

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Sam Murray, I am an MSSM alumnus originally from Freeport Maine, and I'm currently pursuing a doctorate in mathematics at McGill University.

It is hard for me to describe how important my experience at MSSM is to me both personally and professionally. If I were to try to decompose that experience into a list of individual elements, it would feel as though something crucial was missing. For example, I could mention the world-class educators who are genuinely invested in their student's success or the close-knit community of students drawn together not just by the tight living arrangements but also by a shared passion for STEM. I could even mention the beautiful rural Limestone Maine, the location of the MSSM campus. But any such list will fail to capture completely what makes MSSM uniquely great.

It is however easy for me to say that I would not be where I am, in the career path I've chosen, without my time at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. Without the infectious enthusiasm of those teachers, without the interpersonal tools fostered by such a close-knit community, and without the sense of independence perhaps inherent to that remote location, I would not be equipped to do the work I am currently engaged in.

For this reason, I think it is crucial that MSSM remains (or, maybe more accurately, becomes) well-funded, to continue to guarantee that same quality of education, and to ensure that younger generations of Mainers will have the same opportunity to benefit from this unique element of the Maine educational system.

Sincerely,
Sam Murray