

Apr 4, 2018  
Ryan Martin  
Islesboro Central School  
159 Alumni Drive,  
Islesboro, ME, 04841

To: Members of the Islesboro Central School Committee  
Re: Horticulture and Sustainability Graduation Requirement

Dear ICS School Committee,

Recently recognized by the Portland Press Herald and Mary Quinn's new book "Unique Maine Farms;" the ICS Horticulture program has become a statewide leader in food and agriculture education; providing a unique curricular experience on our diverse organic farm for well over twenty years. Over the last three years in particular, the program has expanded its scope to include alternative energy, hydroponics, and a variety of other 21st-century STEM topics under the broader theme of "sustainability."

While many students take advantage of everything the program has come to offer, we feel as if *every* student should have an opportunity to gain these critical skills; from organic farming, culinary arts, and business management to basic carpentry and workplace readiness. We're especially excited to share that starting next academic year, the program will offer nine (9) college credits to any junior or senior enrolled - at no cost to the student.

After consulting with Heather Knight and Patrick Phillips, we feel that the creation of a "Sustainability" graduation requirement is long overdue. We propose it shall read:

***SUSTAINABILITY - 1 credit: It shall be required that each high school student enroll in one Sustainability-related course before graduation. A student could enroll in a project-based course (Special Projects in Sustainability) for one or more years completing an individual project related to sustainability. Alternatively, a student in their junior or senior year could enroll in one of three classes; 1), "Principles of Sustainable Agriculture" 2) "Sustainable Food Systems," or 3) "History of American Agriculture," and receive college credit. These classes could also count towards a science graduation credit.***

Thank you very much for your time in consideration of this proposal,

Sincerely yours,

Ryan P. Martin