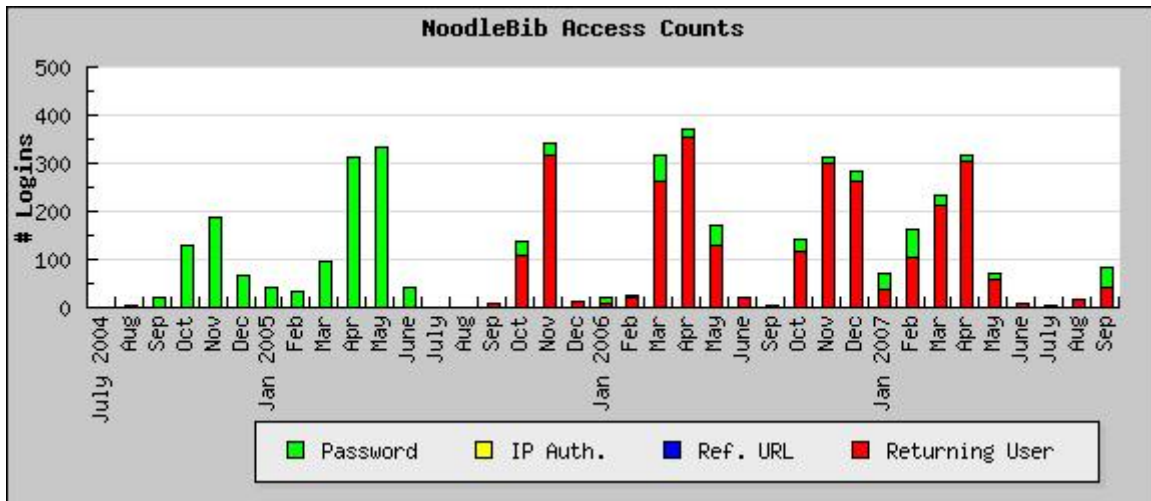


**Uxbridge High School**  
**Monthly Report – September, 2007**  
**George Zini, Principal**

**Overview of Activities for September**

- The Family/Consumer Science department is extremely pleased with the addition of new cabinets and sinks. This has greatly improved the appearance and sanitary conditions of the Foods Lab.
- The guidance department has gotten off to a fast start by introducing a variety of new initiatives.
  1. September 11 marked the start of our guidance information table in the cafeteria. We offer SAT, ACT and PSAT registration information as well as providing students with another opportunity to gather information important to them
  2. September 10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> was the start of Senior Seminar. These are informational sessions conducted in a senior level class such as Senior English, Government or Independent Living by each member of the Guidance Department. We anticipate that we will conduct three sessions dealing with a variety of topics such as: general college information, the necessity of touring, and the application process.
  3. After school workshops will be jointly conducted by Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Guilmette concerning resume and essay creation. These will commence in late October.
  4. Counselors have begun a more formalized process of notifying any of their counselees who may currently be on 504 Plans of the opportunity to submit information which might make them eligible for testing accommodations when taking college entrance exams of any type.
  5. Counselors have begun meeting bi-weekly with the School Adjustment Counselors, Student Management Coordinator, and Assistant Principal in order to identify, discuss, and support students with behavioral, attendance, or social/emotional difficulties.
  6. The UHS Counselors are set to meet bi-monthly with members of the rest of the district guidance staff for the purpose of vertical alignment of services and to once again streamline effective communication methods. Our first challenge is to develop a uniform reporting method for SRC meetings that will be forwarded to receiving schools. We feel that this will enhance critical student information.
- On Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, members of the UHS Chorus participated in the Phoenix Festival of Music and Art, held at the Uxbridge Farm and Fairgrounds. The event was a benefit for the families and businesses affected by the eight-alarm fire in July that destroyed the Bernat Mill Complex. This performance came after just one regularly-scheduled rehearsal for the ensemble!

- The Band performed at the Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday afternoon, September 21 and at the UHS football home opener that evening. The Band has several new members, including an almost entirely new rhythm section, and a new set of student volunteer equipment wranglers.
- Mrs. Lesperance's Pre-Vocational Program currently has 10 students, 4 staff, and 2 peer tutors. During first semester, most students are taking Daily Living Skills, Math, English/Reading, and Science. Students will spend additional time in PE, Library, Computer Lab, and Art. As part of the computer focus, students who are able will be emailing some of their homework assignments. This encourages communication and computer exploration while improving students' writing skills.  
The Spartan Cafe' will continue to operate as well. New students are enjoying learning about the cafe and the many daily tasks associated with operating it. They are learning about safety and cleanliness, baking and food storage, the cash register and money skills.
- The Mosaic Studio moved into their new facility and commemorated this move with an ice cream social provided by Rep Jennifer Callahan.
- On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Bill Phillips of New Beginnings, an anti-drug and alcohol program, spoke to the students in the mill program about the dangers and consequences of drug use.
- The first grade 7-12 Literacy C&I team meeting was held at the High School on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The main goal of this newly formed inter-grade level, inter-building team will be to improve achievement for all Uxbridge students by improving and clarifying communication and standards based teaching practices among Grades 7-12 English teachers.
- The first "vertical" 7-12 Literacy team meeting engendered some much needed inter-grade level conversation including the need to familiarize teachers with preceding and succeeding grade level standard based units to better coordinate teaching and learning between grade levels.
- Subsequent 7-12 Literacy team meetings will include an in-depth 7-10 grade level English MCAS analysis to determine areas of relative weakness with the goals of formulating and implementing corrective action. Particular attention will be paid to a cross-grade level analysis that will involve a careful examination of the MCAS performance of the same student class while in Grades 7, 8, and 10 to determine which skill areas need additional emphasis.
- The Science/Technology department has been hard at work transforming room 003 into a Technology Center for the Physics/Technology program. Tables, work stations and computers were moved and installed. Students are excited about learning in this new environment.
- Freshman Library Orientation classes are being held. The students are creating accounts for themselves in Noodletools, a bibliographic tool, for future research paper assignments. Students are also taking the first in a series of Trails9 Information Literacy Assessments authored by Kent State University in Ohio. Noodletool statistical reports show that already 60 returning users have begun bibliographies this year. Compare past Septembers on the chart below.



### Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

- Students in the Independent Living classes are completing the writing of resumes and cover letters.
- Alyssa Whorf of Johnson & Wales demonstrated Chinese dumplings and talked to students in the Foods classes about the culinary programs offered by the college. Students have also prepared hospitality baskets for the NEASC visiting team members.
- The new Get Fit/Stay Fit course offered by the Physical Education department is off to a great start. The cardiovascular, flexibility and toning activities incorporated into the course are preparing the students to be invested in lifelong learning of healthy habits.
- On Wednesday, August 29, 2007, a pre-season meeting for all parents and athletes of fall teams occurred in the school auditorium. Various school and MIAA policies were reviewed in the area of athletics. Guest speaker Dr. Dan Switchenko spoke to parents and athletes on the dangers of substance abuse.
- Homecoming activities scheduled during September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> included the first night football game at Uxbridge High School. Soccer and field hockey games took place on Saturday morning followed by the annual Homecoming Dance.
- Mr. Mike Ryan from the Office of the Jury Commission in Boston gave a presentation to Mr. Hutchings' Law classes and Mrs. Puckett's AP U.S. Government class. He stressed the importance of jury duty as part of citizenship. He also conducted a trial simulation.
- Intro to Physics/Technology students have completed the paper tower project and are now working on motion and forces.
- Students in CAD have been working on basic AutoCAD commands to begin their Architectural unit.
- The Leadership class is working on a Communications Unit and will be developing a school newspaper called the "Orange and Black".

- Students in the Video Tech class are working on a news story about Spirit week which will air on channel 13.
- The Desktop publishing/Yearbook class has finalized the cover and theme for the 2008 yearbook.
- Anatomy and Physiology students completed a lab on basic cell types and the structure of organelles. They learned how to make stained preparations of live cells, and to distinguish between prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
- AP Biology students completed Net Productivity surveys of organisms in the Mumford River.

### **Professional Development Activities**

- On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Brown attended a conference, sponsored by the ACT Company, regarding current information about this college entrance exam.
- Mrs. Biondi and Mrs. Brown attended a conference on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The topic of this conference, held by the Massachusetts State Colleges, was the latest admission information regarding admission practices and standards being employed by our state colleges and universities. Both Mrs. Biondi and Mrs. Brown have been asked to take part in a more in depth question and answer session after the main presentation for the purpose of giving voice to specific counselor concerns.
- In July, Rob Hammerton participated in the New England Band Directors Institute, a weekend-long professional development event organized by the New Hampshire Band Directors Association. Attendees participated in workshops and seminars and performed in concert band and jazz ensemble music reading sessions on the campus of Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH.
- In July, Rob Hammerton participated in the American Choral Directors Association professional development conference held at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. Attendees participated in workshops and seminars addressing musical, conducting and practical concerns of choral music and choral ensembles.
- In August, Rob Hammerton completed his ninth summer as a professional staff instructor with the George N. Parks Drum Major and Band Leadership Academy. On the campuses of UMass/Amherst and West Chester University (PA), he instructed high school student band leaders in teaching, marching, conducting, showmanship and leadership skills. He also was a staff member of the DMA Mace Workshop, an intensive marching showmanship-technique clinic.

### **General School/Department Information**

- Rob Hammerton has been named Manager of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) All-State Concert Band. The Band, consisting of top student musicians from across the Commonwealth, will meet to rehearse and perform a concert during the MMEA Annual In-Service Conference in Boston in late March 2008.
- Two members of the math department are now teaching undergraduate math courses (after school hours). Christine Prior is at Worcester State College (WSC) and Susan Buckley is at Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

- Eight new external hard drives were purchased by the Andrews Foundation for the Video Technology lab.
- The Library now has an important new database, EBSCO Literary Reference Center, courtesy of the MBLC and the CMRLS. As its name implies, this database is an outstanding resource for Literature papers. LRC, their new and exciting comprehensive literary reference database, provides users with a broad spectrum of reference information from antiquity to the present day. LRC is a completely full-text database that combines information from over 1,000 books and monographs, major literary encyclopedias and reference works, hundreds of literary journals, and unique sources not available anywhere else." (from About the Database, EBSCO support file)
- Athletic participation during the fall season:
 

<u>High School</u>	<u>Whitin School</u>
Football – 58	Boys & Girls Cross Country - 85
Boys Soccer – 20	Boys Soccer - 17
Girls Soccer – 33	Girls Soccer 17
Field Hockey – 30	Field Hockey - 18
Girls Cross Country – 13	
Boys Cross Country – 7	Total - 137
Golf – 10	
Cheerleading – 6	
Total - 177	

### Upcoming Events

- PSATs will be administered on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is currently underway.
- The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities in conjunction with the Milford High School Social Studies Department is screening the first feature length documentary on the trial and execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. The film will be screened at 7:30 pm, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at Milford High School. The audience will have the opportunity to discuss the documentary with the filmmaker, Peter Miller of New York City. There is no admission charge.
- The Band will perform at three more home football games (including three consecutive Saturdays in October) plus the traditional Thanksgiving game, this year here at home.
- The Band & Chorus will make their annual appearance as part of the Town of Uxbridge's First Holiday Night festivities, on Saturday, Dec. 1.
- Final preparations have been made for the NEASC visit from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Principal