



HPS Compass

MINUTE

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

Monthly Staff Newsletter

VOLUME 2/ISSUE 4
February 2024

Dates to Remember

February

- 8 Kindergarten 101 - 5:30 pm
- 13 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 19 Presidents' Day - No School
- 19-23 February Break
- 26 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 28 Jacobs Early Release - Teacher Collaboration - 12:15 pm

March

- 6 Early Release - Professional Development



HULL PIRATE PRIDE - Together We Make A Difference

Dear Colleagues,

I trust this update finds you well. I want to share some key updates regarding the ongoing implementation of Phase Two.

Parent Meeting Success:

The positive meeting with Grade 7 & 8 parents on January 9th, attended by nearly 60 parents provided updates on Phase Two progress.

Faculty Meetings:

Scheduled updates for Phase Two will be a focal point in upcoming faculty meetings, ensuring all staff members are informed and aligned with the latest developments.

Schedule Finalization:

Currently finalizing schedules for Grade 8 and Grades 6 & 7, with the location of Grade 8 classrooms confirmed and the grouping of HHS teachers by departments nearing completion.

Assistant Principal Search:

An inclusive search for a grades 4-7 assistant principal is underway, reflecting our dedication to finding the right candidate to contribute to the success of Jacobs School.

Room Availability and Moving Preparation:

Grade 7 rooms are anticipated to be available to teachers around March 1st. A moving schedule is being organized to minimize disruptions, in collaboration with HTA, with our goal being a seamless transition for teachers. Also, after the February break, additional barrels will be provided in the hallways at MMS and the high school to assist teachers in decluttering and preparing for their move.

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Implementation of Phase Two *continued*

.....*Continued from page 1*



Building Improvements:

Over the winter break, some high school rooms were painted, with further painting planned, including the bathrooms on the first floor dedicated to Grade 8 students. The former language rooms at HHS will also receive new flooring.

Staff Reassignment Meetings:

In line with contractual obligations, Principal Hrivnak will meet with Middle School staff being reassigned during the week of February 12th. This adjustment aims to alleviate any anxiety about building assignments for the 2024–2025 school year.

Appointment Letters:

To provide assurance around job security, appointment letters for all teachers and paraprofessionals will be distributed on Friday, February 16th.

Welcoming Staff:

Meetings will be scheduled with grade 7 & grade 8 teams and their new principals and assistant principals to review schedules, learn about the building, build new relationships, and help them feel part of the building.

Technology Upgrades:

Data has been collected on rooms requiring Smartpanels, and orders will be placed soon to ensure timely delivery and installation for the start of the 2024–2025 school year.

Jacobs School Start Time:

There is a possibility that the Jacobs School will start approximately 20 minutes earlier. We are actively collaborating with the bus company to ensure efficient routes and timely arrivals for both high school and Jacobs School students.

Your commitment to excellence contributes significantly to the positive growth and development of our school community. As we move forward together, I extend my deepest gratitude for your ongoing efforts.

~ Judy Kuehn



Themes for 2023 - 2024 School Year

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

Clock/Bell/Alert system

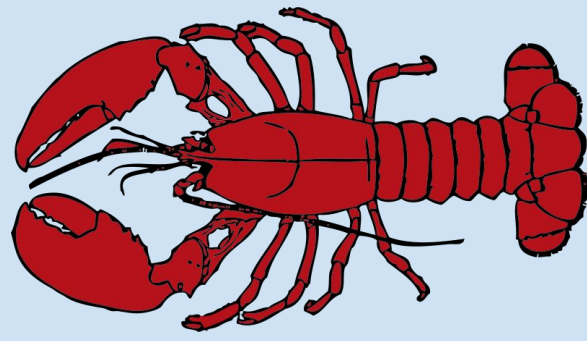
The second phase of installation of digital clocks for the upper school will be completed during February vacation.





Pineapple Project

Lobster Lookout



Cheryl Kenney, a retired teacher now assisting part-time with writing intervention in various classrooms, recently shared her perspective. She expressed a keen desire for the opportunity to have experienced her colleagues' classrooms during her teaching tenure. Her insight supports the value of peer observations in fostering professional growth.

I have had the privilege of taking on the role of a Writing Intervention Specialist at the Jacobs School before my retirement. In this new role, I had the opportunity to work with various grade levels and assist the teacher and coach students in need of literacy help. Even though I have been an educator in the district for over 30 years, I thought I knew it all! What I experienced and continue to experience during these visits was more than I could imagine. Our teachers are a valuable resource! I couldn't wait to share what I learned in these classes with other colleagues in different grades—from classroom management tricks to varying differentiating instruction strategies. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to witness first hand the amazing teaching going on at the Jacobs School and highly encourage others to do the same. I look forward to continue to learn and grow from my colleagues.

Memorial Middle School Front Entrance

As you know, the temporary stabilization work has been completed and the front entrances have been reopened! Thank you all for your cooperation during the process.

Next steps will be the continued monitoring of the stabilization to make sure there is no further movement of the masonry wall unit.

Additionally, engineers are currently developing plans for the permanent reconstruction.



Teacher Learning Walks

In the upcoming 2024–2025 school year, we're implementing teacher learning walks within each building. Three walks will occur in each school and an outside consultant will provide guidance during the walks. The teachers will rotate to give as many opportunities as possible for different teachers to walk.

To prepare for the upcoming teacher learning walks, we extended invitations to each of the co-presidents to join us in a learning walk this school year. Our aim is to familiarize them with the experience, laying the groundwork for future teacher walks.

Remaining Learning Walk Dates

- March 11, 2024 - HHS
- March 13, 2024 - JES



Curriculum and Assessment – Christine Cappadona

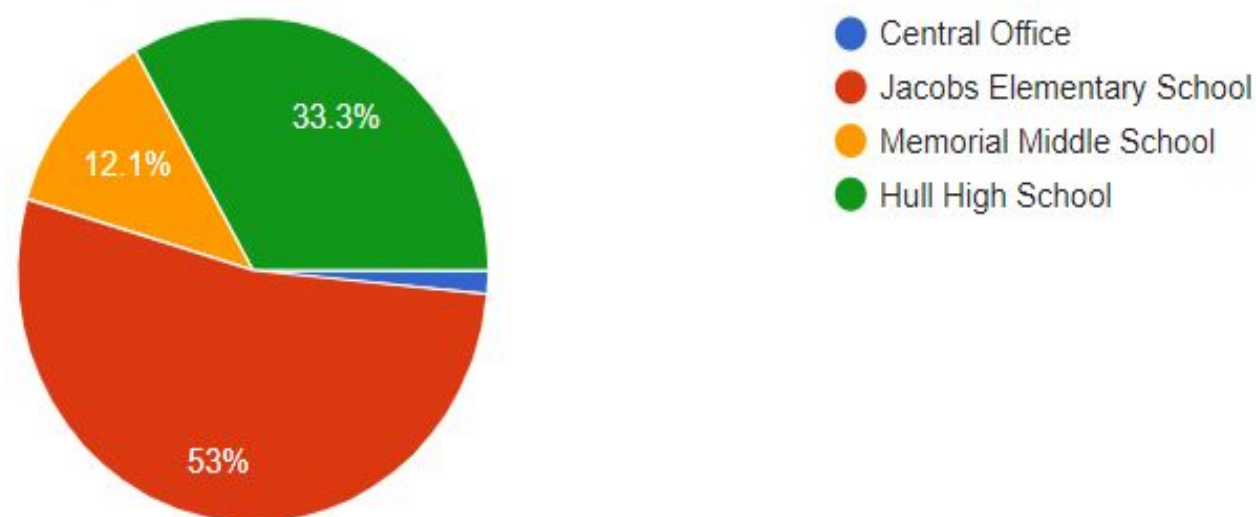
District Tech Survey Update

Thank you for participating in the recent tech survey. We received 66 responses, and some notable insights have emerged from the feedback.



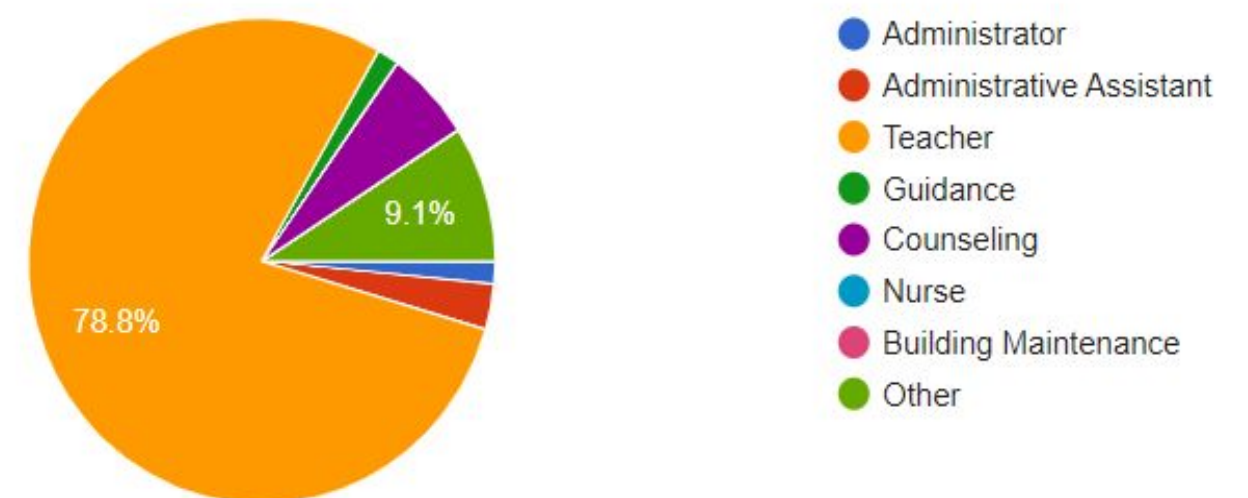
What building do you primarily work in?

66 responses



What is your role with Hull Public Schools?

66 responses



Thank you for participating in the recent tech survey. We received 66 responses, and some notable insights have emerged from the feedback.

The survey showed that out of the 66 responses:

- Fifty-five individuals have purchased some technology items or services.
- The majority of individuals use Google Drive to save and store files.
- 66.7% of respondents said they would like a Chromebook for work-related tasks.
- The majority of individuals, 63.1%, said it takes 1-5 minutes to restart or reboot their computer, 20% less than one minute, 12.3% 5-10 minutes, and 4.6% more than 10 minutes.
- Individuals reported they lose instructional time due to technology issues: 14.1% said yes frequently, 64.1% said sometimes, and 21.9% said no.
- 73.8% said they rarely use the CD/DVD drive on their computers
- 35.4% of individuals responded that they frequently lose productivity due to walking to a copy machine, 46.2% responded sometimes, and 18.5% did not.
- All but 8 individuals use a personal device for work-related tasks.
- Staff are using many different apps and platforms across all three schools.

As a result of the survey, the following are the next steps:

1. Investigating the costs of providing Chromebooks for those who responded they would like a Chromebook for work-related tasks.
2. We are adding a copy machine to the high school's second floor.
3. Keith McKay and Kerrie Ryan are looking into the respondents with tech issues.
4. We will create a more specific survey to understand all the apps and platforms staff use.

Your input is invaluable in shaping our technology strategy, and we look forward to utilizing this feedback to enhance our technological resources and support. Thank you again for your time and contribution. - Christine Cappadona



Changes in Lead Teacher 8 - 12 Stipend Positions for the 2024 - 2025 School Year

The FY25 budget supports the transition from our current structure of two school-wide multiple discipline lead teachers (Math/Science and English Language Arts/History) to a more refined model featuring four lead teachers—one dedicated to each discipline for grades 8 - 12.

This strategic move holds the key to fostering leadership within each discipline. By assigning lead teachers by discipline, we aim to bring a sharper focus to various essential aspects such as monitoring curriculum maps, driving curriculum development, collecting and reviewing student data, and enhancing student engagement.

Additionally, this restructuring allows for more precise monitoring of individual student progress within each discipline.

This realignment aligns with our commitment to reach all students.

Are You Ready to Be Happier?



**Take the
Professional Development Survey**

[Click here to fill out the survey](#)



IEP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In preparation for the new IEP format, each month a selected component of the new IEP form will be shared here with all staff. This month's focus:

STUDENT PROFILE

QUALIFYING DISABILITY DEFINITIONS

- Autism
- Communication Impairment
- Developmental Delay (ages 3-9)
- Emotional Impairment
- Health Impairment
- Intellectual Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Sensory- Hearing, Vision, Deaf-Blind
- Specific Learning Disability



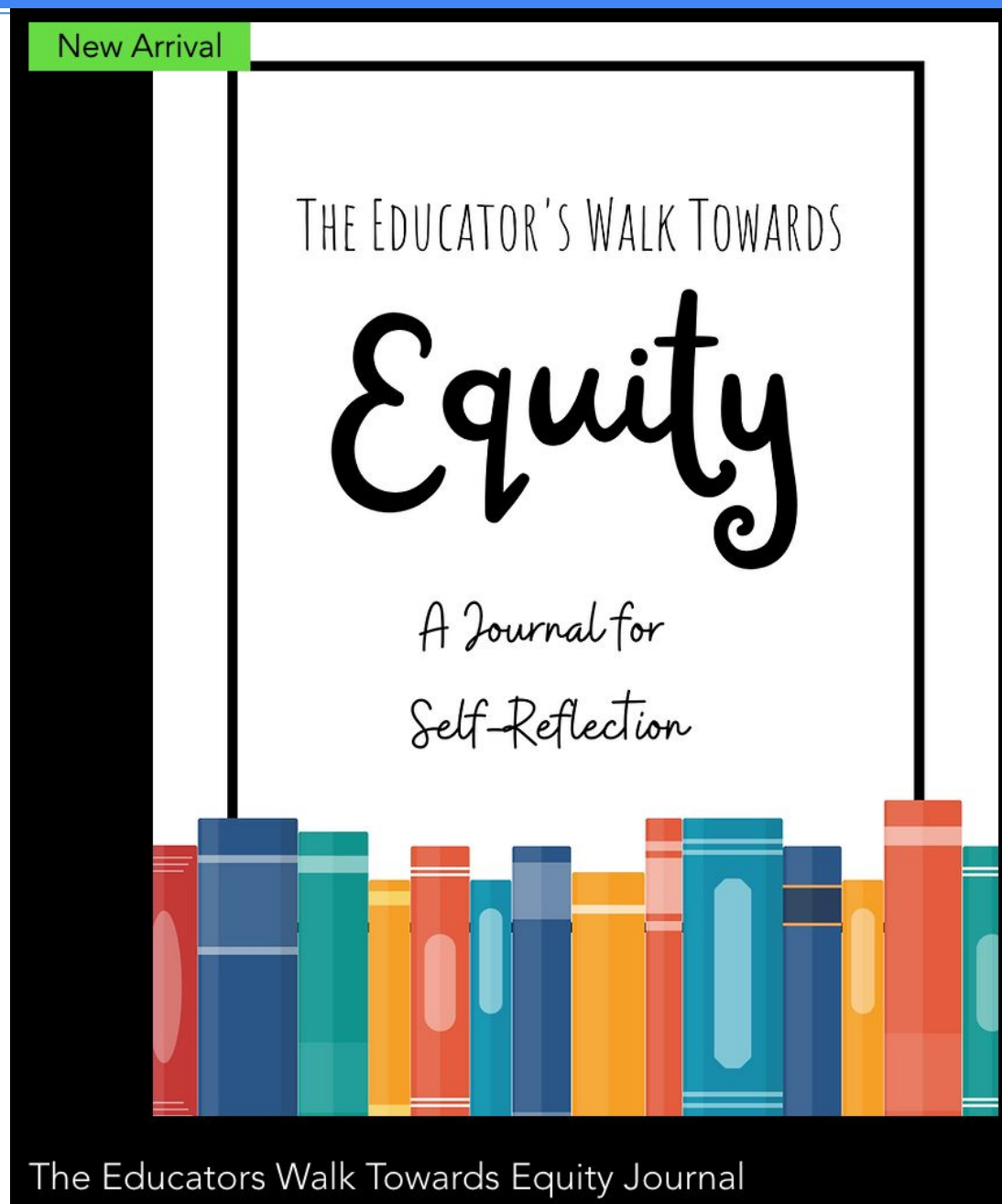
The Student Profile section is used to identify all disabilities determined through the special education eligibility process. It is important to note that a student's disability determination on an IEP may not always align with medical or other diagnostic evaluations. If relevant, more information about the student's disability can be included when describing the impact of the student's disability in other sections of the IEP. For example, the IEP Team might identify a student as having a specific learning disability in their Student Profile and further explain that the student has dyslexia, dysgraphia, or dyscalculia in later sections of the IEP.

ENGLISH LEARNER CONSIDERATIONS

English Learner Toolkit

When an EL has a disability, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that the IEP Team consider the student's language needs as they relate to the IEP. It is therefore essential for the IEP Team to include those with the knowledge of the student's language needs. Specifically, it is important that the IEP Team include "professionals with training, and preferably expertise, in second language acquisition and an understanding of how to differentiate between the student's limited English proficiency and the student's disability."

Professional Development



Dr. Wornum has created **The Educator's Walk Toward Equity: A Self-Reflection Journal**

This tool is filled with curated prompts and personalized videos to help educators on this life long journey towards equity. It requires continuous self-reflection growth, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. The journals are available in each building and **15 PDP's** will be awarded in Cultural Proficiency for completing the journal. 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 Paraprofessionals

- PARAPROFESSIONAL TOOLKIT
These sessions are “live” over 5 weeks from 3:00- 5:00 pm and will **not** be recorded. (Series begins February 28)

Paraprofessionals will be compensated at the contract rate for their participation in the 10 hours upon submission of a certificate of completion.

For All Educators

- Supporting Multilingual Learners with Inclusive School Practices (Series begins March 14, 2024)

For School Social Workers, School Psychologists, Guidance Counselors

- Suicide Assessment, Intervention and Postvention Training for School Mental Health Professionals (Series begins March 7, 2024)

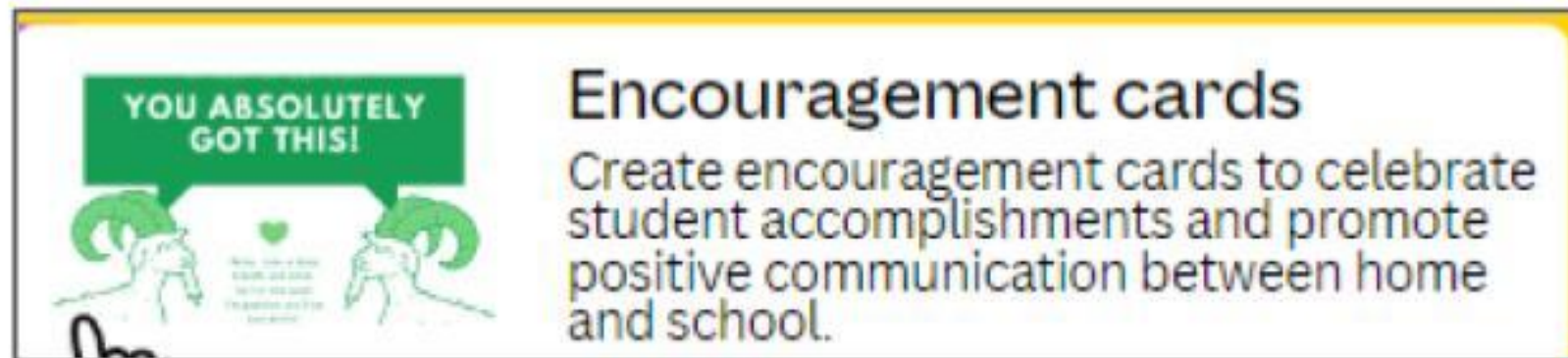


Technology Tips and Tricks



Canva

Create and personalize lesson plans, infographics, posters, video, and more.
100% free for teachers and students



Encouragement cards

Create encouragement cards to celebrate student accomplishments and promote positive communication between home and school.



Click Here for 5 Ways to use Canva for communication

~ Kerrie Ryan



SLOW BOOT???

The IT Department recommends you reboot your computer weekly. Windows automatic updates is set as the default and will only install on reboot. If not done on a regular basis when you do reboot or after any type of power issue all of the updates will automatically install thus resulting in a slow boot. We recommend you reboot on Friday afternoons so that on Monday all updates will have been installed thus eliminating the slow boot and no loss of teaching time.

Email Policy

We would like to review the e-mail policy as stated in the "Technology Acceptable Use Policy" adopted February 27, 2023 and signed by all staff and employees when hired. Please use your Outlook e-mail (@town.hull.ma.us) for all correspondence regarding students and school business. This email server is maintained by the town and all e-mail is archived.

The policy states: "Users understand that e-mail messages and documents are subject to the same laws, regulations, policies and other requirements as information communicated in other written forms and formats and thus are likely subject to the Public Records Law:"

How to Reserve Space for Evening Meetings and Activities

Staff is able to reserve space in any of our schools for evening meetings and activities. Please email Amy Hyde ahyde@town.hull.ma.us to check availability and reserve your space! We frequently get requests by Town departments and Community groups for space to hold meetings in the schools. In order to ensure space is available when you need it, it is important that all requests for space are handled through Amy. This also allows our custodians to expect you and know who is in the building. For meetings and activities immediately after school, please check with your school secretary for availability.