

Annual Town Report 2008  
Concord-Carlisle Regional School District  
Superintendent's Report  
Diana F. Rigby, Superintendent  
Peter Badalament, Principal

Concord-Carlisle High School has made excellent progress during 2008 due to the investment of many: students committed to learning at high levels, educators dedicated to effectively teaching students and to pursuing scholarship in their academic disciplines, parents invested in the life of the school, and community members demonstrating support through personal connections and fiscal resources. Because of the efforts of all, CCHS continues to make progress in a number of areas. With 1268 students enrolled this year, the high school continues to increase in student enrollment. Since 1998, the district has witnessed an increase of 356 students or 38%.

During the past year, the district has made significant efforts to improve the high school facility, addressing health and safety issues and responding to concerns raised in the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation Report. The fire alarm system has been upgraded in all public spaces. Energy efficient florescent ballasts and lighting have been installed in school's library.

The Concord-Carlisle High School staff continued to review and update course content and instructional methods. Sixty-four teachers at CCHS worked on numerous summer curriculum projects, aligning curriculum and revising coursework in Health & Fitness, US History, music theory, calculus, special education health, chemistry, biology, English, technology & art, Spanish, AP French, Chinese, the Compass Program and the Network Program. For the 2008-09 year, the science department created and offered a new course that has already proven popular: Chemistry in the Community. Coursework was also developed in drama, applied technology and health and fitness.

The use of technology as a teaching tool has expanded. Mobile computer labs employing laptop computers and wireless technology, classroom computer labs, and library technology are all used to capacity. Students and teachers in each classroom enjoy use of Activboards in storing and retrieving information and accessing websites. Virtually every teacher has been expanding his or her knowledge of the boards' potential through regular classroom use. During the summer of 2008, three week-long Activ-software courses were presented by CCHS technology teacher-leaders for twenty colleagues in each session. Technological teaching tools are revolutionizing the way students access information and how teachers present concepts.

Although student MCAS performance each year has been among the strongest in the state, MCAS remediation continues to be a factor in programming at the high school. Department chairs and faculty continue to analyze scores to determine what course design and curriculum adjustments are necessary to strengthen student learning, an example is the English Language Arts course of study for freshmen and sophomores. Students continued to perform well on all standardized measures of excellence, as noted in the bullets listed below.

This year eleven new teachers joined the high school professional staff to fill vacancies created by retirements, resignations, and leaves. To ensure that new staff members swiftly and substantively become part of the learning community at Concord-Carlisle High School, the district invests considerable resources in a mentoring program.

During the 2008 year, Concord-Carlisle High School continued to set high expectations for all students and reinforced its commitment to seeing young people expand their knowledge and develop intellectual, analytical, and social skills daily. The school continued its longstanding tradition of encouraging students to be contributing and caring members of the school, of the larger community, and of the world beyond. As a testament to this, students demonstrated their commitment to social responsibility through participation in numerous activities, raising funds for global efforts to counter world hunger and injustice, support human rights' efforts in Massachusetts, and stop human trafficking in Thailand. The volunteer work and community service done by the young people of Carlisle, Concord, and Boston are evidence that students have internalized the core values of the district and CCHS.

The bullets which follow provide a sampling of the work, activities, and accomplishments of students and staff—all of which contribute to making Concord-Carlisle High School a community where academic excellence, achievement, social commitment, public service, and involvement in the arts, athletics and other extracurricular activities are valued greatly.

- 100% of the Class of 2008 received a Competency Determination as a result of passing both the English Language Arts and Math MCAS Tests.
  - 96% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students scored proficient or advanced on the ELA MCAS.
  - 94% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students scored proficient or advanced on the math MCAS.
  - 95% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students scored proficient or advanced on one of the science MCAS tests.
- The median SAT score for the Class of 2008 was 1860 (with 1511 as the state average). Seven students in the Class of 2008 have qualified as National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists.
- From 2003-2008, 93% of AP Exams taken by CCHS students received a passing score (3 or higher.) In 2008, 96% of students received a passing score. Overall, 77% of AP exams were scored at 4 or 5.
- The average number of CCHS graduates planning to continue their education in postsecondary placements exceeded 90%.
- CCHS students continue to be successful in the college admissions process. From 2003-2008, 31% of students who were planning to go on to college matriculated at very selective institutions (colleges that admit 40% or fewer applicants) and 45% matriculated at selective institutions (colleges that admit 41-70% of applicants).
- The CCHS Concert Band earned its seventeenth consecutive gold medal at the prestigious Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) State Concert Festival. The Festival was held at Lexington High School and other locations across the state, on the first weekend in April. The CCHS Repertory Band earned a silver medal at the same festival. Both bands welcomed the return visit of the acclaimed Sapporo Shiroishi Symphonic Wind Ensemble from Hokkaido, Japan. The SSSWE is one of the finest high school bands in Japan and earned second place honors in last year's All Japan band competition. All three bands combined for an international joint concert, "Music Knows No Borders", at Boston's Symphony Hall in March.

- Art students participated in the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards regional exhibit and earned gold and silver keys; several students went on to national competitions. Students participated locally in the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society Show for art majors and the year-end awards and retrospective at Concord Art Association.
- In late winter of 2008, over 135 students performed as actors or musicians, created technical designs, built sets/props, implemented theatrical lighting and sound, and served as stage crew for the musical *Crazy for You*. Some of the technical work for this show was completed in the new CCHS "Technical Stage Design and Production" academic course. In May 2008, 55 students performed on stage and were involved as technical crew for Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. In August 2008, 39 actors, musicians, and tech crew students traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland for two weeks to perform the musical *Animal Crackers* at the International Fringe Festival. In the fall of 2008, over 70 students worked together to build sets, coordinate lighting and sound for the production, and perform in a stage adaptation of *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- The CCHS Student Senate sponsored a freshmen orientation program that brought all of the incoming ninth grade students together for an informative and fun-filled day before school started.
- Over 300 students participated in *Challenge Day*, a unique program designed to enhance a positive school climate and communicate that individuals can make a difference.
- Several special education students made presentations in the community, at area medical centers and colleges.
- Athletic teams were extremely successful in 2008. The girls fencing team won the state championship again! Boys golf team won their first ever State Championship. The following teams were Division II state semifinalists: boys lacrosse and boys ice hockey. The boys soccer team and boys tennis team won Division II North championships with tennis taking the State Championship. The following teams won the Dual County League championship or their respective league championship: boys and girls cross-country skiing, boys alpine skiing, girls basketball, softball, boys lacrosse, and girls soccer. Numerous teams supported individuals who qualified for their respective state tournaments including swimming/diving, outdoor track (, girls cross-country (team all-state qualifiers). Lastly, both girls soccer and field hockey golf and boys cross country won Dual County League Sportsmanship Awards.
- Faculty engaged in high-quality professional development efforts to improve their technology skills, remain forward-thinking in their practice, and redesign program content and delivery.

Contributors to the reports include the following:

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