

Paw-sitively Connected

Great Path Academy at MCC



GPA STEM Expo 2015

Great Path Academy students have been working since winter break on a project from one of four STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) categories; traditional science fair, filming, gaming/application design, and inventions.

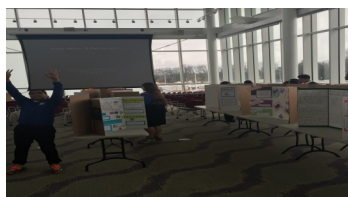
Traditional projects could have a focus in either a physical science or along a biology track. Students came up with ideas ranging from analyzing the affects of hair dye on different types of hair, to analysis of the affects of Facebook use on sleep and the physics of how to focus a digital camera.

We had many amazing filming projects surrounding this year's theme, "What makes people special?". Our GPA students show clear talent for expressing messages through visual media with a multitude of creative takes on the subject matter. One group's film presented the topic as a tangible, sellable "As Seen on TV" item, while another explored the question through an epic mission that took them throughout CT.

GPA students also produced a veritable cornucopia of finely programmed games and applications. Students created applica-

tions that were capable of reading astrological signs, games to teach math concepts, and others that promote self esteem.

The final, and most contested category was inventions. There was stiff competition between the



Students visit the GPA STEM Expo.

entrants who created designer, multi-purpose lunch bags, automatic salt-dispensing shovels, and labels toys to help disabled children communicate more clearly with medical practitioners trying to diagnose their ailments.

On Friday March 27, 2015 the students showcased their work at the GPA Annual STEM Expo. The Community Commons was transformed that day into a blustering array of tri-fold boards, unique new inventions, and creative film projects.

Throughout the day students from all classes had the opportunity to visit the presentations and watch the filming projects. Teachers also had their students participate in thoughtful critiques of the projects which helped our judging staff to determine the winners:

Traditional Biology- Jacinda Pinnock & Teeah McDonald

Filming: 9th- Zariyah Peak, Tyuanah Watson, Crystal Eubanks, and Taylor Davis

10th- Edward Meco, Stephon Akomeah, and Benett Sullivan

11th- Richard Hamilton, Owusu Darko, Samad Ahmad, and Steve Adams

12th- Suzette Kuerbitz and Kelly Shouldice

Gaming and Applications: 9th- Shawn Akomeah, Matthew Dagmawi, Ronald Wilson, Wail Abdul - Hussein

11th- John Kaminski, Reinaldo Stewart, Obdulio Santiago, and Aaron Hill

Invention: 9th- Nick Sombirc

10th- Myia Tedeschi

Congratulations to all who participated and thank you for your tireless dedication and hard work on these products!

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GPA Senior Visits ESPN for Capstone

Ryan Brumant, a senior at Great Path Academy, was still smiling a full 24 hours after he returned from ESPN. His visit was in order to support his Capstone work, a graduation requirement of all seniors. Throughout the course and with the support of his teachers, including his advisory teacher, Mr. Simpson, his culinary and business teacher, Mrs. Sherman and his physical education teacher, Mr. Basile, he crafted his capstone topic, beginning with his volunteer hours of assisting with coaching the girls' basketball team at Capital Preparatory Magnet School. Through his time spent with the coaches there, who were athletes in college and many

conversations, he was able to pinpoint a focus for his topic- the prominent issue in the news of the exploitation of athletes, whether or not college athletes should be compensated during their time playing for a college, as they bring in huge revenue to the colleges that they represent. During Ryan's visit to ESPN, he met with Meg Green, Senior Director of Talent, Recruitment and Negotiation, who toured the site, showing the visitors studios, such as the studio for His and Her and shared how everything worked to prepare the content for television and radio. Ryan then had the opportunity to sit down with Laphonso Ellis, an analyst at ESPN. Ellis played college sports during his

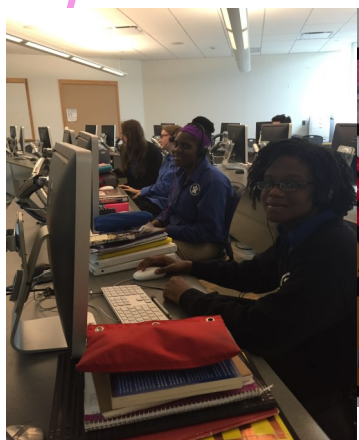
undergraduate career at Notre Dame and then went straight to the NBA. Ryan was interested in hearing an insider view on the topic of college sports players getting compensated. Ellis shared his story- how his school sold t-shirts with his number on them, but not his name, how on some nights he had to choose between doing laundry or eating. Ellis' opinion is that the players should be compensated, but rather than paying them during their time in college, money should be placed in a trust for college players. After the discussion, Ryan shifted his viewpoint from thinking that players should be paid, to "I don't think they should get money, but they should have more benefits... like to always ensure that they have something to feed themselves. Hearing his side made me think about it more and more from his perspective."

Special points of interest:

- GPA's "A Second Cup of Coffee" for parents to gather and discuss our school community is here! The next meeting is April 28th, from 5-6 pm.
- "Antigone" performance dates and times: April 23rd and 24th at 7 pm and April 25th at 2 pm, in the MCC auditorium.



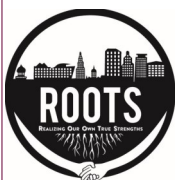
Above, Ryan and Mr. Basile tour ESPN.



Students in Mr. Wolf's Music Technology class working in the Maclab.

Unified Arts News

Our students were invited to design a logo for the ROOTS Youth Leadership Conference. Each student in Graphic Arts class created a design according to what "roots" means to them. These designs were then shared with the designers at Hartford Prints. Hartford Prints created two drafts for the official ROOTS logo inspired by the students' designs. Then our GPA Graphic Arts students critiqued Hartford Print's logos and voted on the one that they liked best.

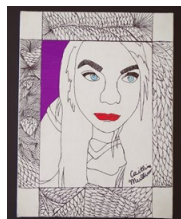


Hartford Prints is now finalizing the final logo based on the

students' input and suggestions.

The finalized logo will be printed on the T-Shirts that will be worn at the conference.

Our students are invited to attend the conference, which will be on May 15th. It is free of cost and transportation and food will be provided.



GPA Drawing Students are studying contour line as part of their Line Unit. They are working on "Selfie" inspired contour self-portraits.

GPA Ceramic Pottery Students are using different types of molds to make plates and bowls with formal

balance. In addition, they are learning a variety of clay decorating techniques such as incising, print-



ing, and applique.

In Spanish I, we are learning to express things & foods that we like and love. In Spanish V, students just finished reading the book "Cajas de Cartón". Also, students went to the MCC academic support center to learn what is available in college to enable them to succeed.

Social Studies News

In U.S. History, we are analyzing the start of the Cold War and debating how the war actually began. Throughout the month we will look at events that arose as a result of the Cold War, and how these events impacted American lives. We will also explore our current relationship with Russia and draw comparisons to the Cold War.

In Mr. Buder's Geography class, we are currently analyzing human consumption in the world. We are looking at different cultures around the world and discussing the differences between developed and developing coun-

tries. Students are learning about the "digital divide" and how technology plays a role in the world today.

In World History, students are continuing to work on their family research projects. In class we are just starting our unit on Russia. Students are analyzing the impact of the early czars and how Russia has developed over time. Students are making connections to the Ukraine crisis and are discussing the current relationship of the United States and Russia.

Ms. PD's Geography class is finishing up their Globalization and Outsourcing

unit. Students have been investigating two case studies (Sri Lanka/Garment Factories and India/Call Centers) to understand these concepts that will continue to affect our country.

Philosophy class has completed their choice project after reading Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. After students expressed an interest in learning about Social Darwinism, students have been working on a mini-unit investigating some of Charles Darwin's theories of evolution as well as Herbert Spencer and his ideas that became known as Social Darwinism.

Students in Ms. Diez's Spanish class working together.

English News

American Literature -- Students are finishing their work with the poetry of the Harlem Renaissance and are ready to embark on their reading of Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. During their reading, students will have an opportunity to meet Prof. Lucy Hurston, the niece of Zora, who is a professor at MCC. Prof. Hurston will talk with the students about her aunt and her work.

College Writing/Communications -- Students are in the middle of reading and analyzing Shakespeare's Hamlet. Following this look at Shakespeare, the class will move onto a short unit on Film Studies as Seniors prepare for

their final marking period at GPA.

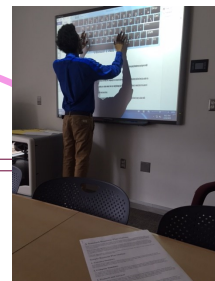
Students in English I have started reading A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. The essential question that will guide their reading is: What is the American Dream? Students will analyze the structure of the play and determine how Hansberry conveys various themes.

Students in English I Honors are reading Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. They will explore Shakespeare's use of poetic devices as well as the various themes in the play. Students will have the opportunity to act out scenes from the play as well as update a scene for a

contemporary audience.

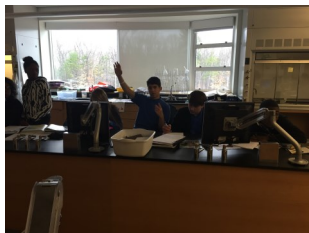
English II Honors just completed their first constructed response connecting and evaluating author writing styles. Students are now working on enhancing their Socratic Seminar. They just read Desiree's Baby by Kate Chopin. They will connect it to common themes in Joy Luck Club.

English II College Prep is currently working on MLA citation and analysis of textual evidence. Students are examining the theme of journey to manhood in A Lesson Before Dying.



Above, students in Ms. Ruoff's Spanish class circle up for a class discussion. Below, Dr. Zotos discusses literature with students from his class in the upstairs breakout area.





Science News

Anatomy and Physiology

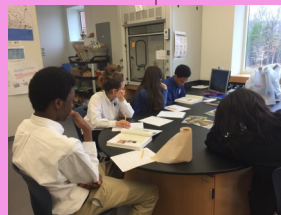
We continue to push ahead, trying to complete our studies of the human body as the year seems to quickly wane. For our remaining body systems, we will be doing an overview of the working of the body systems, and particular organs. For instance, we will be doing our heart dissection within the next week, while investigating diseases affecting the heart, and move ahead to the respiratory system, where our emphasis will be on the physiology of the system. Students will participate in lung activities using our Vernier equipment to test each person's lung capacity, comparing how variables such as gender and physical fitness may influence an

individual's results.

Biology

Students are completing their studies of cell biology and world health by completion of our culminating group project. In groups, our classes are analyzing possible interventions for particular diseases and then creating a world health plan that aims to diminish or eliminate the impacts of their chosen disease.

We will quickly move ahead to begin our studies of ecology, examining a variety of ecological issues including the impact of human activities on ecosystems, culminating with a project where students will suggest actions humans can take to help sustain ecosystems for the future.



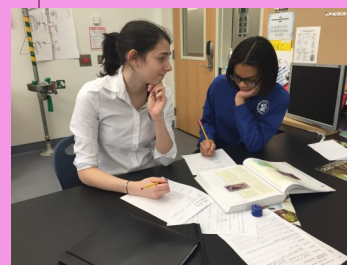
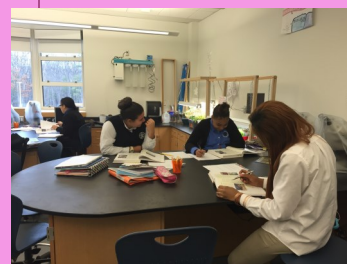
To the far left, Nahjel raises his hand in Ms. Chaki's class. To the left and below students work together in Ms. Thurrott's science class.

The science department is proud of all the hardwork that students put into the STEM project. Heartiest Congratulations to the ones going on to the district level.

Students in honors chemistry are finishing up the unit on periodicity. They are excited about the upcoming unit on chemical bonding and look forward to learn about the amazing world of bonding between atoms.

Students in regular chemistry are "finger printing" atoms to determine what makes them unique. They are doing this by performing the flame test lab. With that they will finish up the current unit on periodicity and go on to chemical bonding.

Galapagos 2016! Please see Ms. Thurrott for details!



Below, Javante Danvers poses before accepting the Fox Scholar Award.



Math News

In Ms. Kondratuk's Algebra II and Statistics class, we have been moving at a great pace and have covered a ton of topics this year! Way to go GPA students!! The fourth quarter will be spent going deeper into certain areas including quadratics in Algebra II and combinations and permutations in Stats!

In Pre-calculus, students are investigating the properties of sinusoidal functions as well as their applications in biology, meteorology, and

music. In Geometry, students are investigating the efficiency of different types of packaging using surface area and volume.

Algebra class is moving at full speed now. We are currently finishing up a unit on data analysis and scatterplots, two skills that will be invaluable in the work place. We have also begun review to get ready for the NWEA test. We are looking for students to knock this test out of the park

this year! College Prep math is getting to the far reaches of the Aleks program. We have one student about to finish all of her work early for the year, and number of other students not far behind! I look forward to seeing these students progress and move past the curriculum planned in the Aleks program!

Student Spotlight— Fox Scholar Recipient

Javante Danvers, a graduating member of the GPA class of 2015, has been honored with the Fox Scholar Award. According to the scholarship's website, "The Jacob L. and Lewis Fox Foundation was established in 1936 by Lewis Fox, a graduate of Hartford Public High School and a local attorney, as a memorial to his father, Jacob L. Fox. The Foundation has awarded college scholarships to graduating seniors of Bulkeley, Hartford Pub-

lic, and Weaver high schools annually since 1937, and expanded scholarships to include students from Hartford host magnet schools in 2009. To date, over 1,000 students have received financial aid from the Foundation. Although Lewis Fox, a prominent member of the Hartford Board of Education for 37 years, died in 1976, the legacy of his devotion to the youth of Hartford continues to support their educational efforts." Javante has also earned the Day of Pride Merit Scholarship from

UConn, where she will be taking her undergraduate courses.

The combination of these two awarded scholarships will cover much of her undergraduate schooling costs.

Javante says, "I feel so honored to receive these scholarships. It shows that if you work hard and always try your best, you will get recognized. Best of luck to all GPA juniors for next year, find all the scholarships that you can— they are out there!"



GREAT PATH ACADEMY AT MCC

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Responsibility and Safety

We're on the web!

www.greatpathacademy.org



Above and to the right, Mrs. Sherman's Business and Culinary classes tour MCC and learn about the Hospitality major at a luncheon at MCC.



In our school community: Above and to the left, students in GPA's Gardening and Sustainability Club get out to the community gardens across the MCC campus!

College Excursions with the GPA Guidance Department/ GPA Awarded PBIS Banner School Status!



A trip to Eastern CT State University helped students to see what college life will be like for them.

invited to visit these schools. Trips have included Eastern, Central and Westfield State, students have also been shown UConn and Yale. The counselors strategically choose schools that students express an interest in locally. The main pur-

Every spring, the guidance counselors at GPA organize excursions to a variety of campuses to expose students to what college life is like firsthand. All students who are academically and behaviorally eligible to attend are

pose is to expose students to a variety of different college campuses and environments. Specifically, once on a campus, students are given tours and shown the highlights of a school.

Ms. Corcoran, GPA guidance counselor, said that there were two specific moments when the students really lit up. One was when they saw the college classrooms and felt that it wasn't so scary— they said that the classrooms looked like they do here at GPA, especially for those students who take the MCC courses. Also, the students eyes were opened to dorm life when they visited the dorms, they saw how small the rooms were and how life was going to be for them when they live at college. Of course, they also always love the college cafeteria experience!

GPA is a PBIS Banner School:

Great Path Academy has been recognized by SERC (the State Education Resource Center) in regards to the implementation of PBIS within our school Community. PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) has been a model that the school has implemented with complete fidelity in order to best support our students' needs and to help to recognize all the good that is being done on a daily basis here at GPA. It is a positive mindset and GPA is very proud to accept this acknowledgement. Two Hartford Public Schools have received this honor for 2015 and the school will be recognized at the PBIS Leadership Forum being held in Mystic, CT in May. Members of the GPA PBIS Leadership team will attend the conference in order to represent GPA. We are very grateful to every single member of the GPA family that has contributed to the accomplishments this year.

Great Path Academy @ MCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, political belief, veteran status, or sexual orientation. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Susan Canty, Title IX Coordinator
tor.canty001@hartfordschools.org

*Thank you to the following donors to the PBIS Gotcha Cart this month:
Mrs. Canty*

*We appreciate the support for helping to recognize GPA Student Cougars for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe!
If interested, donations can be made to Ms. Canty— please email cants001@hartfordschools.org or call (860) 512-3723.*