



HPS District Compass

MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE **Hull Public Schools**

Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 1/ISSUE 1
November 2022

Dates to Remember

November

17 Taking a Toke Parent Presentation K - 12 MMS
6:00 pm & 6:45 pm

18 HHS Football Game

18, 19 & 20 *Grease!*

22 HHS PowderPuff Game

23 JES Turkey Trot

23 District Early Release

30 JES Trimester Ends

December

5-21 Second Galileo Benchmark

12 Reconfiguration Presentation to School Committee

14 HHS Band Concert
6:00 p.m.

15 MMS Band Concert
7:00 p.m.

20 JES Winter Concert during school day

20 MMS Chorus Concert
7:00 p.m.

22 District Early Release

Hull Pirate Pride - Together We Make A Difference

Welcome to the first edition of HPS District Compass that will be published quarterly. Now that we have shifted from COVID updates, the purpose is to continue communicating with all stakeholders in a fresh format. Thus, the creation of a quarterly newsletter for families 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 quarterly content.

In September, the School Committee voted to accept the Best Educational Use of School Facilities Ad Hoc Committee reconfiguration recommendation for grades PreK–7 to be located at Jacobs School and grades 8–12 at Hull High School. At future meetings, the School Committee will continue to explore the feasibility of this configuration, under the umbrella of what is in the best interest of students. It was conveyed that the Memorial Middle School will remain open for the 2023-2024 school year.

At the December 12 School Committee meeting, Principal Shaw and Principal Knybel will present preliminary reconfiguration possibilities of a Prek-7 and 8 - 12 model. To learn more about school reconfiguration beyond School Committee meetings, I encourage you to attend the next *Brewing Conversations* session with the Director of Curriculum and Assessment and me, scheduled for Monday, December 12, at 5:30 pm. This event will be held in the Exhibition Room at Hull High School.

-Judy Kuehn



District Calendar of School Events

Each school calendar has been linked to the District Event Calendar, located on the District Homepage of the HPS school website, to streamline communication of school events for families. Continue to check your students school calendar for school specific information.

[Link to District Calendar of Events](#)

MCAS Assessment Update

During the School Committee Meeting on November 14, the Director of Curriculum & Assessment and the three school principals presented the MCAS achievement results from the Spring MCAS testing. Below are the highlights from the presentation and links to both the MCAS presentation and the DESE accountability data for Hull - School and District Profiles. If you have questions regarding your child's specific MCAS report, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

- Our math achievement was at or above the state in grades 3-7 and 10.
- Overall, we saw typical student growth, although our expectation is high growth.
- We were ranked #1 in both 10th grade ELA and Math compared to the assigned DART schools. (DART schools are similar to our schools' enrollment, grade span, and special populations.)
- Our high school students' average score was above the state in ELA, Math and Science. They are in the top 20% in ELA and Math.
- Our middle school had mixed results. However, we saw significant growth in the 6th grade math results. They were 19% above the state average in meeting and exceeding expectations.
- Our elementary school had strong Reading and Language scores. The writing scores declined, as consistent with the state. Math and Science scores were above the state average.
- Two critical areas of focus in our accountability results:
 - Attendance, 28.9% of students, missed 10% (18 days) last year, and 4.9% of students missed 20% (36 days). The average number of days missed in 2021-2022 was 13.
 - Our MCAS participation rate is low compared to the state, meaning we did not have 100% of our students in each grade take the test. This link demonstrates how each of our grades compares to other grades within the Commonwealth. [MCAS 22 Part. Rate](#) We are a small district, so when even a small number of students don't take the test it has a significant impact on our district.

MCAS Presentation [MCAS Fall 2022](#)

Hull Accountability Data [2022 Accountability Data - Hull \(01420000\)](#)

The MCAS test is only one data point and should not be considered in isolation. It is an end-of-the-year summative assessment. In grades 1-12, we also use an assessment platform called Galileo that provides teachers with in-the-moment data, allowing them to adjust instruction to meet your child's needs. Three benchmark tests are given to assess growth and learning compared to the end-of-year grade-level standards at each grade. A beginning of the year benchmark is done in September, then a second in December, followed by a third in March for grades 3-12 to understand what standards need instruction, and in May for grades 1 & 2. Students may be assigned short 5-question quizzes between these benchmark assessments to monitor student growth and progress. In all three buildings, teachers regularly monitor student progress and plan instruction to address the current needs of their students. Upcoming parent-teacher conferences are the perfect opportunity for parents and caregivers to discuss their student's progress.

HHS - November 16 (evening)

HHS/MMS - November 17 (afternoon)

MMS - November 17 (evening)

JES - December 8 (afternoon & evening)



Elementary Literacy Curriculum Review



This year we have assembled a committee to conduct a Literacy Curriculum Review at the Jacobs School. Curriculum reviews are conducted every five to seven years to examine our curriculum's effectiveness, adjust for research changes, and enhance student experiences and outcomes. The committee, led by co-chairs Ms. Lindsey Rajan and Ms. Emily Rosado, also includes a representative from each grade, a special education teacher, two reading teachers, and a speech pathologist; have developed and conducted a curriculum needs assessment. Currently, all teachers are reviewing the three literacy curriculums recommended by the committee. Teachers will recommend two programs to be piloted after the first of the year. We will update families as the review progresses and of our next steps.

Learning Walks



The District Leadership Team is in the second year of conducting learning walks across the district.

During a learning walk, each team visits a number of classrooms for a short amount of time. Assigned in two teams, three learning walks are conducted in each building per year by the District Leadership Team. Principals follow up with additional learning walks in their buildings throughout the year.

The goal for year one was to calibrate the Leadership Team's observation skills and engage in conversations focused on teaching and learning. This year the teaching and learning expectations that our walks will focus on were shared with educators. Some of the expectations are: objectives posted in friendly terms, learning tasks are rigorous and aligned to lesson content, and lessons are structured to meet the needs of all learners with multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding.

After each walk, the principal shares and discusses the Leadership Team's noticings, wonderings, inspirations and suggestions at faculty and grade level meetings. This practice allows educators to use data to identify trends across the district thus, improving the educational experience for all students.

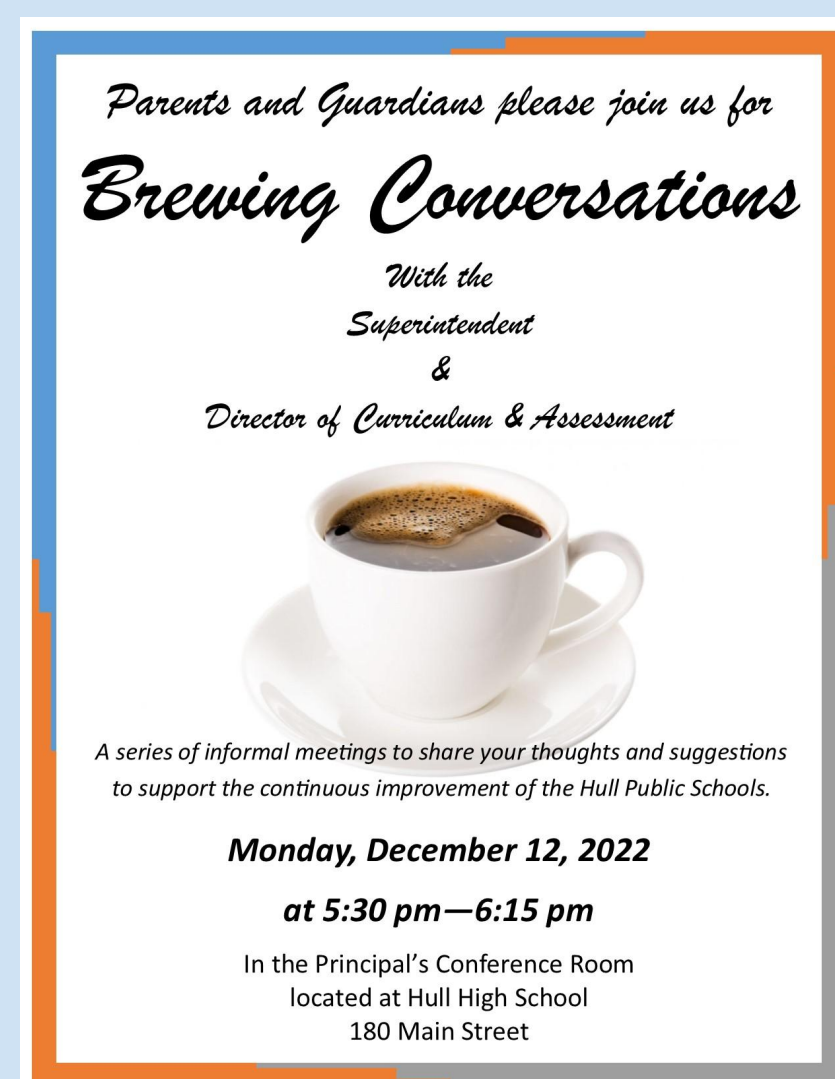
Live Streaming

We are pleased to announce we have installed cameras at the Hull High School field and the Hull High School gymnasium that will allow us to livestream events. We are finalizing the setup but we expect to have the gym camera operational for the winter basketball season. Stay tuned for more updates!

Communication

The District Leadership Team is comprised of the Superintendent, Director of Curriculum & Assessment, Director of Student Services, School Business Administrator, building principals, and assistant principals. This team is committed to engaging in thoughtful conversations with all stakeholders. By actively listening, decisions are made in the best interest of all students.

To ensure student voices are elevated and heard, the Superintendent and Director of Curriculum & Assessment meet regularly with students across the district. In addition, they are hosting *Brewing Conversations* opportunities for parents/guardians to ask questions and hear updates about the district in a small group setting. The next *Brewing Conversation* is scheduled for Monday, December 12 at 5:30 pm in the Principal's Conference Room at Hull High School.



Click picture to view flyer

STRETCH your food budget

The Stretch Your Food Budget (SYFB) program is a service project of the Nantasket-Hull Rotary. Its goal is to help Hull citizens stretch their food dollars by enjoying free, nutritious, delicious dinners packaged in easy-to-prepare kits. The meal kits contain all the necessary ingredients for the recipe, along with simple directions. The prepared dinners provide 4-6 servings—enough to feed a family! [Click here](#) for more information.

Did You Know?



Jacobs School - Mrs. Ryan is teaching technology again after teaching fifth grade for the last two years. This year Mrs. Ryan is incorporating more STEM, and soon STEAM, into the technology curriculum, focusing on engineering and design. Above are pictures of students in grades 4 and 5 collaboratively working on a STEM challenge to build a free-standing tower using only certain materials. The groups were able to identify criteria and constraints, as well as reflect on what they could do to improve their design. Some had success on their second attempt while others learned that some of the greatest inventions started as failures.

Memorial School recently hosted *The Geography Gameshow*, which was sponsored by the PTO. The Geography Gameshow is an interactive educational event that involves the creator and host, Neal Nichols, Jr., drawing geographical maps entirely from memory. This program challenges and enhances the comprehension and learning skills of students through the use of geographical knowledge.



[Geography Game Show website](#)

Hull High School College Panel Event

Hull High School guidance counselor, Nancy LeBlanc, recently hosted a College Panel event for students, parents and guardians. The panel consisted of representatives from local colleges and universities, who answered questions read by the school guidance counselors, Nancy LeBlanc and Dan O'Donnell. The event was recorded to be televised on HullTV.

- [Click here to view the questions](#)
- [Click here to watch the event on HullTV](#)

Woodshop Program

Students in the woodshop program are making all types of amazing projects including: baseball bats, Adirondack chairs, wooden spoons, boxes, wooden bowls to name a few.

In addition, applied physical science and principles of engineering classes are being offered and enrollment is increasing.



Thank you letters to Veterans

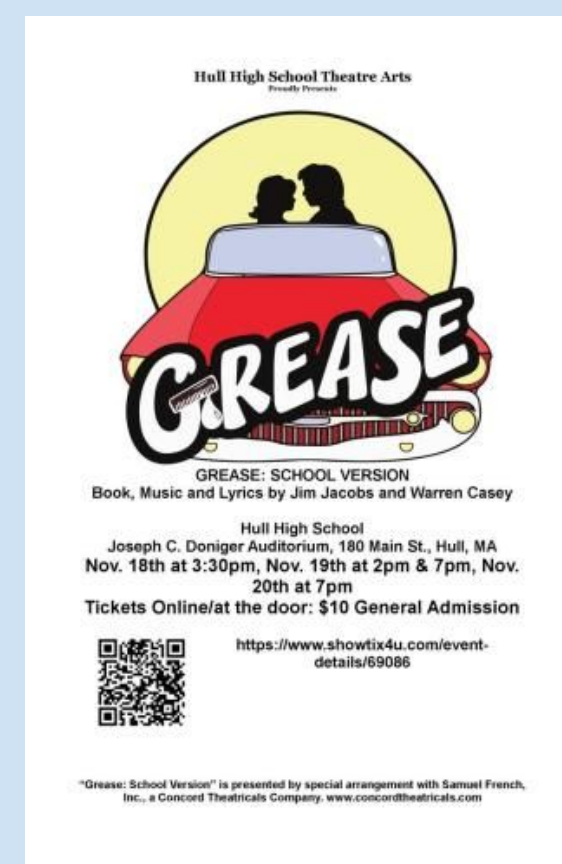
Over 200 letters and cards were written by students in grades PreK-8 and given to Craig Wolfe to distribute to Veterans.

HHS Theatre Arts Presents

GREASE: SCHOOL VERSION

Hull High School
Nov. 18 @ 3:30 pm
Nov. 19 @ 2pm & 7pm
Nov. 20 @ 7 pm

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)



Flu Shots are available in all schools

See your school nurse to receive your flu shot.

At-home COVID Test Student Distribution

DESE has provided the district with a one-time distribution of at-home COVID-19 test kits to be used for staff and students. These tests may expire as soon as late January 2023, so should be used before that time. If you would like two boxes (4 tests) for at-home use please [click here to add your child's name and school.](#)