects of adult life—college, work, and citizenship.

Students today need to know the basics—“the three R's”, science, history, etc.—just as they always have. Students today also need to know real-world skills that will prepare them for the 21st century, including problem solving, group collaboration, public speaking, and critical thinking skills.

Flexible Learning Pathways
Personalize Education

When classroom teaching is blended with real-world experiences—internships, community service, public speaking, or scientific investigations of the world around them—students not only learn “the basics,” but they learn how real businesses work, how to work as a member of a team, and how to turn classroom learning into actions that lead to better employment opportunities and stronger communities.

Our Island community is rich in learning resources. Personalized learning can help us move beyond the four walls of the school to connect our students with all that our community has to offer and provide learning opportunities where our students can fully demonstrate their abilities.

How You Can Help

Volunteer

In the classroom or in the community, we are always looking for volunteers to help us deliver exciting learning opportunities to our students.

Share your expertise and ideas

The Pathways initiative grew out of and depends upon the great ideas and resources of the individuals and organizations in our community.

Funding and financial support

DISHS is seeking start up funding for student learning activities and teacher training within the Pathways initiative.

For more information contact:
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Learning Pathways at Deer Isle-Stonington High School

A school that works for every student... because every student deserves an excellent education!
### Learning in and through the arts

By learning through the arts, students learn to question the world, to be flexible, creative, & reflective, and to explore self.

### Preparation for careers in the arts

Students can work towards a “professional artist” certification that includes more advanced arts and entrepreneurship topics.

### Eastern Maine Skippers Program

Aspiring fishermen in coastal schools learn the skills needed to be successful in times of rapid environmental and regulatory change.

### Hands-on learning motivates students

Effective hands-on projects blend rigorous academic study with the kinds of real-life experiences that make learning stick.

### In demand 21st century careers

As the health care industry continues to grow, healthcare professionals will become more in-demand than ever.

### Meeting real community needs

A Health Care Pathway may be a source of qualified health care personnel at all levels of the profession for our Island care providers.

### Marine Studies Pathway

Students in the Marine Studies Pathway will learn in the community, on the shore, and on the water, working alongside teachers, fishermen, scientists, and other marine professionals. By investigating the complex issues facing our coastal communities and ecosystems, students will gain a relevant, real-world understanding of our marine environments.

Students will learn and practice important skills such as active citizenship, public speaking, interpreting and using data, and applied science and engineering that will prepare them for modern fishing careers as well as post-secondary education.

### Arts Pathway

Students will identify personal interests and connect their learning to real world opportunities in a creative, rigorous, and dynamic learning environment. Internships, mentorships, and independent studies as well as traditional coursework allow students to learn the technical skills of art while also learning core content subjects like writing, math, science, and history.

A focus on collaboration, creativity and other 21st century skills will provide students with the resources to successfully navigate through today’s complicated world.

### Health Care Pathway

Linking student interest with community resources, the Health Care Pathway will allow students looking to enter college programs or the health care industry to gain valuable skills in the health care field while still in high school.

Students in the Health Care Pathway will have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications such as Certified Nursing Assistant and Emergency Medical Technician certificates—providing first hand experience in the health care profession.
How do schools make sure today’s students are inspired and motivated to learn?
How do schools prepare every student for college and for rewarding, modern careers?
How do coastal communities adapt to a changing fishing industry?
How can our school and our community work together?

… by providing students deep learning in marine-related topics that is rigorous AND relevant!

The Marine Studies Pathway at Deer Isle-Stonington High School is a new kind of learning experience designed to engage and stimulate today’s students, while equipping them with the practical skills they will need to succeed in every area of adult life. Students in the Marine Studies Pathway program will learn in the community, on the shore, and on the water, working alongside teachers, scientists, fishermen, and local marine professionals. They will acquire the knowledge, skills, and work ethic they will need to succeed in college and in challenging modern careers.

By investigating the complex issues facing our coastal communities and ecosystems, students will gain a relevant, real-world understanding of our local natural habitats, economics, government, and history, while applying math skills to community problems, learning sophisticated new technologies, and writing extensively about what they are learning. Instead of learning only in the classroom, Marine Studies Pathway blends rigorous academic study with the kinds of real-life experiences that make learning stick. Technology rich learning environments will allow teachers to personalize learning for students and honor “anytime, anywhere” learning.

Graduates of the Marine Studies Pathway will earn the same diploma as other Deer Isle-Stonington High School students. And they will achieve the same state and national learning standards as other students—which means they will leave our high school prepared to succeed in college and whatever careers they may
Marine Studies Pathway Goals:

- Use marine related issues to engage students in academic learning and “learning how to learn.”
- Expose students to a wide-range of both known and emerging marine related careers, as well as other careers that can be made possible by a marine-related education.
- Provide students a diploma which meaningfully prepares them for any post-secondary option.
- Develop future citizens and leaders who can speak for themselves, especially graduates who will stay in or return to this community.
- Help sustain the local fishing economy and way of life in response to economic, climatic, regulatory, and technological changes.

The Marine Studies Pathway program has already been enthusiastically embraced by several community partners that will share their expertise in marine studies with our students, including Penobscot East Resource Center, Hurricane Island Institute for Science and Leadership, Island Heritage Trust, and Maine Maritime Academy. And we are just getting started.

The new Marine Studies Pathway at Deer Isle-Stonington High School will prepare the next generation of fishermen, entrepreneurs, scientists, marine professionals, and citizens who will help our coastal Maine communities adapt to ecological, economic, and political changes, while creating a more sustainable and prosperous future for everyone.

VISIT THE MARINE STUDIES PATHWAY WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SITES.GOOGLE.COM/A/DISHS.ORG/MSP/
EASTERN MAINE SKIPPERS PROGRAM

“Preparing students to actively contribute to the vitality of our fishing communities today and in the future.”

Hands-on Learning Motivates Students

Effective hands-on projects blend rigorous academic study with the kinds of real-life experiences that make learning stick. Students will graduate prepared for any post-secondary option—college and career.

Green Crabs and Entrepreneurship

The major project for the Skippers Program in 2014-15 will answer the question “How can the impact of the green crab population be controlled in a way that conserves the marine ecosystem and encourages new industry?”

Deeper Learning Through Marine-Related Topics

Students in the Eastern Maine Skippers Program will learn in school, in the community, and on the water, working alongside teachers, fishermen, scientists, and other local marine professionals. They will acquire the knowledge, skills, and confidence they will need to succeed in college and in challenging modern careers as well as participate in the co-management of local fisheries.

By investigating the complex issues facing our coastal communities and fisheries, students will gain a relevant, real-world understanding of our local natural habitats, economics,
government, and history, while applying math skills to community problems, learning sophisticated new technologies, and writing extensively about what they are learning.

The Eastern Maine Skippers Program will develop future citizens and leaders who can speak for themselves, especially graduates who will stay in or return to our coastal fishing communities.

**About the Eastern Maine Skippers Program:**

In 2012, Deer Isle-Stonington High School and Penobscot East Resource Center collaborated to create the Eastern Maine Skippers Program, a regional program which provides aspiring commercial fishermen in coastal high schools the skills needed to be successful fishermen in a time of rapid environmental and regulatory change. More than 40 students from Vinalhaven, North Haven, Deer Isle-Stonington, Ellsworth, MDI and Narraguagus High Schools as well as George Stevens Academy remain in their schools and collaborate in the program via technology-based "anytime, anywhere" learning. Students also participate in events such as Department of Marine Resources hearings and the Maine Fishermen’s Forum.

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**Winter Flounder Trap Design Project**

Downeast Maine is home to the two most fishing dependent counties on the east coast of the United States. Not only is fishing so important to these communities, lobster makes up over 80% of the total catch! That makes this area precariously dependent on a single species. What would we need to know to diversify and create a new fishery in Maine?

As part of the Eastern Maine Skippers Program Winter Flounder Project, students:

- studied the life history of winter flounder;
- applied for and received a special license to trap winter flounder from the Department of Marine Resources;
- engineered flounder traps;
- collected data to determine if a trap-based flounder fishery is economically and environmentally sustainable;
- presented their findings to Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of Marine Resources.
How do schools make sure today’s students are inspired and motivated to learn?

How do schools prepare every student for college and for rewarding, modern careers?

How can students learn important critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving skills?

How can our school and our community work together?

… by providing students deep learning in and through the arts that is rigorous AND relevant!

In the Arts Pathway, students will learn in and through the arts. Students will identify personal interests and connect their learning to real world opportunities in a creative, rigorous, and dynamic learning environment. By teaching through the arts, students learn to question the world, to be flexible, creative, reflective and to explore self. A focus on collaboration, creativity and other 21st century skills will provide students with the resources to successfully navigate through today’s complicated world.

Through deep partnerships with community arts organizations and mentors, students will learn in the classroom, on the stage, in the studio, in the community, and in the world. DISHS will offer internships, mentorships, and independent studies as well as traditional coursework for students to learn the technical skills of art while also learning core content subjects like writing, math, science, and history. Graduates of the Arts Pathway will earn the same diploma as other Deer Isle-Stonington High School students. They will achieve the same state and national learning standards as other students which means they will leave our high school prepared to succeed in college and whatever careers they may choose.

Working with advisors, students will create personal learning plans to guide them through the Pathway. Students will be able to work towards a “professional artist” certification that could include more advanced art and entrepreneurship topics. The Arts Pathway will allow each student to personalize their school experience and help them to develop purpose through meaningful projects in any or all of the arts disciplines.