

## Our Strategic Plan

The Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts convened a strategic planning group for the purpose of exploring new ideas and a strategic direction for the districts. Membership on the Strategic Planning Group was open to citizens of all five communities. A broadly comprised group of volunteer stakeholders met over many months to develop the ideas that are set forth in this strategic plan. Drawing heavily on the available research base from the fields of education, business, and leadership studies, the group selected two main focus areas, community connections, and teaching and learning, as the foundation upon which the goals and action plans presented in this document were developed. This plan is intended to guide the districts through the next five years. To view the plan in its entirety visit the Tantasqua website.(Adopted May 2011)

### Strategic Plan Focus Areas:

#### 1. Community Connections Goals:

- a. To develop afterschool programs at all grade levels
- b. To develop resources and tools that support student learning and can be accessed by parents including the use of emerging technology
- c. To support cross-generational opportunities for involvement within the schools

#### 2. Teaching and Learning Goals:

- a. To elevate student proficiency in writing across all content areas
- b. To continue to refine our common curriculum and teaching practice, encouraging and sharing innovation in practice
- c. To embrace new technologies that enhance learning and improve our students' ability to compete in a global society

A Unique Educational Opportunity

# TANTASQUA REGIONAL and UNION 61 SCHOOL DISTRICTS



**Student learning is the core of  
everything we do.**

**320A Brookfield Rd.  
Fiskdale, MA 01518  
[www.tantasqua.org](http://www.tantasqua.org)**

**Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School  
Districts in Central Massachusetts  
are searching for a**

**Superintendent of Schools**

**An educational leader with the vision  
and skills to build on our traditions of  
academic excellence, community  
partnership, and student support.**

Applications are due February 15, 2012.  
Please contact Glenn Koocher at MASC for details  
and an application.  
[www.masc.org](http://www.masc.org)  
[gkoocher@masc.org](mailto:gkoocher@masc.org)

## Our District

Tantasqua and Union #61 School Districts are comprised of a regional school district and a school union serving five communities in Central Massachusetts, with an aggregate enrollment of 3861 students. Tantasqua is one of the oldest regional school districts in the state and has been operational since 1954.

### **Union 61**

The Union #61 schools include students in grades K-6. The five towns encompassing the region and union are Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge and Wales. Brimfield is known world-wide for the antique markets held three times a year. Brookfield hosts a wonderful apple fair each fall. Holland has beautiful lakes, including Hamilton Reservoir and Lake Siog. Sturbridge hosts visitors from around the world at Old Sturbridge Village and the Publick House Inn. Wales, the smallest of the five towns, is a lovely rural community bordering Connecticut.

### **Tantasqua Regional**

Tantasqua Regional is comprised of the junior high school, grades 7 & 8, and the new state of the art senior high school, grades 9-12. There is also a technical division of the high school.

The Administrative Office is located at Tantasqua Regional Junior High School. The communities served range from growth communities to rural residential. There are many educational institutions within easy commuting distance.

### **Our School Committees**

Tantasqua & Union #61 operate with a regional school committee of eighteen members and five local committees with three to five members on each board. Each committee meets a minimum of once a month. The regional committee has sub-committees for budget, personnel, curriculum, building, by-law and policy, technical, legislative and negotiations. Each committee has responsibility for at least one collective bargaining contract. Tantasqua and Union #61 are public school systems operated under the provision of M.G.L. Chapter 71.

### **Visit Us Online**

For more information about the Tantasqua/Union 61 Schools, you are encouraged to visit our website which includes links to each individual school along with contact information. On this site you will find the School and District Calendars, Professional Development, School Committees, Mission and Goals, along with a message from the Superintendent of Schools, among other pertinent information.

**[Visit www.tantasqua.org](http://www.tantasqua.org)**

**Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts are committed to providing programs that promote students' academic, civic, social, emotional, and physical development.**

**Tantasqua Junior High School**

Tantasqua Junior High School, serving students in grades 7 & 8, offers a comprehensive academic program in English, mathematics, science, social studies and world language. In addition, students participate in physical education, music, art, technology, health and reading, if eligible. Students may elect to participate in Select Chorus, Show Choir, Hand Chime Ensemble, or instrumental music lessons. Through the unique configuration of the school including grade level Team Leaders and department Curriculum Coordinators, students' academic, emotional and social development is a priority.

Upon arriving at the Junior High, the students of the 5 towns of Union 61 experience a distinctive transition, which includes opportunities for parents to visit the school with their child, as well as team-building activities during the first day of school designed to provide a smooth transition as students from five schools meld into one.

Likewise, as students transition to Tantasqua Senior High, transition activities, including Freshman Institute, are designed to provide students with a strong foundation on which to excel academically, emotionally and socially.

**Tantasqua High School—Comprehensive in a Variety of Ways**

As one of only a select few comprehensive high schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Tantasqua Regional High School features both academic and technical divisions, serving a combined student population of nearly 1200 students in grades 9-12. The comprehensive fabric of the school allows for the realization of its Mission Statement: "[Providing] students of different interests, abilities, and goals with a variety of meaningful and challenging opportunities for achievement.

**Technical Programs:**

- Allied Health
- Computer Technology
- Drafting/CAD
- Machine Technology
- Carpentry
- Culinary Arts
- Electrical Technology

**Course Offerings:**

Tantasqua High School uses a block scheduling method with four courses a semester. Each department of the high school has a range of courses, some required, while others are elective at one of four levels *college preparatory, college preparatory advanced, honors and advanced placement*. Currently, there are a total of 9 AP courses offered at the high school along with a variety of courses through Virtual High School, an online learning

program.

**Advanced Placement Courses:**

- English Literature & Composition
- English Language & Composition
- US History
- Environmental Science
- Comp. Government
- Biology
- Spanish
- Chemistry
- Calculus

In addition, there are eight courses in Music and three in Drama, nine in Visual Arts and Fabrication. Student publications such as Passages, Synergy, The Tribe, Tantasquan, Tomahawk, and the Tantasqua Voice; medals for instrumental and vocal ensembles as well as critical reviews attest to the excellence of writing, music, art and drama instruction.

**A Sampling of the Fine Arts Offerings:**

- Sculpture, Pottery, Printmaking
- Advances Junior/Senior Art Studios
- Jazz Ensemble, Show Choir and Choraleers
- Exploration of the Musical Theatre
- Guitar Studio

**Beyond the School Day Activities:**

We proudly offer after school day activities at no cost to our students.

**Athletics:**

- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys Baseball
- Cheerleading
- Intramurals in many sports
- Tennis
- Golf
- Football
- Lacrosse
- Softball
- Swimming

In addition to the nearly 600 students who participate in fall, winter and/or spring athletics, 675 students regularly participate in the many clubs that are held beyond the school day including Karate, Ski Club, Gaming Club, Knitting, Health Occupations and Student Council.

**Community Service Learning:**

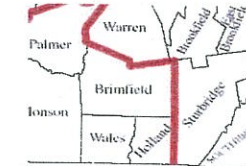
40% of high school classes engage students in some type of community service and /or civic participation. Examples include Dynamics of Democracy, Computer Tech, and Fiber Arts. Organizations such as National Honor Society, Thomas Jefferson Forum and Amnesty International also promote community service through activities such as Relay for Life fundraiser, toy and food drives.

**Student Internship Program:**

Seniors, in good academic standing and with good attendance and disciplinary records, have the opportunity to do an internship at a variety of school or work-related venues.

**Brimfield Holland Brookfield Sturbridge**

**Wales**



(line of delineation reflects counties)

**Union #61 Statistics**

School	# Students	# Teachers	Administrative staff
Brimfield	333	36	1 Principal
Brookfield	275	27	1 Principal
Holland	200	22	1 Principal
Sturbridge	950	81	1 Principal; 2 Asst. Principals
Wales	152	14	1 Principal

**Individual School Committee Membership**

Brimfield	5
Brookfield	3
Holland	5
Sturbridge	5
Wales	5

**Tantasqua Regional Statistics**

Total Number of School Committee Members	18
Total Number of Communities Served	5
Total Student Enrollment Served	3770
High School Principal/2 Assistant Principals	
Technical Principal	
Junior High Principal/1 Assistant Principal	
School Year Staff (Professional and Support)	526

**District-wide Administrative Staff**

- Superintendent
- Associate Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendent
- Business Manager
- Special Education/Pupil Services Director
- Technology Director
- Facilities Manager

Total Operating Budget \$40,000,000.00