

Paw-sitively Connected

Great Path Academy at MCC



GPA March All-School Meeting and Blazer Ceremony

In an event that demonstrated intense school pride and solidarity of school community, the GPA school community gathered on March 18th. The focus of the event was to honor students of the month, induct new GPA Allies, and showcase student talent. Of note was a wonderful introductory speech by

Yalanie Santana, in which she spoke of growing and learning and the journey that many students take as they do so.

Congratulations are in order to the following students of the month, chosen by grade-level teachers:

9- Ariel Wolfe, Godiva Rodriguez Jennings, Breanna Graves, Justin Bertram, and Mika Corderre

10- Matthew Martin, Stephanie Owusu, Aliza Delvaglio, Cameron Gilbert, and Michael Cotton

11- Steohon Akomeah, Kylie Delgado, Brendan Medovich, and Myia Tedeschi

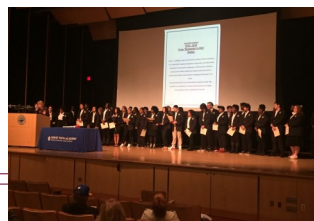
12- Michelle Alberini, Micaela Logan, Dayjohn Vasquez, and Reinaldo Stewart

The event moved on to feature the new GPA Drumline, led by Mr. Wolf. The students performed a drumbeat compiled by Owusu and took turns performing solos.

The MC's of the Ally Blazer Ceremony were Magan Santana and Gabi Robertson, two seniors who have worked on the Ally group through their Capstone project. They stated, "together, we will make Great Path Academy a safe place for all." They have now passed the torch on to Destiny Chiverton and Jonathon Rosa (photo to the left). They welcomed the following students to the group:

Sana Ahmad, Litzy Angeles, Michelle Appiagyei, Brenda Castillo, Ranizha "Nunu" Dailey, Kylie Delgado, Tahira Durant, Ashley Fecko, Jadea Harris, Justin Hernandez, Sujeiley Hernandez, Owen Hewett, Troi Johnson, Cheneal Ming, Cristian Osorio, Stephanie Owusu, Timothy Powers, Bridget Shouldice

The new GPA Ally students were sworn in by the Honorable Judge McKinney. She stated, "I am looking at you with such hope- these are the rewards, to see the commitment you are willing to make. Your actions



The Honorable Judge McKinney leads the new GPA Allies in their Pledge.

are forming you, your character and who you will become. The simple bottom line is that it's easier to have bad behavior, to make an excuse. To do what is right takes hard work." Judge McKinney is a retired Probate Judge serving East Hampton and Acting Judge for East Had-dam. Judge McKinney also served at the Central Connecticut Regional Children's Court in Meriden, CT. While a member of the CPA Judge McKinney served on the Executive, Legislative, and Continuing Education committees. She retired in 2011.

A poem written by Owusu Dar-ko was read by Troi, Benett, Owen, Jonathan and Mikeala. This poem was beautiful, stating, "This day marks a progression, we unite with hopeful hearts."

The all-school meeting closed with a performance by Destiny Arroyo and Amy Vasques. The girls sang the popular duet of "For Good", from *Wicked*, the Broadway musical. Students from GPA took a trip to see this musical on Broadway in past years (photo below).



To Love'. She has an amazing voice. Other people were great too! Everyone was extraordinary!"

Tim went on to praise his music instructor, "Mr. Wolf put a lot of hard work into planning these nights, including, but not limited to, the Winter and Spring Concerts, along with many others. He gives a lot of his time to making the GPA Music Department better and it is all the better for him."

(Photos of the event on the back page.)

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Review of the GPA Cabaret Nights

Tim Powers, a junior, was a part of the GPA Cabaret Nights. In his words, "It was amazing. Mr. Wolf did an amazing job setting it up and chose acts that worked very well together, as well as the theme that tied everything together. My favorite part was the commercials that Music tech made- Music Tech class did an awesome job creating those." The performers planned the event from the beginning of the year and the

main acts were chosen in January, when students auditioned. Some highlights from the performances were the GPA drumline revealing their talents and the GPA Vocal Ensemble encouraging the whole room to stand up and "Shake It Off". The GPA Jazz band was also included, as well as many solo and partner performances. "One of the most amazing parts of it was when Amy was doing her solo with the Vocal Ensemble in 'Want Somebody

Special points of interest:

- Prom Fundraisers have been going on- please check the GPA website and Facebook to see the events as they come up!



Below: Benigno Vargas and Sana Ahmad work on their paintings.



Unified Arts News

In Health class, we are currently studying about teen pregnancy. Students are asked to research the emotional, financial and physiological aspects of a teen pregnancy. Each student was asked to carry a 5lb bag of flour to simulate a newborn baby. At the end of this assignment the students had to submit a diary consisting of a list of their experiences.

On April 5th (8 a.m.), Ms. Maria Laporte, Forest Richardson's mom, will come to GPA to hold a yoga demonstration! All students and faculty are invited. Must RSVP by March 18th:

traym001@hartfordschools.org

Pre-Capstone - We just finished up with the Y program, which concentrated on various life skills.

Culinary 2 - Is getting catering experience by providing food for the Ally training with the ADL on campus. They will have to plan, prep, cook and serve 50 people. The menu is Italian themed including Sausage and Peppers, Chicken Cacciatore and other crowd pleasers. They also learned a little butchery and broke down whole chickens.

Baking - Our bakers have moved on to cookies and have mastered the normal selections so they progressed onto icebox cookies and bars.

Personal Finance - Our students have been busy online with the H & R Block Budget Challenge which simulates real life. It is always

exciting to see how our students are ranked nationally against over 54,000 others. They also just started our Banking unit which goes over all of the products and service that a bank offers.

This month students in Computer Applications class have begun researching for their Power Point projects. All subjects must be of a global or national issue, cause, news, etc. For example, we have students doing presentations on: Bullying, Autism, Global Climate Change, Concussion's in Sports, The Holocaust and Present Ramifications, and Marine Animal Adaptations.

In Graphic Design, we just completed Adobe Photoshop and are now in the middle of the animated movie maker program: Alice. Students are making their own animated short films.

Social Studies News

Ms. PD's Geography students have completed a mini-unit on Australia, where students investigated Australia's system of apartheid and the long term affects of this legalized segregation on its indigenous Aborigines. Geography students are now moving their focus to North Korea in order to more fully understand current events and the modern relevance of the Asian peninsula of North and South Korea.

In World History, students have been researching current events. There have been many issues that students have been learning about including the Flint, Michigan water crisis, the upcoming presidential election, social issues, and the Zika virus. Students have been learning about the causes of the French Revolution. We will be finishing up our unit on the French Revolution with Napoleon Bonaparte and will then be moving on to Russia.

Throughout the month of March, U.S. History student's examined the effects of World War II on various groups in America such women and Japanese Americans. We also analyzed the government's use of propaganda to rally support for the war. At the end of the month students will investigate President Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb and debate the pros and cons of that decision.



Below— Bridget

Shouldice's Celtic designs.



English News

English I students are finishing The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. They will begin their next unit on "A Raisin in the Sun" after break. Honors students also finished Night by Elie Wiesel and are about to start "Romeo and Juliet" for our drama unit.

Art News

At the top left-hand side of this page are Ceramic Gargoyles and Grotesques, on display during this year's Cabaret Night Event. Students were to create a ceramic "Grotesque", and then had the option to turn their creature into a functional "Gargoyle" fountain.

Painting is a new art course offered this semester at GPA. Students are currently studying Abstract Art, and are creating paintings inspired by Cubism and Abstract Expressionism.

Graphic Arts students are creating Celtic inspired Interlace Designs using motifs and patterns.

Pictured to the left-Bridget Shouldice's interlace designs. Bridget brought in her sister's childhood Irish step dancing dress to share with the class. "Irish is a big part of my heritage. I like that I can express myself through different Celtic Interlace Designs."

Science News

Biology students are deep into their study of genetics. Having covered basic Mendelian traits, they are now exploring the structure of the DNA molecule, how it is replicated, read, and used to make possible all cellular functions.

Physical Science students are learning about acids and bases. They have seen the Arrhenius, Bronsted-Lowry, and Lewis definitions for acids and bases. Soon they will be utilizing indicators to determine the acidity or basicity of

chemical solutions.

Anatomy and Physiology students are beginning to examine the special senses. This is a natural extension unit from the nervous system, because it allows them to see how sensory information is processed and interpreted.

Articulated students are progressing quickly through the systems and will soon be starting to consider their culminating systems project.

Forensics students are learning how to examine trace evidence. They have been

preparing slides for different types of hairs, and using the anatomical features to discern between human and non-human specimens. Shortly, they will be expanding their studies to include synthetic and natural fibers.

10th graders have been working diligently to prepare for the CAPT assessment in science. On March 10th, their hard work paid off—we strive to achieve our school goal for proficiency!

Math News

Hey GPA Mathematicians,

Our math classes are into the full swing of things at this point. Algebra students have learned to graph and work with lines using a bunch of different fancy equations. Now they are seeing how two lines can interact with each other. College Prep math has three students who have already finished the first

online course, and are now working on extension topics. This takes most students all year to complete. Finally, Calculus students have begun graphing incredibly complex functions by hand. It incorporates EVERYTHING they've learned all year, so it's exciting to see them put it all together.

Algebra II courses are studying exponential functions. They have learned the exponent rules and are investigating exponential growth and decay problems as well as solving exponential equations, they are on a role! Pre-calculus students are studying the sine and cosine functions that are often seen in jobs related to science and engineering.

Student Spotlight

We have a number of seniors who have been receiving notice of scholarships! Of note, we have:

Hartford Promise Eligible Applicants: Illiana Laboy, Micaela Logan, Nancy Lys, Reinaldo Stewart, Dayjohn Vasquez, Aaron Hill, Talia Clarke, Owusu Darko, Cecile Davis, and Sydney Brockman.

Angelique Melakian— Honors and Recruiters Scholarships to

Lubbock Christian University

Mikaela Rivera, who has received the Presidential Scholarship and has been accepted into the honors program at Southern!

Obdulio Santiago— Merit Scholarship to Eastern

Talia Clarke— Black Social Worker Scholarship

John Kaminski— Presidential Scholarship to UConn

Owusu Darko— Presidential Scholarship to UConn

Congratulations to the following students who won Art Awards at this year's Cabaret Night Event: Bridget Shouldice, Troi Johnson, Michelle Alberini, Michelle Appiagyei, and Jessica Sokoloski. Artist Award.



Mika Corderre, a freshman, sings with her Choir, Chorus

Angelicus. She sang Paul Halley's Freedom Trilogy for the American Choral Directors Association conference in Boston MA on February 12. They were the only invited choir from Connecticut, and Mika was the youngest soloist from all the invited choirs!

The GPA Music

Department is proud to announce the

following:

Broadway Trip:

April 20th

GPA'S Spring

Musical- Guys and Dolls:

May 12th-14th



Above: Jessica Sokoloski stands next to her artwork, holding her Master Artist Award.



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Respect,
Responsibility and Safety

We're online!

www.greatpathacademy.org



In our school community...

Photos from Cabaret!

Hartford InterACT/ GPA Guidance Spring Schedule

Below, students work together to cut out plot points from Romeo and Juliet.



Hartford InterACT: GPA Drama students participated in a Hartford InterACT workshop cycle based upon the Romeo and Juliet production at the Hartford Stage. During the pre-show workshop with Andy Germuga, students worked on pantomimes with sections of the prologue, character sculptures—where they were given descriptions and then constructed characters, and the very popular Shakespearean insult activity—where students chose words from three lists to compose their own Shakespearean insults. During the three-hour long production, they sat in first row seats—a highlight was Angelique getting sprayed by Mer-

cutio's blood during the fight scene. Lastly, they met for a post-show workshop where they were given seven plot points and had to work to eliminate two, while still effectively telling the story—a strategy that many have to go through in order to perform Shakespeare, as Shakespeare is commonly truncated.

GPA Guidance Spring Event

Schedule:

March 30th- participating Juniors are visiting the College Fair from 9:30 depart, should return 11:30.

April 11th- participating Juniors to Central CT State U. depart 9:30, return 1:30

April 26th- Honor roll and National Honor Society induction ceremony 6pm -8pm Auditorium

May 4th- participating Juniors and (possible other art interested students 9-10g), visit to Paier School of Art. Depart 9am- return 1:45

May 4th-Junior Parent Night 5:30 pm Auditorium

May 6th- ACCUPLACER administration GRADES 9-11 for qualified students

May 9th-UCONN visit for participating Juniors Depart 9:30, return 1:30

May 25th-9th graders will have the option to attend a new Eastern CT State U-Knowledge College Day depart 9am return 1:30

May 26th-CHALLENGE ESSAY for ACCUPLACER students who qualify

**The colleges chosen above to visit this year are the results of a fall survey we gave to our juniors. These were the top schools that they chose to visit.

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, cants001@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, and the teachers and staff of GPA.

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.