MYCAP Planning for our Students’ Future

The Massachusetts Department of Education is collaborating with public schools to strengthen the connection between high school and college and career pathways. One way to help students plan for the future in conjunction with Early College opportunities is the MyCAP, the My Career and Academic Plan, which several faculty members have been participating in training for the past several months. MyCAP is a student-directed process of self-discovery and college and career planning that leads to a unique personalized pathway towards post-secondary success. As an instrument, MyCAP captures the learning and documents the achievements of the learning objectives at each grade level. The instrument may also act as an ePortfolio capturing certain artifacts that demonstrate success. The ePortfolio may be part of the online career information system or a cloud storage system (e.g., Google Docs) or a “Linked-In” type system.

Initial training for this new college and career planning initiative will be complete in April and will come with a set of resources, which will assist in creating the future MyCAP curriculum. Currently we are working on the various scheduling options available in order to implement this new and important program for all students.

Lesson Tuning: A new way to improve

One of Classical’s turnaround goals was to introduce lesson tuning into our regular practices in order to increase educator collaboration and to improve instruction in the classroom. The Classical staff have participated in several rewarding experiences this year to support this work. We kicked off the journey in November by collaborating with Molly Cohen and her team at Marshall Middle School to engage in a lesson tuning session with her ELA and Math Teams. LCHS sent three Department Chairs who then brought the learning back to LCHS, and we started planning lessons together in our Professional Learning Communities. The Math Department has also embarked on this work simultaneously through their Math Solutions Professional Development by co-planning lessons, observing a team member giving the lesson, and then coming back to give feedback and improve the lesson. This work is increasingly important as we have diverse learners in our classrooms. Teachers need to plan effectively to make lessons relevant and engaging, bridge the students through prior knowledge, and provide students ways to engage in higher order thinking tasks while scaffolding appropriately for all students. In February, the Administrative Team participated in a formal training with Kevin Perks from West Ed who demonstrated the lesson tuning protocol. Kevin also joined us in our PLC’s and gave us feedback and tools to improve the productivity and collaboration efforts to improve instruction. The LCHS staff continues to work diligently to improve instruction for positive student outcomes. Onward and upward!
The Sky is the Limit when you earn a Seal of Bi-literacy with Distinction Times Two

Genesis Beato is an amazing student with a variety of interests and talents and a maturity beyond his years as described by his guidance counselor Donna Doucette. He has a self proclaimed passion for languages and has excelled in AP Spanish at Lynn Classical High School but has also independently studied French, Japanese, and dabbled in Portuguese and American Sign Language. Because Genesis has become so proficient in Spanish and French, he was able to earn a Seal of Bi-literacy with Distinction in French and in Spanish. Languages are not Genesis’ only talent. Genesis is an accomplished violinist, artist and enjoys computer programming. When asked, “How do you balance all of this?” He said that he dives into his interests with all his energy and then moves on to the next. His accomplishments also extend to the classroom where he has earned a 4.54 G.P.A. and is managing two Honors and four Advanced Placement courses, including AP BC Calculus, the most difficult math course offered at LCHS. He has been a member of the Math Team, Mock Trial Team, Early College Program, The Gay Straight Alliance, and Band.

Genesis has managed to excel in academics, orchestra and art as a first generation to college student, and he comes from a single family home where he has had to overcome obstacles to find his success. The hard work is paying off as he has been offered a full scholarship to Amherst College. He is still awaiting results from other competitive universities, and I believe he will have plenty of choices to make when it is all said and done. Genesis’ dream is to combine his love of linguistics and computer programming to work in the field of artificial intelligence. Look out world, here he comes!

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”
— Trevor Noah, Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood
Global Voices in Writing Today is a new thematic, multi-genre English Language Arts course that features the development of critical thinking, reading and writing skills on global topics through reading and writing about literature representing a variety of world regions and viewpoints. In addition to selections of fiction and non-fiction, students independently research world news media. Writing assignments build students’ strengths in expository, descriptive, persuasive and narrative writing. In addition to required texts, independent reading and weekly reflection on arising global events are an expectation of the course.

Global Voices in Writing Today is structured around themes ranging from “Growing Up,” “Families and Heritage,” and “Identity” to “Voices of Rebellion,” “Language and Power” and “Cultures in Conflict.” Students read and reflect on the writing of over 30 global voices including: Amy Tan, Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Chinua Achebe, and Tupac Shakur. Students also regularly reflect on Ted Talks, which are linked thematically to units of study. Additionally, students grapple with challenging essential questions about the world and society, such as: When do you think you become you? How does your culture define you? Where do I “fit in” in my society? and How does our language shape our identity or culture as a whole?

Currently LCHS offers Global Voices in Writing Today as a partner to our semester long Dual Enrollment college credit class for freshmen, Understanding Higher Education and Career Pathways and as an intensive writing class for sophomores. Student feedback on the course has been very positive, and we look forward to building on the success of this ELA elective by offering more multi-cultural thematic ELA classes in the future.
On February 7th, the LCHS community celebrated Black History Month with an amazing and informative assembly featuring guest speakers, dancers, and singers. Mr. Washington and Hanifa Maswali along with the African American Club took the lead in planning the whole school event. We kicked off the event with a beautiful rendition of Lift Every Voice and Sing, the Black National Anthem by Abigail Brown.

Next, we were treated to a talk by Darell Murkison, Lynn Classical graduate and member of the North Shore chapter of the NAACP, who walked us through contributions of Black Americans throughout history while recounting some of the struggles and triumphs of Black Americans both locally and in the nation. Daryl received an award from Michael Satterwhite, also a Lynn Classical graduate and member of the Lynn School Community, for his contributions to the Lynn Community. Michael also took the time to share his experience as black student growing up in Lynn, recognizing the strengths that students gain from growing up on our diverse community.

Ms. Vinciarelli’s dance group, the Rival Rams, entertained us with an interpretive dance to Tamela Mann’s Grammy nominated song, Take Me to the King, a contemporary gospel piece. The Lynn Classical Chorus sang Praise his Holy Name another gospel selection.

Joseph Severe presented his award winning speech on “Heroism” with a powerful line, “When we acknowledge that someone’s actions are selfless and don’t involve anyone getting hurt, we as a society can agree that they are heroic.” This is his three time award winning speech that he is going on to compete with in the Lions Club State Finals. We all wish him luck, although we do not think he will need it.

The crowd cheered as the Rival Rams finished off the performances with a dance combination that centered around stepping, an African American form of percussive dance. Finally, Ms. Dunn finished with a closing that highlighted LCHS’s inclusive environment, while challenging the student body to embrace each other’s cultures and differences.

Connections to Career through workplace and experiential learning experiences

Opening up opportunities for all students is our goal.

Performers and Speakers.

Special Thanks to Darell Murkison, Mr. Washington and the African American Club for putting on an engaging and educational celebration!
With the new school year, come fresh and innovative ideas. In searching for a less traditional way to motivate our second language learners, the idea to bring in role models from the community emerged as a way to connect students to LCHS and open up possibilities for their future.

Since September, the EL students, Levels 1-4, have been participating once or twice a month in an open conversation with community influencers, many who have graduated from LCHS. The varied speakers have introduced interesting topics to discuss and have provided new ideas for pathways to careers for the future.

Starting in September, our first guest was Officer Manny Torres, who spoke about the cultural differences in the Lynn community and answered questions regarding police procedure. In October, while celebrating Hispanic Heritage month, LCHS graduate David Morales who has had a varied career in politics, public health and has recently been named General Manager of UniCare at Anthem, one of the largest health benefits companies in Massachusetts, was the keynote speaker to an assembly of 400+ students. Joining him was Diana Moreno from Metro Credit Union who relayed her story of finding the motivation to stay in school and learn English in order to become a successful and contributing member of our community. Ms. Moreno also joined us in late October for a college financial informational night in Spanish. This event was well attended by many senior students and parents.

Our AP Spanish Language and Culture classes hosted two speakers. Luis de la Rosa from Mexico and Angela Blume from the US shared their adventures in exploring the college and career choices that are open to bilingual students. They were very informative and our students appreciated their perspectives.

The year 2020 brought us the pleasure of hosting LPS psychologists Laura Luna, Eliza Guzman and Antonio Romero. Their warm demeanor and informative talk centered on district services and social emotional health. Students were excited to meet them, and they posed many interesting questions about the services available.

In February, Christopher Gonzales, LCHS graduate class of 2011, with his openness and charming personality gave an honest and moving account of his struggles and successes as a second language learner in our district. Christopher has gone on to a career in Neurobiology and is getting ready to embark on his PHD.

We are excited to continue to bring in speakers who have similar backgrounds and experiences to our students and who have gone on to do exciting things in their career while always thinking about and giving back to our community.
Aidan Dow celebrates with his family and coach, Mike Zukowski signing on to play baseball at St. Anselm. Way to go Aidan!

**Coming Soon**

- Air Site Visit Data
- New Schedule
- Salem State Early College Designation Application
- Turnaround Moving Forward
- Data Cycles

Aymen Laroussi receiving his Academic Excellence Award from Mayor, Tom McGee and Superintendent, Dr. Tutwiler