



**West
Hartford
Public
Schools**

www.whps.org/whps/

Conard High School

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Hall High School

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***Reap What You Sow!
Promoting a Positive
School Culture***

April 9, 2010

Promoting a Positive School Culture

- **Academic Interventions and Programs**
- **Positive School Engagement**
- **Advisory Homeroom**
- **Social Skills Groups**
- **Positive Consequences**
- **Unified Activities**
- **Other Extracurricular Activities**

Academic Interventions and Programs

Student Success Team

The Student Success Team is a school-based prevention and early intervention program for students who are exhibiting behaviors of concern that are interfering with their academic progress. These behaviors may be academic, social, or emotional in nature.

SST meetings include both **special topic** discussions as well as **individual student referrals**.

SST: Individual Referrals

1. Academic and Social/Emotional Behaviors of Concern
2. Action team meetings

SST: Special Topics

- Dating and Healthy Relationships
- Suicide Awareness & Prevention
- Sexual Identity
- Alcohol and Substance Prevention
- Bullying Prevention

Special Programs:

Looking In Theater

Sobriety Squad

The Bus

GSA Breakfast

Academic Support Team

The Academic Support Team is a program for grade 9 students who have been identified by their grade 8 teachers as needing extra support to succeed.



Academic Support Team

Students are assigned to team teachers for:

- English 9
- Modern World History
- Earth Science
- Math
- study skills seminar



Grade 9 STARR

- STARR is a special structured study hall for 9th gr. students identified as at-risk.
- Fosters an environment that helps students to feel welcomed, safe and connected
- Seeks to maximize the potential for every student to be socially, behaviorally, and academically successful through a small group guided study hall
- Provides personalized opportunities for every student to become involved in school activities through a STARR teacher

THE BLITZ

Is a special outreach program in which students on the Ds and Fs list are targeted.

Goals of The Blitz:

- Promotes student achievement and positive engagement
- Seeks to increase parent involvement
- Student accountability is aligned with researched-based practice.

BLITZ PLAYBOOK

1. Teachers and counselors meet with students at progress report time and contact parents to develop a Success Plan.

2. At the close of the quarter, if improvement isn't reported, students are referred to the Department Supervisor where Ds/Fs are indicated.

BLITZ PLAYBOOK

3. Department Supervisors (from all areas where the student is underperforming) conference with student to discuss his/her performance, needs and the Success Plan.

4. If the student continues to underperform, the Department Supervisor refers the student to his/her Assistant Principal for additional interventions.

BLITZ PLAYBOOK

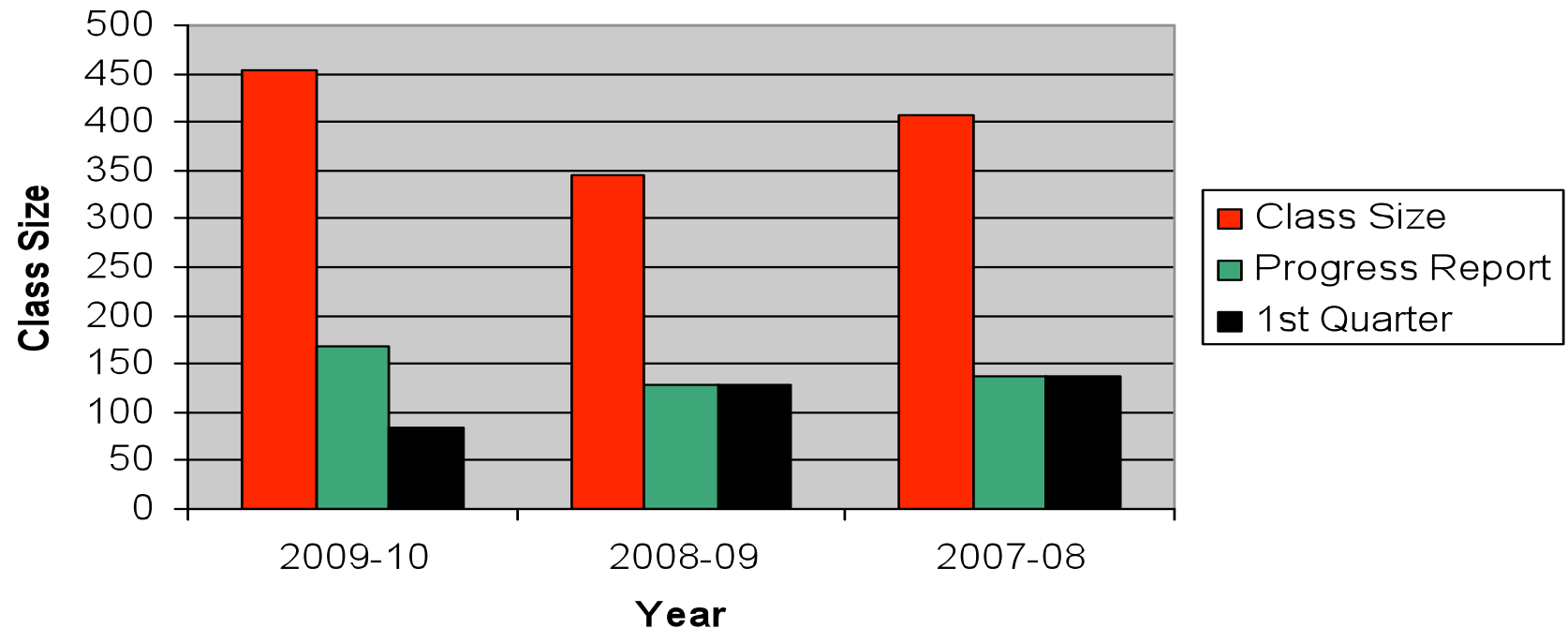
5. AP meets with student to enforce academic detentions (before school, after school and during lunch), approve schedule changes, authorize additional resources.

- *At any time throughout the process, a faculty member may refer the student to the Student Success Team for further review and interventions.*

Blitz Results

The Blitz

of F's at Progress Report Time vs # of F's at end of 1st Quarter (Grade 9)



Year	Class Size	Progress Report	1st Quarter
2009-10	453	169	83
2008-09	345	129	128
2007-08	407	137	138

Alternative Search for Knowledge (ASK)

The ASK
team

includes

- Social
Studies
teacher
- English
teacher
- School
Social
Worker.



ASK



ASK is a team taught English and Social Studies program for capable students who have not succeeded in reaching their potential in traditional classes.

Positive School Engagement

Positive School Engagement

- West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission
- Community of Concern
- Hall / Conard Leadership Forum
- Youth Action Research Program
- Cross Age Connections
- Works of Heart
- Diversity Assemblies

West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

The West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission identifies and shares prevention and intervention resources for the benefit of all of its residents in order to raise awareness, reduce substance abuse, and promote a healthy lifestyle through a caring community collaboration.

West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

- Meets once monthly to address the problems of substance abuse in the West Hartford
- Provides a variety of educational programs and written materials
- Coordinates a substance-free activities

West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

- "Tune-In to Life" from April 5–11 offers an abundance of healthy, drug-free programs and events for all ages.
- West Hartford Cares resource cards are distributed throughout the community.



Community of Concern

All schools in the Community of Concern encourage parents to become involved with the school and our children's activities. As the primary educator of our children, the schools and parents form a unique partnership.



Community of Concern

The Hall/Conard Community of Concern plans and sponsors educational activities for parents around the issues of alcohol and drugs as well as other social issues parents face with their adolescent children.



Hall / Conard Leadership Forum

The purpose of this forum is for student leaders (approximately 25 from each school) to work together to identify issues and solutions around the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco in our community.

Hall / Conard Leadership Forum

- Student leaders from both high schools assemble to discuss issues surrounding alcohol & substance use in the community.
- Students reflect on speakers they've heard during the CoC kick-off week.
- In small groups, students brainstorm and commit to action steps that they can take to promote a safe and healthy community.

Youth Action Research Project



Youth Action Research Project

- Youth-led; community-based
- Diverse representation of participants
- Meets weekly; provides a \$350 stipend
- Involves hands-on research and demonstration
- Designed to assess substance use among teens with a prevention component

Cross Age Connections/ Step Up Day

High school students facilitate discussions with grade 8 students at the middle school with the intent to:

- foster relationships between high and middle school students
- open communication around important issues including drugs and alcohol extra curricular activities and the logistics of attending high school.

Works of Heart

The focus of this organization is to raise consciousness, share resources and raise money to benefit suicide prevention and awareness through speakers, activities and performance.

Diversity and Multicultural Activities



Advisory Homeroom

Advisory Homeroom

Putting the HOME back in Homeroom



Advisory Homeroom

- Implements a character education curriculum
- Used adventure based learning
- Allows for students to build a connection with at least one adult in the building
- Helps students to feel connect to their school community

Advisory Homeroom



Advisory Homeroom

All Faculty Members:

- Learn how to implement a character education curriculum using adventure based learning
- Engage in several adventure education activities allowing them to build relationships with other colleagues
- Receive materials outlining adventure education lessons

Social Skills Groups

Social Skills Groups

- The Bridge Boy's Group: BIG
- The Bridge Girl's Group
- Emerging Leaders Program
- Empowering Young Black Women
- Post Secondary Planning Group
- Student Ambassador Program

Emerging Student Leaders

This group is intended to help emerging student leaders identify their own leadership potential, and to develop ways to act upon this potential.

The experiences may include hands-on activities and discussions and will explore various arenas of leadership :

- What is leadership? Who are leaders?
- Getting to know your leadership style
- Group dynamics and leadership
- How to apply leadership to your everyday life and especially at Hall...

Empowering Young Black Women

The focus is to help young women realize and understand their own needs and strengths.

Topics are in reference to being young Black females in today's society who attend Hall High School.

Post Secondary Planning Group

Designed for 11th grade students who have attended the "*Empowering Young Black Women*" group for a year.

To specifically address the need for understanding options after high school, a major focus of this group is post-secondary planning with an emphasis on early awareness and formulating post-secondary plans.

B.I.G. (Bonds in Growing)

Boy's Group

Needs Addressed:

Minority Role Model
Academic Motivation
Identity (Group & Self)
Fidelity / Respect
Industry / Initiative
Goal Setting
Strength Building
Subordination

Stress /Coping
College Awareness
Self-Esteem
Anger Management
Leadership
Conflict Resolution
Decision-Making

Bridge Girls' Group

Areas of Growth: Making good choices. Taking responsibility for actions. Setting and maintaining good boundaries.

Purpose: To foster positive decision making. Awareness of influences in positive decision making.

Student Ambassador Program

Create a more welcoming school environment for students new to the West Hartford school district.

Student ambassadors are responsible for assisting new students in making a positive and smooth transition to the school. Ambassadors participate throughout the school year in many ways.

Positive Consequences

Alternatives to Suspension

- Service Learning
- Psycho-educational group processing
- Adult-facilitated peer mediation



Unified Activities



Unified Theater™

- Student-led theatrical groups equally feature the talents of individuals with and without special needs.
- Fully inclusive productions-Students of different backgrounds, passions, and abilities join in a putting on a show that pushes them to shed inhibition, take risks, and challenge perceptions of ability.
- <http://www.wfsb.com/coolschools/21183647/detail.html> (Enjoy a short clip)

Unified Sports®

a registered program of
Special Olympics

- Teams combine athletes with and without intellectual disabilities
- Both athletes and special partners, are of similar age and matched sport skill ability
- Teams are placed in competitive divisions based on their skill abilities, and range from training divisions (with a skill-learning focus) to high level competition
- <http://www.casciac.org/ciacunifiedsports.shtml> (scroll down to enjoy short clip)

P.E. Strategies



Other Positive Extracurricular Activities

Teaching Assistant Program

- **30 Seniors who assist in classes for freshman and sophomores**
- **Receive a full credit for the year**
- **Are assigned mostly to classes with struggling students**
- **Act as mentors to students, tutors, teacher assistants, role models**

Other Positive Extracurricular Activities

- TAPS
- Students Ambassadors
- Empty Bowls
- Class Boards
- New Student Orientation
- Parent Orientation
- Human Rights Coalition
- Gay / Straight Alliance
- Multicultural Club

THANK YOU!

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