



# Fall 2015

*every child deserves a childhood and a future*

## Student Assessments Kick-Off Back To School Season

Along with the exciting dynamic of back to school time, the fall season also brings the first of a series of student assessments at Spaulding Youth Center. Because these educational assessments are mandated by the State of New Hampshire, Spaulding school administration dedicates substantial time communicating with SAUs across the state to insure students are correctly registered and included in assessment data for their home school location.

To kick off the school year, 45 Spaulding students completed the first of three annual NWEA assessments. The NWEA is a computer-based assessment that evaluates reading, math and language usage. Since it is computer-based, the assessment is designed to present questions based on previous student responses, thereby providing a more balanced view of a student's strengths and weaknesses. In addition, this testing provides itemized scores on subset proficiencies within the three main curriculum areas, enabling clearer analysis of specific skill deficiencies.

Following this NWEA assessment, teachers will provide targeted instruction to improve these identified deficiencies as well as conduct ongoing curriculum-based assessments through classroom activities. Together, these efforts will track skill growth for our students on a monthly basis. At the conclusion of each month, staff evaluate progress and adjust the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) accordingly. To insure that students are earning progress and receiving the correct interventions, students will complete NWEA testing again this winter and then again in the spring along with NECAP Science and Smarter Balance assessments.



For students with significant cognitive disabilities, Spaulding administers Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) Alternate Assessment System annually. This assessment evaluates the student's knowledge and educational progression in English language arts and mathematics.

## Reflecting on Spaulding History

With a rich history reaching back over 144 years, Spaulding Youth Center has improved and enriched the lives of emotionally or intellectually challenged children, youth and their families. Since 1874, our nonprofit organization has dedicated every day, every hour to the considerate care and nurturing of those on our campus. As the needs of the at-risk children in our region have changed, Spaulding has continuously developed programs and therapy opportunities to provide a childhood and a future for our students. Today, Spaulding is a leading provider of educational, residential, therapeutic and foster care programs and services for children and youth with neurological, emotional, behavioral, learning or developmental challenges.



Daniel Webster Home 1874

## Help Us Complete the Story!

We are conducting a search for historical details of Daniel Webster Home (est. 1871), the Golden Rule Farm (est. 1914) and Spaulding Youth Center (est. 1958). If you have photos, documents or other pieces of our history, please contact [foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org](mailto:foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org) to share your stories!



Planting the garden at Spaulding 1969

### SPAULDING BY THE NUMBERS

- 80** students on first day of the 2015-2016 school year
- 40** SAUs represented across NH, in addition to several in ME and VT
- 58** Spaulding School staff, including the principal, teachers, therapists and aides
- 144** years of providing childcare in Northfield, NH
- 10,000+** families helped since 1871

### Our Mission:

To leverage our professional expertise to help young people with autism or other developmental and/or behavioral challenges learn the academic and life skills needed to be successful in their homes, schools & communities.

[spauldingyouthcenter.org](http://spauldingyouthcenter.org)



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72 Spaulding Road  
Northfield, NH  
03276-4608

[spauldingyouthcenter.org](http://spauldingyouthcenter.org)  
603-286-7500



## The Superstar Behind the Switchboard

When calling the main number at Spaulding, you've no doubt been cheerfully greeted by our savvy switchboard sovereign, Aja Rule. This cheerful voice is a perfect match to Aja's friendly and welcoming demeanor, so it is no surprise that everyone knows and adores her!

What you may not know is that Aja started in a Spaulding classroom as a 1:1 aide. After an unfortunate broken ankle, Aja learned the switchboard ropes as a light duty assignment. When the official switchboard position became available a short time later, Aja jumped at the chance to be the welcoming voice of Spaulding!

"I consider myself very organized and friendly so I wanted to try the switchboard out full-time," shared Aja Rule, Switchboard Operator and Administrative Assistant. "Over the past six years, Spaulding has become another family to me. So many of my colleagues have become close personal friends as well."

She enjoys the ability to interact with the students, parents and visitors and believes the construction of the new school has had the greatest impact on campus during her tenure. Not only did the new building enable everyone to be in one building, but by doing so, Aja believes the centralized school created a more cohesive community at Spaulding.

Originally from Concord, NH, Aja earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work with the Child and Family Services Option from Plymouth State University in 2009. She joined Spaulding not long thereafter without knowing a single person on campus. She maintains her Professional Crisis Management (PCM) certification so she is always ready to help when needed. "I love my job – it is a truly fulfilling position!"

Aja Rule  
Switchboard Superstar  
Spaulding School



## The Many Ways to Give to Spaulding

Did you know there are many ways you can support the kids of Spaulding Youth Center?

The many options include contributing to our annual fund, attending and inviting others to events, requesting an employee charitable match, volunteering on campus and planning lifetime gifts.

One giving opportunity that is often overlooked is donating in-kind gifts. Spaulding Youth Center welcomes a wide variety of much needed and thoroughly appreciated materials for our everyday operations. These gifts can include arts and crafts supplies, educational materials, recreational equipment, and even food and refreshments for events, holidays and staff recognition.



### *Have an idea for an in-kind gift?*

Contact the Foundation office at [foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org](mailto:foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org) to discuss your in-kind gift and how it can be best utilized for our programs and services.

However you contribute to the vitality of our campus, thank you for supporting the youth and students of Spaulding Youth Center.

### **DONATE TODAY IN THREE EASY WAYS**

*We appreciate your consideration to help children reach their greatest potential. To make a contribution to Spaulding Youth Center today:*

1. Visit [SpauldingYouthCenter.org/give](http://SpauldingYouthCenter.org/give)
2. Call the Foundation office at 603-286-7500
3. Email [foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org](mailto:foundation@spauldingyouthcenter.org)

*Thank you for supporting the children and youth of Spaulding Youth Center.*