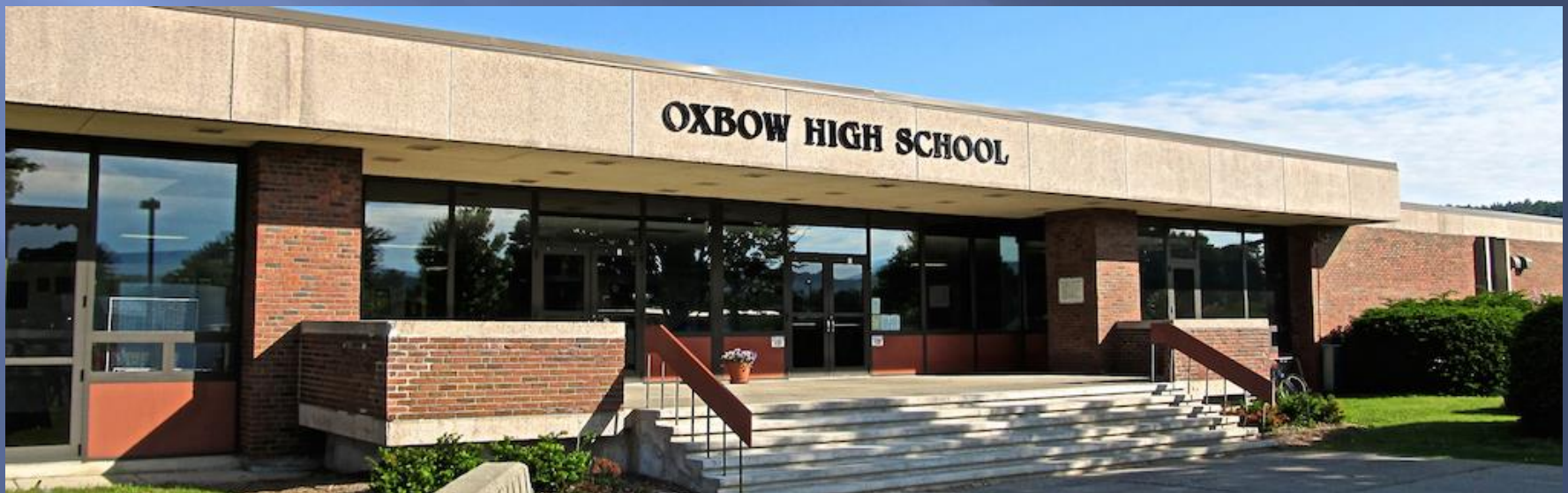


OXBOW FRESHMAN ACADEMY

Evolution, Purpose, and Projects

History of 9th Grade Core

- Oxbow High School has a long history of Middle School Teams, 8th and 7th grades have had some form of core teams for over 20 years.
- 2009-2010 - it is decided to create a core for 9th grade based upon high school graduation rates and failures starting 9th grade year.
- 9th Grade core is created, using one teacher for each of the four main courses (English, Science, Math, Social Studies). Prior years had multiple teachers teaching some of the core classes.



9th Core

“The Early Years”

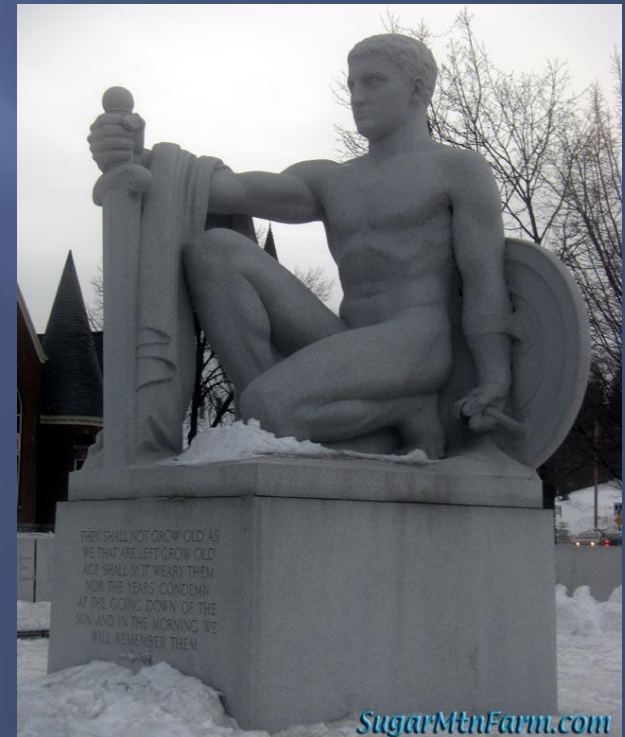
- ▣ First year of cross curriculum activities and field trips
- ▣ Black Mountain Hike



9th Core

“The Early Years”

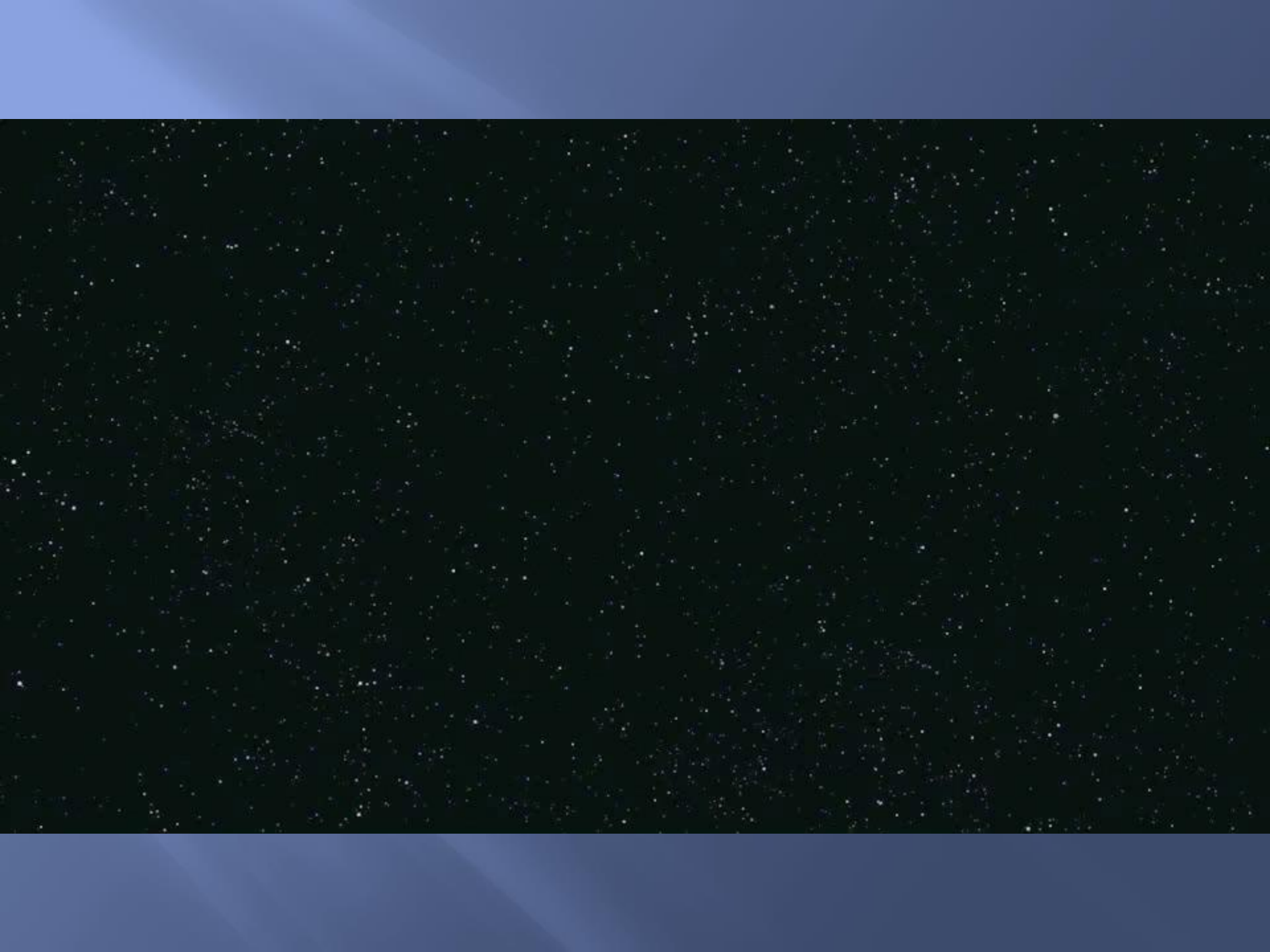
- ▣ Barre trip: visited Rock of Ages, the Capitol in Montpelier, and Hope Cemetery
 - Covered Earth Science, Art, Social Studies, English
- ▣ Math and Science embark on aligning curriculum and projects



9th Core

“The Early Years”

- ▣ Capstone – end of year culminating project involving all core areas
- ▣ Time periods based on Western Civilization class
 - Science fair style presentation to admin, faculty, parents, incoming freshman, and school board
 - Honors classes made movies
 - Presentations by students followed by dinner and the Honors classes showing movies



Freshman Academy Roots

- ▣ Burlington 21st Century Symposium leads to a discovery...
- ▣ Laura Gardner sits in on a presentation (while Carl surfs the net) from Rutland about their Freshman Academy and idea is born (stolen?...borrowed?...)



Freshman Academy Today at Oxbow

- ▣ Classes blocked into 2 period blocking based on school schedule
 - Incredibly flexible use of time by four core classes
 - Group project work time
 - Ability to bring in guest speakers
 - ▣ The Logger
 - ▣ Autism Awareness Day
 - ▣ Dr. Harris talks about life in a PA coal mine town
 - ▣ Freshman Olympic Field Day

Freshman Academy Today at Oxbow

- ▣ Freshman Seminar – all freshman spend 1-2 periods a day with Core teachers
 - Study hall
 - Study skills
 - Grade check in (MMS)
 - Alleviates crowded mixed class study halls

Freshman Academy “Frost Heaves” at Oxbow

- ▣ Honors classes
 - Utilized an “Honors Contract”
- ▣ Improvised Block scheduling
 - Ideal is 4 periods in a row, but we faced heavy scheduling conflicts
 - Working with Guidance, we devised a split 1-2 and 6-7 blocks



Freshman Academy Lessons Learned

- ▣ FLEXIBLE, FLEXIBLE, FLEXIBLE!!!!
- ▣ Large group room



Freshman Academy Lessons Learned

- ▣ Flexible, Flexible, Flexible!
- ▣ Parent conferences as a group
- ▣ Core time for teachers to meet
 - Parent meetings
 - Project planning
 - Student meetings



Freshman Academy Future

- ▣ Total Integrated Honors Classes and Creation of ESCI Honors
- ▣ No set schedules until after first week
- ▣ “Freshman Friday”
- ▣ Revitalize and redesign Capstone



Projects – what it's all about!

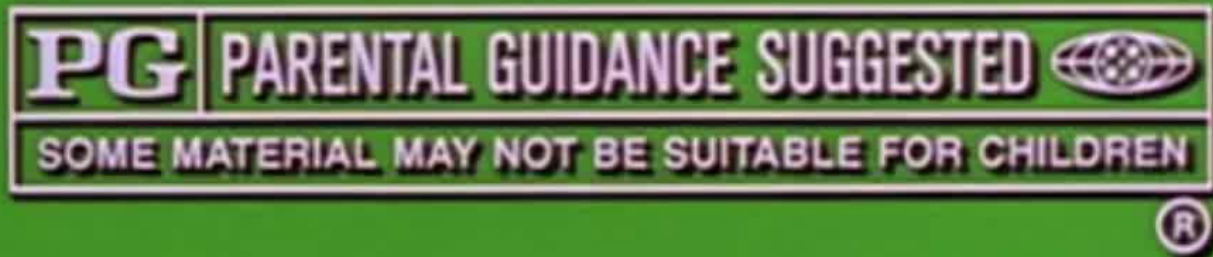


October Sky Kickoff

THE FOLLOWING **PREVIEW** HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
ALL AUDIENCES

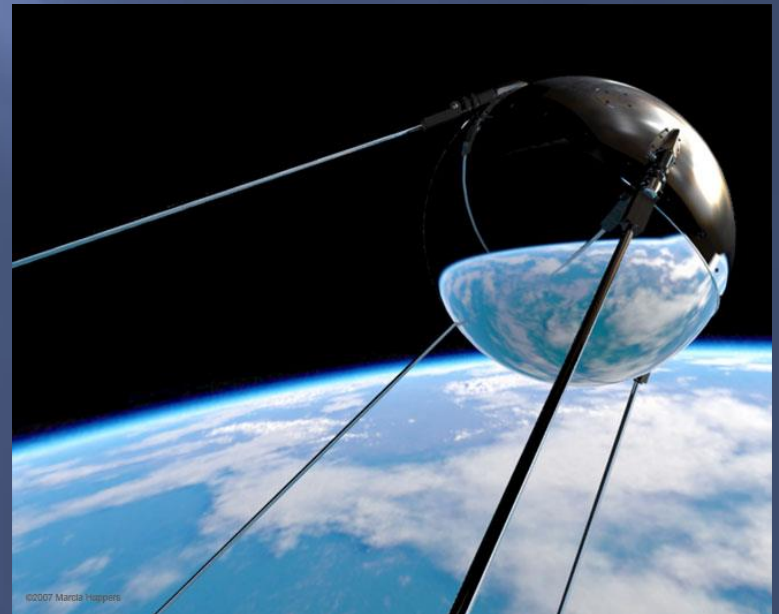
BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE FILM ADVERTISED HAS BEEN RATED



October Sky Kickoff

- ESCI/Math Work
 - Space – research and learn space travel history to modern space use/travel
 - Coal/fossil fuels – the formation of coal and it's implications in Climate Change and society
 - Rocketry – Mathematical Designs, build, and test water powered rockets, altitudes (trig and Pythagorean)



October Sky Kickoff

- ELA Connections

- Challenging book for many lower level readers, but content helped them to rise to a higher reading level
- Reading scores go from 43% “flagged” to 10% by end of first semester
- Will follow up with ending year with Huck Finn
- “Coming of Age” theme in both books great for age level and Freshman Academy



October Sky Kickoff

- Music Connections
 - The meaning and music of “Sixteen Tons”
- Social Studies Connections
 - 1950’s life in the US
 - The Cold War and Space Race
 - Technology and change as a theme in history
 - October Sky and Sixteen Tons as a primary source



Irene/Hurricanes

■ ESCI Work

- Hurricane formation, evolution, tracking
- Google Maps and topography
- Vermont's topography and the effects of heavy rainfalls
- VT and Climate Change: increased heavy precipitation events
- Future of the Vermont: sugaring, skiing/snowboarding, Fall foliage, hiking, hunting and fishing, etc.



Irene/Hurricanes

- ▣ Revised project that first utilized Katrina
 - English Connections –
 - ▣ Students write about their personal reflection of Irene along with
 - Effects on landscape, communities, and individuals
 - Government response



Irene/Hurricanes

- Social Studies Connections
 - Compare and contrast the 1938 Hurricane and Irene
 - Required use of primary sources from VT



Irene/Hurricanes

- Math Connections
 - Tracking and landfall statistics
 - Graphing Hurricane Data
 - Data Analysis
 - Predictions

