

MATCH Public High School

Media and Technology Charter High



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Philosophy

Michael Goldstein, founder of the MATCH Charter Public High School in Boston:

“If a kid wants to drop out, let him. ... I've got a nutty idea. When half the kids in most U.S. cities essentially reject the basic product called 'school' -- many would leave a lot EARLIER if they were allowed by parents and the law -- then the best path forward is not ONLY different schools (with caring, discipline, and rigor), but also offering a different product entirely.”

Courage, Discipline, and Perseverance



MATCH Mission Statement

- prepare inner-city Boston students to succeed in college and beyond—including students who have not been led to expect a university education
- reverse underachievement through innovation and ‘no shortcuts’ ethic
- embrace discipline, courage, and perseverance as core values
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yM291nEag70&eurl=http://www.matcheschool.org/matchcorps/howitworks.htm&feature=player_embedded



Facility and enrollment



- The MATCH School opened in 2000
- Located on Commonwealth Avenue in Brighton (right outside of Boston)
- Enrollment is 222 students (90 students selected from 569 applications each year)
- Admissions process is by lottery
- Serves grades 9-12
- MATCH architect:
http://www.hmfh.com/education_projects.shtm

Enrollment data

(Gender: Male 98; Female 124)

Race	% of School	% of District	% of State
African American	61.7	61.7	8.1
Asian	1.8	1.8	4.9
Hispanic	29.7	29.7	13.9
Native American	0.5	0.5	0.1
White	4.1	4.1	70.8
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.3
Multi-Race, Non- Hispanic	2.3	2.3	1.9

MATCH Public Middle School

Media and Technology Charter Middle

- The MATCH Middle School opened in 2008
- Located on Wachussett Street in Jamaica Plain
- Enrollment is 90 students in the sixth grade
- Admissions process is by lottery (90 students selected from 353 applications)

Core Concepts



- Small school size
- Excellent faculty and staff
- The MATCH Corps
- University collaborations
- Extended School Day and Year

Special features of MATCH

- **Every student is greeted with a handshake every morning**
- **Many students arrive well behind grade level in terms of reading, writing, and math skills, and by 10th grade, all of them pass the MCAS on their first try**
- **Students who fail two classes in a year, repeat the whole year**
- **By junior year, all students take an Advanced Placement class;**
- **by senior year, students take AP courses and at least one class per term at Boston University**

What Is MATCH Corps?

45+ Top Recent College Grads (with majors from math to history to biology – no education majors) work full-time (50+ hours per week) for one year. Most of the time is tutoring students – 9th and 10th graders in mathematics and English; 11th and 12th graders in Advanced Placement and college courses. Corps members also serve as assistants to teachers and staff. In return, Corps receive extensive training, a monthly stipend of \$600 to \$850 per month, and free housing in the dormitory on the top floor of the school.

Special features of MATCH



- **MATCH teacher training program**
<http://www.matchschool.org/matchcorps/teacher.htm>
- **MATCH corps:**
<http://www.matchschool.org/matchcorps/matchcorps.htm>
- **Upon entering the building MATCH students offload all their homework into teachers' mailboxes. Thanks to the corps, all homework is returned on the same day.**
- **MATCH Solar energy project:**
<http://www.matchschool.org/solar/home.html>

Students' role

In addition to our focus on academics and respectful conduct, the school asks each student to take an active part in making MATCH a better place.

Given the school's emphasis on responsibility and community, students are responsible for cleaning classrooms and the school throughout and at the end of the day.

Students ... participate in light daily cleaning activities. Additional opportunities may include interviewing prospective MATCH staff, attending fund-raisers, setting-up and taking down school furniture, leading tours of the school and speaking to prospective students in Boston Middle Schools.

Top 10 Tips For Effective 1:1 Tutoring (from MATCH website)

1. **Pair the same student with “HIS/HER” tutor every time**
2. **Maintain parent buy-in**
3. **Go where the tutors go**
4. **Design and communicate clear rules**
5. **Structure, structure, structure!**
6. **Create two-way evaluations**
7. **Design and communicate clear goals**
8. **Aim for long sessions, not short ones**
9. **Compensate your tutors**
10. **Volunteers are good tutors, too**

MATCH Improvement Plan



- **Lower Transfer Rate**
- **Add Sports and Extracurricular Activities**
- **Critical Thinking**
- **Better Collaboration/
Dissemination with Boston
Schools**

Parents' role

MATCH promises to keep an open relationship with parents by providing more communication than any other public school in Massachusetts through letters, weekly written reports, phone calls, and meetings.

We also create opportunities for parents to be leaders in the school through Parents at MATCH (PAM) – a parent-run monthly meeting that facilitates communication between parents and the principal throughout the year around important issues and topics.

Recommendations drawn from our visit to MATCH for WHS **curriculum/teaching**

- **explore a version of the corps concept for all or parts of WHS to help close achievement gap**
- **collaborate more closely with area colleges and universities**
- **demand commitment from students, let them know what's expected of them**
- **increase one-on-one contact between teachers/TAs and students**
- **provide students and parents with more regular updates about their progress**
- **school must meet/communicate with parents on a regular basis**

Recommendations drawn from our visit to MATCH for WHS **facility**

- **facility must be safe and conducive to learning**
 - **heat in the winter**
 - **air conditioners in the hot weather**
 - **doors that lock**
 - **hallways that can adequately handle the volume of students between bells**
- **Space needs to convey the importance of the enterprise of learning**
- **flexibility is key to keep options open for multipurpose use of spaces (use removable screens on windows/glass walls)**

Recommendations drawn from our visit to MATCH for WHS **facility**

- **Access for students with disabilities:**
 - (please note that "non-special education students have disabilities as well).
 - This includes, but is not limited to
 - automated doors,
 - rooms conducive for the hearing impaired (specialized sound proofing and visual aids),
 - work areas conducive for students in wheelchairs,
 - occupational/speech therapy rooms.

Recommendations drawn from our visit to MATCH for WHS **facility**

- **to have ONE welcoming entrance area creates an immediate sense of belonging**
- **light and openness through big windows, open views from one space to the other**
- **display areas throughout the school for works of art, news, literature, etc. Display student art work AND pictures of students at work. Highlight individual successes**
- **... warm spaces. Even an old space can improve a lot with light and color**
- **proximity of social and administrative functions: faculty and students are within sight of each other**

Recommendations drawn from our visit to MATCH for WHS **facility**

- **Even space for one-on-one tutorials doesn't need to be specialized or isolated, but can be in the open "commons" area, light and inviting with big windows**
- **A few small breakout rooms were available for group work, or to meet with more distractible students**
- **Study spaces visible to the administration as well as to other students, give a sense of a shared project of learning**
- **Classrooms: have white boards on at least 3 sides in each room for students or teachers to put up work on the board**

MATCH classroom



MATCH science classroom





MATCH teacher's office door



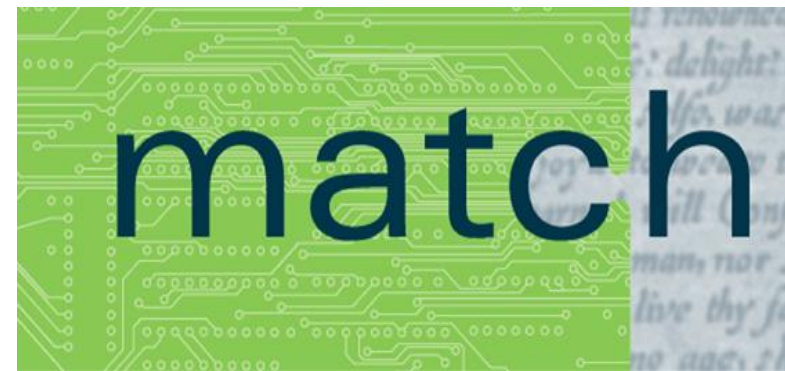
MATCH computer classroom





For more information, contact...

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www.matchschool.org

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All Boston students currently in the 5th grade (for MATCH Middle School) and 8th grade (for MATCH High School) are eligible to enter. The lottery for both schools will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Bibliography

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