



The Academy Connection

"Working Together.....Reaching Our Highest Potential"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 2011

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From the Director's Desk: Mr. Dennis M. Curran

Welcome to a new school year at the Construction and Career Academy! I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Executive Director of the school. My background in education has prepared me well for the position as I have been a High School Teacher and Administrator as well as a Middle School Principal and Assistant Superintendent in Connecticut and Rhode Island. But more importantly, I have also been a 30-year member of the Laborer's Union in Connecticut, and this experience, combined with my background in education makes me a great fit for this school. I am excited to be here and I know that I will work well with the staff and students to make this a great year and help to improve the education for your students. Please feel free to call or stop by to see me anytime with questions or concerns.

Charter School Renewal

As you know, we are a charter school. This means that although we are part of the Cranston Public Schools, we are approved by the State Department of Education separately every five years. Our charter is up for approval again this year and we are in the midst of that process now. In the near future there will be an opportunity to share your thoughts about this school with the RI Department of Education as part of the process of re-chartering the school. We will announce the dates for any meetings to be held for that purpose when we have them from RIDE.

Board of Directors Meetings

Parents are always welcome to attend the Board of Directors meetings at the school. They are held at 12 noon each month in the Board room. Feel free to contact the school for dates of upcoming meetings. The next one is set for October 25th.

NECAP Test Results in Science

We recently received the results from the most recent NECAP Science test taken in May by our present Seniors. The results for the school showed good improvement overall, and we are pleased to see our students are doing better on the test over time. We mailed the individual student results to the homes of the Seniors in September. If you did not receive that in the mail please let us know and we will send another copy.

NECAP Test in Reading, Writing and Math Underway

We began the NECAP test in these subjects on Tuesday, October 04 for all Juniors. These tests will take 6 days to complete over the period of two weeks. The tests are administered throughout Rhode Island at the same time at all levels. These tests, while difficult, will give schools much information about how our students are doing and will help us better prepare our lessons and curriculum to meet the needs of the students. The individual results will also help you as parents to chart the progress of your students over time in these academic areas as the tests are given at grades 3-8 and 11. We expect to get the results back from the State in early February and will share them with you at that time for the entire school. We will also mail the individual student results home to the parents. Also, the Juniors will take the Science NECAP in May and those results will be shared in October of this year.

ENGLISH

The year began on a great note with Mrs. Capobianco's 12th and 10th graders. The 12th grade has written reflectively and read three short stories about the theme this year of "reading between the lines" and "things are not always what they appear to be". They are also working on their portfolio artifacts.

The 10th grade students have artistically constructed bio poems. During the month of October the class will be reading suspenseful stories and eventually will write their own suspense stories.

In Public Speaking the students have participated in a mock interview and have presented a speech about a person they admire. The next speech will be one of their choosing.

SCIENCE

Students in Physics are completing their first unit of study on types of motion. They have had numerous quizzes on the material and have met with much success. Our first major lab experiment is coming up next!

Chemistry students are completing their first unit of study on matter. They have been working really hard on their assignments, quizzes and labs. In addition, they have also just completed their first common task on chromatography!

VISUAL ARTS and DESIGN

Basic Art Grade 9 is working on abstract line drawings.

Basic Sculpture and Ceramics Grade 10 is working on abstract sculptures.

Foundations in Art Grade 11 is working on still life drawings with a concentration on value.

MATH

The Algebra students have been working on a review of math skills and Real Numbers.

The Geometry students have been focusing on Logical Reasoning.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

The 10th grade students in Construction Math Application class are learning construction math to prepare for their scale model house project.

The 11th grade students have been concentrating on construction math to prepare them for NECAP testing.

Our Seniors are working on a road project in the Construction Technology Laboratory. They have framed a 16' x 16' shed and are currently installing a water distribution system as well as a sewer system below the road.

WORLD OF WORK

In spite of the high percentage of unemployment in Rhode Island, students at our school are being hired due to their workplace skills they are learning at Charter. Presently, 27 students have been hired in entry level or seasonal positions since school began in September.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The yearbook committee will start in a few weeks. Please see Mrs. DeGregorio if you are interested in joining the committee.

The Cranston Alternate Education Program is located in our lower level. For over 30 years we have been offering multi-faceted education programs to local communities. If you are interested in Adult Basic Education, getting your GED or becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant or Phlebotomy Technician, check our website at <http://aep.cpsed.net/> or give us a call at 401-270-8166 for course information.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Big Brothers of Rhode Island 23rd Annual Walk-A-Thon is Saturday October 29, 2011 at 10:00 am at Providence College. Please see Mr. Perrotta to sign up as a volunteer.

On Oct. 6th Kaele Rodriguez, and Morgan Slaughter volunteered at the Shriner's for the Gloria Gemma Fundraiser dinner. They were presented with a bouquet of flowers for their volunteer work.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 21, 2011	School Picture Day at 7:30 am
November 1, 2011	NEL/CPS School Flu Vaccination Clinic*
November 11, 2011	Veterans' Day Observed
November 24 and 25, 2011	Thanksgiving Recess
November 29, 2011	Picture Retakes at 7:30 am
December 26, 2011 – January 2, 2012	Holiday Recess
January 16, 2012	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 20 – February 24, 2012	Mid-Winter Recess (includes Presidents' Day / Feb. 20)
April 6, 2012	Good Friday
April 16 – April 20, 2012	Spring Recess
May 28, 2012	Memorial Day Observed

*Please see information flyer enclosed.