

The Jump Start Program was initiated during the summer of 2019 to better support the transition of incoming 7th and 9th graders to their new schools. The administration of the schools met with the Superintendent on Monday, September 23, to debrief, share challenges and successes, and plan for next year.

As a result of the meeting the following recommendations will be used in planning for summer 2020:

- Advertise, promote and recruit last quarter to grade 6 and grade 8 students and families.
- Provide a family orientation night in May or June and promote the program there. Explain the logistics and expectations of the new school setting. Consider including current parents/students leading small group discussions, assisting parents in getting into the portal, introducing clubs and athletic opportunities.

A report for the Jump Start 2019 follows with attendance and a program description. The program format differed based on funding. Worcester Technical High School continued with their long standing program of two/three half days. UPCS also continued a long standing tradition of a five day program with Clark University. This year, Worcester Public Schools funded the 5 day, school based orientation for middle school and Clark funded a five day orientation on campus for 9th graders. Additionally, Worcester East Middle and North High School had state grant funding to develop an orientation program at their sites. Programs at the other schools were funded through Title 1.

Worcester East Middle School:

The Worcester Public Schools (WPS) was awarded a Development and Expansion of High Quality Summer Learning grant for \$43,620 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to provide a summer Jump Start Academy that served rising seventh graders attending Worcester East Middle (WEM) School in the 2019-2020 school year. Students from seven (7) feeder elementary schools in the north quadrant including Belmont Street, City View, Grafton Street, Lake View, Rice Square, Roosevelt, and Union Hill were recruited to attend the program. The program was offered over six weeks, from June 26-August 2, during the hours of 8:00 AM-2:30 PM, Monday-Friday targeting students from a different feeder elementary school each week. Students began their day with a hearty breakfast provided by the WPS Nutrition Department, followed by rotating academic sessions provided by WEM staff, providing introductory middle school lessons in core academic content areas such as English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, History and Computer Science. After a nutritious lunch provided by the WPS Nutrition department, students were immersed in a variety of enrichment activities offered by various community partners including the following:

- **Ecotarium**-Programming took place at WEM every Monday over the six weeks including activities such as rocket launches, animal adaptations, weather and electricity and magnetism. Students visited the Ecotarium on June 28 for a planetarium program and to explore the facility.
- **Premier Sport Taekwondo**- The martial arts program based in Grafton, MA offered taekwondo lessons at WEM every Tuesday over six weeks, designed to help students achieve greater success in life by providing training designed to enhance their physical, mental and social development.
- **Cultural Exchange through Soccer**- Cultural Exchange through Soccer (CETS) provided soccer activities designed to support students' physical, mental and social development at WEM every Wednesday over the six weeks.
- **MA Audubon at Broad Meadow Brook**- Through guided and hands-on science activities, students made inquiries, investigated, classified, thought critically, and drew conclusions. Activities were provided at WEM every Thursday over the six weeks, including a field trip to the Broad Meadow Brook Center and Sanctuary.
- **Adventure Challenge Experience (ACE), You Inc.** - A highly successful therapeutic recreation program, You Inc., staff helped students overcome the deep-seated trust issues that can result from trauma and abuse, while developing problem solving and communication skills. ACE facilitators provided team-building field activities on the WEM campus every Friday over six weeks.

Attendance (Feeder schools each had a week)

Union Hill # of students	June 26 6	June 27 10	June 28 12	July 1 9	July 2 8
Roosevelt # of students	July 8 11	July 9 12	July 10 12	July 11 11	July 12 11
Belmont St # of students	July 15 8	July 16 14	July 17 13	July 18 14	July 19 10
City View/ Grafton St # of students	July 22 13	July 23 12	July 24 10	July 25 12	July 26 10
Rice Sq # of students	July 29 20	July 30 22	July 31 19	Aug. 1 20	Aug. 2 20

North High School

The Worcester Public Schools (WPS) utilized Title I grant funds to provide a summer Jump Start Academy that served rising ninth graders attending North High School in the 2019-2020 school year. Students from feeder middle school, Worcester East Middle School, were recruited to attend the program. This opportunity allowed students the opportunity to acclimate to the school environment and begin their path to high academic achievement before their first official school day. The program was offered over six weeks, from June 24-July 31, during the hours of 8:00 AM-2:30 PM, Monday-Friday. Students began their day with a hearty breakfast provided by the WPS Nutrition Department, followed by rotating academic sessions provided by North High staff, providing introductory high school lessons in core academic content areas such as English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, History and Computer Science. After a nutritious lunch provided by the WPS Nutrition department, students were immersed in a variety of enrichment activities offered by various community partners including the following:

- **Regatta Sailing-** Students participated in sailing, canoeing and kayaking activities during the week of June 24-June 28 at the Regatta at Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester.
- **Worcester Art Museum-** The Worcester Art Museum provided activities on July 1 and July 2 at North High including a Manga/Kawaii printing workshop and a data/design project.
- **Premier Sport Taekwondo-** The martial arts program based in Grafton, MA offered taekwondo lessons at North High during the week of July 8-July 12 designed to help students achieve greater success in life by providing training designed to enhance their physical, mental and social development.
- **Ecotarium-** Programming took place at North High during the week of July 15-July 19 including activities such as rocket launches, animal adaptations, weather and electricity and magnetism. Students visited the Ecotarium on July 19 for a planetarium program and to explore the EcoTarium facility.
- **Worcester Braveheart's-** Housed at the Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field, rising ninth grade students were trained as counselors to support the Braveheart's baseball camp for boys and girls aged 6-12, coached by Holy Cross baseball staff members. North High students, acting as counselors-in-training, assisted campers with activities during the week of July 22-July 26.
- **Adventure Challenge Experience (ACE), You Inc. -** A highly successful therapeutic recreation program, You Inc., staff helped students overcome the deep-seated trust issues that can result from trauma and abuse, while developing problem solving and communication skills. ACE facilitators provided team-building field activities on the North High campus during the week of July 28-July 31.

Attendance

# of students	June 24 17	June 25 20	June 26 20	June 27 20	June 28 21
# of students	July 1 20	July 2 14			

# of students	July 8 20	July 8 21	July 10 20	July 11 19	July 12 14
# of students	July 15 15	July 16 20	July 17 19	July 18 15	July 19 12
# of students	July 22 13	July 23 14	July 24 16	July 25 8	July 26 10
# of students	July 29 17	July 30 18	July 31 18		

Doherty High

On August 20th - 21, 2019, Doherty Memorial High school welcomed the class of 2023 with a two-day JumpStart program to support ninth-grade students to have a successful start to their high school career. Students had the opportunity to meet and work with Doherty teachers, counselors, and students, meet new classmates, and become acclimated with the school and its programs and activities.

Ninth-grade students were placed in orientation groups, led by a teacher and Student Council Ambassadors. These groups rotated between six interactive workshops each morning. On August 20th, students engaged in goal setting activities, learned time management skills, and practiced collaboration skills in small groups. Our school adjustment counselors ran a session on stating the year well and promoting good attendance. During a Health and Wellness session students learned about the importance of Internet safety using the ISafe curriculum and learned about the school's Health Center. Students also participated in a Google workshop and had the opportunity to use Google classroom to practice their skills.

On August 21st student groups rotated through a different series of activities to help them prepare for high school. They engaged in workshops on organizational skills, learned about schedules and credits, toured the school, participated in team building activities, engaged in a question and reflection session, learned about how to become involved in clubs, activities, and sports at the school, signed a class banner and posed for fun photos with the school banner and other Doherty gear.

At the end of the program each day students returned to the gym for closing activities which included motivational speakers, raffles with Doherty wear as prizes, and reflections/exit slips.

The two-day Jump Start program concluded with the Annual Family Orientation on Wednesday night, August 21st, for parents and guardians. At this event members of the school's administration, guidance staff and the Instructional Coach shared important information about the school, and strategies to help ninth-grade students to succeed in school. Student ambassadors spoke to the group and shared their best tips for a successful ninth-grade school year.

Attendance

Program dates	August 20	August 21
# of students	166	147

South High

Our day started Tuesday August 20 at 9:00am. Ninety one students showed up day one and were greeted by Principal Creamer, four assistant principals, twelve classroom teachers from our academies, our head guidance counselor, and school adjustment counselor. After sharing the agenda and objectives, students were walked through a day in the life of a South High student from unloading the bus in the morning, accessing the cafeteria for breakfast, getting to their lockers, homeroom/first period class, following their schedules, how lunch works, afternoon classes, and finally, dismissal. This broad overview seemed to put students immediately at ease having a basic understanding of how to navigate their day.

Students were eager to get their schedules, most of whom were able to access through the student portal. Those who did not have that access were either given hardcopy or were walked through how to access online. Much excitement was generated during this block of time as students compared schedules, classes and teachers. Students were also given the opportunity to find their lockers and practice their combinations. Other activities during academy time included logging into Google Chromebooks, accessing Google classrooms, logging into student portal and various Kahoot activities to get kids familiar with our technology and participate in ice-breaking

and team building activities with their classmates and teachers. The students seemed to find the building tour especially useful and several of our upperclassman students assisted day two with scavenger hunts throughout the building and navigating our hallways. Day one finished with library and gym time where our teachers participated in some friendly competition with our incoming students. Both students and teachers felt this was very effective in developing a friendly rapport with each other outside of the academic classroom.

Day two began for ninety-six students in the auditorium with a presentation from guidance on graduation requirements and attendance; our SAC introduce herself as a resource for all students that may need additional support during the school day; representatives from various clubs, activities and sports teams had the opportunity to speak with students about the many extra-curricular activities available at South High. This was also an opportunity for students to sign up for various activities which they were very excited about. A huge asset to this program was the involvement of many juniors and seniors who volunteered themselves as mentors. Not only were they helpful with showing students around the building and giving examples of a day in the life of a South High student; many of them made great connections with our incoming freshman and said "seek us out once the year starts if you need anything". Teachers found that especially effective in making our new students feel a part of our community immediately. I will say it's nice to see our upperclassman still, today, assisting students they connected with during Jump Start.

Day two wrapped up with a mock bell schedule that allowed students to navigate to all of their classrooms and experience how little time they actually have to get from class to class; a presentation of our new building; and an ice cream social where each student received a backpack with supplies and a South High Class of 2023 t-shirt. The South High teachers that participated thought the program was an overall success. Many have already been sharing ways we can do even better next year such as: earlier recruitment; more whole group activities as well as academy time; and more ways to involve upperclassmen from South High by expanding the mentoring opportunity. Some suggested that one day might be better than two and that there were certainly some areas of planning that could have been more structured with time and less open ended. However, the majority of teachers seemed to welcome the opportunity to be creative with their time and not follow a rigid agenda in the individual classrooms. Other suggestions included ways to get students more deeply engaged and involved in activities and conversation. These are certainly considerations for future planning. I would be remiss if I did not address the concern that was brought to the administrative team regarding the absence of administration during day two due to district training opportunities for attendance was mandatory.

As we are faced with a very large incoming freshman class this year, we believe that these two days spent together made the transition to South High for many more seamless; reduced much anxiety typically experienced by incoming freshman; and provided the opportunity for our new students to make lasting connections with teachers, counselors, support staff and successful members of the South High student body.

Attendance

Program Dates	August 20	August 21
# of students	91	96

UPCS

The 7th and 9th grade Jump Start transition academies are a chance to get a head start on the year's academic courses with targeted support from teachers, to learn the unique UPCS culture and expectations, to build relationships, and to experience what it will mean to be "middle school ready" and "high school" ready. Attendance was excellent, indicating the genuine engagement of the students.

Grade 7

Program dates	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19
# of students	39	35	35	39	33

Grade 9

Program dates	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19
# of students	34	32	33	32	31

Burncoat High

Burncoat High School ran a three day Jump Start program for incoming grade nine students on August 19,20,21, 2019. By all accounts the program was a huge success. 13 faculty presented workshops to assist students with their transition to high school. Guidance and Adjustment counselors conducted ice breakers and we were able to feed the students breakfast, lunch, and treats during each session. We had a dynamic guest speaker to kick off our second day. The guest speaker was Woodrow Adams. He is a Court Officer and the founder of the "508 Forever Young" organization. He does incredible work with the youth in our city and is a great role model. The kids loved him. Some of the topics included but were not limited to the following: academics, graduation requirements, sports, clubs, organizations, ROTC, the Arts, tours, Meet your Administration, policies, and keys to success.

We received positive feedback from students, parents, and from the staff who participated in the program.

Attendance

Program dates	August 19	August 20	August 21
# of students	47	78	70

Burncoat Middle

Most students attended both days. We held our Open House for incoming 7th graders on the morning of day 2nd day. Many students brought their parents to the open house and stayed for the remainder of the day with us.

Summary of Activities:

Project SHINE- A representative from the program came to speak with all students. We also had our School Adjustment Counselor and Clinician host activities focusing on making good choices both academically and socially.

Team building- Students engaged in team building and role playing activities designed for them to make new friends and become comfortable in the middle school setting.

Tours and Scavenger Hunt- Students received small group guided tours of the building on Day 1. On Day 2, students participated in a Scavenger Hunt as a way to gain familiarity with our building.

Locks and Lockers- This addressed one of the biggest fears of incoming 7th graders. Students practiced how to open their combination locks with staff. Then went to the Gym and participated in a relay race activity requiring them to open locks during the race- tons of fun!

"Get Involved!" Presentation and Slide Show- The slide show/video highlighted the many after school and extracurricular activities that happen at BMS during the school year. This was followed by a Q&A session with current 8th graders who served as "Student Ambassadors" on Day 2.

PBIS Raffle- Incoming 7th graders were given "Gotcha" tickets as an introduction to our PBIS initiative supporting positive behaviors. Day 2 culminated with a big raffle as students used their tickets to enter and win!

Each student who participated in the Jumpstart Program was also given a backpack containing school supplies.

Attendance

Program dates	August 20	August 21
# of students	125	117

Forest Grove

Monday, August 19

8 - 8:45 Breakfast (Mooshian/Richard)
Registration - Welcome
(items needed - nametags, sign in sheet, student lists, group assignment sheets)
Assign student council students to groups

8:45 - 11:15 Stations
Quad - Oliva - Team Building (Oliva, Simonti)

Caf - Cameron - Building Tour (Cameron and Cawley)
Library - Hatz - Chromebooks - Google Account, Google Classroom, Jumpstart,
Survey
Gym - (UNICORN) Inside/Outside (Marshall/Mooshian/Anderson)
Aud - Mindfulness (Heidi Chase)

11:15 -12:00 Lunch
Written Question Station - (Scrap Paper and Pens)
Selfie Station

Tuesday, August 20

8 - 8:45 Check-in
Breakfast

8:45 - 9:45 **Whole Group to Auditorium**
Schoolwide Protocols (Admin)
Activities Presentation (Simonti)
Student Q&A (8th grade)

Teacher Assignments:

STEM

- Simonti
- Oliva
- Hatz
- Driscoll

SCAVENGER HUNT

- Lopez-Anderson
- Apostolou
- Richards

ART

- Camerson
- Cawley
- Chase
- O'Neill
- Rodriguez

Overflow in Gym - Marshall

9:45 - 10:15 **Scavenger Hunt - Groups 1, 2, 3**
Cafeteria - STEM - Groups 4, 5, 6
Cafeteria - ART - Groups 7, 8, 9, 10

10:15-10:45 **Scavenger Hunt - Groups 4, 5, 6**
Cafeteria - STEM - Groups 7, 8, 9, 10
Cafeteria - ART - Groups 1, 2, 3

10:45-11:15 **Scavenger Hunt - Groups 7, 8, 9, 10**
Cafeteria - STEM - Groups 1, 2, 3
Cafeteria - ART - Groups 4, 5, 6

11:15 - 12 Lunch - Cafeteria

****PARENT SESSION 11:15 to 12 Library**

There will be a parent session in the Library on Tuesday with the school administration to answer any additional questions.

Attendance

Program dates August 19 August 20

of students 144 144

Claremont Academy

To orient incoming grade 7 and 9 students to the expectations, routines and processes of their new school while establishing a sense of community, belonging and school spirit. Activities varied and included a talk on internet safety from the District Attorney's office.

Attendance

Program dates	August 19	August 20	August 21
# of students	13	13	13

Sullivan Middle

Students and families alike responded very positively to the Jump Start initiative as a whole. It made families and students more comfortable to meet staff, have a tour of the building and get student schedules and lockers as well as know the expectations of the school. We did a number of team building challenges that students enjoyed like the Marshmallow Challenge and IceBreaker Bingo and took time to talk about common middle school fears and anxieties in order to quell them. We also gave them a time for Q&A in small groups where they could ask some of the questions they had. Students reported feeling significantly less anxious about starting 7th grade in a new school after attending Jump Start. Teachers also had a lot of positives to say about it as well - that they enjoyed meeting the students and starting to build relationships right away before school even started!

All in all, Jump Start was a wonderful program and helped Sullivan Middle stakeholders start the year off on the right foot!

Attendance

Program dates	August 13	August 14
# of students	135	128

Worcester Technical High

Tuesday, August 20th and Wednesday, August 21st 8 AM to 11:30 AM

Monday, August 26th is also built into the schedule

WTHS Student Council organized 100 student volunteers to assist in Jump Start.

40 teachers participated, both trade and academic teachers

All accepted freshmen students were invited to participate (announced during Frosh Family Night and two mailings)

3 days of activities planned, Tuesday and Wednesday are voluntary, Monday is worked into the first day of school (mandatory)

387 students participated

6 students were accepted after the official volunteer 2-day jumpstart bring the total to 393

366 (94.6%) students came to at least one day, if not both on Tuesday and Wednesday

Tuesday: 363 (93.8%) attended of 387

Wednesday: 340 (88%) attended of 387

Monday: 393 (100%) first day of school attendance

Explore schedules, academic schedules, lockers, ID's, student led activities, important paperwork handed out and collected (i.e. Health forms, Handbook/supplemental, Acceptable Use,), t-shirts handed out, scavenger hunt, hand print, cap and gown, computer log-ins, Naviance Career Assessment, iSafe, DA's Presentation are just some of the activities that were done.

Any student that was not able to attend the first 2 days was provided with all information and items needed to start the year.