



MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Introduction

This update overlaps both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Educating students during a pandemic impacted our entire community. After the school closure in March 2020, students finally returned to fully in-person school in April 2021. Through face masks we see the happiness of students and adults who thrive in their learning environments. Mansfield residents provided the resources to continue the critical work of making up for lost time during the height of the pandemic and to continue the upward trajectory of student achievement. I am proud to share these notable moments and activities.

Innovations

During the 2020-2021 school year, adjustments to staffing and curriculum were made to implement all models of learning including the remote program, hybrid model (i.e. a combination of in-person and online) and fully in-person learning. Technologies were leveraged to support students during this time. Faculty adapted to the innovations and they continue to utilize the variety of tools and resources and are now incorporating them into classroom routines. Fall 2021 kicked off a school year that is providing new and enhanced opportunities for students.

- MHS Engineering students are building structures to make a thermal greenhouse.
- QMS and MHS mathematics students are competing at a high level in several venues. MHS Math team is considered one of the top teams in the Southern MA Math League. Students participated in the American Mathematics Competition to test

problem-solving skills and mathematical knowledge. The QMS Math team is participating in the Eastern MA Intermediate Math League.

- The *Civics in Action* project was added for students taking American History courses.
- Science teachers run virtual labs in conjunction with traditional hands-on lab activities to allow students to revisit concepts from locations outside of the classroom.
- STEM challenges in the Science Lab and Innovation Station integrate science, technology, engineering, math, literacy, and social studies at the Jordan/Jackson School (J/J).



- The MHS Drama Department performed its first ever radio play called *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* and in the fall of 2021 performed Disney's *The Little Mermaid* for a live audience.
- MHS Visual Arts upgraded much of their digital art equipment including new digital drawing tablets, a state-of-the art extra-large Cintiq Pro digital pen display, and a ShopBot CNC router. QMS added 3D printing pens, 3D printing, laser engraving, and CNC milling to the curriculum.
- Students in the *Art in Public Places* class created murals at J/J, Robinson and MHS and the *Art of Mindfulness* classes are installing a "Gratitude Wall" at MHS.
- An eSports team was created and is competing at the Foxboro Helix Complex.
- Elementary students are learning digital citizenship lessons.



- Elementary school libraries are fully staffed and open to students on a daily basis.

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- McLean Hospital provides teachers with support for students with social emotional issues.



Facilities

- Construction for the school visitor/security entrances was completed during the summer of 2021.
- To be able to accommodate pandemic social distancing, 34 truckloads of furniture and furnishings were moved out of the schools the summer of 2020 and returned the summer of 2021.
- 5,300 square feet of concrete sidewalk was installed at the MHS/QMS loop.
- The East Street campus has been beautified with signage and landscaping.
- Six-hundred fluorescent light fixtures were replaced with cost-saving and energy efficient LEDs.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ~ *Every Child, Every Day*

Providing equitable opportunities for all of our students is key to high student achievement. The district undertook a self-audit to focus on policies and practices that expand equitable access to quality educational opportunities. The district is taking a proactive approach to determine actions that can be taken to better meet the diverse needs of students, staff and families. The months-long audit will lead to the development of a strategic plan. Faculty members have been creating, refining, and enhancing programs and materials for several years and some of the more recent work is described in this section.

- The Unified Basketball Team was created to allow students with disabilities to play high school sports alongside their peers in a supportive environment.
- The MHS Football team wore helmets with an equality decal during the delayed fall season. The decals were worn to focus on the need to support community members who do not have equal opportunity. The team finished with an overall record of 6-0 with a ranking in the top 3 in MA.
- The MHS English department created a new course, *Cultural Studies Through Memoir*. It provides a platform to discuss global issues. Titles include *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, *The Latehomecomer* by Kao Kalia Kang, and *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi.
- Teachers are using texts written by diverse authors including *Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome, *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds and books by Bryan Stevenson and Colson Whitehead. The elementary libraries are expanding their literature collections to ensure diverse and inclusive selections. The 5th-grade students are participating in a global read-aloud.
- The American Rights in Action course added units focusing on contemporary efforts to expand democracy, equality, and social justice.
- J/J students participated in the Massachusetts STEM Week 2021, supporting the theme aimed at encouraging and supporting underrepresented youth to pursue STEM careers.
- The district-wide Special Olympics were held on Alumni Field in June.
- The special education department provided Carter Kits to the Mansfield Police and Fire Departments to assist students with disabilities who require sensory aids.
- Roland Green is providing additional educational opportunities for non-special education and English Learner students with the addition of at-risk placement options for qualifying students.
- World Language courses include more authentic resources such as music, articles, infographics, and videos. Students are encouraged to engage with current events from around the world, and to make connections within their own communities.

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- *iCare* teaches elementary students about the differences that exist among students, especially those with disabilities, and focuses on respect and inclusion.

Successes and Achievements

The MHS Class of 2021 was celebrated and honored in a fine manner with an outdoor prom, a car parade during Senior Week, and the graduation ceremony held on Alumni Field. These students were well-prepared for their future plans as illustrated in the table below:

MHS Class of 2021 (320 students)	
80%	enrolled in a 4-year college/university
5 %	enrolled in a two-year college/post-graduation program
3%	enrolled in career education/apprenticeship programs
.3%	military
9.7%	employment
2%	gap year

- MHS was recognized by the Special Olympics as a Unified Champion School.
- The MHS Marching Band came in third place at the NESBA Marching Band Championships.
- Successful efforts brought in 100+ new music students to the music programs at J/J and QMS. MHS Orchestra created comedic videos to promote the orchestra program and then, the Select Choir and Concert Band, performed in a recruitment concert for students.

Community Engagement

- Staff and students are well known for their generosity of donations to Our Daily Bread, West Side Benevolent Society, the Rotary Club's Toys for Tots, and other local organizations.
- Career Pathways students have returned to visiting host sites in person.
- MHS participates in the MA Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Student Ambassador Program where a selected group of senior captains attend leadership workshops and then initiate programs to assist in their community.

- MHS entrepreneurship students have donated over \$12,000 to local organizations including the Mansfield Animal Shelter. They also made microloans to 45 aspiring entrepreneurs in 32 countries. In this way teens are making an impact in their own community and around the world.

The Mansfield Public Schools acknowledge the contributions of:

Parents/Guardians and Families
School Councils
Athletic and Performing Arts Boosters,
Special Education PAC, MESA and QMS PAC
The Select Board and Finance Committee
Town Manager and all Town Departments
Public Safety Officials
Department of Public Works
Mansfield Cable Access
The local business community and organizations
Volunteers

Thank you for your commitment to our schools!

