

School Profile: 2010-2011

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Mr. David Elsner - ext. 272
delsner@foxboroughrcs.org
CEEB Code: 220841

131 Central St.
Foxborough MA 02035
508-543-2508
www.foxboroughrcs.org

The School

Foxborough Regional Charter School (FRCS) is a regional, public, college preparatory school for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. A Board of Trustees and an administrative staff, led by a director, manage the school. The school provides a comprehensive curriculum which emphasizes mathematics, English and a world language (Spanish) at all grade levels. All high school science courses include a lab component. Abstract reasoning and critical thinking are also crucial to the educational system.

FRCS opened in September 1998 under the management of SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc. We changed to local management in the 2003-2004 school year and are now managed internally by our Board of Trustees and administrative staff. The school initially enrolled students in grades K-8 only. A grade level was added each year to develop our high school. We celebrated our first commencement ceremony in the spring of 2003. Total current enrollment in grades 9-12 has steadily grown and is now 170; 34 of whom are seniors. Our freshmen class this year is seventy students. Over 95% of our graduates have received college acceptances with plans to attend either a four year or two year college or university.

Curriculum

The curriculum is a rigorous, college-preparatory program, emphasizing the core subjects of mathematics, English, and world language (Spanish). All students take Spanish each year with the goal of becoming bilingual and bicultural. Students are required to attain 27 credits to graduate. The list of requirements is as follows:

High School Course Requirements			
English	4 years	Academic Electives	4 years
Mathematics	4 years	Fine Arts (as part of total electives)	2 years
World Language (Spanish)	4 years	Physical Education	4 years
Science*	4 years	Health	1 year
History*	4 years	Computer	1 year

Note: Minimum graduation requirements for Science is three years with at least three labs. Graduation requirement for History is also three years. In practice, all students take 5 core subject courses every year. Students can take our capstone course, Senior Independent Enrichment, in lieu of science or history during senior year.

Our course catalog can be found at <http://www.foxboroughrcs.org/students-families/high-school-guidance>.

Academic Program

The elementary school emphasizes mathematics, reading, and literature; requires a foreign language (Spanish) starting in kindergarten; and focuses on developing positive ethical and civil values. The curriculum promotes academic, physical, social, emotional, and ethical growth. The academic curriculum is integrated, sequential, and age-appropriate in the skills, knowledge, and values it fosters. Our dedicated faculty encourages a positive, caring attitude toward others by nurturing the values of cooperation and diversity.

The objective of the middle and high's curriculum is to prepare students for success in college, inspire a lifelong love of learning, and foster responsible citizenship. The skills of critical reading, abstract reasoning, and problem solving are emphasized. The curriculum is designed to establish a balanced, well-rounded education. Our academic goals are to:

- Qualify every student for entrance into colleges/universities
- Provide a well-rounded education based on a mastery of English and Mathematics
- Enable students to acquire firm command of a second language
- Train students to be able to sustain independent intellectual effort
- Generate excitement for life-long learning

Advanced Placement (AP[®]), Pre-AP, Honors, and Capstone Classes

We currently offer, or have offered recently, the following AP[®] courses: English Language and Composition, English Literature, Calculus AB, Biology, Chemistry, US History, European History, and Spanish Language. We have very strong participation in our AP classes, historically averaging approximately 50% of our seniors and 30-40% of our juniors taking at least one AP class. We average 60-65% of our graduates having taken at least one AP class. Students may take more than two AP classes per year with coordination with the Guidance Department. Honors and Advanced courses are specifically denoted on a transcript for math, English, science, history, and Spanish. Pre-AP classes are considered at or above Honors level courses.

Senior Independent Enrichment (SIE) is a full year, one credit, capstone course. SIE allows seniors to research and investigate topics related to their post-secondary academic or career plans under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Students are expected to explore, plan, research, study, evaluate, and synthesize information independently. Final projects require a research paper, a demonstration of knowledge to an interested audience (school or community organization), a practical application of knowledge (internship, volunteer assignment, etc.), and a presentation to the Independent Enrichment Staff Committee.

Academic Electives:

Electives are academically focused courses that meet five times per week. They vary from year to year and are intended to offer challenging and diverse educational subjects as well as fulfill the Fine Arts requirement. Electives this year include Introduction to Visual Art, Latin I, Modern Novel, Painting, Anatomy and Physiology, Engineering and Technology, American Roots Music, Digital Media Production, Environmental Science, Theater, Search for Peace..

Grading System

The FRCS school year consists of three terms. Each is weighted equally for the end-of-year final grade. The final exam for the third term covers the curriculum for the entire year. The minimum passing grade is 60.

Grading Scale							
A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

Transcripts

Transcripts are updated annually for students in grades 9-12. Course credit is listed on the transcript. English, math and Spanish courses are given more credit (1.3 credits) than science and history courses (1 credit) on transcripts due to our emphasis on these subjects. Electives are given 0.6 credits. Physical education is given 0.5 credits per year.

Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Rank

FRCS calculates Grade Point Average annually. We do not weight honors or AP classes in GPA calculations. We do not report class rank on a term or cumulative basis, except for special circumstances (i.e. scholarships and identifying valedictorian and salutatorian).

Honor Roll

Honor Roll is posted at the end of each term. Our Honor Roll reflects a grade of 87% or above in all academic classes. High Honors are given to students that have averages above 95% in all academic classes.

Honor Societies (National, Spanish, and Junior National)

Our National Honor Society chapter inducts eligible tenth through twelfth grade students. Students who meet the scholarship criteria of an overall average of 87% are then evaluated on the basis of leadership, character and service within the NHS guidelines. We also have a Spanish National Honor Society for tenth through twelfth grade. Students must maintain an 85% average and are then evaluated on the basis of leadership, character, and service. Our Junior National Honor Society chapter inducts sixth through eighth grade students who meet academic, leadership, character, and community service criteria.

Standardized Testing

As part of preparing for college, students are encouraged to take various standardized tests. Our students typically take the SAT I (although ACT is becoming more popular) and AP tests. Our school pays for students in tenth grade to take the PLAN and for eleventh grade students to take the PSAT. We have in-school mini-classes for PSAT and SAT preparation as well as being host to a full practice SAT in the spring. We are a test site for SAT in the fall and spring each year.

Curriculum Assessment - Standardized Tests

All students participate in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Skills (MCAS) testing program that assesses the areas of reading, math, writing, history, and science and technology depending on grade level. As a state requirement, all students must pass the math, English, and science portions of the MCAS test in tenth grade to be eligible for graduation.

Student Assessment Tools

Continuous evaluation of student learning is an integral part of the instructional process at FRCS and promotes important skills in studying and test taking. Assessment of student learning is done in many ways, depending on the subject area. The following is a list of the various types of assessment tools used by the school:

- Our Academic Assessment System monitors student learning and is considered a teaching tool and part of the instructional process beginning in grade 1 in all academic areas. Tests and quizzes are administered on a weekly basis and are designed to check student learning, mastery, and long-term retention.
- Periodic Tests are given throughout each term in mathematics, science, social studies, and each of the components for Spanish and English. The assessments are designed to measure cumulative knowledge for the preceding portion of the term.
- Final exams are given at the end of each term to determine mastery of the concepts taught over a full term. Term III final exams measure student achievement over the course of the academic year.

The Student Life Organization

This unique program is designed to help students develop character and leadership qualities by promoting student led activities and K-12 student interaction. Student leaders in various positions plan, organize, and supervise events and activities that enhance life within the school including such activities as dances, tutoring, clubs, trips, and school spirit events. In doing so, student leaders learn to make decisions based on organizational skills and community values. In the middle school, we emphasize community service through weekly class periods dedicated to service projects to assist the school. Middle school students also lead student clubs during Student Life periods.

In high school, Student Life is divided into class councils for each grade. These councils are responsible for organizing and managing the various school events throughout the year. Three officers are elected from each class council to serve as class leaders as well as on a twelve member Student Leadership Board. The Student Life organization also supervises our peer tutoring and peer mentoring program which connects students from across all grade levels K-12 for academic help. We commonly have 200 student tutoring contacts per week.

College Acceptances-Class of 2007

Vassar College, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Virginia State University, Howard University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Rhode Island, Emmanuel College, Boston University, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Bridgewater State College, Framingham State College, Allegheny College, University of Minnesota-Morris, Asbury College, Taylor University, Ithaca College, Suffolk University, Wheaton College, Hartwick College, Plymouth State University, Salem State College, Boston College, Brandeis University, and Brigham Young University-Idaho, University of Hartford, and Southern New Hampshire University

College Acceptances – Class of 2008

Hofstra University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Framingham State College, Fitchburg State College, Syracuse University, Ohio-Wesleyan University, Pine Manor College, Merrimack College, University of Vermont, University of New Hampshire, Rivier College, Bridgewater State College, Assumption College, Western New England College, Johnson and Wales University, Bentley College, Wheelock College, St. John's College, Northeastern University, Stetson College, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Rutgers University, Rider College, Hampshire College, University of Rhode Island, State University of New York – New Paltz, Seton Hall University, and Arcadia University

College Acceptances – Class of 2009

Northeastern University, Suffolk University, Fairfield University, Assumption College, Simmons College, Providence College, Roger Williams University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, University of Hartford, Quinnipiac University, University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, University of Rhode Island, Plymouth State College, Framingham State College, Bridgewater State College, Newbury College, Fischer College, Lasell College, Ursinus College, Hartwick College, Auburn University, Towson University, Salisbury College, Gettysburg College, Cazenovia College, Roanoke College, St. John's University, Richmond University in London, American University of Beirut.

College Acceptances – Class of 2010

Anna Maria College, Assumption College, Baldwin Wallace University, Bard College, Bentley University, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Bridgewater State College, Clark University, Colby College, College of Holy Cross, Curry College, Drew University, Emanuel College, Fitchburg State College, Framingham State College, Georgetown University, Juniata College, Keane State College, Lesley College, Manhattanville College, Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Science, Mercyhurst College, New York University, Nichols College, Northeastern University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Prescott College, Regis College, Rhode Island College, Seton Hall University, Simmons College, Southern New Hampshire University, Springfield State College, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stonehill College, Suffolk University, Syracuse University, University of Maine Farmington, UMass Amherst, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of Hartford, University of North Carolina, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, Western New England College, Westfield State College, Wheaton College, Wheelock College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State College

For additional information, please contact David Elsner, Guidance/School Counselor at (508) 543-2508 extension 272 or email at delsner@foxboroughrcs.org