



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City and New Bedford High School Celebrate Initiative to Boost Advanced Placement

New Bedford, Massachusetts – Mayor Jon Mitchell and Superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools Dr. Pia Durkin joined with representatives from the Massachusetts Math + Science Initiative (MMSI) to announce the start of a new initiative to increase enrollment and improve grades in Advanced Placement (AP) courses at New Bedford High School. School officials, teachers and hundreds of high school students celebrated the start of the new partnership during an assembly at New Bedford High School on Wednesday, October 2nd.

The Mass Math + Science Initiative (MMSI) is a program developed by Mass Insight Education and is the state’s largest high school math and science program. The goal of MMSI is to promote advanced science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and increase student readiness for college-level study. Through partnerships, MMSI provides support for both students and teachers by offering teacher trainings, tutoring, supplies and more.

During the MMSI kick-off rally, Mayor Mitchell, Superintendent Durkin, New Bedford High School AP teachers and MMSI representatives highlighted the importance of participating in AP courses. “Taking AP courses and passing the exam means a great deal more than just earning college credit. AP courses help students develop valuable skills such as time-management, critical thinking, and persistence, which are important for future academic pursuits. Success in these courses clearly demonstrates that you are well prepared for college-level work. Participation in AP courses could be the deciding factor for college admission,” said Mayor Mitchell. New Bedford High School remains the most competitive high school in the region for college admissions. Seniors from the graduating class of 2013 at New Bedford High School were admitted to many of the nation’s top academic institutions including Columbia University, Brown University, Tufts University, and Boston University.

MMSI’s partnership with New Bedford High School began when Mayor Jon Mitchell recognized the benefits of the program and encouraged the team to partner with District officials last year. Mayor Mitchell stated, “Partnering with Mass Math +Science is a win-win for New Bedford High School and the City. Over time more students will enroll in AP courses and increase their

performance, growing the High School's reputation as an academically competitive school. Additionally, the partnership includes training and incentives for AP teachers.”

MMSI has set high achievement goals for New Bedford High School. Within the first year of the partnership, MMSI hopes to increase enrollment and boost the AP passing rate from 72 students in 2012-2013 to 129 students. As the initiative continues and more students enroll in AP courses, the number of students achieving passing scores is expected to steadily increase.

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