

2020 Town Annual Report

Report of the

CANTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Framework of the Canton Public Schools serves as our guiding document outlining the conditions we seek to create in the establishment of the very best learning environment for every student. This has never been more important than during a time requiring significant adjustments due to the impact of the global pandemic. On March 13, 2020, our school buildings were closed because of the novel coronavirus. Staff and students did not return to school for the remainder of the academic year, nor did school open in its traditional fashion the following September. Instead, as COVID-19 continued to impact our ways of engaging, the Canton Public Schools transitioned from remote learning at home to a combination of remote learning and in-school learning.

Preparing for this new form of student engagement required significant planning. At the center of the planning process was an unwavering commitment to students and the creation of the very best conditions possible for their learning which is defined within our Strategic Framework. The translation of our Strategic Framework to this very different context produced the following commitments in the planning - safety; teaching and learning; social emotional supports; structural supports for students; and, technology and digital learning systems.

Committing to the creation of student learning across these five critical areas supported a new form of school during a very challenging time, described consistently as unprecedented. With the use of feedback from surveys of staff and families, adjustments were made to improve the

learning situation while the most successful strategies were continued and made even more effective. As our society and schools recover from the pandemic, the most impactful strategies will be continued in order to draw upon the successes of such a challenging time.

With perseverance, flexibility, creativity and collaboration the Canton school district continues to provide children with meaningful school experiences. The long-term Strategic Objectives of the Strategic Framework listed below will continue to define our aspirations and support the improvement of the Canton Public Schools.

- Achieving Educational Excellence and Ensuring Equity
- Cultivating School Climate and Culture
- Transforming Teaching and Learning
- Achieving District Excellence

STUDENT HONORS, AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Each year, CHS holds both a Scholastic Honors Night and a Scholarship Night. This year, these events were held virtually due to the pandemic. Our most sincere thanks and appreciation to our community partners whose generosity awarded the class of 2020 with \$210,750 in scholarship money.

During these events, students are recognized for their hard work and outstanding performance at school and in the community. All of the 2020 awards are too numerous to list here. Below are some of the notable achievements.

- **Principal's Student Service Awards**
 - Michael Dorcelus, Cianna Doub, Alyssa Gerard, Nina Gilmore, Joshua Mei, Laura Noone, Nicole Phaneuf, Dusu Sidibay, Corinne Stevens, David Walker, Samuel Walter, Jayna Wolfe
- **Canton High School Citizenship Awards**
 - Anvitha Addanki, Stephanie Ciampa, Isabelle Crawford, Emma Cunningham, Arielle Galinsky, Rose Giglio, Grace Hannigan, Amy Hylan, Mary Kelley, Meghan LaBelle, Alexandra Lopez, Kelly MacDonald, Jennifer Mazzola, Marie Messinger, Faith Nelson, John Peplau, Avery Piantedosi, Daniel Stark, Graham Stemm, Olivia Timmins, Sydney Weng, Vanessa Wong
- **Shayne M. Cabino Memorial Scholarship Fund**
 - Nicholas Cushman, Mason Gregerman, Lindsay Haynes, Nicholas MacKay, Morgan McCabe, Ally Reddish, William Wade
- **Scott M. Herr Memorial Foundation Scholarship**
 - Meg Aldrich, Jack Connolly, Kyle Fitzgerald, Thomas Ghostlaw, Owen Lehane
- **James & Beatrice Salah Family Foundation Scholarship**
 - Nina Gilmore, Taylor Harris, Lindsey Haynes, Justin Luk, Joshua Mei
- **Balsamo Family Memorial Charitable Foundation Scholarship**
 - Emma Cunningham, Samuel Walter

- **Stephen M. Hamrock Memorial Award**
 - Marisa Gaffney
- **Duggan Scholarship Fund**
 - Lucas Bryant, Taina Lorenzana
- **Jimmy Pascal Memorial**
 - Maro Coulibaly, Thomas Cunningham, Kyle Fitzgerald, Lindsay Haynes, Elizabeth Usher
- **Anthony Maffie Memorial**
 - Sinead Qiu
- **Joseph F. Donnelly Memorial**
 - Meg Aldrich, Jack Connolly
- **Michael J. Gunning Memorial Scholarship**
 - Emma Cunningham
- **Thomas J. Gunning Memorial Scholarship** - Nicole Brown, Jack Connolly, Patrick Walsh
- **Grey, Grey & Grey LLP Scholarship**- Christopher Rota
- **CAASA Scholarship**- Anvitha Addanki, Jace Emma, Nina Gilmore, Lindsay Haynes, Timothy Kelleher, Jennifer Mazzola, John McKeown
- **Don and Marilyn Rodman Scholarship** - Taylor Harris
- **Friends of Doc. Levrault Scholarship**- Madison Gooley, Nicole Phaneuf
- **Milton Players Scholarship** - Cianna Doub
- **First Parish Unitarian Universalist Performing Arts Scholarship** - Cianna Doub

Students of the Canton Public Schools have historically performed well across multiple measures, including state and national standardized assessments. Due to the school closures in Spring 2020, the annual MCAS testing was suspended, and we do not have updated scores to report. While the MCAS is one data point that helps us to monitor our progress as a district and at each of our schools, we acknowledge that it is just one data point. Given the absence of MCAS data, we have implemented additional assessments in our schools to ensure that we are gathering the necessary data to monitor student progress. The STAR benchmark assessment is being used as a universal screener for our students in grades K-5, and Edulastic is being used in grades 6-12. The data gathered in these assessments provides feedback on student performance against the state standards.

The College Board revised the testing process for students enrolled in AP courses during the 2019-20 school year. This resulted in changes in the test structure, yet our students performed well as evidenced in the chart below.

Advanced Placement Test Score Results: 2020

Number of AP Courses offered at CHS	Number of AP Tests Taken	% AP Tests with Scores of 3 or Above
15	501	81%

While standardized tests provide one source of data on student achievement, these tests do not provide critical information about the full range of the student experience in our schools. The District has begun developing a comprehensive set of measures, the *Indicators of Excellence*, to provide that full description of student and district success. The *Indicators of Excellence* will become the metrics used to gauge our progress toward the Long-term Strategic Objectives outlined in the district’s Strategic Framework 2018-2023.

CHS CLASS OF 2020 – Colleges and Universities

Below is a list of *attending* colleges and universities of the graduating class of 2020. As described above, the Town of Canton has good reason to be proud of its public school system. With a talented and committed staff, students continue to have meaningful experiences in school which translates to their success. The Town’s ongoing support helps to create a high quality school district that serves the children of Canton well.

AMDA College of the Performing Arts - Los Angeles	Johnson & Wales University, Providence	Trinity College
American International College	Lafayette College	Tufts University
American University	Lasell University	University College London
Anna Maria College	Lehigh University	University of California-Los Angeles
Auburn University	Lesley University	University of Colorado Boulder
Bates College	Marist College	University of Connecticut
Bentley University	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS)	University of Delaware
Boston College	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	University of Florida
Boston University	Massasoit Community College	University of Hartford
Brandeis University	MassBay Community College	University of London
Bridgewater State University	Merrimack College	University of Maine
Bristol Community College	Northeastern University	University of Massachusetts Boston

Brown University	Norwich University	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Bryant University	Pace University-New York	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Cabrini University	Plymouth State University	University of Massachusetts-Lowell
Clark University	Princeton University	University of Miami
Clemson University	Providence College	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Coastal Carolina University	Quinnipiac University	University of New Hampshire-Main Campus
College of the Holy Cross	Rhode Island College	University of Rhode Island
Cornell University	Roger Williams University	University of Saint Joseph
Curry College	Saint Anselm College	University of Toronto
Eckerd College	Saint Joseph's University	University of Vermont
Emerson College	Salem State University	Vanderbilt University
Emmanuel College - Boston	Southern New Hampshire University	Washington University in St Louis
Endicott College	Springfield College	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Framingham State University	Stonehill College	Westfield State University
George Washington University	Suffolk University	Wheaton College - Massachusetts
Hamilton College	Texas Tech University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Hofstra University	The University of Arizona	

STAFF AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The excellence of the Canton Public Schools is recognized with many honors and awards for students, educators, and programs. The following staff members and programs are recognized this year for their outstanding accomplishments:

Boys Ice Hockey- Division 2 State Champions

Girls Ice Hockey- Division 2 State Champions

Hockomock League Davenport Champions- Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Swimming, Girls Soccer, Golf

Hockomock Champions- Girls Ice Hockey

2020 Spring MassCue at Holy Cross- Robotics for All- CHS teachers Ms. Shanna Belenky and Ms. Katie Healey were awarded funding for a grant where in turn they created a Unified Robotics program. Ms. Belenky, along with CHS students, Maribeth Sullivan, Mariella Ruggeri, Tiffany Ye, presented their program at this conference. Below is a program description.

Unified Robotics provides students with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to learn engineering concepts through experience and discovery. Students work collaboratively to build, program and design robots that can move, see and respond to external stimuli. Students of all abilities use hands-on engineering techniques to discover solutions to design challenges and document outcomes of their experiences. Robotics for All engages students with and without disabilities in learning that is both specific in its technological relevance and life skills as it requires patience, problem-solving, trouble-shooting, collaboration, and communication.

MA World Language Framework Panelist- Ms. Heidi Olson, PreK-12 World Language Department Coordinator, represented the district for this state-level DESE committee charged with building the new 2021 World Languages Framework She served as a 2019-2020 Massachusetts World Languages Review Panelist for Communities. Here is some information from the Framework draft about the focus of the Communities group:

Practice 8: Communities - Interact and communicate with intercultural competence and confidence to engage and responsibly collaborate with a variety of multilingual communities at home and around the world. Proficiency in multiple languages becomes a lifelong skill when students maintain engagement in the target-language community. Whether using the language for enjoyment or enrichment of other interests, maintaining friendships and relationships with diverse speakers/signers of the language, or making a local or global impact, community engagement motivates students to cultivate their language skills over the course of their lives. To engage in World Language communities, when supported by appropriate linguistic scaffolding based on proficiency level, student age, and grade level:

- Students use the target language both within and beyond the classroom to consider diverse perspectives, build empathy, and act collectively to improve communities.

Students use the target language to recognize strengths, set goals for growth, and reflect upon progress in using languages for enjoyment, enrichment, career advancement, and building diverse relationships.

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Participant: Director of Teaching and Learning, Deborah Rooney, was invited to participate on the advisory committee to provide guidance on the DESE Early Literacy Initiative.

Performing Arts 2020 Performances:

JFK Elementary- Shrek Jr

Luce- Madagascar Jr

Hansen- canceled due to Covid 19 school closure

GMS- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

CHS- Mamma Mia (almost made production, canceled on show weekend), She Kills Monsters (virtual only), Sideways Stories (virtual only)

Visual Arts 2020:

- In the spring of 2020 the Visual Arts Department launched *Canton Creates!*, an online gallery, to highlight the creative accomplishments of our students working remotely. We are in the process of updating this online gallery to showcase student artwork being created in our hybrid learning environment this year. The site will be re-launched at the end of January.
- Five high school students received a total of six Art Awards for their work from the *Scholastic Art and Writing Awards*.
- Two students in their Junior year were selected to attend the Massachusetts Art Education Association Art All-State program, a prestigious state-wide workshop that brings together talented students from schools across the Commonwealth to collaborate with mentor working artists. This year, students participated in workshops virtually and created individual Tape Art which they sent on to Art All-State for a Virtual Mural which will soon be displayed in 2021.
- During remote learning in the spring of 2020, Galvin Middle School students engaged in interdisciplinary learning that brought together learning in their academic subjects with learning in art. For example, in response to the reading of *Seedfolks*, 7th grade students created flowers with recycled materials, as well as garden flags.
- During remote learning in the spring of 2020, elementary art students continued their learning about art with inspiration and instruction from their teachers through a weekly “menu” of creative prompts and resources. Each week students could choose art activities from an interactive list of artmaking experiences depending on their interest, ability level, and supplies available at home. Examples of these projects included assembling a color wheel from found objects at home, exploring Tate Museum’s interactive digital art games, drawing from observation, and making playdough from a recipe.
- During the 2019-2020 school year, Galvin Middle School students in the Art club began work on a collaborative mural celebrating the arts and creativity in their school. The mural will be completed when we return to our normal school schedule.
- The CHS Lip Dub (created in 2019) was recognized by the [National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences](#).
- During the fall of 2020, a select group of CHS students taking Video Production class collaborated with students in Japan for a cross-cultural film-making project. Pushing the

boundaries of long distance communication via Zoom and online editing programs, these students created short films with their Japanese classmates. Details of the project were published in the Canton Citizen and [Wicked Local](#).

- During the fall of 2020, adjusting to new challenges and limitations that social distancing brought to spectating sports, CHS Video Production students helped to provide Cable Access Programming so students, families, and community members could watch school sports via broadcast programming - [Globe Article](#)
- While learning remotely in the spring of 2020, CHS students taking Video Production classes created hand washing PSAs which aired on Canton Community Television.
- During the spring of 2020, during asynchronous remote learning, *AP Art & Design* students continued to push boundaries in their “Sustained Investigation Inquiry” to submit well-received portfolios to the College Board with an overall strong score average.
- Student artwork from every school in the district was chosen for display in the offices and conference rooms at the *Marilyn G. Rodman Educational and Administrative Offices*. In February 2020, a reception was held for student artists and their families to celebrate their creative accomplishments.

BUDGET

The School Department operating budget for the current 2020-2021 school year is distributed as follows:

Salaries	\$38,515,161
Expenses	<u>\$7,671,110</u>
Total	\$46,186,271

The above figure represents a 5.23% increase above the 2019-2020 budget.

The operating budget of \$46,186,271 is supplemented with revenue offsets projected at \$3,873,000 from revolving (fee-based) accounts and reserve funds and \$2,312,666 of federal and state grants as follows:

Revolving Accounts/Reserve Funds

Athletic User Fees	\$200,000
Building Rental Fees	\$300,000
Pre-School Revolving	\$100,000
Special Education Circuit Breaker Revolving	\$2,973,000
Special Education Reserve	\$300,000
Total	\$3,873,000

Federal and State Grants

SPECIAL EDUCATION 94-142	\$860,921
SPECIAL EDUCATION 94-142 (FY20 Carryover)*	\$110,995
SPECIAL EDUCATION Early Childhood	\$30,641
SPECIAL EDUCATION Early Childhood (FY20 Carryover)*	\$10,007
SPECIAL EDUCATION Program Improvement	\$14,856
SPECIAL EDUCATION Early Childhood Program Improvement & Safety	\$1,960
Title I	\$125,872
Title I (FY20 Carryover)*	\$21,154
Title II	\$51,376
Title II (Prior years Carryover)*	\$6,921
Title III (FY20 Carryover)*	\$9,338
Title IV	\$10,000
CARES ESSER Emergency Relief**	\$109,160
CVRF School Reopening**	\$745,200
Remote Learning Tech Essentials**	\$79,265
Summer & Vacation Learning	\$12,000
Comprehensive School Health Services	\$80,000
School Water Improvement Grant	\$33,000
Total	\$2,312,666

*Unspent prior year grant funds carried over to FY21.

**Federal funding related to COVID-19

The District's FY21 budget, approved at Annual Town Meeting, totaled \$46,186,271. This 5.23% increase from the previous year's budget supports the District to effectively meet the needs of our students from grades PK-12.

The FY21 budget supported the following actions:

- Advance operating expenses to support the Strategic Framework and its four Strategic Objectives
- Continue to meet the contractual obligations of all Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Address rising special education out-of-district expenses first appearing in FY18 and carrying over to FY21

The District's FY21 Cash Capital Budget totaled \$500,000. The district used the cash capital funds to address the following:

Building/Grounds Repairs and Improvements

- HVAC Maintenance-District-Wide

Technology

- Administrative (Non Instructional) Staff Desktop Upgrade-District-Wide
- Portable Teaching Devices for Elementary & Early Childhood
- Portable Teaching Devices-GMS
- Replacement Printers-Elementary & GMS
- Replacement Document Cameras-District-Wide
- Chromebook Initiative-GMS Grade 7 and 8
- Replacement Security Cameras-District-Wide
- Door Locking Hardware & Interior Door Window Coverings District-Wide
- Replacement VoIP and Camera Switches-District-Wide

Program Improvements

- PreK-5 Classroom Libraries-All Elementary
- K-5 Book Rooms-All Elementary
- K-5 Professional Resources for Literacy Instruction-All Elementary
- K-5 Literacy Assessment-All Elementary
- Visual Arts - DSLR Cameras
- Replacement of Classroom Based Instruments-District-Wide

Furniture & Fixtures

- Round Cafeteria Tables-GMS
- Custodial Equipment-District-Wide

Debt Capital

- Memorial Field Bleachers and Press Box
- CHS Rooftop Unit-CHS

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Shown below are the enrollment figures for the pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools for October 2019 (school year 2019-20), October 2020 (school year 2020-21):

	2019-2020 Oct. 1, 2019	2020-2021 Oct. 1, 2020	Difference
Pre-school	87	25	-62
Elementary	1478	1421	-57
Middle School	769	770	+1
High School	980	957	-23
Out of District	53	52	-1
Total	3367	3225	-142

Demographics 2019 and 2020

The chart below shows the race/ethnicity percentages of the Canton Public Schools student population in 2019 (total enrollment 3373) and 2020 (total enrollment 3173, not including out of district students).

Race/Ethnicity

	% in 2019	% in 2020	Difference
African American/Black	11	11	0
Asian	10.7	10.9	+0.2
Hispanic	4	5.9	+1.9
Native American	0	.1	+0.1
White	66.3	65.9	-0.4
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island	.02	.2	+0.18
Multi-race Non-Hispanic	5.9	6.2	+0.3
Total Enrollment	3314	3173	141

Other Student Sub-Groups

	% in 2019	% in 2020	Difference
Limited English Proficient	2.4	2.2	-.2
Students with Disabilities	13	12.9	-.1
Economically Disadvantaged	20	17	-3

PERSONNEL

The following staff members retired during the calendar year 2020.

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Denise Arsenault	Teacher	32
Debra Bromfield	Director of Student Services	10
Carol Brooks	Teacher	6
Ann Cruise	Teacher	30
Maureen Dickie	Administrative Assistant	32
Michael Doyle	Custodian	10
Carla Dumont	Teacher	17
Karen Flynn	Administrative Assistant	32
John McKay	Custodian	19
Phyllis Morgan	Teacher	12
Kirk Pantos	Teacher	23
Patricia Phalan	Teacher	25

David Rich	Teacher	20
Rumni Saha	Teacher	13
Teresa Saunders	Nurse	3

Congratulations and thank you to all our retirees for their decades of service to the Canton Public Schools.

CLOSING

Our constant pursuit of educational excellence and equity requires an ongoing commitment and collaboration among the schools and the broader Canton community. The challenges of the global pandemic this year tested us all. It is with the unwavering support of all stakeholders that the Canton public school system continues to serve the children of this community well.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
 Kristin Mirliani, School Committee Chair