

Paw-sitively Connected

Great Path Academy at MCC



Ten GPA students tour Washington, D.C. as part of their experience.

Great Path Students Travel to Washington to Collaborate on Strategies to Fight Hate and Bigotry

Washington, D.C., November 15-18, 2015... A diverse group of students from Connecticut embarked on a significant experience to apply lessons learned from the Holocaust to their own lives and lead the fight against bigotry and hate in their respective communities at the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) 18th Annual Grosfeld Family National Youth Leadership Mission.

The mission, which took place from Sunday, November 15 to Wednesday, November 18 in Washington, D.C., involved 132 students from across the country. Accompanied by the Great Path Academy Assistant Principal, Edward Jacobson, ten of these students contributing to the mission were Great Path Academy students, including 10 Connecticut high school students from Manchester, Newington, Hartford, Coventry, East Hartford and Madison. The students were selected for their extraordinary leadership qualities and demonstration of interest in issues of diversity.

"It is critically important to be able to equip young people with the ability to not only under-

stand issues of bias, bigotry and racism, especially given the past year's troubling events across the country, but to equip them to be able to directly respond," said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, ADL CEO, who addressed the group. "The goal of the youth leadership mission is as relevant as ever today, and over the years, students have become so incredibly inspired to effect change in their own schools and neighborhoods upon returning from the trip. The mission really gets them thinking about combatting hate in a really positive way."

The centerpiece of the mission focused on a significant amount of time at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, where students learned about the persecution of Jews and other minorities during World War II, and examined contemporary issues of extremism, bigotry and genocide. The students also engaged in in-depth discussions about lessons that can be applicable in their individual lives and how they can play a part in fighting prejudice. During breakout sessions conducted by ADL's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute facilitators, students

shared their personal experiences with bullying, hatred and discrimination, and discussed how the lessons of the Holocaust can be applied today. The students attended ADL's 20th annual "In Concert Against Hate" on November 16 at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., where heroes in the fight against hate and intolerance were honored. The student delegates also heard from the heroes that stood up against or were the victims of hate crimes.

Destiny Chiverton, a junior at Great Path Academy, reflected upon her experience upon returning home. "It was awesome. I really enjoyed being in small groups with kids from all across the U.S., from different states, because I got to see different perspectives on situations." She was in groups that discussed topics such as reasons why students in schools accept discrimination or accept the use of terms used to bring each other down, instead of trying to change it. "I learned that it's not always done purposefully, people do not realize how big of an impact calling someone a name can have," she recalled.

Zombies at GPA: A Post-Production Conversation

In a post-production conversation with the director, Dr. Zotos, we sit down to discuss the unique production, "A History of World War Z". Dr. Zotos stated that the production was a world premier- "We essentially made it ourselves. We took a novel and adapted it for the stage. We were very successful at taking a sprawling text and turning it into a coherent story."

One of the director's favorite

experiences has been seeing his drama students grow, "Jasmine Cruz has become an actress- from being a theater student to a real actress, she smacked what she did right out of the park."

The show was the result of hard work on the students part and the vision came from Dr. Zotos and Mr. Wolf. The collaboration came very naturally to the drama and music instructors- Dr. Zotos said, "He (Mr. Wolf) is a genius when it comes to putting sound and images together." The style of the

show was in the vein of Ken Burns' "The Civil War" documentary, which is in its 25th anniversary year. Dr. Zotos saw it on TV and knew that that was the style that they were going after, "this is what we are doing, showing the effects of being involved in war through documents of the period, supplemented with images of what we are talking about- it was a neat trick- that we were able to take that style and turn it into a zombie story."

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Special points of interest:

- The magnet lottery opened on October 15th. If you know of anyone interested in GPA, please tell them to visit us during an open house or call the school for a visit and tour!
- If you have a sibling who is applying, they get sibling preference if their brother or sister will be in school at GPA with them. Call (860) 512-3756 to tell us and also make sure you apply!
- The GPA Newspaper and Reading Club has published articles in "the Live Wire", a MCC publication that can be found on campus.

Unified Arts News

Music Department winter concert is Thursday Dec 17th at 7pm.

Part of that concert is a community singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. Anybody and everybody is welcome to come up on the risers for the last piece on the concert and sing the Hallelujah Chorus with us. Especially alumni and families! There will be one rehearsal on Tuesday Dec 15th at 7pm.

Sheet music and learning tracks (so you can practice ahead of time) are available at:

www.GreatPathMusic.com/hallelujah-chorus

Small Business Management - The

students just finished a social media project for their business plans. They were assigned an app and had to design a campaign that met their business's needs. A great example is a "Groupon" that a student designed to get your car detailed at their luxury car dealership.

Culinary - The students have moved on to sauces. They will be learning all about the Mother Sauces and using them to make other familiar favorites such as Alfredo.

Spanish IV is finishing the preterit and imperfect preterit. Also, students need to differentiate *por* vs *para*. *saber* vs *conocer*.

Spanish I has finished learning

how to express what activities people like and dislike with an oral presentation.

Spanish II are finishing Chapter 1B ¿Qué te gusta hacer?

In Android programming, students just completed their very own fully functioning apps that they designed and created themselves. One of the apps focused on colleges in Connecticut and another on do it yourself make up designs.

In Intro. to Computers students just completed their final Power Point projects. There are various subjects including: Black Lives Matter Movement, World Hunger, Women's Rights, and Bullying, to name a few.

Social Studies News

In Ms. PD's Civics class students have been focusing on a mini-unit addressing the recent Paris attacks by the terrorist group, Islamic State. The objective in investigating this tragedy was to investigate the gross misconceptions these terrorists have created for the Islamic religion and Muslims worldwide. Debating the pro's and con's of a pressing current event and the ensuing political debates, Students also examined the Syrian refugee crisis and the United States

government versus individual state government responses.

In World History, students have been learning about current world issues. We have been looking at the refugee crisis in the world brought on by conflict and how this crisis impacts both the world and the United States. Students are finishing their unit on foundations in modern day Africa and have analyzed problems that were created by the "Scramble for Africa." Students learned about the "Lost Boys" of

Sudan and the impact of war on communities. Students have begun to look at human rights issues in the world, including the issue of child soldiers.

In U.S. History students are exploring America's role in World War I. After examining the causes for the war in Europe, students analyzed primary sources related to the United States decision to enter the war. Next we will move into the roaring 20's to examine the changes in American culture.

Science News

Chemistry students are learning how to use Bunsen burners for experimenting with chemical properties. They are focusing on safe procedures and techniques as they observe properties of the elements of the periodic table.

Biology students are exploring how cell membranes are exploited by diseases and conversely critical to creating medicines. In class we are using models, including bubble solution(!), to microscopically visualize the structures and functions of the cell membrane. Genetics students are reviewing cell division and

integrating genetic concepts of linkage, crossing-over, non-disjunction, and recombination to this basic Biology topic. They are also starting to explore moral issues surrounding genetic research and gene manipulation.

Physical science students are finishing their unit on atoms and the periodic table and getting ready to look at bonding. Additionally, all students are actively using study island to improve and review previous material on atoms.

Anatomy and Physiology students are working through the skeletal system unit. They are memorizing

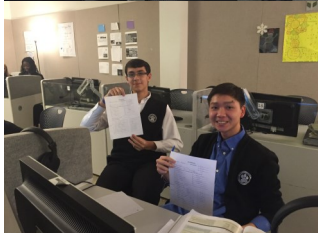
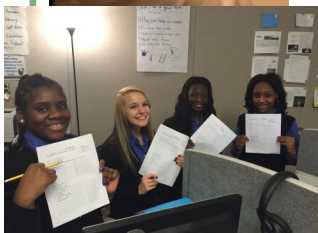
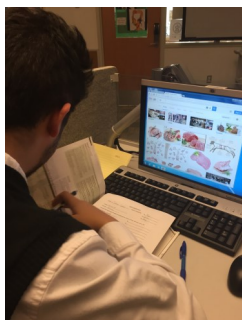
bones and looking at their markings and joints.

10th grade students will be taking their 4th CAPT practice assessment on Monday 12/7 to determine areas they still need to work on to successfully complete the upcoming CAPT in March.

www.studyisland.com is a great resource for preparing your 10th grader for this upcoming test! Also, be sure to take advantage of the FREE tutoring sessions after school on Wednesdays with Ms. Chaki and on Saturdays with Ms. Thurrott!



Photos above and below: GPA Culinary students working on sauces above and food blogs and recipes, below.



English News

American Lit: Students are finishing *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and preparing to write their critical essays on the novel.

College Writing: Students are studying rhetoric. Students have been performing rhetorical analyses on a variety of speeches and advertisements. Ultimately, students will be responsible for crafting their first extended oral presentation in which they use rhetorical arguments to create an effective advertisement.

Students in English I are starting a new unit in which they are going to read Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*. They are exploring various themes such as identity, community, opportunity, and the role of women in society. In addition,

students will analyze Cisneros' use of poetic devices to convey theme. One of their first creative writing assignments was to write their own vignette modeling the author's writing style and use of poetic devices.

Students in English I honors just finished an extended-response paper in which they had to compare the allegorical message in Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" to W.H. Auden's "The Unknown Citizen". This served as an introduction to themes students will explore in Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*. In preparation for reading, students also had to prepare a presentation about various aspects of the Holocaust.

English II Honors just finished completing their lens and artifact essay on *Lord of the Flies*. Students are now working in cooperative

groups to complete research in preparation of their new unit on *Joy Luck Club*.

English II College Prep just finished an essay on Modernism. Students had their choice of two different short stories and various poems. The goal was for students to analyze how Modernist authors used writing to convey their feelings about society.

In College Prep Writing Lab, students have just begun writing a critical analysis of some element of popular culture - song, movie, musical artist's work - of their choosing.

The drama class just finished its first show of the season with the Hartford Stage InterACT program. In addition to seeing the production, the class attended pre- and post-show workshops with Hart-



Above and on bottom, GPA students (list below) accept awards and their GPA Scholar shirts.

Jessica Sokoloski (GPA junior) is a published poet!

Jessica's poem "Bullying Hurts" was published recently in a book called "Eloquence" by the American Library of Poetry. It is commendable that a GPA student has achieved such great success outside of school.

Math News

Mr. Hoffman's Algebra class has just completed one of the Pillars of Algebra, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, and have done an amazing job! College Prep Math class has hit their stride and are now working through harder and harder topics on the Aleks program, but are determined not to

give up. Calculus students are now in quiz mode, where they have a quiz every 3-4 classes to make sure they are staying current with different methods of differentiation. It seems to be working, since the average on the last quiz was a 92. Great job to all those students putting in the hard work.

In Pre-Calc., we are investigating angular and linear velocity related to the real world. We are moving along in Algebra II and are going to be using the exciting quadratic formula soon. We will be calculating the vertical velocity of certain objects. Students will also complete a performance task relating to basketball.

Student Spotlight

Our GPA Scholars were presented with their shirts and sweatshirts to celebrate the hard work that they put into their assessments. Their achievements mark a culminated effort of focus and determination. We are very proud to announce the following students' achievements on the Science CAPT: (photos to the right)

Advanced:

Karen Avila, Destiny Chiverton, Alyssa Duffey, Brendan Medovich, Cristian Osorio, Ellen Wolfe

Goal:

Deneja Gallimore, Tyrel Hardnett, Jadea Harris, Eleanor Hewett, Nathan Rockx, Bennett Sullivan

Proficient:

Michelle Appiagyei, Gifty Asante, Corey Baptiste, Randall

Crawford, Tyra Declaire, Kylie Delgado, Tahira Durant, Jenna Emond, Keenan Gadson, Sommer Hitchcock, Troi Johnson, Jonyrah Kemp, Nicole Machattie, Cherey Mitchell, Ranazia Monroe, Cadeem Nembhard, Nhan Nguyen, Destiny Ojeda, Jocelyn Oliver, Justin Robinson, Bridget Shouldice, Joshua Silvester, Kiarra Smith, Myai Tedeschi, Natalia Warburton, Clayton Wiltshire

Thank you for all of your hard work, GPA Student Cougars! Keep it up!





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www.greatpathacademy.org



Photos from dress down days and the GPA Annual Staff – Student Basketball game.



Holiday Happenings



Prior to Thanksgiving, GPA held a Spirit week, with each day offering a different dress down—a welcome relief from the daily uniforms for our students. There was Twin Day and Sports Day, to name two. On the half-day before Thanksgiving, a grade-level basketball tournament was organized by the GPA Student Council—with the culminating event being the winners of the student grade-level games playing against the staff of GPA. This has become a much-loved tradition by the school community, with alumni visiting, as they are home from

college on break. During the tournament, the MC's Destiny Arroyo and Ricky Hamilton kept the crowd involved.

The school had a dress down day, wearing yellow and gray to demonstrate support for creating awareness for children who have brain cancer. On a serious note, Troi Johnson and Jadea Harris presented to the school on Troi's cousin's brain cancer and how people can get involved and help. Troi spoke to the student body, "Hi I'm Troi a Junior and this is all for my cousin, Jamir, who in June passed away from Brain Cancer at the age of 14. He was a wonderful and amazing person who could brighten up a room with

just his smile. This is why we are wearing the colors yellow and gray to make awareness for the children who have brain cancer. I will be taking donations and all of the proceeds will go to the Connecticut Children's Hospital Medical Center in his name. Now, we will have a moment of silence. Thank-you all for supporting and have a Happy Thanksgiving." Troi has a collection box available at GPA for those who still would like to make a donation. Photo to the left of the school community dressed in yellow and black and of Troi and Jadea, after they spoke to raise awareness for victims of childhood brain cancer.



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*Thank you to the following donors to the PBIS Gotcha Cart this month:
Dunkin' Donuts for the donations of "any-size free beverage" vouchers, and the teachers and staff of GPA.
We appreciate the support for helping to recognize GPA Student Cougars for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe!
If interested, donations can be made to Ms. Canty— please email cants001@hartfordschools.org or call (860) 512-3723.*