

Annual Town Report 2009
Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
Superintendent's Report
Diana F. Rigby, Superintendent
Peter Badalament, Principal

Concord-Carlisle High School has made excellent progress during 2009 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. We are so grateful for these contributions that foster excellence in the high school. Student enrollment for 2009-10 is 1246 students, twenty-two students less than 2008-09. However, during the last decade student enrollment steadily increased from 1015 students in 1998 to 1268 in 2008.

During the 2009 year, Concord-Carlisle High School continued to set high expectations for all students and reinforced its commitment to motivate young people to expand their knowledge and to develop intellectual, analytical, and social skills daily. 100% of the Class of 2009 received a Competency Determination as a result of passing both the English Language Arts and Math MCAS Tests.

- o 96% of 10th grade students scored proficient or advanced on the ELA MCAS.
- o 94% of 10th grade students scored proficient or advanced on the Math MCAS.
- o 95% of 10th grade students passed one of the Science MCAS tests.

The median SAT score for the Class of 2009 was 1870 (with 1509 as the state average). Seven students in the Class of 2009 have qualified as National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists and two National Merit Scholarships were ultimately awarded. From 2003-2009, 93% of AP Exams taken by CCHS students received a passing score (3 or higher.) In 2009, 98% of students received a passing score. Overall, 77% of AP exams were scored at 4 or 5. 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, and traveling to New Orleans to rebuild homes, participating in the French, Ecuador, and Turkmenistan Exchanges, and hosting Japanese visitors from Nanae. In the summer of 2010, students will travel to San Marcos, Nicaragua and Madagascar to perform community service in rural areas. Locally, our students committed over 10,000 hours of service to the surrounding communities during the 2008-2009 school year. 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.

During the past year, the district has made significant efforts to address future planning for the high school facility. In the spring of 2009, the towns passed a debt exclusion that funded the creation of a Facilities Master Plan Committee to study the building options that the communities have moving forward. The FMP Committee is comprised of members who represent all of the major stakeholders in the community, including parents, students, teachers, administrators, members of town boards and several community leaders. The Committee recently retained the services of the Office of Michael Rosenfeld, the award-winning architectural firm that designed the new Willard School. The goal is for the Committee to recommend appropriate building options for the towns to consider in the spring.

The debt exclusion also funded a number of capital projects that were completed in this past summer including the replacement of auditorium curtains, renovation of the main office, and replacement of the AC compressor in the main office and auditorium. Federal stimulus funds were used to build a life skills classroom to serve students with significant special education needs. The state-of-the-art Digital Recording studio was completed using Concord Education Fund grant monies and student musicians have been recording their performances on a weekly basis.

The teachers of Concord-Carlisle High School believe in the continuous improvement of both their instructional practices and the methods by which they assess students. 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. New courses were developed this year including Creative Writing and Organic Chemistry. Working with the generous Concord Education Fund's program "Hooked on Science", the science department is now offering new seminars in Biotechnology and a Robotics Club has been formed. CCHS is also offering a Global Literacy Certificate, a program in which students can demonstrate their knowledge of foreign language and world cultures.

Over the past year, the faculty has been broadening the ways in which Web 2.0 technologies can transform the way that students learn and "show what they know." Technological teaching tools are revolutionizing the way students access information and how teachers present concepts. New wireless hubs have been added throughout the building to meet the growing need for laptops and web appliances. Students and teachers in each classroom enjoy use of Activboards in storing and retrieving information and accessing websites. During the summer of 2009, several weeklong ActiveBoard courses were presented by CCHS technology teacher leaders for twenty colleagues in each session. Several teachers have piloted online learning opportunities for students in their courses using Moodle, a free open-source software package.

This year eight 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 invested considerable resources in a mentoring program.

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 greatly valued.

- The average number of CCHS graduates planning to continue their education in postsecondary placements exceeded 90%. In a survey of graduating seniors, 65% reported they were admitted to their 1st choice college, and 19% were admitted to their 2nd choice college.
- CCHS students continue to be successful in the college admissions process. From 2003-2009, 37% of students who were planning to go on to college matriculated at very selective institutions (colleges that admit 40% or fewer applicants) and 47% matriculated at selective institutions (colleges that admit 41-70% of applicants).
- The CCHS Concert Band earned its eighteenth consecutive gold medal at the prestigious Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) State Concert Festival. In the spring of 2010, the CCHS Band will travel to Japan.
- Last spring, one of our students was selected as the recipient of a Congressional Art Award and her work was displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda. Other students participated in the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards regional exhibit and earned gold and silver keys. 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 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 *Grapes of Wrath*. In the winter of 2009, over 130 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 *Miss Saigon*. In May 2009, over 50 students performed on stage and were involved as technical crew for Shakespeare's *Richard III*.
- 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.
- Athletic teams were extremely successful in 2009:
 - We are extremely proud of our student-athletes as the entire school received the MIAA's District A Sportsmanship Award at Gillette Stadium in the fall of 2009.

- Division II State Champions: boys soccer, boys tennis (undefeated), girls fencing (undefeated)
- Division II State Semifinalists: girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, girls hockey
- Division II North Sectional Champions: girls tennis, softball, boys golf (also won team sportsmanship award)
- Dual County League champions or respective league: girls volleyball, boys and girls cross-country, boys lacrosse, boys hockey, girls basketball, boys and girls cross-country skiing & boys alpine skiing
- Numerous teams supported individuals who qualified for their respective state tournaments: outdoor track (40 athletes), swimming & diving (numerous state level places,) girls soccer, and wrestling.

Contributors to the reports include the following:

Peter Badalament, Concord-Carlisle High School Principal

Lynne Beattie, Concord Middle School Principal

Kathy Codianne, Director of Teaching and Learning

Robert Colantuono, Thoreau Principal

Patricia Fernandes, Willard Principal

John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Kelly McCausland, Director of Human Resources

Jessica Murphy, Director of Special Education

Diana F. Rigby, Superintendent

Gene Warfel, Director of Information Technology

Sharon Young, Alcott Principal