

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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COMMUNITY

Rural/Suburban area approximately
25 miles north of Boston
Hamilton: 8,332 residents
Wenham: 5,129 residents

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

CEEB Code: 222-010
Grade Levels: 9-12
Enrollment: 715
Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges
Class Periods: The high school follows an eight block, ten day rotating schedule. 50/70 minute classes

MISSION STATEMENT & EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School community strives to create a passion for learning in a reflective environment that promotes respect, individuality and quality achievement. By working to reach their greatest potential, Hamilton-Wenham students will learn to live as life-long learners, express themselves effectively, acquire essential knowledge and skills, respect themselves and others and navigate within a variety of communities.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Members of the senior class are recognized as Commended Students (6), Semi-Finalists (1) in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Results from 2007: 126 students took 162 Advanced Placement exams. Average scores were: 3.7 U.S. History (22), 4.2 English Literature (18), 2.4 European History (59) and 4.2 Calculus AB (18), 3.2 Spanish Language (22), 3.0 Spanish Literature (10), 3.2 French Language (4). Some students elected to take AP exams in subjects not offered at the Regional. () = number of students taking exam.

LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

AP/Honors level courses are designed for students with a strong fundamental knowledge of the subject, outstanding critical thinking ability and independent study skills. Academic A1 level courses adhere to a standard college preparatory curriculum. They are designed for students capable of responsible, independent study of advanced topics. Academic A1 Skills level courses adhere to a skills-based college preparatory curriculum designed to support individual learning styles. These courses prepare students for four-year colleges as well as two-year colleges and technical training.

WEIGHTED GRADING SCALE

Courses are weighted by degree of difficulty and enter into the calculation of the grade point average. All classes are included in such calculation with the exception of Health Science, Pass/Fail courses, Independent Study and classes taken at other institutions. A typical A-F grading system is employed with the minimum passing grade of D-. An N grade denotes an attendance failure. Class rank is not determined.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
AP/H	4.5	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.2	0
A1	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.2	0.9	0
A1S	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0

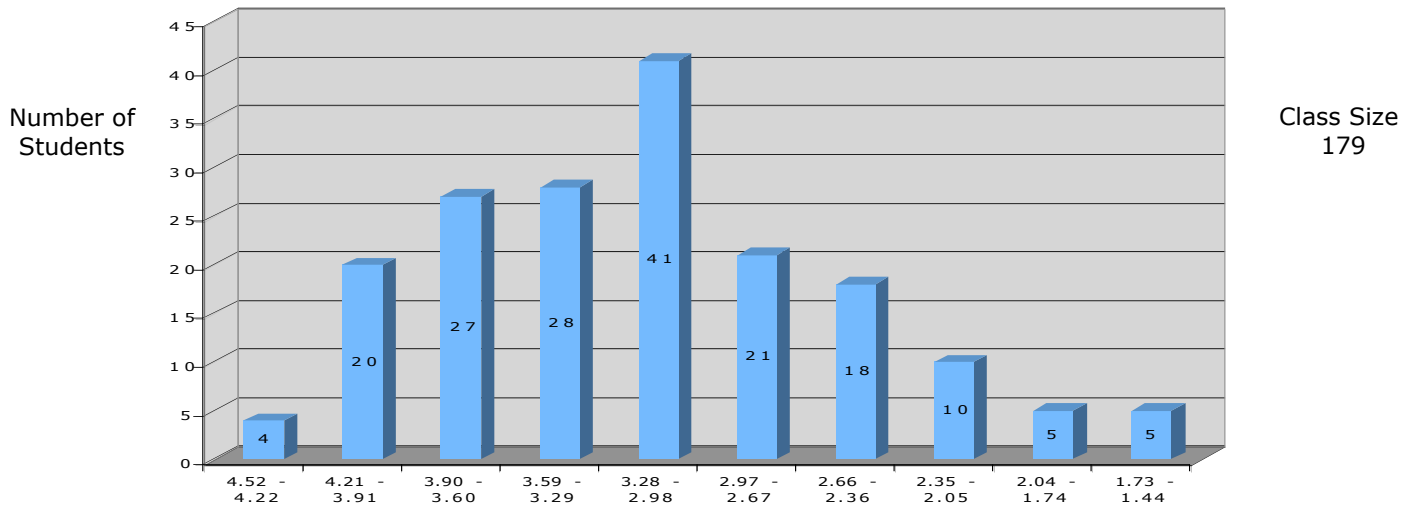
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Amnesty International Club, Art Club, Chess Club, College Bowl, Dell Belles, Foreign Language Club, Interact (Jr. Rotary) Club, Kings of the Beach, Literary Magazine, Marching Band, Math Team, Mock Trial, Model U.N., National Honor Society, Ping-Pong Club, Recycling Club, Science Team, Self-Defense Club, Ski Club, Student Government, Student Newspaper (Sound Off), Theatre Workshop, and Yearbook.

ATHLETICS

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School is a long-time member of the Cape Ann League. Students may choose to participate in any of the 26 athletic programs.

CLASS OF 2008 GPA SCALE DISTRIBUTION



Based on June 2007 data, each bar indicates the number of students in the Class of 2008 who earned a GPA in that range.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must accumulate 23 credits in order to meet graduation requirements. A semester course receives .5 credit; a year-long course receives 1.0 credit. The following courses are required:

- Four years of English (4 credits)
- Three years of Social Studies (Includes World History I, U.S. & World History I and U.S. & World History II) (3 credits)
- Two years of Mathematics (2 credits)
- Two years of Science (2 credits)
- Two years of Foreign Language (waived for students in English Skills level classes in freshman and sophomore years) (2 credits)
- Three years of Health Science (3 credits)
- One Technology course (.5 credit)

The Diversified Learning Program provides juniors and seniors with an opportunity to expand their learning beyond the four walls of a traditional classroom. Learning opportunities include college level coursework, community and school service, independent study, internships, distance learning, student tutoring and transition-to-work programs.

<u>Post-Secondary Placement</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
4 Year College	81%	81%	84%	84%
2 Year College	10%	8%	7%	6%
Other Post-Secondary Schools	2%	3%	2%	3%
Employment	7%	7%	4%	4%
Travel/Other			2%	2%
Military		<1%	1%	1%

<u>Mean SAT Scores</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Verbal	561	575	568	565 (CR)
Math	557	574	574	561 (M)
				565 (W)
% of Test Takers	90%	91%	92%	97%

<u>Mean SAT Subject Test Scores</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
English Literature	657	617	666	662
U.S. History	N/A	600	574	574
World History			586	
Math 1C	619	659	608	600
Math 2C	670	682	676	650
Biology E	629	623	631	591
Biology M	638	612	635	616
Chemistry	N/A	540	620	
French	N/A	618		571
Spanish				560

CLASS OF 2007

College/University Destinations

84% - 4 year college
6% - 2 year college
3% - other post-secondary schools
4% - work
2% - travel/unknown
1% - military

Top Fifth:

Allegheny College
American University
Bentley College
Boston College
Bowdoin College
Clemson University
Connecticut College
Dickinson College

Emory University
Fordham University
Gordon College
Hamilton College
New York University
Northeastern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University

Rice University
Stonehill College
UMASS Amherst
UMASS Boston
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of Maine

University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of Virginia
Wake Forest University
Wentworth Inst. of Technology
Westmont College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Second Fifth:

Art Institute of Chicago
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.
Eugene Lang College
Fairfield University

Mass College of Pharmacy
Northeastern University
Pratt Institute
Providence College
Saint Anselm College
Saint John's College (Maryland)
Saint Lawrence University

Simmons College
Stonybrook University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Temple University
UMASS Amherst
UMASS Boston

University of Miami
University of New Hampshire
University of Vermont
Wells College
Wentworth Inst. of Technology
Willamette University

Third Fifth:

Arizona State University
Art Institute of Chicago
Colby-Sawyer College
College of Wooster
Drexel University
Emmanuel College
Florida Intern'l University
Gordon College

Hobart & Wm. Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Maine College of Art
North Shore Community College
Northeastern University
Northern Essex Comm. College

Pennsylvania State University
Pratt Institute
Quinnipiac University
Saint Joseph's University (PA)
Saint Lawrence University
Salem State College
Stonehill College

Texas Tech University
UMASS Amherst
UMASS Dartmouth
University of Ottawa
University of Rhode Island
Western New England College
Williston Northhampton School

Fourth Fifth:

Art Institute of Boston
Colby-Sawyer College
Fashion Inst. of Design & Merch.
Framingham State College
Gordon College
Green Mountain College

Mass College of Art
Nichols College
North Shore Community College
Rollins College
Saint Anselm College
Saint Lawrence College

Salem State College
Savannah College of Art & Design
Suffolk University
SUNY College at Plattsburgh
UMASS Amherst
UMASS Dartmouth

UMASS Lowell
Universal Technical Institute
University of Rhode Island
Westfield State College
Williston Northhampton School

Last Fifth:

Colby-Sawyer College
Curry College
Cushing Academy
Eastern Nazarene College

Gordon College
Lasell College
Lee University
Lynn University

Mount Ida College
North Shore Community College
Radford University
Salem State College

Seton Hall University
Suffolk University
Universal Technical Institute
University of Rhode Island

Curriculum Highlights

English Department

The English Department strives to foster the understanding and appreciation of language, literature and writing. English courses are intended to sharpen critical thinking and reading skills and to develop a more creative and sophisticated writing style. Students who read, write, listen and speak well will be able to comprehend others and to achieve greater self-understanding and self-expression. Since the learning process extends across all disciplines, the critical thinking, reading and writing skills honed in English are applicable in all other subjects. With the ability to express themselves clearly and effectively, students will maximize their academic, civic and social potentials. To that end, a special Paper Policy makes writing mandatory in every English course, and the Department has long maintained cumulative writing folders across the four years, including reflection papers, whereby students may assess their growth as writers each year. The school's literary magazine, *Generally Speaking*, and the weekly school newspaper, *Sound-Off*, offer students significant opportunities to develop a sense of voice and to publish their writing. In addition, students are encouraged to enter their essays, stories, and poems in a number of local, state and national contests.

Fine Arts Department

Its motto: "A Passion for Learning through the Arts" permeates every aspect of its course offerings and co-curricular engagement for students. The elective courses are recommended for all students and are designed to allow them to explore a variety of avenues for effective self-expression. The courses offer students the opportunity to gain the essential skills and knowledge that will enable them to participate in or interact with the arts throughout their lives. The Fine Arts Department encompasses three artistic areas: The Dramatic Arts, The Performing Arts and the Visual Arts. Visual arts classes expose students to two and three dimensional art. A sequential program of studies exists for students who would like to engage the visual domain. Music courses offer comprehensive opportunities for vocalists and instrumentalists to heighten individual and ensemble skills. Sibelius music composition software is available to these students. The Drama courses offer students a comprehensive introduction to acting, the stage, and the art of verbal communication. Theatre Technology is available for students interested in creating the environment for actors and the audience. Vector-Werks Designer software program is used for the creation of digital stage planning. Media Communications courses provide the students with an opportunity to communicate through the medium of television or through digital designs in desktop publishing and web design concepts. The course, *Performing in Front of the Camera*, which combines the skills and knowledge of Theatre with the technology of Media Communications, is a recent addition to the curriculum.

Foreign Languages

The Spanish Department currently offers both AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature. We will be offering a trip to Costa Rica in April and plan to return to Peru in 2009. Several Students will be participating in full year exchange programs in Spanish speaking countries. We are committed to providing opportunities for authentic communication in all our classes. In addition to travel abroad, we offer a bi-annual scholarship through the Experiment for International Living for summer travel.

Health Science Program

Project Adventure, the internationally renowned health program, had its origins at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School in 1972.

Math Department

The Mathematics Department provides the structure for mathematical literacy for all students through a variety of offerings. Our commitment to a challenging curriculum is manifested on all levels. Currently AP Calculus AB and AP Statistics are offered. Hamilton-Wenham has a very active Math Team that brings students from all parts of eastern Massachusetts together for competition.

Science & Engineering Technology Department

The annual science fair is a significant part of the culture at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School and a requirement for all 9, 10, and 11th grade students taking science at the honors level. Students in the other two levels of science courses are also encouraged to participate in the Fair for extra credit. The top winners of the local fair participate in both the Region IV and Massachusetts State Science Fairs. Students at Hamilton-Wenham consistently merit recognition at both the regional and state level, regularly winning top awards. In 2006, Hamilton-Wenham boasted nine winners in the Massachusetts State Science Fair including first place award recipients. Hamilton-Wenham has also had winning student projects at the International Science Fair.

Social Studies Department

Students participate in a History fair in December and the projects judged to be the best are selected to compete in the National History Day interscholastic competition at the district, state, and national levels. Hamilton-Wenham Regional is widely regarded as one of the top high schools in the country in this competition, having 14 national winners over the past 14 years, including 3 first place winners out of 600,000 students who enter. The department uses numerous computer simulations, including two written by department faculty. Lecture style is used minimally within the classroom as students are confronted with problems and required to make decisions before they know what actually occurred. They then reflect on the process they used to make decisions and how that process could be improved. Students read conflicting interpretations of many historical events and are taught critical thinking skills (such as evaluating reliable sources, assessing analogies, and analyzing cause and effect arguments) to evaluate those interpretations. Model United Nations and Colleege Bowl are offered as co-curricular activities on an after-school basis by department members.