



HPS Compass

MINUTE

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

Monthly Staff Newsletter

VOLUME 2/ISSUE 4
March 2024

Dates to Remember

March

- 6 Early Release – Professional Development
- 11 School Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 13 MMS Family Band Night – 7:00 pm
- 21 JS 90–Minute Early Release – Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- 21 JS Parent/Teacher Conferences 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- 25 School Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 27 Jacobs Early Release – Teacher Collaboration – 12:15 pm
- 29 Good Friday – No School



HULL PIRATE PRIDE - Stronger Together - Together We Can

Dear Colleagues,

The saying “March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb” is hopeful. However, March represents one of the longest teaching stretches we have without a break until the end of the month, and for some, it can feel both long and exhausting.

To help us navigate positively through the upcoming four weeks together, I believe it is the perfect time to revisit Pam Garramone's presentation on how to Be Happier! One of the practices Pam introduced was the strategy of writing down three good things that happened in the last 24 hours each night. Pam stressed that the three good things exercise works because it shifts our focus from what went wrong to what went well. The more we actively look for positive aspects, the more good things we start to notice. Pam aptly says, “Make yourself feel good and make the people around you feel good, and you will be happier.”

As I approach retirement and reflect on my time in the Hull Public Schools, some of the items on my good things list consistently include interacting with kind and caring educators, being moved by colleagues who deeply care about each other, observing educators enjoying the opportunity to work with students in small classes, experiencing the strong support and appreciation from the Hull community for our outstanding schools, and feeling positive about coming to work each day. Together, let's commit to celebrating the good things and making celebratory moves throughout the month of March.

“When we appreciate the good, the good appreciates”

Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar

“When you focus on the goodness in life you create more of it”

Oprah Winfrey

~ Judy Kuehn



New VOICES Program at Hull High School



We are thrilled to announce an exciting new program at Hull High School in collaboration with Raising Multicultural Kids (RMK). RMK is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing racial and cultural competency in local communities through extensive engagement with schools, educational experts, and local citizens. Our joint mission is to ensure that all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum, teachers, and leadership roles, fostering greater self-esteem and respect for others.

RMK's Diversity in Classroom Leadership and Literature Program has successfully run at the Jacobs School for three years, while the Advocacy in Action program has been implemented at the Memorial Middle School for two years. We deeply appreciate RMK's partnership and their invaluable support in achieving the district's goal of creating diverse, inclusive, accepting, welcoming, and safe schools for everyone.

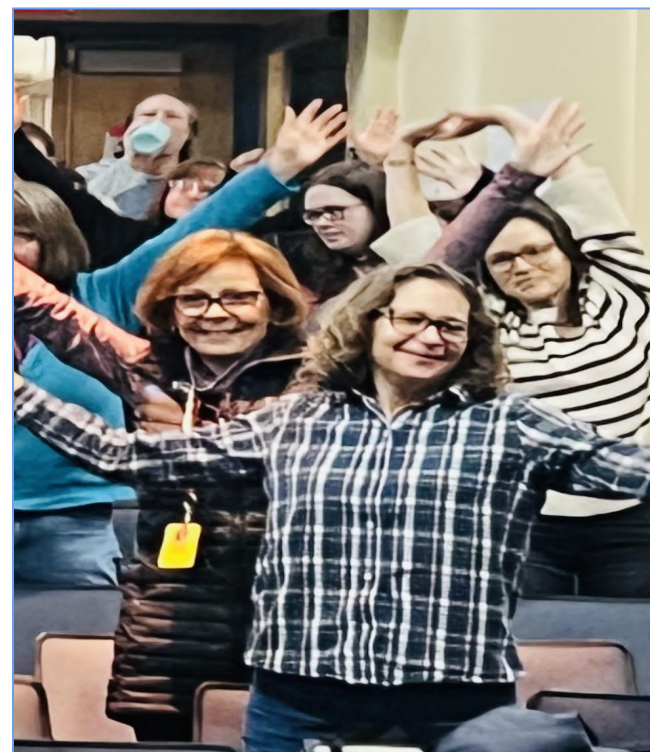
Introducing VOICES (Valuing Open Inclusive Communities Empowers Student VOICES), a comprehensive initiative dedicated to amplifying student voices—a continued theme for the district. This new HHS program offers weekly support for both students and staff, focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Led by a Student Success and Advocacy (SSA) Specialist, VOICES creates safe spaces, elevates student voices, delivers student programs, and advises staff. Through VOICES, staff and students will gain the skills to navigate conversations on interpersonal and societal inequities, empowering them to use collective resources for interventions that raise awareness, inspire community connection, and foster a sense of belonging for all HHS students.

Teacher Learning Walks

We are happy to have two teachers join each of the remaining walks. This marks a significant transition for the upcoming year when teachers will actively participate in all learning walks.

Remaining Learning Walk Dates

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



Themes for 2023 - 2024 School Year

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



FY25 Budget

Our budget process starts each September at the building level with meetings to assess needs and establish requests. From the building level, requests are brought forward and discussed with the leadership team and the Budget Subcommittee of the School Committee. At the February 26th School Committee meeting, we had our initial presentation of our FY25 proposed budget. Click [here](#) to view presentation.

We will continue to discuss the FY25 budget at upcoming School Committee meetings until the budget is voted on at the Hull Town Meeting on Monday May 6th.



IEP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

ACCOMMODATIONS- Change HOW a student accesses instruction and demonstrates proficiency. They do NOT change the learning expectations.

Accommodations provide access to the general education curriculum by addressing barriers or challenges. They level the playing field so students can fully participate in educational activities.

Accommodations can happen in four ways:

- Presentation of Instruction- The way information is presented.
- Response- The way the student responds.
- Timing and/or Scheduling- The timing and scheduling of instruction is adjusted.
- Setting and/or Environment- The characteristics of the setting.

MODIFICATIONS- Changes WHAT the student is expected to learn. The course or the activity expectations ARE modified to meet the needs of the student.

Modifications change the curriculum, the instruction and/or assessments to meet a student's disability related needs. They alter what is being taught or assessed to match a student's abilities and learning goals.

Modifications happen in three areas:

- Content- what is being taught
- Instruction- how it is being taught
- Student Output- how a student demonstrates understanding.



Students who are eligible for special education require modifications as this is the specially designed instruction.

(Click below for more information.)

[The Difference Between Accommodations and Modifications](#)
[Common Accommodations and Modifications](#)

Safety Notice:

Door Security Enhancement

We have recently implemented another safety enhancement in our schools. You will now find a sign posted on each entry door, serving as a reminder for visitors not to hold doors open for individuals entering behind them. This measure is in place to ensure the security and safety of everyone within our schools.

Your cooperation in adhering to this guideline is crucial for maintaining a secure environment for all. If you have any questions or concerns about our safety protocols, feel free to reach out to our School Resource Officer, Jake Mahoney. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to the safety of our school community.



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](#)



Curriculum and Assessment – Christine Cappadona



HPS Professional Development - March 6, 2024



During the 3-hour professional development session on March 6, Jacobs staff members in grades K-5, along with grade 6 & 7 ELA teachers, will attend Amplify CKLA and ELA training. Special Education and Support staff will engage in an IEP Intro Session. Grade 6-12 staff will utilize the time to work on curriculum mapping within the Chalk platform, with specific expectations outlined in the Compass. Karissa Connors and Keith McKay will be available to provide support during these three hours. Click [here](#) to print PD schedule.

HPS Professional Development - March 6, 2024

Jacobs Staff Schedule 1:15 - 4:15

Time	Group	Topic	Location
1:15 - 4:15 1:15 - 4:15 1:15 - 4:15	JS Staff K-2 & K paras JS Staff 3-5 JS Staff 6 & 7	CKLA Training - Writing Focus CKLA Training - Writing Focus Amplify ELA Training - Supporting All Learners **K-5 please bring a recent set of student writing samples from the Amplify curriculum to this session**	JS Library JS B115 JS C247
1:15 - 4:15	Grade 6 Content Teachers	Curriculum Mapping in Chalk	JS
1:15 - 4:15	Art, Music, PE, Tech	Curriculum Mapping in Chalk	JS
1:30 - 3:30	School Social Workers/School Psychologists/ Guidance/ Special Ed Staff/Paraprofessionals/PreK Teachers	IEP Intro Session	Jacobs School Library Conference Room
1:15 - 4:15	Nurses	CPR	JS

Memorial Staff Schedule 1:00 - 4:00

Time	Group	Topic	Location
1:00 - 4:00	Content Teachers	Curriculum Mapping in Chalk	MMS
1:00 - 4:00	Unified Arts (Music, PE, Art,Tech)	Curriculum Mapping in Chalk	MMS
1:00 - 4:00	Spanish Teacher	Encuentros curriculum Grades 5-7 preplanning	MMS
1:00 - 4:00	Nurses	CPR	Jacobs School
1:30 - 3:30	School Social Workers/School Psychologists/ Guidance/ Special Ed Staff/Paraprofessionals	IEP Intro Session	Jacobs School Library Conference Room

High School Staff Schedule 12:30 - 3:30

Time	Group	Topic	Location
12:30 - 3:30	Content Teachers	Curriculum Mapping in Chalk	HHS
12:30 - 3:30	Spanish Teachers	Encuentros Curriculum	HHS
12:30 - 3:30	Wellness/Art/Wood Shop/Music	Curriculum Mapping in Chalk	HHS
1:00 - 3:30	Nurses	CPR	Jacobs School
1:30 - 3:30	School Social Workers/School Psychologists/ Guidance/ Special Ed Staff/Paraprofessionals	IEP Intro Session	Jacobs School Library Conference Room

Curriculum and Assessment – Christine Cappadona



If you remember the Chalk motto last year was **Keep It Simple and Sweet - do the work in bite-sized pieces**. We recognize it is time consuming and we need to give staff adequate time to do this work. The Middle and High School teachers will have time during our Early Release PD to work on their curriculum maps.

Below are reminders for our Chalk initiative.

What is Chalk? Chalk is our curriculum mapping platform that enables us to store and access a cohesive, standards-aligned curriculum that is easy to use. It creates a space to review the curriculum and align it vertically to understand effectiveness.

WHY are we using this platform? Chalk enables the district to collaborate and create living curriculum documents that inform our teaching and improve learning outcomes.

What is the goal of using Chalk?

Our district goal is to design and align well-organized, coherent and effective curriculum maps to facilitate optimal learning that spans lessons, content areas, teaching, and grade levels.

- Record the actual content, skills, and assessment taught in our classrooms
- Align instruction and standards from each grade level vertically and horizontally
- Enrich and challenge instructional practice
- Increase student achievement

What are the benefits for using Chalk?

- Improved organization and accessibility
- Living documents in one place that can be edited and refined easily
- Cross curricular collaboration
- Horizontal and vertical alignment
- Easy to track standards alignment
- Platform is easy to use



SY 2022-2023

Stage 1/January 17, 2023 - Create an outline of units for the year, including:

- Unit Learning Objectives
- Meaning (both boxes)
- Acquisition (both boxes)

Stage 2/ March 8, 2023 - Continue stage 1 work. Move on to

- Add standards
- Estimated # of lessons
- List of assessments
 - formative
 - summative

SY 2023-2024

Stage 3/March 6, 2024 Continue stage 1 or 2 work, add in

- Resources and materials
- Student engagement activities
- Opportunities for real-world connections
- Personalized learning
- Diversity

SY 2024-2025

- Continue to expand and revise maps

Link to Exemplars of CHALK Curriculum Maps
[HS English Map](#)



Curriculum and Assessment – Christine Cappadona

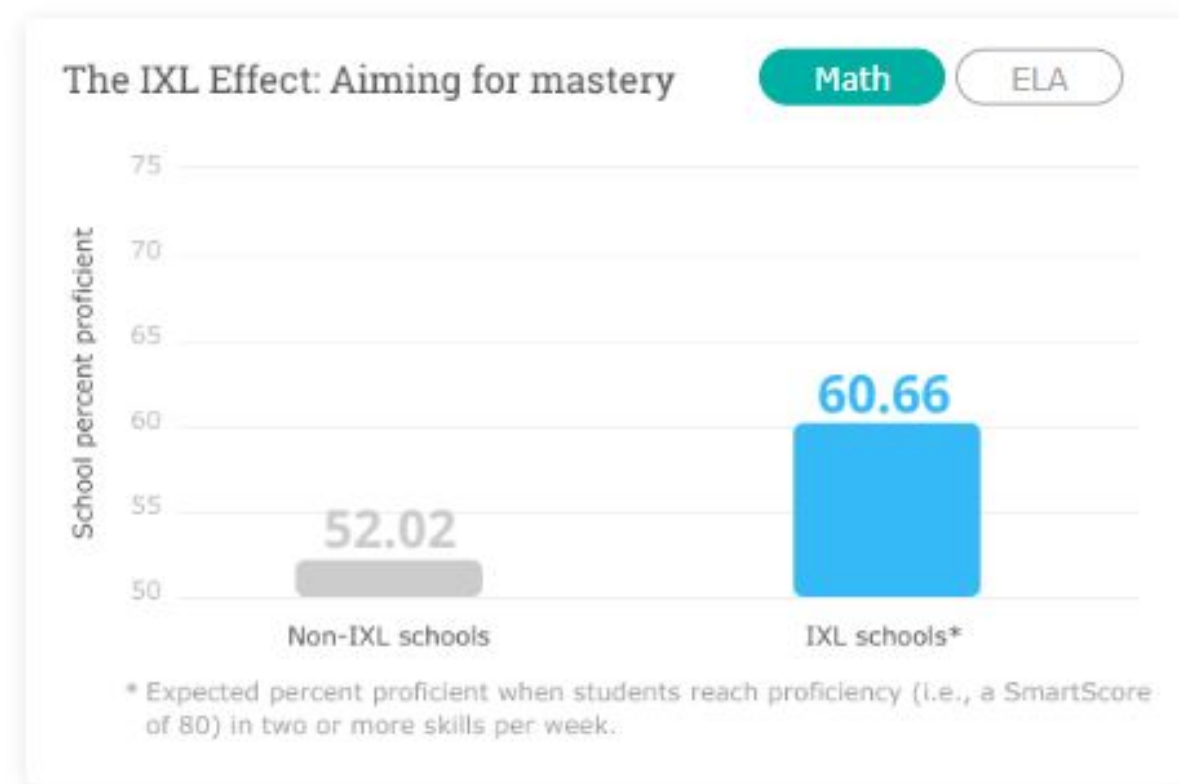
Four IXL Tips

1. Strive for proficiency - SmartScore of 80

A SmartScore of 80 equates to proficiency, meaning the student has a solid understanding of the material, even if they haven't completely mastered it yet.



Strive for proficiency



Take the IXL Effect™ to the next level by striving for proficiency

IXL is designed to support students toward authentic skill proficiency and mastery. Schools witness up to a 9 percentage point increase in state assessment proficiency rates when students consistently achieve proficiency in two IXL skills each week.



2. Spend time in the Arena each week. (10-15 minutes 1x week or 3-4 minutes per day)

3. Boost Test Scores with two IXL Skills a week

To use IXL with fidelity, we recommend setting a goal for students that aligns with this theory: reach proficiency (a SmartScore of 80) in at least two on-grade-level IXL skills per subject per week.



4. Bell Work and Exit Ticket ideas

[Using IXL for bell work & exit tickets](#)

Check out the IXL blog for ideas and information.

<https://blog.ixl.com/category/at-home/>

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.

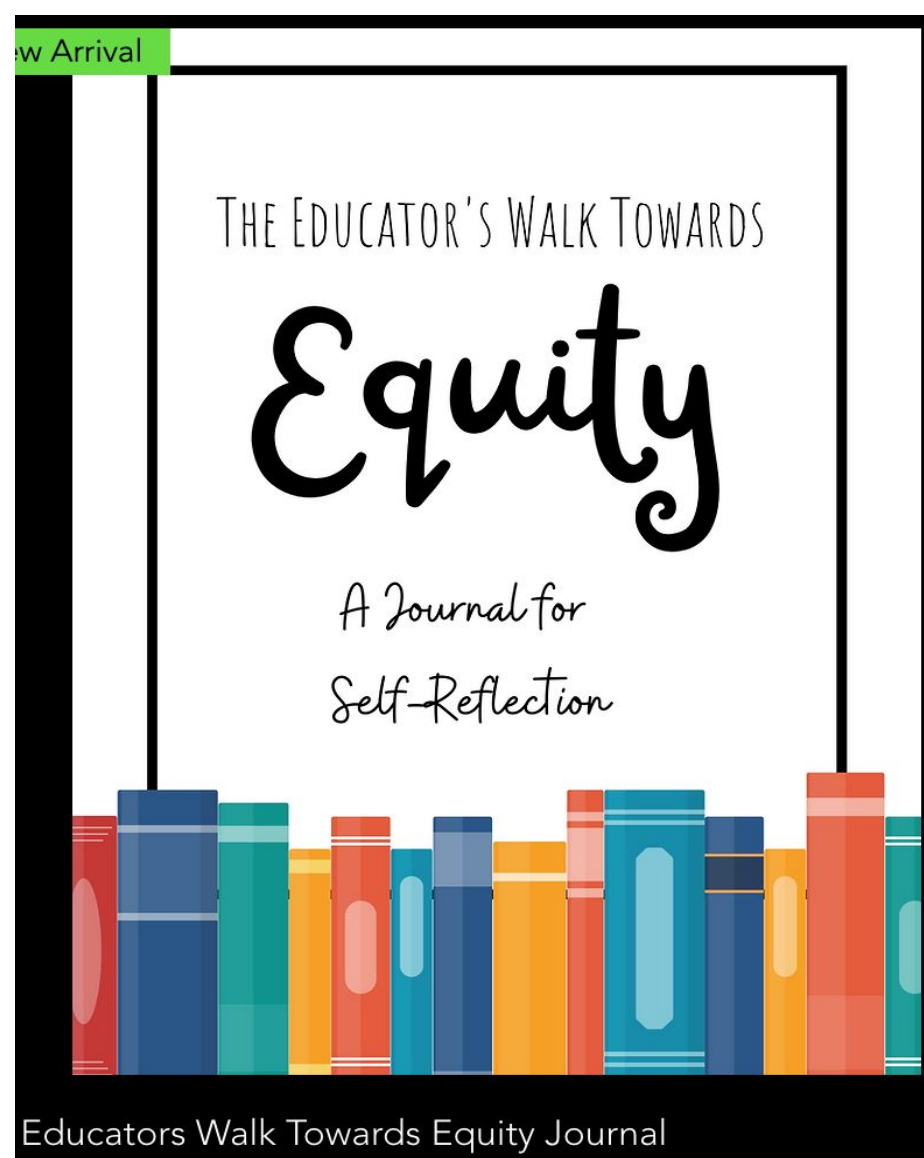
Professional Development

Dr. Wornum

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

You may have noticed that journals are 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.



**Take the
Professional Development Survey**

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

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

- Supporting Multilingual Learners with Inclusive School Practices (Series begins March 14, 2024)
- Special Education from Then (1974) to Now(2024)- How It Has Evolved (Series begins April 22, 2024)
- Best Practices for Multilingual Learners (Series April 26, 2024)
- Resolving Conflict through Constructive Communication (Series begins March 24, 2024)
- Symptoms, Diagnoses, and Mental Health Struggles Facing Today's Students (Series begins March 5, 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

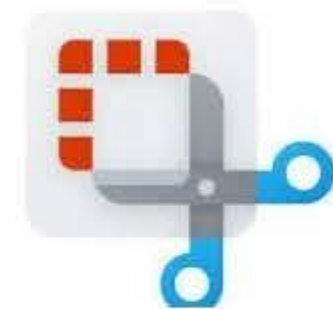
Using the Snipping Tool to Copy Images

The **Snipping Tool** is a useful feature that is built into Microsoft Windows. It looks slightly different depending on the version of Microsoft Windows, but it always functions the same way. It allows users to “snip” any portion of the screen and save it as a picture file or copy it to the clipboard for pasting.

You can easily find the snipping tool by using the Windows Search feature. It can also be pinned to the taskbar for quick access.



Windows 10



Windows 11



The Snipping Tool has an intuitive interface, and includes various modes to capture images. For educators, this tool allows for quick additions of images to worksheets, presentations, and other files. It also includes some basic picture editing functions!



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.

