

Greenwich Public Schools  
**Points of Pride**



GREENWICH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PRESENTATION  
HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL  
APRIL 30, 2010

**Vision of the Graduate**



**The Greenwich Public Schools are committed to preparing students to function effectively in an interdependent global community. Therefore, in addition to acquiring a core body of knowledge\*, all students will develop their individual capacities to:**

- Pose and pursue substantive questions
- Critically interpret, evaluate, and synthesize information
- Explore, define, and solve complex problems
- Communicate effectively for a given purpose
- Advocate for ideas, causes, and actions
- Generate innovative, creative ideas and products
- Collaborate with others to produce a unified work and/or heightened understanding
- Contribute to community through dialogue, service, and/or leadership
- Conduct themselves in an ethical and responsible manner
- Recognize and respect other cultural contexts and points of view
- Pursue their unique interests, passions and curiosities
- Respond to failures and successes with reflection and resilience
- Be responsible for their own mental and physical health

\*The core body of knowledge is established in local curricular documents which reflect national and state standards as well as workplace expectations.

## Why Choose Greenwich Public Schools?

- Highly qualified, experienced educators
- Rigorous, college preparatory Course of Study
- Numerous opportunities in course selection, athletics, the arts, and extra-curricular activities
- Diverse community
- Active, engaged student body
- Neighborhood schools
- Small class size
- High quality services for student needs,
  - e.g. Advanced Learning Program (ALP)

## Greenwich High School

- **Large High School provides numerous opportunities:**
  - More course offerings than a small college
  - Diverse options for study – Independent Science Research, Forensic Science, Sign Language, Interdisciplinary Shapers of the World, Electronic Music, etc.
  - Seven World Languages
  - Expertise in College Advising
  - More than 20 Advanced Placement Courses
  - Athletics – ‘standards’ plus fencing, bowling, golf, volleyball, etc.
  - The Arts – open and select choirs, band, orchestra, jazz band, marching band, theatrical, etc.
  - Extra-curricular opportunities – Intramurals, World Language Clubs, Marine Biology Club, School Newspaper, Model U.N., Debate Club, etc.
  - Service opportunities – Habitat for Humanity, Junior United Way, Special Olympics, Students for Energy Conservation, etc.

## Choice

- **International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme**
  - Elementary (ISD & NLS)
  - Middle (Western Middle School)
  - High (exploring)
  
- **Magnet Schools**
  - Hamilton Avenue School (HAS) – ‘Renaissance’
  - International School at Dundee (ISD) - IB
  - Julian Curtiss School (JCS) – World Languages
  - New Lebanon School (NLS) - IB

## GPS Accomplishments

- 2010: **44 Merit Scholarship** Semi-Finalists or Commended Scholars
- 2009: 210 GHS students are **AP Scholars** – highest # in GHS history
- Over the last ten years, the percentage of graduating seniors enrolled in one or more college level courses (**AP**) **increased from 29% to 44%**.
- Average scores of GPS students on the mathematics and reading sections of the **Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT1)** have increased by 45 points over the last eight years.
- **Combined SAT scores of GPS students rank 8<sup>th</sup> among the 26 communities in DRG A and DRG B** (Connecticut communities with student populations similar to Greenwich).
- The percentage of students **scoring over 600 on the SAT** is comparable to the highest performing districts in Connecticut.

## GPS Accomplishments

- Over the last six years, with enrollment at near record levels, the percentage of high school students participating in the interscholastic **athletic program** has increased from 39% to 51%.
- One out of five high school students is a member of a **performing music** group.
- Over the last six years, the percentage of secondary students involved in **disciplinary infractions has declined** by 36%.
- Over the last six years, the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders successfully **completing Algebra I increased** from 37% to 54%. 50% was the initial target set when the new mathematics program was implemented in 2004-2005.
- **Annual growth of elementary students on the reading and mathematics sections of the Connecticut Mastery Test ranks 6<sup>th</sup> among the 26 districts in DRG A and DRG B.**

## GPS Accomplishments

- Annual growth of middle school students on the reading and mathematics sections of the Connecticut Mastery Test ranks 10<sup>th</sup> among the 26 districts in DRG A and DRG B.
- The percentage of students scoring at the advanced level on CMT Reading, Writing and Mathematics has increased at both the elementary and middle school levels over the last four years.
- The percentage of elementary students scoring at the advanced level in writing exceeds the DRG A average.
- Gaps in student achievement have been significantly reduced at all three Title 1 elementary schools (Julian Curtiss, Hamilton Avenue and New Lebanon) and at Western Middle School. Hamilton Avenue was recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education as a Vanguard School.

GPS Highlights



**ANTHONY MULLEN**

Arch School Teacher

*2009 National Teacher of the Year*

2009 CT Teacher of the Year

2008 Greenwich Distinguished Teacher

GPS Highlights



**DR. STACEY GROSS**

Western Middle School Principal

*2010 Connecticut Middle School  
Principal of the Year*

## Highlights - International

- 2010: A GHS student qualified to compete at the Intel-International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).
  - This is the fourth consecutive year that at least one GHS student has presented his/her research at ISEF. In the past 4 years, 8 GHS students have been selected to compete at ISEF.
- 2009: 4 of 6 CT students qualified to compete at the Intel-International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) were from GHS
- 2009: GHS student: 3rd in 2009 International Sustainable World Engineering, Energy, and Environment Project Symposium (ISWEEEP)

## Highlights - National

- 2009 Scholastic Art Awards – National Silver Photography Portfolio Medal (GHS student 1 of 10 National winners)
- 2009 National Photography Gold Medal-Single entry
- 2010 Scholastic Art Awards – National Silver Medal for sculpture
- Educational Theater Association's Outstanding Schools Theater Program Award for being one of the top High School Theater programs nationally
- One of 100 Best Communities for Music Education in the US
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophies and Superior Ratings at contests in FL (Choir 2008), and VA (Band & Orchestra 2009)
- Designated a "Signature School" by the Grammy Foundation.
- More students each year in the All-State Music Festival than any other CT high school.
- GHS Students (2) won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in C-SPAN's National *StudentCam* Contest (2009)
- A GHS Student was selected as a regional semifinalist in both the Siemens Science Competition, and the Intel Senior Talent Search Competition.
- 2009 GHS Team - Top 10 Nationally in *We The People* Competition
- 2010 National Unit award winners in *We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution*
- Business Student scored in Top 5% Nationally on the 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge (out of 75,000 students)
- 2009 National WordMasters Competition: 1st in Nation Grade 7 Team
- 2009 National WordMasters Competition: 1st in Nation Grade 8 Team

## Highlights - National

- 2010: GHS students captured 1st and 2nd place in the 26th annual Shakespeare competition sponsored by the English Speaking Union and Smith College.
- 2009: 17 Gold and Silver Medal winners-National Latin Exam
- 2009: 16 Award Winners, including 2 1st place awards for the State of Connecticut-National French Contest
- 2009: 7 Award Winners- National Italian Contest
- 2009: 15 Gold Medal Winners, 27 Silver Medal Winners, and 29 Bronze Medal Winners - National Spanish Exam

## Highlights - State/Regional

- In 2009, 11 of 14 GHS Science Projects swept the CT Science Fair, winning virtually all but one of the top awards.
- In 2010, 11 of 13 GHS Science Projects were selected as Finalists at the CT Science Fair. Once again, a GHS student claimed the top prize.
- GHS Math Team: 2008-09 & 2009-10 Connecticut State Math Champions – CT State Association of Mathematics Leagues
- Award Winning School Newspaper: *The Beak* (CT Newspapers' Daily Newspaper Associations' High School Journalism Contest)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – 2008 CT Stock Market Game (out of 800 Teams in the State)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Area Nine Cable Council and Cablevision of CT Access Awards 2008-09

## Highlights - Athletics

- 42 sports, 99 teams
- FCIAC Divisional Champions: Football, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Field Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Boys Swimming
- FCIAC Champions: Girls Swimming, Boys Swimming, Boys Ice Hockey
- State Champions: Girls Swimming, Boys Swimming
- State Open Champions: Girls Swimming, Boys Swimming
- FCIAC Coaches of Excellence: Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Boys Soccer, Football, Boys Swimming
- FCIAC Coaches of the Year: Girls Volleyball, Boys Ice Hockey
- CT High School Coaches Association: Boys Tennis Coach of the Year
- 2008 Sports Illustrated - #1 Athletic Program in CT

## Continuous Improvement

- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Instructional Leadership
- Teacher Evaluation & Professional Learning Plan (TEPL)
- Ongoing Curriculum Reviews