

# Milton High School

## *School Improvement Plan*

*School Committee Presentation,  
January 8, 2014*



# Milton High School Site Council

- James Jette, *Principal/School Representative*
- Michelle Kreuzer, *Vice-Principal/School Representative*
- Tracy Grandeau, *Special Education Chairperson/School Representative*
- Greg Pullia, *Teacher/School Representative*
- Ben Kelly, *Teacher/School Representative*
- Mary Scott, *Parent Representative*
- Kathy Huntington, *Parent Representative*
- Veronica Guerrero-Macia, *Parent Representative*
- Betty White, *Community Representative*
- Vicki McCarthy, *Community Representative*
- Brendan Hunt, *Student Representative*
- Mairead Dambruch, *Student Representative*

# Agenda

- Milton High School Improvement Plan
- Milton High School Improvement Plan

## Goals and Initiatives

- MHS Highlights

# School Improvement Plan

- I. High Academic Achievement for All Students
- II. Excellence in the Classroom
- III. Collaborative Relationships and Communication
- IV. Respect for Human Differences
- V. Risk Taking and Innovation for Education

# High Academic Achievement for All Students

- Closing the Proficiency Gap
- Development and implementation of a Biology mid-year exam that is substantially similar to the MCAS
- Increase the number of formal cross-disciplinary and integrated learning experiences for all students
- Provide professional development time to for the use of data to maximize the effectiveness of instructional decisions and practices
- Common Assessment for each discipline (In Progress)
- Ongoing enhancements to the curriculum to meet new MA Frameworks (Common Core) and new AP standards
- Provide targeted support for standardized assessments (MCAS, SAT, AP & PARCC)
- Assess support structures for ALL students

# Excellence in the Classroom

- Provide teachers with four half-day professional development sessions for collaboration for the purpose of improving teaching and learning
- Increased opportunities for interdisciplinary learning opportunities
- Increase opportunities for teachers to have professional discourse
- New Teacher Evaluation Tool (discussion and training)
- Ongoing focus on Student Engagement

# Collaborative Relationships and Communication

- Increase communication between Milton High School and the community
  - MHS Information Night – Grades 5-8
  - Advance Placement (AP) Information Night - Grades 7-12
  - Pierce PTO Information Night – Grades 6-8
  - Milton High Happenings - An online newsletter highlighting student, department, and school achievements
  - MHS\_Tweets twitter account - short news bursts about MHS events
  - Naviance - College Planning
- Continue to develop community partnerships
  - Replications – Calculus Project
  - Boston College - pre-practicum and full practicum students
  - Norfolk County District Attorney's Office - School Safety
  - School-to-Careers Partnership - connections with business community and legislative leaders
  - University of Pennsylvania , MIT and Biogen
  - Liberty Mutual – Senior Project

# Respect for Human Differences

- Further develop opportunities for students through the Diversity Committee
  - School-wide Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities – January 20, 2014
- Continue educating students and families about good decision making and adolescent well-being
  - Positive Affirmations
  - Anti Bullying Curriculum and Presentations
  - Substance Abuse Awareness Initiatives
  - Teen Safe Initiative with Dr. Knight and/or Liberty Mutual
  - Diversity Committee Survey – Students
  - International/Diversity Celebration (In progress)
- Analyze and continue to develop the advisory program



# Risk Taking and Innovation for Education

- Increase opportunities for students to think critically
  - Technology Opportunities In the Classroom
  - Debate
  - Mock Trial
  - Speech
  - Robotics
  - Senior Project
  - Life Smarts
- Continue to provide specialized programming to support students
  - AP Boot Camp
  - Calculus Project
  - Alternative Program
  - Student Support Team
  - Bridge Program
  - Homework Club

# Items that MHS Site Council is reviewing:

## Milton High School Student Handbook Policies:

- Technology Policy
- Attendance and Tardy Policy
- Backpacks/Locker Use
- Snack Time
- Dress Code

# MHS Highlights

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have begun using ChromeBooks in their math classes.
- Students in the Honors and AP Computer Science Classes helped implement a successful Computer Science week at the high school. Math and Science teachers committed to having 100% of our MHS students Code for 1 hour during the National Computer Science Week which took place December 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Math Team is in its' second year of existence. Students have already competed against Braintree High School, Randolph High School, Stoughton High School, Thayer Academy, and Arch-Bishop Williams High School in two different competitions. Four seniors also competed in the WPI high school math team competition back in October.
- Students in the Personal Finance course are completing a Financial Literacy online program created through the Blue Hills Bank hosted by EverFi.

# MHS Highlights Continued...

- Students visited **Biogen Idec Research Facility** in Cambridge, MA where they worked on an ELISA (Enzyme- Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay) lab. Students ran tests and assessed mock patient exposure to an infectious agent (mock HIV) by running ELISA on patient serum.
- Robotics Team (Milton Static) has participated in two scrimmages at Notre Dame Academy and Needham High School within the past month. We have our Qualifier meet at Lexington High School on January 11th and we are hosting our second annual qualifier meet at Cunningham/Collicot on Feb 2nd.
- The Robotics team was also invited to be a part of "First Night" this year in Boston at the Hynes Convention center. The students presented their robot which illustrated all of their hard work from this year
- Mrs. Tom is in her second year bringing the Biograph program using Biology computer simulation in the classroom. This is a collaboration with University of Pennsylvania and MIT.
- Anatomy classes will be attending the Body World Exhibit at Faneuil Hall this February

# MHS Highlights Continued...

- Milton High School has procured a subscription to Noodle Tools online software for all of our students. Noodle Tools is a research and organization tool students can use for all their classes, where they can store notes, works cited information, etc.
- MHS librarian hosted a Freshmen Library Orientation for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, and students were told about the many electronic and print resources our library has to offer.
- Our Debate Team has competed in tournaments at Yale University and Revere, Manchester-Essex and Lexington High School. At the Yale tournament two Milton High teams had a break to tournament, which no other MHS team has done before. Cormac Connors and Chris Dsida as a team finished second on two different occasions this Fall (out of a field of more than 150 students from all over the state).

# MHS Highlights Continued...

- English teachers celebrated Family Literacy Month by asking parents to get involved in conversations about literature. Each teacher designed a lesson that included a conversation at home about the literature students were studying in class. We received great feedback from parents who really enjoyed having those academic discussions with their child.
- This Spring students in grade 9 will see a performance of Romeo and Juliet and grade 10 students will see Macbeth live on stage in the Charles Winchester Auditorium here at Milton High. Shakespeare Now is a Boston based performance company and they will visit our school to present a live performance of these two great Shakespearean plays.
- The Drama Club will perform Rabbit Hole at Milton High School in February, and then will take their show on the road and join area schools in a Drama Festival in early March.