



NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

GPA on the Move: Authentic Experiences for GPA



GPA Cares: Walk for a Cure

Sunday Oct. 16 8am - 4pm

Students who are part of the GPA Cares group and are involved in the walk for a cure for Type 1 Diabetes at Six Flags New England.

Oct. 28th Boston Freedom Trail

For Juniors and students taking US History course will be hiking the Freedom trail and touring the State House, eating lunch at Quincy Market, touring the USS Constitution the the 28th.

Nov 1 DECA students will attend the Fall Leadership Conference in Southington.

Nov 2 Personal Finance students will attend the Financial Reality Fair in Hartford.

Nov. 18th Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Graphic Design students and students taking the History/Art History of the 20th Century course will be going to the newly renovated Fine Arts Museum in Boston.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

During 2011-2012 we are piloting the Middle College Experience (MCE) course to facilitate secondary and post-secondary success. The Middle College Experience (MCE), a course for all students, was purposefully designed to encompass the Middle College Design principles. In this class, small groups of students will meet with their MCE advisors/instructors to experience lessons and activities related to social and

emotional development, college and career planning, and academic and Capstone graduation project completion.



From the Principal

GPA's theme this year is Excellence Within a Caring and Connected Community. Our efforts to create such a community went into effect when we welcomed our incoming Sophomore Academy students for a three-day orientation from August 8-10.

The Sophomore Academy cohort has a schedule that allows daily instruction in core subjects and a team of teachers with common planning time that facilitates early identification of individual student needs and continuous evaluation of student progress.

During our first day of school we also welcomed our Juniors and Seniors, many of whom are focused on having a successful semester/year in their GPA classes and direct college classes. Additionally, we welcomed our new teachers and support staff: Mrs. Miner (Biology), Mrs. Rosenbaum (Math), C.K. Wong (Math), and Ms. Chester (Social Worker). Lastly, we welcomed Mr. McCrory as GPA's Assistant Principal. Mr. McCrory comes to GPA from CREC's Public Safety Academy.

Overall, we had a great start to the school year with a focus on student achievement and on common academic and behavioral expectations. It is my hope that you enjoy this quarterly publication that was created to highlight the wonderful initiatives, innovative programs, and amazing staff and students within our community.

Dr. Torres-Rodriquez



GUIDANCE, COLLEGE & CAREER

The Great Path School Counseling Office is pleased to welcome Liz Woods to the department. Last year Liz completed her internship with us and was well received by many staff members.

Counselor assignments:

- Seniors – Ms. Woods
- Juniors A to O – Mr. Muska
- Juniors P to Z – Ms. Woods
- Sophomores – Mr. Muska

Organization is critical to a student's success in high school. Often, when we see students who are not performing to their ability, a lack of organization is a key factor. Please encourage your child to use an agenda consistently and keep papers from different classes in separate folders. Ideally, all papers should have a date on them and be kept in chronological order. Agendas were given to students in the first week of school. Following these simple steps can make a big difference in your child's academic performance.

Please visit the parent portal on Power School. You should have received instructions and a password in the mail. If you need help on the site, please contact Ms. Serrano at 860-512-3712. The parent portal is an excellent way to stay involved with your child's progress throughout the school year.

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 12th – During school PSAT

HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Greetings Great Path Academy Parents,

I am excited by the opportunity to join Great Path as the new school Social Worker. During September I have observed some very positive interactions amongst students crossing all ethnic, gender, sexual orientation and socio-economic lines. However, I would like to extend our rich student body to bridge the gap between home, school and community. My focus is to boost parental involvement by hosting monthly parent gatherings to discuss topics of interest which impact your children. I also plan to work diligently to build more community partnerships to increase resources available for GPA programs. As we accomplish these goals together, I am certain that we will cultivate a more positive school climate for our students. I look forward to engaging students, staff and parents in this process.

Ms. Chester, our School Social Worker will be coordinating quarterly events designed to promote positive connections between GPA and our parents. Sample events will include workshops on how to help your high school student succeed in school.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Karolyn Miner



Hello! I am the new Sophomore Academy team biology teacher here at Great Path Academy. I am coming from a large public high school and am very excited for the opportunity to work on a team in a smaller setting. I think this environment gives me a better opportunity to engage my students with 21st century skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to use technology and MCC resources to further enrich the education of my students. I also find parent communication to be key in guiding students to success. Please feel free to email me anytime with questions, concerns or if you just want to check in on your child.

kminer@mcc.comnet.edu



SENIOR CLASS

Welcome to Great Path Academy. The Senior Team is looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year. Maintaining consistent communication between home and school is essential in promoting the best learning experience for all students. To that end, the Senior Team intends to keep you up to date with important information throughout what's considered by many the most important year in the life of a high school student, Senior year!

Name	Position	Contact Info
Lindsey Pascarelli	Mathematics Teacher/ Senior Team Leader	LPascarelli@mcc.commnet.edu
Mary Caplan	English Teacher	MCaplan@mcc.commnet.edu
Arley Skoglund	Social Studies Teacher	ASkoglund@mcc.commnet.edu
Mary Ann Brady	Science Teacher	MBrady@mcc.commnet.edu
Dennis Luciano	Spanish Teacher	DLuciano@mcc.commnet.edu
Bill Wright	Technology Teacher	VWright@mcc.commnet.edu

JUNIOR CLASS

Welcome back to junior year at Great Path Academy! The junior team teachers are excited to get to know and work with the students as well as the parents and guardians of the class of 2013. Here at Great Path Academy, we use a teaming model where the junior teachers work closely to identify students' needs and provide appropriate academic and/or behavioral interventions to maximize students' success. In addition, we plan events to celebrate students' success in the Great Path Academy school community. Please contact any of the junior team teachers with questions or concerns.

Teacher	Subject	Email
Mrs. Laura Rzeszutek	11th Grade Team Leader, Special Education Teacher	lskipp@mcc.commnet.edu
Mr. Michael Sirois	History/Criminal Justice	msirois@mcc.commnet.edu
Mr. Paul Zotos	English	pzotos@mcc.commnet.edu
Ms. Nancy Rosenbaum	Mathematics	nrosenbaum@mcc.commnet.edu
Mrs. Anne Hebebrand	Art	ahebebrand@mcc.commnet.edu
Mr. James Fogarty	Health/Exercise and Personal Wellness	jfogarty@mcc.commnet.edu
Mr. Paul Muska	Guidance	pmuska@mcc.commnet.edu
Mrs. Elizabeth Woods	Guidance	ewoods1@mcc.commnet.edu

SOPHOMORE ACADEMY

A quick synopsis of Sophomore Academy

The Tenth Grade team teachers will challenge the students with an upbeat and fast paced curriculum. The Tenth Grade team curriculum will be adapted to cross disciplines in an effort to increase the students' awareness to the connections between different studies. The team will increase the rigor in their respective studies in order to challenge all students. Increased rigor and instruction will help prepare the students for junior and senior year as well as MCC classes. The goal is for all sophomores to be academically prepared to enroll in college classes by their junior year. Through content knowledge and a learned ability for study skills and organization this goal will be met.





**FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE
Mrs. Latvis and Mrs. Vousden**

Administering Medication During School

Under CT State Statute 10-212a, students are not allowed to take medication at school without orders from a physician that includes the physician and parent's signatures as well as the parent's authorization allowing the school nurse to speak with the student's physician regarding medication administration. If your physician feels that medication is necessary during the school day, please submit a completed Medication Authorization Form (white) when you bring the medication to the school nurse. Please note that this includes all medication.

Any questions, please contact the following numbers:

Mrs. Latvis 860.512.3717

Mrs. Vousden 860.512.3722



PBIS: POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORT



The 2011-2012 school year marks the third year of implementation of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) initiative at Great Path Academy. PBIS is a framework that guides the selection and implementation of evidence-based academic and behavioral practices aimed to improve outcomes for all students. This school-wide model develops a continuum of academic and behavioral interventions, uses data to make decisions, and creates a welcoming learning environment that encourages positive behavior. In addition, students are explicitly taught behavioral expectations in all school settings, behavioral practices are implemented with consistency, and student progress is continually monitored. Our three school-wide expectations are to be respectful, responsible, and safe in our school community. Please ask your student about these expectations and what they mean at Great Path Academy. Our first gotcha ticket raffle will be held on Monday October 3rd. For more information about PBIS at Great Path Academy, please contact Mrs. Laura Rzeszutek, PBIS Coach, at 860-512-3727 or lskipp@mcc.commnet.edu.

Department News

The Department of Unified Arts consists of the Art, Graphic Design, Culinary Arts, Health and Wellness, and Business programs. Five articulated college-credit classes are offered through these programs and students can also benefit by participating in internships and externships. For opportunities in offering or participating in an internship, please contact Mr. Jim Fogarty for more information.

Additionally, the following clubs and events can provide students with valuable experiences and service credits:

- FCCLA and DECA Clubs
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk – October 16, 2011. (www.caea.net/Wright/cure.html)
- Empty Bowls – October 29, 2011.
- Rebuild Together Hartford – April 2012
- Dwight Elementary School Art Program

All teachers attend professional development workshops regularly. This fall, Ms. Skogland and Ms. Hebebrand will be attending a workshop on integrating art with social sciences through the Connecticut Art Education Association.



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Great Path Academy Student Council is a student run organization comprised of representatives elected by the student body and ad hoc participants. The organization meets weekly to plan events and discuss issues relevant to the student body. Student Council works to develop programs for the Great Path Academy community such as dances, proms, talent nights, and student-faculty games. Student Council also participates in

community service activities and acts as a liaison between the faculty and administration and the student body. Candidates running for elected positions made speeches at a school-wide assembly on Friday, September 23rd.

Elections results for 2011-12 GPA Student Council

- ❖ Farah Khalid – President
- ❖ David Jones – Vice President
- ❖ Anita Boateng – Secretary
- ❖ Miguel Figueroa – Treasurer
- ❖ Molly Haynes and Danielle McCormack - Senior Class Representatives
- ❖ Madeleine Haynes - Junior Class Representatives



NEASC NEWS



Great Path is going through its first accreditation review by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This review is done on all schools every 10 years. Teams of teachers, administrators, and parents are forming to work on the documentation of data for the Fall 2013 NEASC visitation committee.

We have submitted our request for Candidacy and have hosted the NEASC Candidacy visit in early September. We will have three years to align best practice, repair any deficits, complete the self-study and host the visiting committee who will review our program. You can be a part of this process. If you are a parent of a sophomore, and are interested in serving on one of

the following committees, please contact Arley Skoglund for further information. (askuglund@mcc.comnet.edu)

NEASC Committees:

- Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Assessment of and for Student Learning
- School Culture and Leadership
- School Resources for Learning
- Community Resources for Learning

2011-2013





Morning Coffee at GPA

Join us for Monthly Morning Coffee from 7:30 am to 8:00 am. Parents are invited to stop in for a cup of coffee with faculty, staff, administration, and other parents.

Oct 28

Nov 18

Dec 23

Jan 27

Feb 17

Mar 23

Apr 27

May 25



Great Path Academy at Manchester Community College

Great Path, MS #20

P.O. Box 1046

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