



PLYMOUTH
HARBOR
ACADEMY

Hope. **A**ccountability. **R**esilience. **B**alance. **O**pportunity. **R**espect.

3 March 2025

Presented by Dr. Jim Demers
Director of Alternative Programs

EXPECT MORE

★ Plymouth Harbor Academy services 44 students

- ◆ 21 Seniors (3 finished in January)
- ◆ 20 Juniors
- ✧ More than half are on an IEP or 504 plan
- ✧ PHA's dedicated staff includes: 1 Director, 4 teaches, 1 Special Educator, 1 Guidance Counselor
- ✧ 3 Paraprofessionals - 1 of which serves as a job coach and driver of PHA's van



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- ❖ Cost saving program providing alternative setting for students at risk for out placement or dropout
- ❖ PHA programs are geared toward providing students relevant, project based learning opportunities relative to their life now and in the future
- ❖ Support students who have the desire to earn their high school diploma, but may have experienced academic difficulties, poor attendance, social/emotional difficulties and/or behavioral challenges
- ❖ PHA tries to eliminate student stressors by creating a student-focused environment, catered to individual learning styles



EXPECT MORE

- ★ PHA is increasing the work-study program; helping students:
 - ✧ Completing job applications
 - ✧ Develop interview skills
 - ✧ Find job opportunity and internships that not only match their skills and interests, but also allow them the opportunity to grow their interest professionally towards a career path.
 - ✧ Professional training opportunities
 - ✧ Career Advancements
 - ✧ Assistance with learner's permit and driver's license application



West Elementary CARE program

- ❖ Student-mentor program 3rd year
- ❖ PHA students will be formally trained in mentoring younger students in a positive productive way
- ❖ Perfect way for PHA's young adults to give back to the school system and their community
- ❖ PHA students plan and provide a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson to their protege at West.

HiPoint Counseling Services

- ◇ In-school therapy program for students
- ◇ Provided in response to student requests for assistance
- ◇ Bypasses waitlists for outside counseling
- ◇ Eliminates transportation barriers for students
- ◇ Provides opportunities for students to meet with HiPoint Counselors
 - ★ 1-2 days per week
- ◇ Allows students to address their mental health, resulting in higher academic achievement

Bridgewater State University

Center for Educational Neuroscience Applications

Research in the areas of the brain and nervous system development, adversity and how social, emotional and cognitive development are disrupted by these adversities and trauma.

Board Member 2024/2025

Practitioner in the field who successfully applies neuroscience applications in public education through an alternative high school setting.

★ PHA Community

★ No Cell Phone policy

- Student to student interaction
- Student to staff interaction
- The art of being social - knowing the right time and the right place
- Connecting with others outside of their peer friend group
- Value others opinions and ideas
- Reduction in student anxiety
- Students gain a sense of community and take pride in their space
- Hold each other accountable

★ **PHA Food Pantry has been established**

★ Panty is restocked weekly by South Shore Action Council

★ Students eat the food at school as well as bringing food home for themselves and their families

★ **Life Skills**

★ Taking leftover food, and manufacturing new meals

★ Sewing machine donated

★ Gardening and maintenance of grounds

★ **Walt's Mobile Closet**

★ Second hand clothing (many with tags) made available to students here at school with no charge

★ Looking to establish a back to school shopping event in August for both students and their families



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Thank you for your supporting the Alternative Program at Harbor Academy