

# FRESHMAN ACADEMY

September 2011



## Improved Student Achievement for ALL Students

The Freshman Academy has been established to foster a successful transition from middle school to Haverhill High School in support of long term goals for student success, to build a greater sense of school community, and to create a school culture in which each student is supported by peers and adults.

## GOALS OF THE FRESHMAN ACADEMY

- Sustain a healthy school environment that addresses the social, emotional, and academic needs of ninth grade students and fosters trust, honesty, and respect for the opinions and diversity of others.
- Provide all students with the skills necessary to graduate from HHS fully prepared for college, career, and civic life.
- Improve the attendance rate of all students.
- Maintain on-going communication with parents to establish a positive working relationship.
- Incorporate Freshman Seminar ... a course within the Freshman Academy.
- Increase the number of students who perform at a proficiency level in each core academic subject, as evidenced on common assessments, MAP testing, and MCAS.
- Strengthen the staff's capacity for reflection and continuous improvement by providing teachers with consistent use of planning time for collaboration on curriculum and instruction in order to support the achievement of all students.
- Help students develop education and career plans through an individualized portfolio that includes goals, an action plan, and evidence of achievement.

## WELCOME TO HHS FRESHMAN ACADEMY

The Freshman Academy is designed to support students' transition from middle to high school to ensure success, academically and socially.

By scheduling students with their Freshman Academy team for the first five periods of each day, we will be able to strengthen our Small Learning Communities into a true team concept. We believe that this team structure will build a stronger school community that will encourage more meaningful relationships, increase attendance rates, decrease behavior incidents, and teach the skills necessary to be college and career ready.

The Freshman Academy will have classes that meet the needs of all learners from the struggling learners who will have support systems in place to meet their needs, to the accelerated learners who will participate as a cohort in the honors level courses. Our classes will hold students to high learning standards, provide the necessary supports to reach these standards, and deepen each student's understanding and appreciation of his or her own abilities.

### What is the Freshman Seminar?

This one-credit course, taken by all Freshman Academy students, was designed to address the needs of students across all curriculum areas and help prepare students to be career and college ready. In-depth lessons use a variety of innovative and traditional teaching techniques including: long-range projects, cooperative learning activities, and reflective journal writing. Content will include:

- HHS orientation
- research and study skills
- technology
- content-area literacy strategies
- career and course planning
- Service-learning research project
- MCAS prep
- critical thinking and problem solving

### STAFF

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SLC 1:  
 Judy Call (Mathematics)  
 Leah DeSalvo (English)  
 Brian Oelerich (Social Studies)  
 Karen Blaustein (Science)

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SLC 2:  
 Michelle Riegert (Mathematics)  
 Michael Rossetti (English)  
 Zachary Simmons (Social Studies)  
 Peg MacInnis (Science)

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SLC 3  
 :Bronwyn Boyle (Mathematics)  
 Pat Hart (English)  
 Tim O'Connor (Social Studies)  
 Natalie Willwerth (Science)

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SLC :4  
 Nancy Koorapaty (Mathematics)  
 Jackie Donnelly(English)  
 Andrea Mitchell (Social Studies)  
 Steven Hayes (Science)

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Support Staff:  
 Rose Keefe Kathleen Brown  
 Jen Donohoe Bob Cortese

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Administration:  
 Bernard Nangle ... principal  
 Beth Kitsos ... Associate Principal  
 Patricia Fleming ... Freshman AP  
 Jeannine Patturelli ... Guidance  
 Patricia Juranovits—Mathematics  
 Meg Keppler ... Science & Tech.

### Upcoming Dates

- Early Release Days: 9/21 and 10/19
- "Parents as Partners" Anti-Bullying Presentation at HHS: 9/28 @ 6:30
- Progress Reports: 10/7

## HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL

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Fax: 978-374-5705

*We encourage you to contact us at any time with questions, concerns, or thoughts.*

*To email a staff member, the address is: first initial, last name @ Haverhill-ps.org*

*For example, Harry Hillie would be hhillie@haverhill-ps.org*

**Dream, not of what is—but of what could be!**

## What to Expect . . .

### *Students will*

- *Set goals and track their own learning progress.*
- *Know how to access support at HHS.*
- *Use time more effectively.*
- *Participate in a club, sport, or activity.*
- *Complete a long-range, research-based service-learning project.*
- *Investigate career opportunities and prepare a portfolio to track their course of study and career goals.*

### *Teachers will ...*

- *Engage students in learning experiences that promote high achievement, develop high level thinking, and make connections between academics and the real world.*
- *Increase parental awareness, communication, and participation.*
- *Use common strategies across all disciplines and all teams.*
- *Meet daily to collaborate about student learning.*
- *Maintain on-going communication with parents in order to sustain student achievement.*

### *The structure will include ...*

- *Freshmen grouped in teams of 80–90 students.*
- *Classrooms located in close proximity to each other.*
- *Periods 1-5: English, Algebra, Biology, World History, Freshman Seminar*
- *Students taking electives (foreign language, wellness & health, fine arts, ...) during periods 6 and 7.*

## ACADEMIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Congratulations to 22 HHS freshmen who completed the Academic Youth Development this summer. During the 14 days, these students learned:

### **“Work Harder, Get Smarter!”**

They worked together to solve a forensics mystery while learning important problem-solving and interpersonal skills. The group made some new friends while playing, soccer, football, or frisbee with Mr. Rossetti!

Thank you to the AYD teachers: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Call, Mrs. Riegert, and Mr. Rossetti.

Our 2011 AYD members:

Celina Antonovici	Sam Bergeron	Kayleigh Bergh
Oliver Brevik-Dube	Victor Castro	Abby Daly
Michael Dolfe	James Efstratios	Justin Fisher
Antonio Garcia	Matt Haskell	Trevor Lee
Elijah Marinez	Ryan McGonagle	Josseline Medrano
Jannelies Rivera	Luis Rivera	Mariah Rolon
Jonathon Roy	Andreas Velasquez	
Victoria Foresta	Jakob Wabrek	

**The Freshman Academy is designed to help students establish a firm foothold in high school and envision a future beyond Haverhill High School.**