



## **Progress Report on the Hanover Academy of the Arts at Burncoat Middle School, 2018-19**

There are [47] 7th grade students and [46] 8th grade students currently enrolled in the Hanover Insurance Academy of the Arts (HIAA) at Burncoat Middle School.

Our 7th grade students came from the following home schools: Worcester Arts Magnet [17], Norrback [4], May St [4], West Tatnuck [3], Burncoat Prep [2], Lincoln St. [2], Jacob Hiatt [1], Union Hill [1], Midland St. [1], Columbus Park [1], Vernon Hill [1], Goddard [1], McGrath [1], Thorndyke [3], Quinsigamond [1], Roosevelt [1], Nelson [2], Flagg St. [1]

Our 8th grade students came from the following home schools: WAM [10], Norrback [4], May St [1], West Tatnuck [2], Burncoat Prep [2], Lincoln St. [1], Jacob Hiatt [2], Midland St. [3], Thorndyke [10], Flagg St [2], Lake View [1], Roosevelt [2], Wawecus[1], Belmont [1], Chandler Elem [4]

Planning for **recruitment** of students for the 2019-20 school year began last fall. We sent out invitational letters to all students who fell within the three-tiered system of eligibility to join us at an Open House, held **1/23/19**.

We created a powerpoint presentation for parents reviewing the tiered system of eligibility; course offerings and our magnet programs. We had a number of our 8th grade students present to help answer questions following the presentation, along with HIAA teachers, guidance counselor and BMS administrators. Applications were available to families that evening. We have also mailed out applications to parents and students unable to attend.

We planned a second Open House for **2/13/19** and sent additional letters of invitation to all students and families who were eligible and had not submitted an application. When this was 'snowed out' we sent out postcards with a new date, **2/27/19** to the same families. The deadline for application is March 15th, 2019. We currently have 60 applications.

We have [3] available spots in grade 7 and have returned to the waiting list created from last year's applications to reach out to students and families who are still interested into joining the HIAA starting in grade 8.

We have consulted with BHS as they have worked to put their HIAA into place for next year's first cohort of students. Our students were invited to an Open House at BHS and all HIAA teachers and administrators joined students and families for the highly successful event. BHS has also used our waiting list from the 2017-18 school year to recruit for available openings. The staff and faculty from BHS will be visiting all our Hanover students and those we are hoping to have join the program next year for an assembly to review the program, its pathway and introduce the HIAA teachers later this month. Many of our students are already acquainted with the magnet teachers as most of the programs intersect with one another regularly.

## **Teacher Training**

Teachers initially attended training [summer, 2017] for teaching Gifted and Talented students at the University of Connecticut's Confratute Institute.

The Confratute program offers a VARIETY OF STRANDS that are intensive, week-long mini courses for IN-DEPTH training in:

- Differentiation & Curriculum Compacting
- Underachievement
- Curriculum Development
- Enrichment Pedagogy
- Cluster Grouping
- Enrichment Clusters
- Social Emotional Development
- Student Engagement and Executive Function Skills

Mrs. Scully has requested that teachers return for additional training this year to expand upon their ability to embed the arts in the curriculums, create highly engaging cross curricular units of study and maintaining a level of rigor in their classes. The focus of the Confratute Institute this year is professional development in enrichment, talent development and differentiation.

## **Technology**

HIAA students have had a 1:1 ratio of chrome books since entering BMS as seventh grade students. All of the content area teachers [6] utilize Google classrooms regularly to post assignments and to enable students and teachers to engage in ongoing dialogue regarding assignments and projects. This also enables students to access their classes when they are absent. HIAA teachers have become leaders in using digital classroom tools and accessing ever expanding technology resources, like Edcite.

## **Current student activities:**

**Performing Arts** - All Hanover Academy students participate in two of our Magnet Programs - Visual and Media Arts, Theatre, Dance or Music. Theatre, Dance and Music students were integral to the annual **F.A.M.E.** performance in January. Their art work is displayed around the school and students will host the Art Show at the end of May. HIAA theatre students have performed in the fall musical held jointly with BHS [**CLUE**]and in 7th and 8th grade evening performances. Dance students hold several performances throughout the year as a program and jointly with our music and theatre programs. Hanover music students perform in recitals. BMS had 24 students [highest number in many years] audition for the Central Districts this year with 8 students making it to the next level - 3 of these were HIAA students.

**The Legacy Project** - This 7th grade HIAA project supports hunger relief efforts in the Worcester community and is organized by Hanover Academy's seminar teacher, Mrs. Grenier. Students support several local organizations including - Food Bags Outreach, Food Drive for Food Pantry, Toy Zip lock bags, Meals on the Street and Walk for Hunger. These students have also held a bake sale on Election Day at the Dodge Park Rest Home, a can drive and hosted a Dodgeball tournament with all proceeds going to support local hunger efforts.

**Math Club** - Hanover Academy math teacher Mr. Doyle is the club's advisor and has recruited many of his students as mathletes. Students compete in math competitions with other middle schools in Worcester County. Our Mathletes will be hosting a home meet on 4/4/19.

**Model UN** - Model UN is new to BMS this year and is led by Hanover Academy social studies teacher, Mrs. Thanas. Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an extra-curricular activity in which students typically roleplay delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. This activity takes place at MUN conferences, which is usually organized by a high school or college MUN club. The club runs from September to December and ended with a conference at Clark University. The majority of students who participated this year were HIAA students. Four of the students were recognized at the conference with outstanding delegate awards. We plan to fundraise next year so that students will be able to participate in additional conferences.

**Writing Awards** - Hanover Academy ELA teacher Mrs. O'Donnell required all students to participate in the MLK, Jr. Writing Competition this year and 4 students' work was chosen.

**Science Fair** - All HIAA students are required to participate in the WPS' Science Fair and are guided through the process by Hanover Academy science teacher, Mrs. McDermott. Projects will be judge by a school/community based team on April 9th at the school.

**Project 351** -Project 351 is an independent nonprofit organization that develops a new generation of community-first service leaders through the yearlong engagement of an eighth grade Ambassador from every city and town in Massachusetts. Youth are selected by hometown educators for an exemplary ethic of service and the values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude. Four of the HIAA students applied for and were accepted into this program. They work in conjunction with a mentor, BHS junior Madelyn Rich, herself an ambassador and youth leader of the program - and a former BMS student.

**Playbook Initiative** - an offshoot of Project 351 that works in conjunction with the Boston Celtic organization. The Playbook Initiative trains students how to deal with racial and cultural diversity. The students participate in workshops where they will be led through various scenarios dealing with social injustices and will learn to strategize possible solutions to these issues. Sponsored by the Boston Celtics organization, our students will be working in partnership with a group of students from Uxbridge Middle School. Hanover Insurance is hosting the event for us on 3/15/19. There are approximately 30 BMS students involved, a number of whom belong to the Hanover Academy. Both of these efforts, Project 351 and the Playbook Initiative are supervised by Mrs. Jane McNamara, guidance department head and counselor to the HIAA.