



# HPS Compass

# MINUTE

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

Monthly Staff Newsletter

VOLUME 1/ISSUE 1  
October 2022

### Dates to Remember

#### October

19 District Early  
Release

19 JES Learning Walk

#### November

4 MMS & HHS Quarter  
Ends

8 HHS Learning Walk

14 MCAS Presentation  
to School Committee

30 JES Trimester Ends

#### December

12–21 Second Galileo  
Benchmark

13 JES Learning Walk

22 District Early  
Release



## HULL PIRATE PRIDE - Together We Make A Difference

Welcome to the first edition of HPS Compass. We listened and are committed to improving communication with all stakeholders. Thus, the creation of a monthly newsletter for staff that is focused on providing meaningful and consistent communication in just a “minute”. Christine Cappadona, Diane Saniuk, Kristen Ryan, and I will be responsible for the monthly content.

The School Committee recently voted to accept the Best Educational Use of School Facilities Ad Hoc’s reconfiguration recommendation for grades PreK–7 to be located at Jacobs School and grades 8–12 at Hull High School. It was conveyed that the Memorial Middle School will remain open for the 2023-2024 school year. The School Committee will continue to explore the feasibility of this configuration, under the umbrella of what is in the best interest of students, at future School Committee meetings. Additionally, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions about school reconfiguration.

-Judy Kuehn

### Safety and Security

Safety continues to be our number one priority. Thank you all for your continued efforts to keep our schools safe. Outside doors must be locked at all times. Doors are not to be propped open for any reason. We all have a part in keeping our schools secure, so if you see something, say something.

In the Jacobs and high school classrooms, magnets cover the latch plate on the door jamb. The magnet allows classroom locks to remain locked but the door opens without a key. During a lockdown, staff should remove the magnet from the latch. The intent is to make it easier to lock the door in the event of a lockdown, with no key to lock the door. At the Memorial School, all classrooms have deadbolt locks that are easily locked without a key during a lockdown.

### Lockdown Buckets

We are putting together lockdown buckets with necessary supplies should we go into an extended lockdown. These buckets can be stored in a cabinet in your classroom to be used if needed.

-Diane Saniuk





As the district's Director of Curriculum and Assessment, I am responsible for organizing, implementing, and supervising curriculum and assessments. Throughout the year, I will spend time between all three schools, meeting with teachers and staff to support instructional materials and coordinate the implementation of curriculum and assessments. Together we will assess the effectiveness of our curriculum by monitoring students' academic progress. Galileo is used in grades 1-10, to inform our instruction, along with assessments already in place.

Last week we wrapped up the first benchmark testing. In about a week you should see your data populate, allowing you to see the various reports of student achievement. Below is the Galileo Quick Reference guide to assist you with the benchmark follow-up process, setting up intervention groups, assignments, and quizzes. You can also look at each student's assessment history by clicking the headphones on your student roster page. Please let me know if you have any questions, I am happy to help.

[GALILEO Quick Reference](#)

In addition, we will work on our curriculum maps through the Chalk platform. Updating, revising, and in some cases, writing curriculum maps. Using Chalk will increase our curriculum alignment and create a collaborative space for teachers to develop and share lesson plans.

A new social studies curriculum was implemented at the middle school this fall after a spring pilot. We have convened a Literacy Committee at the Jacobs School and currently math teachers grades 6-12 are piloting IXL.

-Christine Cappadona

## District Early Release - October 19

### District Focus - Curriculum Mapping on the Chalk Platform

During the three hours of early release time on October 19, teachers, Prek-12, will work on curriculum mapping for their content area.

Prek-5 - Math

6-12 - Content Area

***Chalk** is an online-based curriculum mapping solution that enables schools and districts to develop a cohesive, standards-aligned curriculum that is accessible and useable for teachers.*

The October early release and January full day PD will be used to work with colleagues on curriculum mapping. Here are a few links to assist your work.

[What is Chalk Curriculum](#)

[Chalk - Curriculum Training - Video](#)



### Paid Curriculum Writing on Chalk.com

Up to 15 hours of paid time at \$25.00 an hour will be paid to those teachers who would like to work on their curriculum maps on the Chalk.com platform.

If you are interested, please add your name to the Google Doc below. This work will take place outside the school hours. Please plan to notify the Director of Curriculum & Assessment with days and times that you worked on your maps before February vacation.

[CURRICULUM MAP Work~ Chalk.com](#)



## IEP Improvement Project

Over the last few years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has been working on the IEP Improvement Project. The goal of this project is:

To improve outcomes for all students with disabilities by providing guidance, technical assistance, and tools on equitable processes to school and district professionals, families, and students so that all students with disabilities have meaningful access to the curriculum frameworks and life of the school.

DESE has identified five principles to guide this project. The first principle is:

***All students are general education students first. Take a strengths-based approach.***

To increase access to general education content and educational experiences, Hull Public Schools has invested in two accessibility tools.

The first tool is Read & Write for Google Chrome. This extension is available on all student Chromebooks, as well as on teacher's Chrome accounts. This tool is also available to qualifying students as an MCAS accommodation. Please use the link below for more information.

[Read and Write Instructions.pdf](#)

The second tool is Learning Ally. Learning Ally is more selective in its access for students. While students do not need to have an IEP or 504, they must be identified as having a "reading deficit". Should you wish to set up an account for one of your students, please let me know.

[Learning Ally for Schools| Audiobooks](#)

To support the use of these tools, Kerrie Ryan and I are offering a voluntary Tech Tuesday session on October 11 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm in the library at Jacobs Elementary School. During this drop-in session, we will explore the use of these tools. I also have pre-recorded webinars available as well. If you are interested in attending Tech Tuesday, please let me know so we can prepare more specifically for your grade level/content area.

- Kristen Ryan

## Professional Development Overview

During this school year, the professional development focus for regular education teachers is the creation and completion of curriculum maps, utilizing the Chalk platform and opportunities for vertical and horizontal articulation for grades PreK–12. The focus for student services is training on the new individual educational program format established by DESE through their IEP Improvement Project. These focus areas will be the topics of the professional development early release days scheduled for October 19 and March 8 as well as the full professional development day on January 17. In order to facilitate vertical articulation for grades 6–12, we plan to provide substitute coverage during the school day. As we did during the summer, we are offering teachers a paid opportunity to work on their curriculum maps utilizing Chalk beyond the school day.

### Professional Development Committee

If you are interested in joining as a member of the district-wide Professional Development Committee with Christine Cappadona, Kristen Ryan and me, please join by accessing the link.

[Professional Development Committee Sign-up Form](#)

### Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY)

A membership to MPY has been purchased for all staff to attend virtual webinars and conferences free of charge. Participants are able to receive professional development points from MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Massachusetts Association of Mental Health Counselors (MaMHCA). MPY offers high-quality professional development with cutting edge information and resources and we hope you are able to take advantage of the offerings through MPY.

[Link to MPY Information and Hull Login](#)

### Calm Classroom

District wide a Calm Classroom activity is occurring each morning after announcements. However, some of you may still want to implement a Calm Classroom moment in your classroom. Therefore, we are providing the link to the most current Calm Classroom activities.

[Calm Classroom Portal Enrollment - Hull Public Schools](#)

-Judy Kuehn