

Paw-sitively Connected

Great Path Academy at MCC



Summer Bridge to a New School Year

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2016

This year GPA welcomed its fifth round of Freshman students! Teachers and students

were both extremely excited (and nervous) to meet on another. The objective of the summer bridge program is to allow students to become familiar with their new school home. Although

students first came in quiet and nervous, they

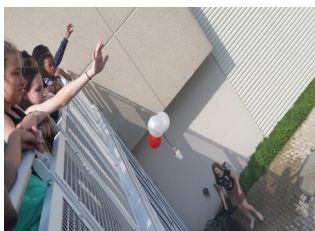
left having formed new friendships and positive interactions with teachers. Upperclassmen vol-



unteered to participate in the program. Their responsibilities included: leading team building activities, assisting with pre-assessments, and practicing GPA's three attributes. Students participated in an egg drop activity that involved

creativity and team work. Students were also asked to elaborate, in written format, how summer

bridge gave them a more in depth view of GPA. One student noted that GPA seemed "like a family, or a home away from home" GPA staff is looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2020!! We are sure you will do some amazing things.



New Addition To Counseling Staff!

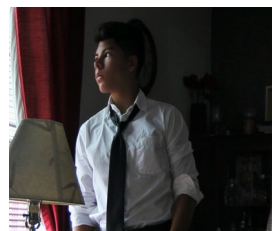
We're happy to welcome Camille Geathers to Great Path Academy. Mrs. Geathers is a wonderful counselor who loves working with kids and helping students in this capacity because she knows how much they struggle outside of the academic world. Geathers states, "Working with students and seeing them achieve their goals is the best part." Thank you for being part of the GPA family!



Advice Column: Ask Bennett!

How do I not give into Peer Pressure?

This question has been asked and pondered for quite some time by a vast majority of people. And the answer truly lies within you. Do not ever think enacting in an activity or action that makes you uncomfortable is "cool". If you wouldn't do it regularly or haven't done it before do not let your so called "friends" pressure you into it, especially if its illegal. You all have a good understanding of your own boundaries. It is perfectly fine for you to say no. It is also crucial to understand what your getting into. Think long and hard about what repercussions might come from engaging in this activity. You all are perfect the way you are, never for one second think you need to change to fit someone else's standards.



Inside this issue:

Unified Arts News 2

Social Studies News 2

English News 2

Science News 3

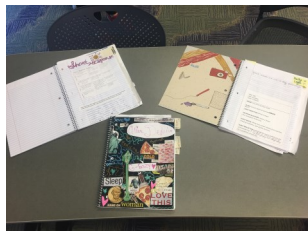
Math News 3

Our School Community 3

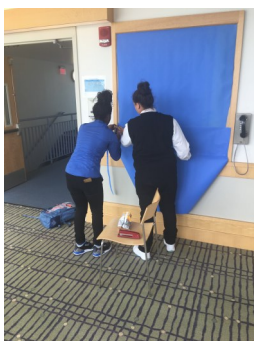
Student Highlights 4

Did you know?
The GPA Guidance Office has an Independent Reading library that students can check books out of! See Ms. Spencer for details.

Below: The artwork journal created by a GPA student.



Below: GPA students are taking a proactive approach in promoting a positive climate by creating wall decorations.



Unified Arts News

Spanish one students have began to greet each other, talk, and write about the calendar (date and days of the week). Spanish two students are working on demonstrating their knowledge about ar, er, and ir along with the verbs ser & estar. Spanish four are comparing & contrasting the point of view on immigration and started learning preterit vs. imperfect verbs.

GPA art students are creating art journals that they will use throughout the semester to document their learning journey. Their journals include the

Below: Students getting ready for a fresh year at GPA!



categories, Daily Reflections, Project Planning, Writing about Art, and Short Responses to arts current events articles. To start off the year, we read about the high school artist, Akilah Johnson, the national winner of the 2016 Doodle4Google contest. Her winning artwork, "Google in My Afrocentric Life", was based off of the contest's 2016 theme, "What Makes Me, Me." GPA students then asked themselves the same question,

"What Makes Me, Me", and decorated their journals to express who they are with imagery, words, and the Elements of Art. All GPA Art students will be participating in this year's Doodle4Google contest, which starts September 14th, for a chance to show their art to the world! Students not currently enrolled in GPA art classes are encouraged to participate. Please see Mrs. Sanderson for details!

Social Studies News

In Modern World History classes, Mr. Buder and Ms. P-D are introducing students to early civilizations. Students have reviewed the factors that make a civilization and have developed their own criteria for what should be considered a civilization. We are beginning to analyze the first laws and discuss how they were created. We will begin to look at laws in

our country and the world and how they change overtime. Students have also spent time discussing and debating current events. Additionally, students will participate in a lesson marking the fifteenth anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attack.

In U.S. History, students are exploring the emergence of Industrialization during the late nineteenth cen-

tury, a period referred to as the Gilded Age. Students will examine the factors that led to Industrialization and the various effects, both positive and negative, that this transformation had on American society. While submerged in this period of history, students will also have the opportunity to follow our upcoming Presidential election and develop their own opinions based on individual research.

English News

New Addition In The English Department!

Another teacher has been added to the GPA Family! Welcome Danielle Sullivan to the staff. She's a great teacher who also had a great English teacher which inspired her to become one herself. She enjoys finding every student's strength and weakness and basically helping them out. So far, she loves GPA and thinks it is an amazing school. One cool fact about Mrs. Sullivan is she plays softball and volleyball which are her favorite sports. We're glad to have you here, Mrs. Sullivan!

Ms. Johnston's Classes

Students in English I are about to start the short story unit in which they learn how to complete a close-reading of a text. Students will explore the concept of identity and how authors effectively convey themes surrounding identity in writing. In CPWL, Students are working on narrative writing and their college essays. They will examine exemplar models for craft and structure and apply those conventions in their own writing.

Mr. Simpson's Classes

In American Literature, students are examining what it means to

be an "American" and discussing how those ideas affect their everyday lives. In College Writing, students are beginning to read Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* as they explore the rich history of Latin American Literature and Magical Realism. In CPWL, students are planning, writing and editing their college essays to prepare for application season, which is just around the corner!

Ms. Sullivan's Classes

My American Literature Honors class is time traveling into the 1700's to see what early America was really like. From reading

texts such as What is an American?, The Declaration of Independence, and more! My English II Honors class is students are now getting ready to read *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. Students will continue to explore the idea of individuality and conformity throughout the text, the world, and other texts in the process. My English II class has been exploring the idea of identity and conformity. Students will read *Night* by Elie Weisel. They will explore the idea of leaving a legacy and the importance of the decisions they make in this world.

Science News

All science students began the school year by reviewing and learning specific safety procedures and protocols for our science labs. Biology students will then delve into the first unit on sustainability. This unit teaches the foundational exploratory procedures and language that we will utilize throughout the curriculum. In Physical Science, students will then begin their first unit on atoms and matter. In this unit the students will be exposed to vocabulary of fundamental chemistry. The first major unit for students in the Genetics will be Molecular Genetics. They will study key atoms and the biomolecule DNA.

New Addition In The Science Department!

Liahna Gonda-King is excited to join the GPA family! She has been teaching high school science for the past two years at Bulkeley High School. Ms. Gonda-King also coaches the novice girl's rowing team and races with competitive women's team at Riverfront Recapture in Hartford, CT. In her spare time, she loves running, and completing crosswords. The GPA family welcomes you here, Mrs. Gonda-King!

Below: Ms. Gonda-King is pictured below teaching an interesting Science lesson!



Math News

Mr. Hoffman's classes are off to a great start! Algebra is focusing on understanding patterns in numbers and in nature, and then figuring out how to use these patterns to answer questions based on real life scenarios. College Prep math is reviewing to get ready for their pre-test so they can complete the entire Alek's math program. Only one student pulled it off last year, so we'll see who can rise to the challenge. Calculus Honors has the daunting task of reviewing 4 years worth of material in just 3 weeks, and they are doing a phenomenal job. They have taken a pre-test and no one has scored below an A. This is shaping up to be a great year. In Ms. K's Algebra II class, we are off too a great start! We have started unit 1 on Functions and Inverse functions. As a class we are exploring linear programming and how to maximize profit in real world situations. In pre-calculus it has been great working with the same group of students I had last year! We have started unit 1 on conic sections.

New Addition In The Math Department

We also have a new addition to the Math Department which is Brian Sarkozy. He's an awesome teacher who enjoys teaching the kids his favorite subject. So far he loves GPA as well and loves being able to interact with the students. One cool fact about Mr. Sarkozy is his favorite sport is hockey and favorite team is Boston Bruins. Well, we're glad to have you here as well Mr. Sarkozy!

Below: Our new geometry teacher, Brian Sarkozy!





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Respect, Responsibility and
Safety

We're on the web!

Www.greatpathacademy.org

Like our Facebook Page (Great Path
Academy)



Madyson Carroll, the editor of the school newspaper, is a sophomore at Great Path Academy and is currently taking English Composition at Manchester Community College.

If you would like your work to be published on the school newspaper, notify Madyson or Mrs. Robinson for more details!

Student Highlights @GPA

Below: Jesmaryn
Gonzalez.

Jesmaryn Gonzalez

Jesmaryn is a graduating senior who spent her summer being a clerical assistant at MCC. For her, it was a good experience because she got to interact with a lot of things at MCC. Also, supervisors from MCC taught her how to work with copiers and take contracts from teachers. In the future, she would like to attend UCONN and major in nursing.

Cadeem Nembhard

During this summer, Cadeem serviced in the army for ten weeks to learn how to establish leadership skills, and to become not only a soldier, but a better person in general. Cadeem stated, "It

taught me to keep going even when I wanted to quit." He will be attending again this summer and the program will pay for his college.

Destiny Ojeda & Jenna Emond

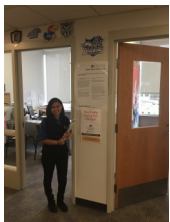
These two lovely ladies spent their time helping students set a better understanding of the school and students body. Jenna stated, "Being able to get to know them and individually having conversations with all students was the best part." Both feel that they gained better leadership qualities as the result of the experience. Destiny wants to attend UConn and Jenna would like to attend University of Maine.

Asia Monsalve

Asia is a freshman that recently attended Great Path Academy. She likes it here and didn't expect to be as good as she thought it was. She feels that everyone is very kind including the teachers and recommends this school to others. Her main goal here is to be able to take college classes and get very good grades.

Rasheda Codling

Rasheda Codling is also a freshman currently attending here and is already off to a good start here at Great Path. She not only likes every subject, but with every subject requires a wonderful teacher for her. She would like to finish this school year strong.



Above: Cadeem
Nembhard.



Above: Destiny Ojeda and Jenna
Emond informing the group of
students about the school.



Above: Rasheda Codling &
Asia Monsalve.

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, scanty001@hartfordschools.org.

Thank you to the following donors to the PBIS Gotcha Cart this month:

Dunkin' Donuts for the donations of "any-size free beverage" vouchers.

We appreciate the support for helping to recognize GPA Student Cougars for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe!