



HPS Compass

MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE Hull Public Schools

Monthly Staff Newsletter

VOLUME 2/ISSUE 4
April 2024

Dates to Remember

April 2024

- 3 Paraeducator Appreciation Day - see page 2
- 4 National School Librarian Appreciation Day - see page 2
- 8 Community Outreach Forum - 5:30 pm
- 8 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 12 Rally - Memorial Marathon - 10:00 am
- 15 Patriot's Day - No School
- 15-19 Spring Vacation
- 22 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 24 Administrative Professionals' Day - see page 2
- 24 Jacobs Early Release - Teacher Collaboration - 12:15 pm

May 2024

- 6 Annual Town Meeting - 7:00 pm



HULL PIRATE PRIDE - Stronger Together - Together We Can

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the final stretch leading up to the last day of school and prepare for end-of-year activities, it's essential that we remain steadfast in upholding the themes for the 2023 – 2024 school year: Hull Pirate Pride, Stronger Together, Meeting Students Where They Are, and Elevating Student Voices. Throughout the years, our dedication to reaching every student and prioritizing decisions that serve their best interests has proven to be invaluable.

As educators, we recognize that each of our students brings unique strengths, challenges, and perspectives to the classroom. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed. This commitment extends beyond academic instruction; it involves fostering a sense of belonging, understanding, and respect within our learning community.

Whether a student excels academically, encounters difficulties in certain subjects, or faces personal obstacles, it is incumbent upon us to meet them where they are and provide the necessary support to help them thrive. Witnessing this dedication and effort fills me with immense Hull Pirate Pride, knowing that we are actively working towards the success of each and every student.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our students' success. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact and ensure that every student feels valued and supported on their educational journey in the Hull Public Schools.

~ Judy Kuehn



CDC Recent Guidance on COVID

The Department of Public Health has updated its recommendations for the general public to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses in alignment with the CDC's recent guidance. The following is a quick overview of the guidance.

What you can do to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses (including flu, RSV, COVID 19)

- Get vaccinated for the flu and COVID
- Stay home when you are sick
- Use hand and respiratory hygiene (wash hands, wear a mask)
- Get tested for flu and COVID19 so you can get treated
- Avoid crowded areas and increase fresh air



If you have been **exposed** to someone with a respiratory virus, you do not need to stay home as long as you remain asymptomatic. You may be able to spread a respiratory virus before developing symptoms, so in order to protect others, especially those with **risk factors for severe illness**, take precautions:

- Wash your hands often
- Consider wearing a mask and avoiding crowded places
- Monitor yourself for symptoms carefully
- Stay home if you start to develop any signs of illness.



If you have symptoms of a respiratory virus such as fever, sore throat, persistent cough you should stay home and:

- Get tested for COVID and flu
- Stay away from others in your household, wear a mask when you have to be around them
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Clean high touch surfaces often



You may begin to resume normal activities when:

- You have not had a fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- And other symptoms are improving

For the full details on the CDC recommendations:

[Staying home to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses | Mass.gov](#)

April 3rd is Paraeducator Appreciation Day

We wish to recognize our paraprofessionals throughout our District, whose exceptional work and valuable guidance aids every student, teacher, and member of our staff each day. Their sense of empathy and professionalism make them great assets to our schools. Without them, our schools would not function. Thank you for all you do!

April 4th is National School Librarian Appreciation Day

Our School Librarians are friendly faces who greet our students, staff and faculty in the library. National School Librarian Appreciation Day — April 4 — is a day to thank them for spending long hours keeping the library organized, shelves stocked, and books in perfect order.

April 24th is Administrative Professionals Day

Our Administrative Professionals play a crucial role in the smooth operation of our schools, handling various tasks with efficiency and professionalism. They often serve as the first point of contact for parents, students, and staff, providing valuable support and assistance. Their organizational skills, attention to detail, and dedication contribute significantly to the overall functioning of the school community. Thank you all!

Collaborative Teaching/ Co-Teaching What's next?

On January 16th, Dr. Valerie Flynn from Seaside Consulting provided an overview of collaborative teaching. The goal of collaborative teaching is to expand the expertise and knowledge of a multidisciplinary teaching staff to more students. This model lends itself to collaboration and inclusion for all learners.

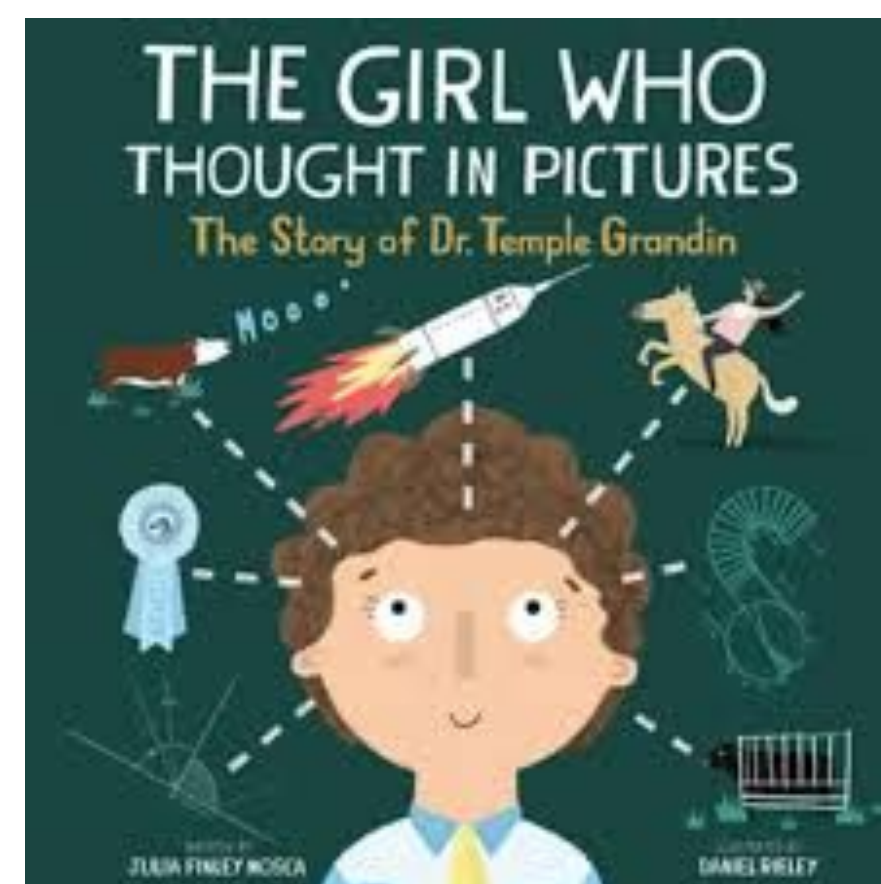
**Inclusion is the philosophy,
Co-teaching is the model.**

In the spring we will have collaborative teams begin their work with Dr. Flynn. While we are focusing on the co-teaching teams at Hull High School, teams across grade levels are welcome.

These team do *not* have to be comprised of special education and general education professionals. The teams do *not* have to be together full time. Co-teaching teams can be any collaborative partnership that will enhance the learning for students.

If you have the benefit of a current teaching partnership for any part of the day, please review the [The Six Co-teaching Approaches](#) and see which one works best for the students and your content.

If you would like to join Dr. Flynn in the spring, please contact Kristen Ryan. More information to follow.



April is Autism Awareness Month

As we recognize Autism Awareness Month please take a moment to hear from those with autism.

[Ethan Lisi: What it's really like to have autism | TED Talk](#)

https://www.ted.com/talks/temple_grandin_the_world_needs_all_kinds_of_minds

Themes for 2023 - 2024 School Year

- Hull Pirate Pride
- Stronger Together
- Meeting Students Where They Are
- Elevating Student Voices

FY25 Budget

On March 25th, Superintendent Kuehn and Diane Saniuk presented the FY25 budget to the Hull Advisory Board. This marked a significant milestone in our efforts to secure funds for continued school improvement and to sustain our faculty and staff. Many Advisory Board members commended the District's positive presentation, noting a notable improvement compared to many years ago. They reflected on the positive changes within the District and expressed confidence in the School Department's fiduciary responsibility. It was an evening where Hull Pirate Pride truly shone bright!



Curriculum and Assessment – Christine Cappadona

Content Articulation Conversations Grades 6-12

Expanding upon the groundwork laid during last year's content articulation meetings, we are scheduling this year's sessions for the end of May beginning of June. Working to avoid conflicts with MCAS testing. Teachers spanning grades 6 through 12 will participate in vertical articulation meetings within their specific content domains. These discussions aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide dedicated time for teachers to collaborate and synchronize instructional practices across grade levels.
- Provide time to delve into the intricacies of content knowledge and skill progression throughout the various grade levels.
- Identify any gaps or redundancies within the curriculum.
- Facilitate the exchange of successful teaching methodologies, valuable resources, assessment strategies, and ideas for professional development.

Dates and agendas will be emailed following April vacation. If you have topics that you wish be discussed during these meetings please email Christine Cappadona, Keith McKay or Karissa Connors.

More ways to use IXL to support all students.



Diagnose trouble spots

With the Trouble Spots report, teachers can uncover individual areas of struggle for each student and see recommended question types for review and reteaching.



Provide targeted 1-1 support

The Questions Log report helps teachers figure out exactly where a student might be stuck so that they can provide targeted 1-1 remediation.



IXL EOY Benchmark Window

April 29- May 3 - Seniors Math & ELA
May 28- June 3 - Grades 1-5 Math only
May 28 - June 3 - Grades 6-8 Math & ELA
June 3 - June 7 - Grades 9-11 Math & ELA



Following the EOY IXL benchmark, we will schedule meetings to analyze our IXL data. The goal is to identify gaps and areas of focus for grade progression skills in the upcoming school year, 2024-2025, to inform our curriculum and instruction decisions as a district.

Curriculum and Assessment – Christine Cappadona



Student Opportunity Act (SOA)

The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) was enacted in 2019, injecting significant new funding into the Commonwealth's educational system, with a focus on providing funding to district serving students with the greatest need. The law also included a critical provision that requires every district to set clear targets for improving disparities in achievement among student groups and develop three-year plan to implement evidence-based strategies to meet targets.

The SOA plan addresses a subset of a district's overall initiatives, focusing on evidence-based programs and strategies that will improve the educational experience and outcomes of students, including English learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students.

*The overarching goal of the Student Opportunity Act **is to ensure that every student in the Commonwealth has access to a high-quality public education regardless of zip code.** - DESE*

Below are our proposed initiatives for our SOA plan

1. Support Curriculum Implementation:

- Our analysis highlighted the importance of inclusive, equity-driven curricular materials -High-Quality Instructional Materials(HQIM)—in narrowing achievement gaps in ELA. Therefore, we will continue our prek-7 district-wide adoption and robust implementation of ELA HQIM to ensure equitable access to high-quality education for all students, specifically for our underperforming student groups. We will use the same implementation strategies to support the new Spanish Curriculum Adoption.

2. Decrease Chronic Absenteeism

- Our analysis highlights the disparities in attendance between student groups, students with disabilities, low income, African American/Black Asian, Multi-race non-Hispanic or Latino.

3. Enhanced academic support for Lowest Performing Student Challenges

- Our analysis highlighted the need for an intervention block tailored to provide targeted support for all students during the school day with a focus on providing time during the day to assist the most vulnerable populations, including students with disabilities, those from low-income families, and the lowest-performing students.

Districts are required by law to submit progress updates to the DESE each year of the three year plan. We will use MCAS data to assess our success in addressing persistent disparities in achievement among student groups. Our SOA plan will be posted on our website as well as on the DESE website.

If you have any questions, or input on how to support these initiatives please contact Christine Cappadona.



Professional Development

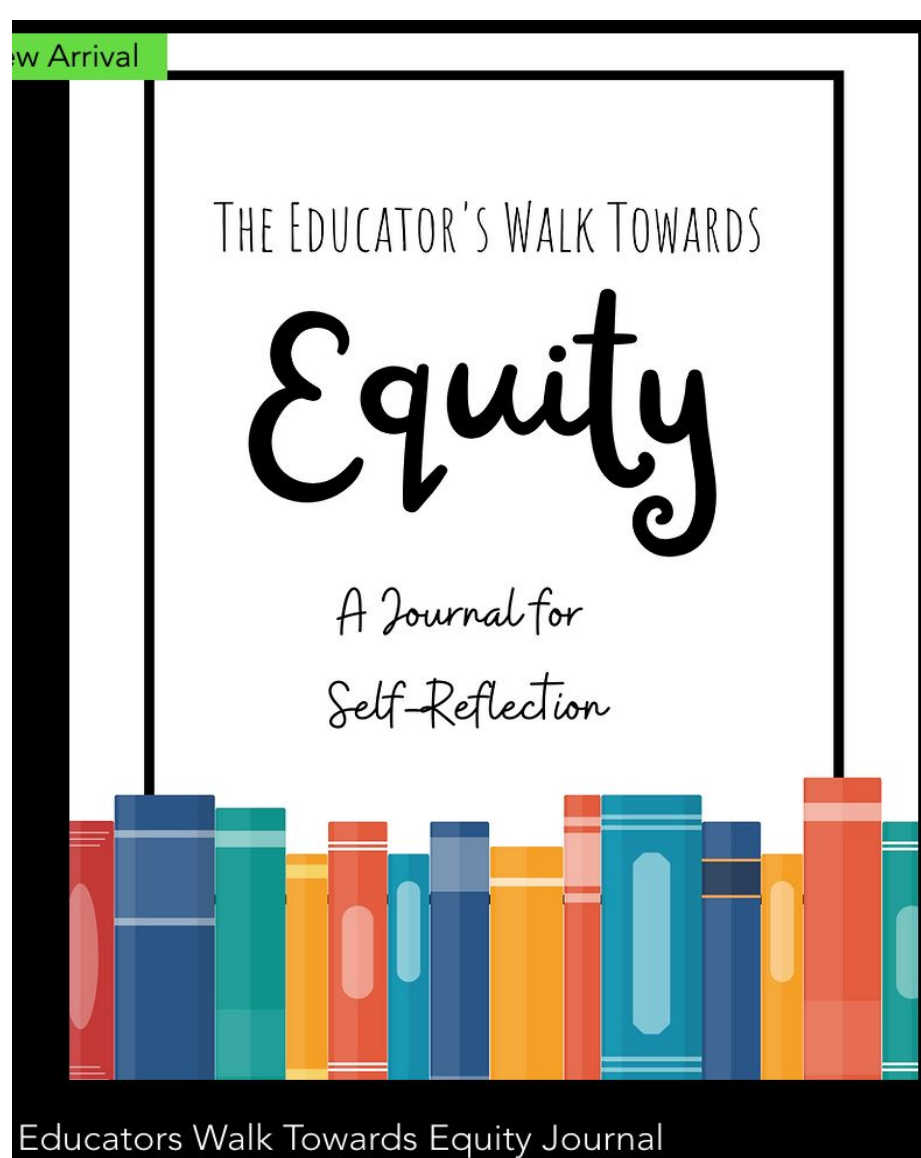


Dr. Wornum

The Educator's Walk Toward Equity: A Self-Reflection Journal

Journals are still available in each building and **15 PDP's** will be awarded in Cultural Proficiency for completing the journal. Not many people have signed up so please use the link below to **sign up** for this PDP opportunity. Expectation is that Journals will be completed by June 30, 2024.

Click [here](#) to **sign up** for journal PDP's and come back to add date of completion before June 30, 2024.



PDP Opportunities

As part of recertification, the following is required:

15 PDPs for SEI/ ESL

15 PDPs for students with disabilities and diverse learning styles

Here are some suggestions.

[Massachusetts Inclusive Practices](#)

The course registration link can be found in the middle of this page. This course is self-paced.

[Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth](#)

For All Educators

- Special Education from Then (1974) to Now(2024)- How It Has Evolved (Series begins April 22, 2024)
- Hybrid Conference- Navigatin Loss and Trauma In Schools- April 23, 2024
- Best Practices for Multilingual Learners (Series April 26, 2024)
- Hybrid Conference- Through a New Lens:Understanding Gender Identity and Autism- May 7, 2024

Massachusetts Partnership for Youth also offers many on-demand videos. These can be found [here](#).

District Report Cards

District and school report cards for 2022-2023 are now available. Please use the links to review data for the district and individual schools.

[01420000 - Hull](#)

[01420015 - Hull - Lillian M Jacobs](#)

[01420305 - Hull - Memorial Middle](#)

[01420505 - Hull - Hull High](#)