



Somerville High School
- Learn in, from, and for the world -

SHS Leadership Team

- **Alicia Kersten & Sebastian LaGambina**, Interim Co-Principals
- **Jodi Remington**, Associate Principal
- **Jim Hachey**, Assistant Principal/ Director of CTE
- **Marie Foreman**, Assistant Principal Team Leader

Vision

At Somerville High School, students **explore their passions, connect with their school and communities, and engage with the world around them through authentic and equitable learning experiences.** Graduates are empowered to achieve their goals and contribute to a more just world.



Building a Foundation

School

- Building Relationships
- MTSS & Community Teams
- Attendance Policy
- Grading for Equity
- Work Based Learning, Co-ops, Internships

-Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain
-Equity Team
-Highlander Habits
-Tiered Interventions

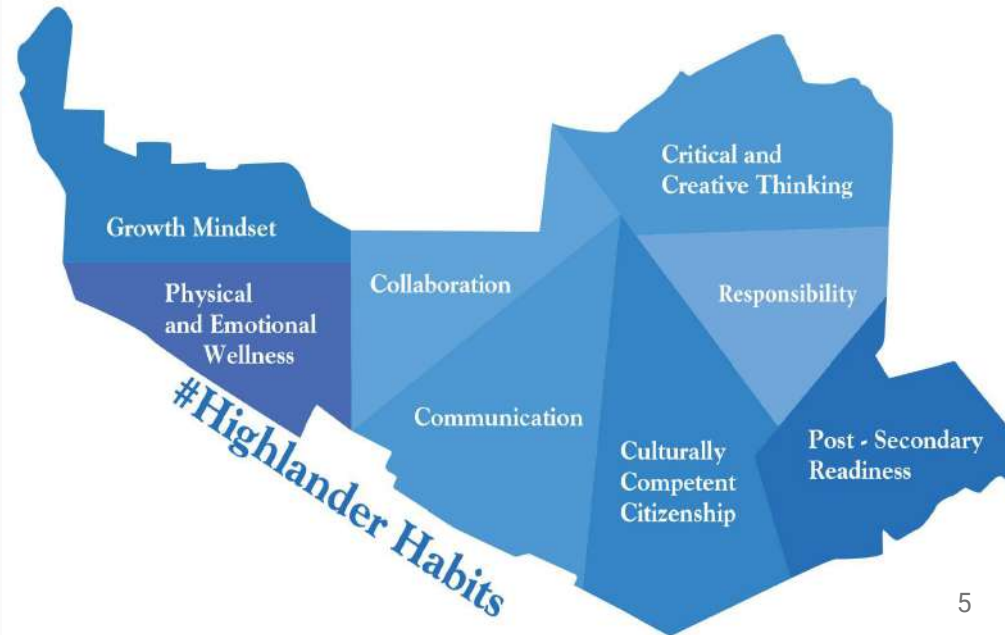
Classroom

- Landmark common practices (En, Sc, Ma, SS Dept.)
- Open Honors
- Performance-Based Assessments
- Scope & sequence & unit plans

Theme for the Year:

High Expectations, High Support

- Highlander Habit of responsibility
- Attendance
- Academic rigor
- Collective responsibility for academic and social-emotional support
- Culture of respect - staff & students are seen, heard, valued, and connected



Focus on Attendance

- Last year Somerville High School had a high absenteeism rate
- Majority of students who failed MCAS exams and who failed classes had 18 or more absences for the year
- Our plan includes: Enforcement of existing attendance policy, improved communication between school and home, additional meetings with and supports for students

Collective Responsibility for Supporting Students

- Tier 1 Guide for Supporting Students
- X Block
- Community Team Model
- NEST, NGE, & 10GE
- School Counseling Department and College and Career Team
- Newcomer Seminar, Rise Program & Bridge Program
- School Adjustment Counseling
- Mediation
- BAM/WOW Staff - Youth Guidance
- School based medical and mental health support through CHA
- Substance Prevention counselors through district and City
- Partnerships with City of Somerville (*Clinical support, Member of Crisis team and professional development/support*)
- Support Groups
- District wide supports (*social workers, attendance officers*)
- Youth Harbors
- In School therapy (*Provided by a few organizations*)

[Click here](#) for information about the [School Counseling](#) & Student Support Programming

Focus on Teaching and Learning

- Implementing school-wide routines and culturally responsive [common practices](#) to
 1. Let students know they are **valued members of the community**
 2. Help students develop a **growth mindset & engage in productive struggle**
 3. Make **students the drivers of their own learning** - shifting the heavy cognitive lifting to students
- Increasing opportunities for students to participate in an in-school internship, work based learning program, coop (CTE), early college programs, and/or dual enrollment

- Equity Team Goal: Rebuild systems to allow student-led celebrations of identity and culture
- Continue Social Justice Day and/or bring back re-envisioned Multicultural Day
- Soliciting Student Feedback- in classes and for changes to policy and procedure
- Individual departments integrate anti-racist and equity work into their practices, integrating school-wide grading system
- Continued efforts on detracking, on maintaining high rigor and high support for ALL students
- Equity Specialist supports individual staff members dealing with issues of identity and equity

Equity Work



Celebrating Students

Athletics & Clubs

Highlander of the Quarter Awards

Spirit Weeks

Prom & Soph/Junior Social

CTE Awards

Music Department Awards

Academic Awards Grades 9-11

Art & Music Showcase

Musical Performances

Spring Musical

Scholarship Awards

Class Day & Graduation

Highlander of the Quarter Awards



Award-Winning Staff



**Beatriz
Thomas,**
*2022
Latinx
Amplifier*



Michelle Kelly,
*MSSADA
Athletic Trainer
of the Year*



**Veronica
Rowlinson,**
*Massachusetts
Teacher of the
Year Finalist*



Adda Santos,
*Gilder Lehrman
Massachusetts
History Teacher of
the Year*

**Michael
Morgan,**
*2021-22 MIAA
Coach of the
Year Award for
Boys Tennis*

Other Focus Areas

Supporting new staff and staff in new roles

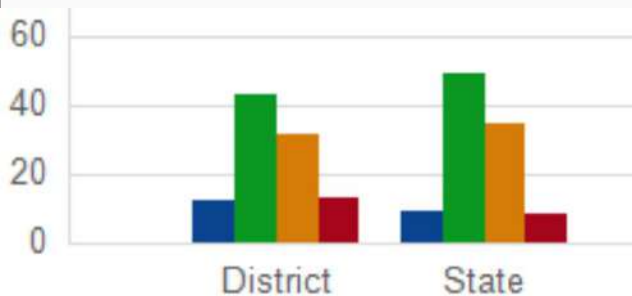
- 1 Co-Principal
- Community Engagement Specialists
- 3 Assistant Principals
- 3 Deans
- 2 Department Heads
- 20+ teachers/support staff/paras

NEASC

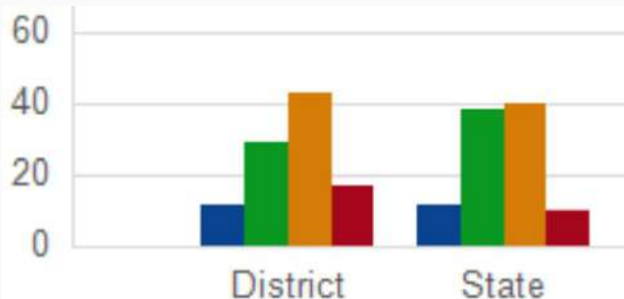
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Process
- Engaging in year of self-study and reflection
- Dedicated time for staff to reflect
- NEASC Visit is April 11 & 12, 2023

Achievement Level District and State Comparison Spring 2022 MCAS (% students)

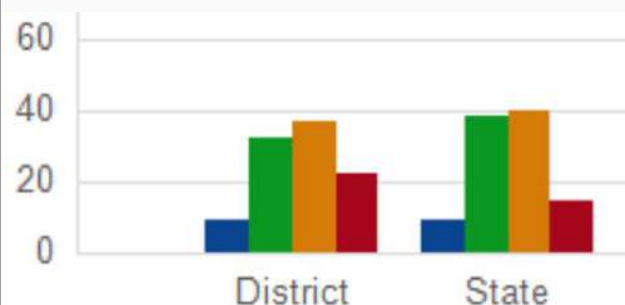
ELA (grade 10)



Math (grade 10)



Science (grade 9)

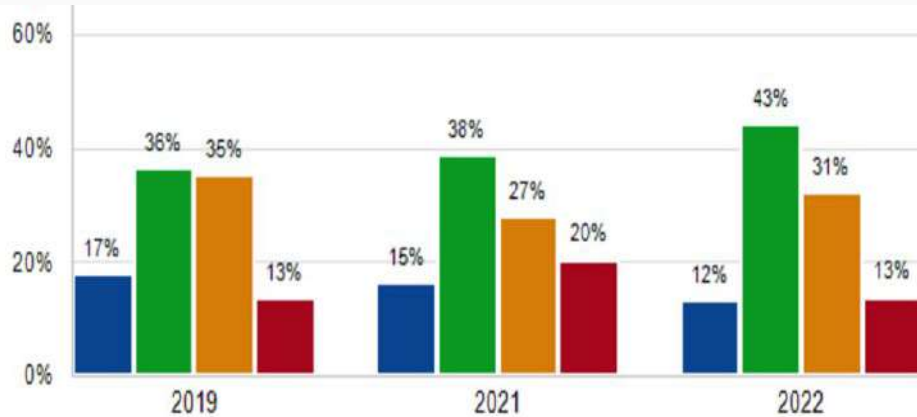


MCAS Achievement Level

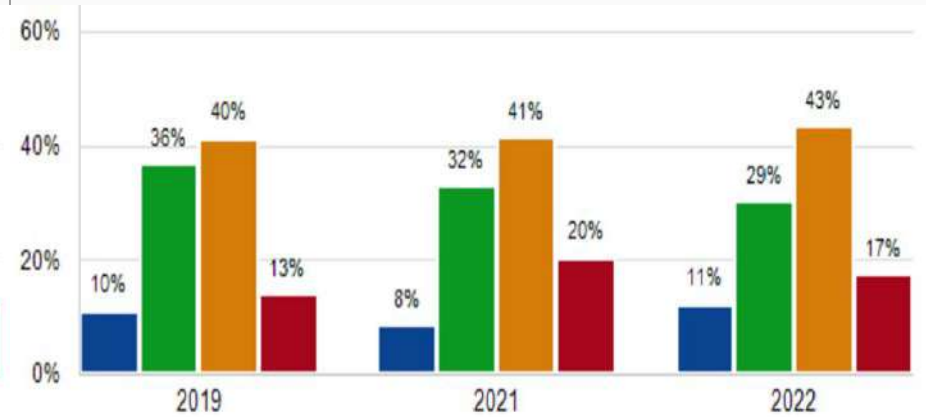
- Exceeding Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Partially Meeting Expectations
- Not Meeting Expectations

MCAS Achievement Analysis Spring 2019, 2021, & 2022

**ELA Grade 10
% students**



**Math Grade 10
% students**

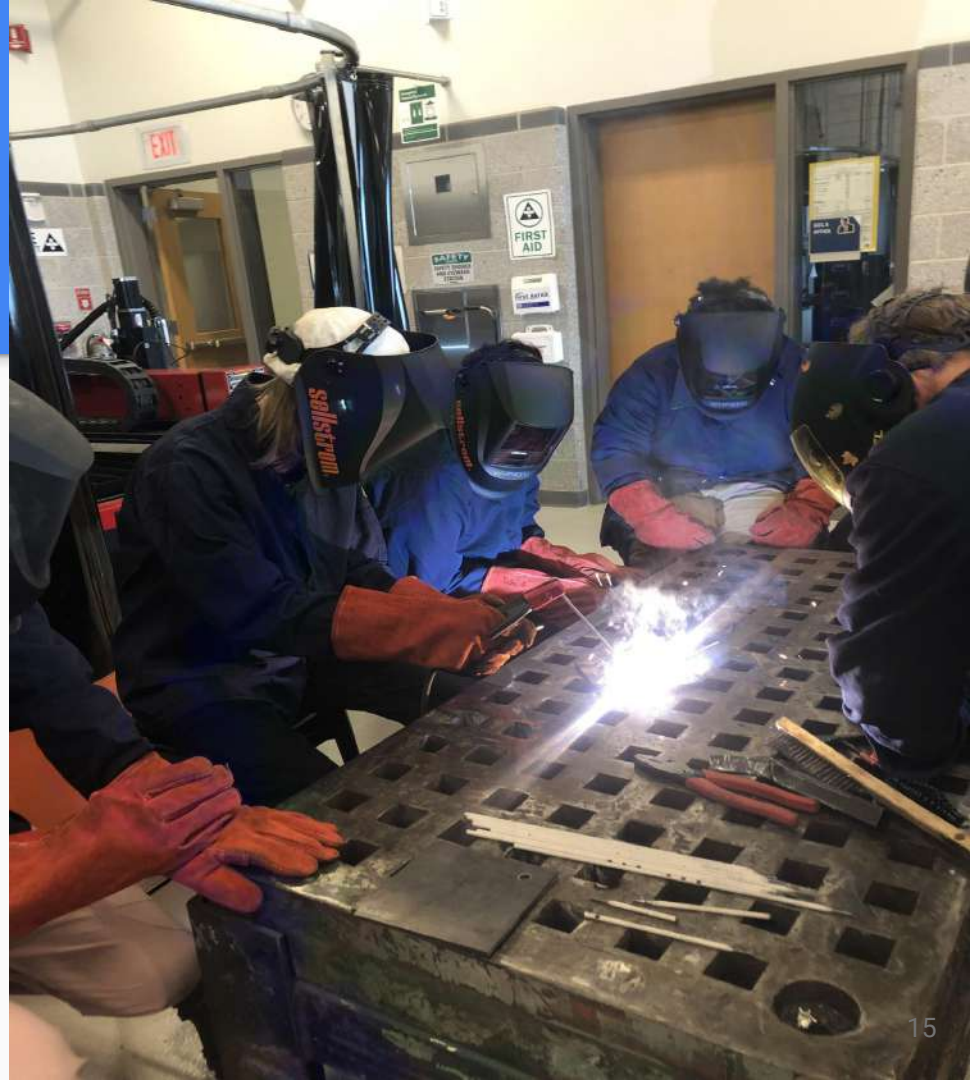


MCAS Achievement Level

- Exceeding Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Partially Meeting Expectations
- Not Meeting Expectations

CTE SY21-22 Highlights

- Exploratory Enrollment- 249
- 95% of the exploratory students received their first CTE choice
- Culinary / Electrical/ Health accepted more students over their enrollment quotas
- Skills USA Competition- Students earned 4 gold awards, a silver and a bronze award at the District level
- Class of 2022 - Earned over 250 Industry Recognized Credentials



CTE SY 2022-2023 Highlights

- **CTE Overall Student Enrollment**

- 9th grade students- 261
 - 10th grade students- 200
 - 11th grade students- 128
 - 12th grade students- 98
- Total Enrollment = 687 students / 52.8% of SHS
 - That is an 8% increase from SY 2021-2022

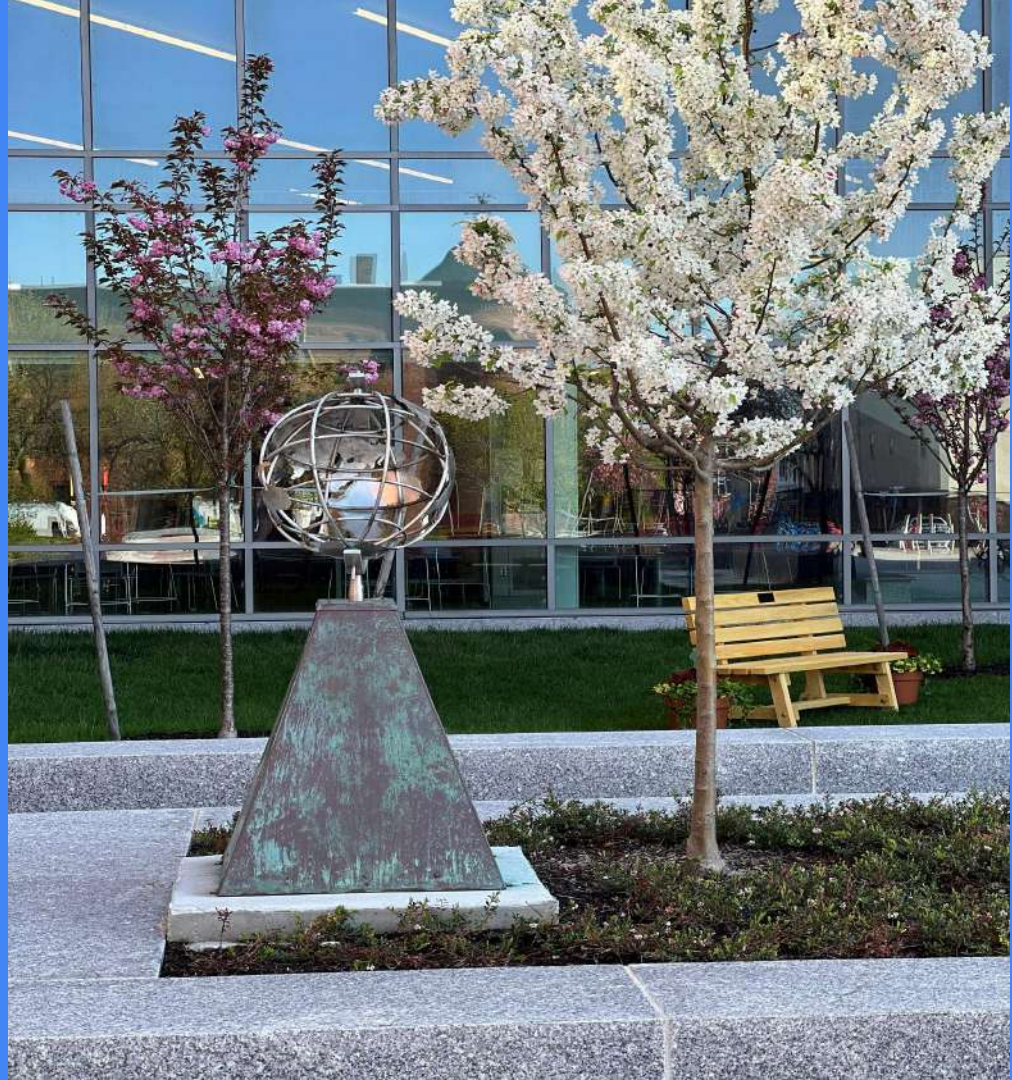
- **Cooperative Education**

- 20 students participating from 7 different CTE programs

- **Skills USA**

- 100% participation school
- Opens up opportunities for students to compete in over 80 competitions against other CTE students from across the state

Thank you!



Department Highlights

College & Career Counseling

- **Staff**

- Three full time College/Career staff working directly with Jrs & Srs
- College Affordability Counselor 4 days/week
- Student Athlete Mentor after school
- MassHire Jobs Coach 1 day/week

- **Programming**

- Individual meetings with juniors and seniors
- Senior Events: In-Person Financial Aid workshops, Post HS Planning Night, Financial Aid Night, Alternative Pathways meeting, X block workshops
- Junior Events: 4-5 Virtual Evening meetings for students/families

- **Highlights/New This Year!**

- In-person College Fair is back this year!
- Early College Program in its 4th year, largest class and growing
- OneGoal program began this year!

Work Based Learning & In School Internships

In School Internships & Out of School Work Based Learning

- Full or ½ year options for Juniors and Seniors
- Counts as course credit
- 4-12 hours & many students work additional hours after school
- Staff supported
- *Students* choose the setting, skills and projects that suit their interests.

Placements

- DEILAB; Green Team
- Student Advisory Council
- DESE K8 High School Senior Education Project
- Emerging Leaders- Harvard Radcliffe Institute
- Work Study - Community Partners



Music/Theatre

*SHS Music & Theatre programs
continue to thrive!*

- 50% Growth in K-8 String Program
- 12% Growth in K-8 Band Program
- HTC Production of Into the Woods
- Successful Fluff Festival Fundraiser
- MMEA ED District Band Participant
- Winter Concert
- Singing Valentines
- SHS Lunch Performances
- Choral Festival; Spring String Fling
- Band Festival
- An Evening of Song
- HTC's Fringe Festival
- Spring Concert & Art Exhibition
- Music Awards Night
- Tri M Music Honor Society Induction



Physical Education & Health Education



- Welcome new staff: Ava Untermeyer (Dance and Yoga) and Joe Angelo (PE/Health)
- Students are actively engaged in Team Activities, Fitness/Weight Training, Non Competitive Physical Activity, Dance and Yoga
- We are committed to physical literacy throughout the district using @ShapeAmerica Literacy program
- We are increasing the use of exit tickets and assessments in 9-12 PE and Health
- In conjunction with athletics, we are operating the Fitness Center in the mornings and afternoons for Somerville High School students and staff

Multilingual Learner Education (MLE) Program



- The **Newcomer Seminar** program has had a very successful start to its pilot year (staffed by multilingual school adjustment counselor); 48 students currently enrolled in Semester 1 seminar courses
- **Elm Community** continues to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate supports to youth of immigrant and refugee backgrounds and their families. This year we welcomed Yahaira-Maria Frier as our new AP, and Joel Villegas as our new Dean of Students!
- The **NEST** (Newcomer Education Success Team) educator team meets weekly for professional development on instructional practices to support newcomers/slife with a focus on alignment across the content areas. Educators also have a weekly team meeting where individual students are discussed and collaborative academic support plans are enacted.

English Department

- English Department's commitment to Critical Literacy
 - Increasing diverse voices in texts
 - Department mission statement: *We believe that critical thinking is not simply a set of skills, but also a tool for students to engage with, understand, and navigate their place in the world. We will help students cultivate a critical literacy where they approach texts with a critical eye in order to analyze and understand the systems at play in our society so they can act as agents of change toward a more just world for everyone.*
- The English Department has strengthened its commitment to critical literacy. We've increased diverse voices in our literature -- some grade levels are as high as 90% of literature coming from diverse voices -- and have worked together in professional development and learning communities to shift student learning around critical literacy.
- After two years of pausing the Senior Capstone projects, we are excited to begin this work later this year! Seniors will explore topics of their choosing around social justice and community issues, and showcase their talents and learning when they present their Capstone projects in May.



World Language

- Received \$60,000+ in DESE grants funding proficiency testing and PD
- Received Somerville Arts Council grant to fund a performance by Jean Appolon Expressions
- Received the Somerville Education Foundation grant to fund a tile project
- MA Seal of Biliteracy
 - 26 students in the Class of 2022
 - 18 students in the class of 2023



JEAN
APPOLON
EXPRESSIONS



OWL™
Organic World Language



ART DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Our Focus is increased Arts Integration for student engagement in a variety of opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.



[Click to see our latest happenings](#)

Social Studies



Increasing access to Rigor and Electives through a re-design of Required Courses Sequence - launched this fall, phase 2 will be next year

Adda Santos Massachusetts Social Studies Educator of the Year- Adda won this recognition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute for her work on the “Basement Project” in conjunction with the Somerville Museum

Continued focus on **anti-racist practices:** increasing representation in the curriculum, stories of resistance and resilience, projects that empower students

Partnerships with Cambridge College and Umass Boston - **students earning college credits**

- Robotics Team successes: District Championship, membership almost tripled, most complex robot to date
- AP Participation - 107 students taking 4 AP Math Exams
- Two Open-Honors Math Courses in Pre-Calculus and Geometry
- Integrated Math implementation expected Fall 2023
- Five existing computer courses with significant increased enrollment
- Significant increase in SEI and SAFE enrollment
- Potential new course: AP Computer Science Principles, Fall 2023
- 19 Faculty members

Math & Robotics



Special Education

-Vicki Cochran, CTE/Transition Specialist provides specialized instruction to a range of special education students in the CTE programs as well as travel training and coaching on transition related skills in a new Transition Prep class offered this year.

-Partnerships with Triangle, Community Work Services (CWS), Mass Rehab Commission (MRC), Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD), Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL), Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), Mass Hire, and more to provide students with additional training and employment opportunities.

-College Planning for Students with Disabilities Event-Partnered with SHS CCR Department and representatives from Bridgewater State and Westfield State Accessibility Services Offices to educate students, families, and educators about the transition from high school to college.

-Paid employment opportunities for students with disabilities through Target, Whole Foods, Somerville Community Schools, Stop & Shop, Somerville YMCA, and more!

SHS Science



The 2022 - 2023 school year is the third year of the science open honors rollout to improve access to higher-level curriculum. All core science courses (9th Grade Biology, 10th Grade Chemistry, and 11th Grade Physics) are now open honors.

In the spring of SY22, the Science Department also engaged in a three-part professional development on **grading practices that improve accuracy and student motivation, and decrease bias.**

The Science Department welcomed four new members this fall - Zachary Anderson, Charlotte Lindblom, Dr. Cristian Medina, and Sogoli Sadraeinouri. You can read about them [here](#).



Lisa Curtin received a **STEM Equipment Grant from the Massachusetts Life Science Center** for \$98,103 to enhance the current Human Physiology curriculum

Susan Schmidt was selected from a nationwide pool of educators to attend **The Society for Science High School Research Conference in Washington D.C.**

Toni Viola is helping to lead a **new teaching assistant training program** at the high school to support upperclassmen in being more effective in supporting their peers in the classroom.