



## MASSACHUSETTS ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD 2010-2011

### PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

The Student Support Services Staff at Monson High School works diligently to ensure all students are prepared for living, learning, and working in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Student Support Staff focuses on the academic, career, and personal/social needs of all students as outlined in the Massachusetts Model for School Counseling Programs. The staff provides a comprehensive list of programs to assist our students during the transition to high school, meet academic success while in high school, and prepare for the endless choices of post-secondary life. I am privileged to have such a professional team. Our students and community are well served with the dedication displayed by our Student Support Staff.

**Dr. Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Principal**

### SCHOOL COUNSELING TEAM

The Department of Guidance & Student Support Services provides a wealth of expertise in the personal/social, academic and career areas. There are currently two full-time staff members, a full time secretary, a part-time career facilitator and social worker. Members include:

- Bob Bardwell, Counselor & Director, BA, M.Ed., CAGS
- Elaine Devine, Career Facilitator, BA
- Diane Goodrich, Secretary, Certificate
- Maria Maloney, School Social Worker, BSW, MSW
- Elizabeth Reed, School Counselor, BA, MA

The team regularly collaborates with other staff, including the school psychologist, school nurse and the special education staff including weekly meetings of the Student Assistance Team (STAT) and various school-wide and classroom based programs.

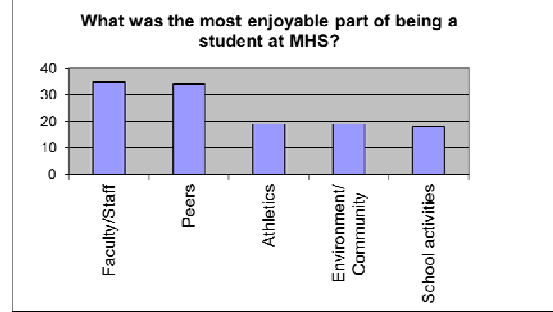
Department members are solely responsible for designing, coordinating, implementing and evaluating the school counseling program delivered to all students. Team members minimally have monthly staff meetings and work during allotted professional development time for these activities. Members belong to numerous local, state and national professional groups.

### SCHOOL CLIMATE & SAFETY

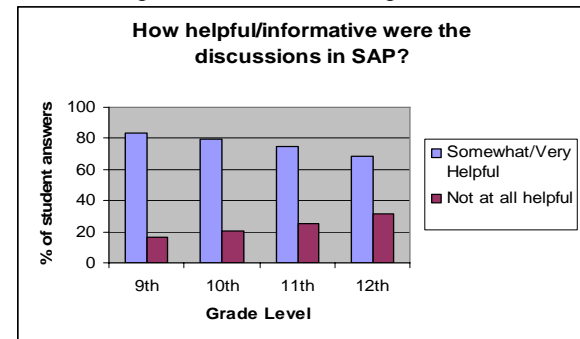
The Department is committed to provide a safe and secure environment for every student. Department members are continuously involved with programming and outreach like:

- Signs of Suicide & depression screening
- Bullying & harassment workshops
- Student Assistance Team (STAT)
- Programming for students at risk for dropping out
- Transition program for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Professional development with faculty and staff

Almost half of this year's graduating seniors stated that the faculty/staff was the most enjoyable part of being a student at MHS, while another quarter credited the school environment. A major focus for the Department is improving school climate through initiatives such as the Student Advisory Program (SAP).

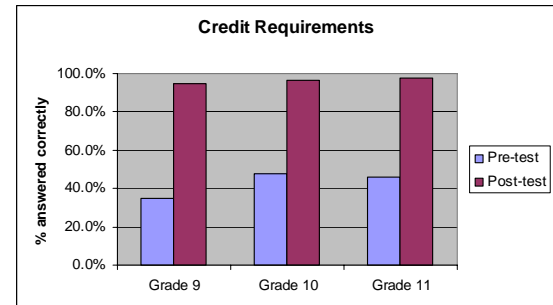


Department members assist in the design and coordination of SAP. Over 60% of students in each grade rate SAP discussions (ranging from GPA calculation to safe technology use) as somewhat or very helpful. These discussions promote academic and personal/social success.

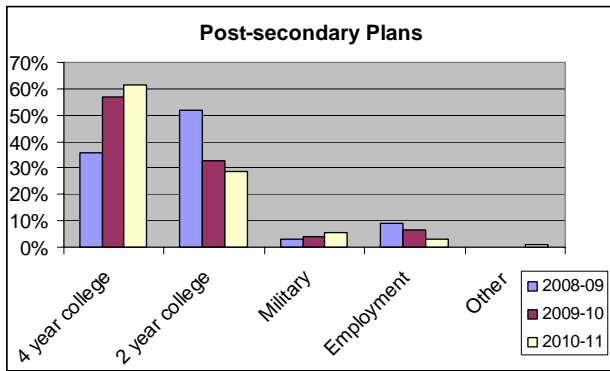


### STUDENT RESULTS

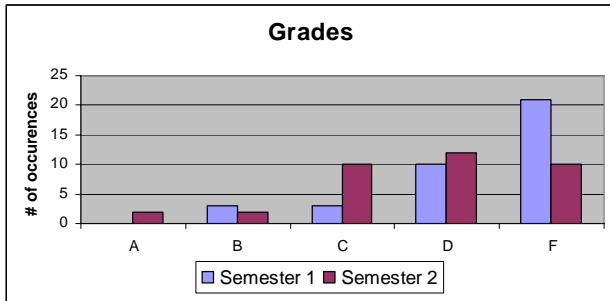
Members of the Department continue to focus on data collection and analysis of all of our programs which will lead to increased student academic achievement, personal/social development and career development.



After a presentation on the course selection process, more students were able to identify the number of credits they needed for promotion to the next grade level.



With the increased emphasis placed on career pathways through career folders and various events, more students are furthering their education before entering the workforce.



Participants in a group designed by the Department for students at risk of dropping out received fewer F's in their second semester and all of them showed improvement in their grades.

## MEASUREMENTS

Our program utilizes numerous assessments to determine the needs and interests of students in the following areas:

### Academic/Technical

- The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is given each spring to grade 10 students to measure progress in English and Math and to grade 9 students to measure progress in Science.
- The PLAN, PSAT & Advanced Placement exams are given on site to students in grades 10, 11 & 12 who wish to take them. They are used to measure academic progress.
- The SAT Reasoning & Subject Tests and ACT are available off site for juniors and seniors. Data gives us valuable student achievement in academic areas.
- Our post-secondary Placement Report & Scattergram is completed after graduation each year to measure student preparedness and gauge program effectiveness.
- Review of report cards & progress reports are accessed as needed for academic history and performance.

### Workplace Readiness

- All grade 9 students take the Self Directed Search in their English class. Results are reviewed with students and incorporated into their career portfolio.
- All grade 10 students write an extensive research paper using previous assessment data and information from various research methods.
- All grade 11 students create a resume and complete mock interviews in their English class.
- The Massachusetts Work Based Learning (WBL) Plan is used for all seniors involved in WBL. Competency deficits are shared with academic teachers and students.

The mission of Guidance and Student Support Services at Monson Public Schools is to enable students to acquire the educational, career and personal skills necessary to function and contribute in a changing society. Through collaborative efforts with school and district staff, parents/guardians, community members and service providers, the counseling department works to provide a safe, respectful and engaging environment that facilitates student development and well-being.

- **Personal/Social**

- The Signs of Suicide (SOS) & Depression Screening is administered in small groups by Department members each October. Necessary interventions are planned according to the needs of the students.
- Student records (discipline, attendance) and referrals are accessed as needed for important development history.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS/RESOURCES

Connecting with our community partners is essential to our services for both improved student success and our professional growth. At this time the Department is currently connected with the following community resources

### Academic/Technical

- Center for School Counseling Outcome Research
- Firehouse Learning, LLC
- Monson Free Library

### Personal/Social

- Monson Police Department
- Griswold Center for Behavioral Health
- Department of Social Services, Department of Youth Services and Juvenile Probation

### Workplace Readiness

- River-East School to Career Partnership, Inc.
- Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Future Works One-Stop Career Center

## VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Parents are strongly encouraged and welcome to participate in the activities of the Department through the following ways:

- Members of the Guidance Advisory Committee
- Mentors for Work Based Learning Program
- Guest speakers for career days and workshops
- Connect Program – general school volunteers

To become involved in one of these opportunities, please contact Diane Goodrich at 267.4589x1108 or [goodrichd@monsonschools.com](mailto:goodrichd@monsonschools.com).

## FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT

We continually seek ways to improve our programs and services which help achieve the school and department's mission to give students the necessary skills to function in a changing society. We are highly committed to ongoing evaluation and development of programs. Data collected from a comprehensive evaluation of guidance services by all constituents will dictate the needs and priorities for the department. Other areas targeted for improvement include:

- Increase time spent on direct services to students
- Reduce the # of students failing academic courses
- Develop a standards-based guidance curriculum for all grade levels