**Report on 5th Grade Pre-Opening**

**Harpswell Coastal Academy**

**September 8, 2020**

On July 13, 2020, the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) review team met via Zoom with members of the Harpswell Coastal Academy (HCA) governing board and administrative team to review the school’s pre-opening requirements for the new grade five.

After a discussion of enrollment, educational programming, staffing, facility, and budget, the MCSC Review Team believes the school is prepared to open for grade five.

Maine Charter School Commission Harpswell Coastal Academy

Gina Post Scott Barksdale, Head of School

Amy Allen Mae Applegate, Dean of Students

Bob Kautz Jennifer Allain-Winchester (Dir. of Sp. Ed.)

Joe Drago Peggy Muir, board

Shelley Reed Susan Priest, board

 David Jean, board

 Cynthia Shelmerdine, board

 Nancy Andersen, board

Barbara Merson, board

Ed Harris, board

Sally Morris, board

**Enrollment**

At the time of the visit, Grade 5 enrollment was as follows:

* 4 enrolled (had been 6 but 2 families withdrew due to COVID)
* 3 Intent to Enroll completed, finishing up paperwork, answering questions, etc.
* 6 interested

At the time of the visit, Grade 6 enrollment was as follows:

* 6 enrolled
* 3 Intent to Enroll completed, finishing up paperwork, answering questions, etc.
* 2 interested

Tours were planned for later that same week as the visit. The school’s representatives reported that in some cases interest appeared to be dependent upon the school’s re-opening plan, which was scheduled to be released later that week.

The Head of School was confident that 10 students would be enrolled in 5th grade by August 7th, as planned. He also thought it would be challenging to get the anticipated 20 students enrolled for Grade 6 by August 7th.

**Facility**

The Harpswell School has an Academic Wing/Hallway which will have 5th and 6th graders near the office and the gym. They will have their own 5th and 6th grade bathroom. A separation between youngest and oldest students was part of the plan.

There is planned time for students of grades 5-8 to come together. The school day starts with Crew. At the time of the visit the administrative team was hoping it would continue to mix grades 5-8. However, if the school determined that it was best for social distancing to create learning “pods,” that will impact the makeup of crews.

During academic time and unstructured times grades 5/6 and 7/8 will work in separate spaces. For structured times such as wellness, Wednesday electives, etc., grades 5-8 will be together.

**Budget**

The school is hoping to have overall enrollment of at least 195 students (the same as Oct. 1, 2019). It would prefer 200 students enrolled. At the time of the visit the school was approximately 2/3 enrolled, based on 200 students. Having fewer than 195 students enrolled may negatively impact the budget.

**Educational Program**

* Math
	+ Grade 5 – Emergent Math
	+ Grade 6 – Incorporating Open Up Resources[[1]](#footnote-1). The school reported that it is very accessible and worked well during remote learning.
* Literacy – Grade 6 Units of Study, differentiated to include 5th grade
* STEM/Humanities Investigations: Interdisciplinary Investigations
* Curriculum Map
	+ STEM (Genetics/Hereditary/Cells, Simple Machines, Economics/Materials Science)
	+ Humanities (Who Am I?, Ancient Civilizations, Story of Clothes)
	+ Writing (Personal Narrative; Literacy essay; Research-Based Information Writing)
	+ Reading (A Deeper Study of Character, Tapping the Power of Nonfiction, Social Issues Book clubs)
	+ Math (number operations, fractions, and decimals, algebraic patterns, geometry, fraction, operations)

The school will be shifting to Infinite Campus (IC) beginning in 2020-21. The previous system wasn’t doing what the school needed it to do. With the move to IC there will be one system for students and parents, as well as school staff. Training on the new system was planned.

**Staffing**

The school did not have any new positions but was filling vacated positions. The Dean of Students and Head of School will be in both buildings and will share oversight of curriculum and students. The Dean of Students’ role is not teacher supervision. Her focus will be instruction and academic and behavioral accountability for students. She will also be working with staff to offer support where needed.

1. *Open Up* Resources are free. (openupresources.org) It is a problem- based mathematics curriculum authored by Illustrative Mathematics. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)