

Hull Public Schools and Police Department Receive Grant for Opioid Prevention Program

HULL — Superintendent Michael Devine and Chief John Dunn are pleased to announce that Hull Public Schools and the Police Department received a \$20,000 grant to implement an opioid abuse prevention program at the elementary and middle schools.

Hull received the grant in November, which is administered by Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Over the next year, the school district and police department will work to develop a program for children.

“Like all communities, Hull has been greatly impacted by the opioid crisis,” Superintendent Devine said. “With this grant, the school district and police department can develop a program that will give our students the knowledge and skills needed to make good choices and form positive and healthy relationships with adults.”

The grant money will be used in a number of areas throughout the district for targeted learning opportunities surrounding abuse prevention. Chief Dunn and Superintendent Devine would like to extend a sincere thank you to resident David Shapiro for notifying the town of this opportunity and serving as the grant liaison throughout the process.

“We know that to address the opioid epidemic we must be proactive and reach students at an early age so that they continue to make healthy choices into their adult lives,” Chief Dunn said. “Thank you to PhRMA for providing Hull with the funding needed to launch a comprehensive opioid abuse prevention program for our children.”

- - The funds will help purchase materials and bring in presenters from the research-based Botvin LifeSkills Training. The multifaceted program works to: teaches students the necessary skills to resist social (peer) pressures to smoke, drink and use drugs; help students to develop greater self-esteem and self-confidence; enable students to effectively cope with anxiety; increase students’ knowledge of the immediate consequences of substance abuse and; enhance cognitive and behavioral competency to reduce and prevent a variety of health risk behaviors.
 - Hold trainings, such as “Hidden in Plain Sight,” which will give parents greater knowledge about opioid abuse, including how to look for signs that their child may be using drugs or alcohol.
 - Hire teachers and/or other respected community figures to sponsor a three-day per week after-school program at the Memorial Middle School with high-interest activities (i.e. open gym, dance, etc.) that will engage students outside of the regular school day.

- Bring in the [Improbable Players](#) to do a workshop and panel discussion for all students in grades six through eight. The themes of the presentation will be reinforced in small group discussions.
- Purchase board games and host a Family Game Night where literature about opioid abuse will be available for parents.
- Hold a monthly poster/video contest at the Memorial Middle School. Each month will have a set theme (i.e. resisting peer pressure, opioid facts, etc.) and the winner will receive a \$100 gift card to a local store.

“PhRMA is pleased to support the efforts of local law enforcement working collaboratively with education leaders to ensure our young people are aware of the dangers of opioid misuse,” said Priscilla VanderVeer, deputy vice president, public affairs at PhRMA. “We need a balanced approach that ensures appropriate education and prevention to address this critical public health challenge.”

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Hull High School AP Spanish Students Visit State House for Annual MIRA Luncheon



Front row, left to right: Seniors Sean Healey, Jessica Goode, Krista Carpenter and Katie Punchard. Back row, left to right: State Rep. Joan Meschino, seniors Michael DelGuidice, Leah Dunn, Hannah Lees, Alyssa Albert and Spanish teacher Elizabeth Wescott. (Courtesy Photo Hull High School)

HULL — To wrap up their first unit of study, Hull High School AP Spanish students traveled to the State House for a real-life lesson on immigration and citizenship.

On Nov. 20, AP Spanish seniors Sean Healey, Jessica Goode, Krista Carpenter, Katie Punchard, Leah Dunn, Hannah Lees and Alyssa Albert, along with teacher Elizabeth Wescott, attended the Our Shared Table luncheon. The event was hosted by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) — the largest coalition in New England promoting the rights and integration of immigrants and refugees.

The annual luncheon celebrates newly sworn-in and aspiring U.S. citizens. During the students' first semester, they completed a unit on "Personal and Public Identities," where they worked on a project about the Hull's immigrant community, and in the process came upon MIRA.

Given students' excitement and dedication to the project, Wescott reached out to MIRA for a potential field trip opportunity, who invited them to the State House for the Our Shared Table event.

During the luncheon, the students served food and were able to listen to speeches about immigration and citizenship, including one from U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and immigrants from the Boston area who are working to help their communities. Students also got to practice their Spanish with some of the MIRA employees and immigrants, and tie their work back to their studies on global challenges and contemporary life and families and communities.

"AP Spanish students enjoyed the field trip and were also able to make connections to their curriculum with an authentic and memorable experience," Wescott said. "I was so impressed with students' maturity, enthusiasm and initiative. It was a great day."

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Hull High School Students Excel in Fall Athletic Programs

HULL — Athletic Director Scott Paine is pleased to announce the successes of this year's fall sports teams.

"Every team, despite ups and downs along the way, had a fantastic season," Paine said. "I'm extremely impressed with the continuous dedication of players, coaches and of course our fans who supported us across the board. We're looking forward to building upon our successes next year."

Cross Country

The Cohasset-Hull cross country girls and boys teams had very successful seasons.

Both the boys and the girls teams won the South Shore League Tobin Division Championships. The boys team also won the South Shore League Meet Championship. Seniors Michael DelGuidice and Jessica Goode led the teams as this year's captains.

Cheerleading

This year, the cheerleading team had one of its largest squads, with 24 participants from all four grades.

The girls competed in the Braintree Cheerleading Invitational, overcoming a snag with the music and winning the hearts of the crowd despite not placing.

The girls also performed well in the South Shore League Competition and fell just short of qualifying for the state competition. Seniors Emmeline Yennaco and Krista Carpenter and junior Rylie Evans led the team as captains.

Football

The team played their best in every game, despite a grueling South Shore League schedule. The boys picked up three wins this year over Blue Hills, South Shore Voc- Tech and Diman Regional Voc-Tech.

The highlight of the season was the Thanksgiving Day Game against Cohasset High School. The Pirates played spectacularly and the game was decided on the last play of the game. This year's captains, seniors Nick Scanlan, Hudson Ciulla-Sestito and Cristian Amador did a great job leading their teammates.

Boys Soccer

The future of boys soccer at Hull High School looks very bright. The combination of new coach Rebecca Garber, who brings much-needed enthusiasm, along with the talent of players who are focused and hardworking, was exactly what this program needed to find sustained success going forward.

The boys were competitive in every game and picked up three wins, the most impressive being a 5-2 win over Middleboro — a school much larger than Hull. Seniors Kyle Cuklanz, Dillion Spadea and sophomore Max Iorio served the team well as captains.

Girls Soccer

The varsity team went on an historic run in the MIAA Tournament this year, reaching the South Sectional Championship, but eventually fell to Millis High School.

The varsity and junior varsity girls also did an amazing job raising \$2,000 for their Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, and \$3,000 for the EM20 Scholarship Fund. With only three girls graduating from the team and the junior varsity team holding onto their competitive edge, the girls soccer teams also have a bright future.

This year's varsity team was led by captains senior Lily Whelan and juniors Christina Murphy and Lauren Anastos.

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Hull AP Bio Students Participate in Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's Career Exploration Day



Hull AP bio students visited Ironwood Pharmaceuticals as part of Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's Career Exploration Day. Back row, left to right: Senior Nate Froio, sophomores Victoria Rosado and Maeve Donohue, and seniors Jessica Goode, Grace Waters, Kyle Cuklanz and Alyssa Albert. Front row, left to right: Senior Sean Healey, sophomore Melissa Rymaszewski, and seniors Charlotte White, Emily Reppucci, Krista Carpenter and Erica Thornton. (Courtesy Photo Hull Public Schools)

HULL — Hull High School students in Advanced Placement biology took a special trip to Cambridge this month to visit a local business as part of Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's Career Exploration Day.

Organized by MassBioED, Career Exploration Day works to foster a connection between the classroom and science industry by giving students the opportunity to interact with people working in the field and learn about career options.

On Nov. 15, AP biology teacher John Donohue took seniors Charlotte White, Emily Reppucci, Alyssa Albert, Grace Waters, Krista Carpenter, Erica Thornton, Nate Froio, Jessica Goode, Sean Healey and Kyle Cuklanz, along with sophomores Victoria Rosado, Melissa Rymaszewski and Maeve Donohue to Ironwood Pharmaceuticals.

Located in Cambridge, Ironwood is a biotechnology/bio-pharmacology company that employs around 600 employees, and produces the drug Linzess, which is used to treat IBS.

Upon their arrival at Ironwood, students received a welcome talk from Todd Milne, one of the company's founding scientists, before taking a tour of the laboratory and meeting with several members of the senior staff at the company.

The day concluded with a luncheon, where students sat and talked with Ironwood employees about their jobs and career paths.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about the wide variety of career paths in the thriving biotechnology industry here in Massachusetts,” Donohue said. “Our students are fortunate to have generous and welcoming professionals who are willing to share their experiences and knowledge in order to encourage the next generation of leaders in this important field.”

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Hull Public Schools Receive Generous Donation to Purchase Multi-functional School Bus



Left to right: Juniors Chad Noto, Noah Lanner, Lauren Anastos, Ryan Hanlon, Sam Taverna, Shelly Craig, Tess Froio and Hannah Duran with Hull Public Schools’ new activity bus. (Courtesy Photo Hull Public Schools)

HULL — Superintendent Michael Devine is pleased to announce that, through a generous donation from the James and Mary McNamara Foundation, Hull Public Schools were able to purchase a multi-functional activity bus.

The 14-passenger bus, which the district received this month, will be used to transport smaller athletic teams, students in extracurricular clubs, field trip groups and teachers attending professional development seminars.

With the addition of the new bus, the district will also save money on transportation, as it can keep costs in-house as opposed to contracting with an outside provider.

“We feel so thankful and fortunate to have received this donation from the James and Mary McNamara Foundation to purchase our first multi-functional school activity bus,” Superintendent Devine said. “It is a great addition to the district and we’re pleased to be able to save taxpayers money while supporting our district programs.”

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Hull Schools Participate in the Community Partnership for Resilience to Teach Students about Climate Change

HULL — Superintendent Michael Devine is pleased to announce that Hull middle and elementary schools are participating in the Community Partnership for Resilience (CPR) project so that students can gain a better understanding of the effects of climate change.

CPR aims to empower youth and facilitate their involvement in local climate resilience work. Working with educators and climate change experts, science teachers and students in grades four through seven will create public education projects to develop their understanding of the local effects of global warming.

The project is funded in part by a two-year National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant, with the New England Aquarium and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council guiding the work.

Hull is in the second year of the grant, with the first focused on researching a specific area of study surrounding climate change. Last year, Assistant Superintendent Judy Kuehn met with a team from CPR as well as local experts from Hull on four occasions to determine a theme for students' projects.

On Sept. 18, seventh grade science teacher Joanna Frazier attended a regional meeting of grant recipients at the New England Aquarium to present on Hull's projects, which will focus on how storm surge will affect the town.

Throughout the year, students will engage in a variety of different projects and complete mini labs, where they'll analyze and review scientific data provided by NOAA. The goal is for children to better understand climate change-related issues that affect Hull, like the rising sea level, precipitation/flooding and extreme heat.

At the end of the school year, students will complete culminating STEAM projects within the community by integrating visual arts to communicate scientific data from NOAA related to Hull. Experts in climate change will be available to assist students throughout their studies.

"This program has two important goals," explained Frazier. "First, we want students to understand the challenges and the resources within their community. Second, we want students to respond to an issue such as global warming in a way that will have a positive impact on their community by overcoming challenges and drawing upon community resources."

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Grant Enables Hull High School Students to Explore Their Personal Stories and Examine Issue of Immigration Through Art



Artist and spoken word poet Zulynette Morales, top right, works with Hull High School students. (Courtesy Photo)

HULL — Superintendent Michael Devine is pleased to announce that Hull High School is hosting a traveling photo-text exhibit chronicling the struggles of refugees and immigrants through late November.

The exhibit, *Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees*, was created by The Family Diversity Project and was made possible through a grant awarded to art teacher Amanda Davis by Teaching Tolerance. The exhibit will continue through Nov. 22.

Teaching Tolerance Educator Grants support educators who embrace and embed anti-bias principles throughout their schools. These grants support projects that promote affirming school climates and educate youth to thrive in a diverse democracy. Teaching Tolerance is a program by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The grant also funded a visit from Connecticut artist and spoken word poet Zulynette Morales. She visited Hull High School for three days and facilitated workshops with students in their art, English and Spanish classes. Workshops included writing original poems, facilitator performances, group poetry writing/sharing, student performances and the creation of a visual representation of their individual poems.

Students wrote about their identity and spoke on issues relevant to themselves and their school community using inspiration from the *Building Bridges* exhibit, writing prompts and lived experiences. They learned performance poetry skills and created a school-wide open mic event where they shared poetry and encouraged community participation.

“Through exposure to different stories of identity, students will gain a greater appreciation for the differences and similarities between themselves, their peers and members of various cultures,” Davis said. “My vision is for the project to encourage a positive school climate by empowering students to express their creativity and individuality, build confidence and let their

voices be heard within the community. By celebrating our differences and creating a safe space for expression, we will cultivate an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding.”

The project aims to empower students to investigate their own stories, the stories of others and how those stories intersect. Through this exploration, students develop a positive view of themselves and others through reading, writing, performing and creating/interpreting art. Additionally, the project will help students understand their place in an ongoing story of immigration that began with groups that included members of their own ethnic backgrounds and continues today through changing immigrant populations.

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