

SITE SEEING STUDENTS

• MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT BOSTON AND NEW YORK

Harrisburg North and South Middle Schools students spent a week of their summer break in Boston and New York City visiting the historical sites they studied about in class.

The trips, offered every two years by Harrisburg North Middle School 8th grade teacher Tamra Huffman, align perfectly with the 8th grade American History curriculum.

For the first time ever, the group of students headed to Boston.

"We were very excited about taking the students to the locations that were studied about during the American Revolution," Huffman said.

Students stopped at the Revolutionary War battle sites of Lexington and Concord, toured through Boston and visited Paul Revere's house, the Boston Massacre site, and the Granary Burying Ground where Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and other signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried.

The group even had the opportunity to step foot on and tour the U.S.S. Constitution – the oldest commissioned United States Navy vessel.

Students enjoyed memorable meals while in Boston, as well.

"When the students visited Plimoth Plantation, their afternoon meal consisted of 'Eating like a Pilgrim,'" Huffman said. "Students had a meal like the settlers at Plimoth would have eaten which means – no forks allowed and napkins over our right shoulders!"

"Students said it was one of the best meals of the entire



trip!"

Huffman said the meal consisted of turkey, stewed pumpkin (squash), Indian pudding and ended with Boston Crème Pie and the students were amused by colonial entertainers who performed authentic colonial songs and told jokes.

"The highlight of the trip was New York City," Huffman said.

One of the group's first stops in New York City was going to the Lower East Side and seeing how our early immigrants lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"Students explored the Tenement Museum and had an apartment tour," Huffman said. "They saw first-hand how small an apartment was for a family of ten!"

Students thoroughly enjoyed going to a Broadway show, shopping in Chinatown and walking through Central Park, where they came upon a movie set for "Train Wreck."

One of the most poignant moments from the entire trip was the 9/11 Memorial – museum with a collection of artifacts, stories, photos, and video. Students spent two hours at the new museum, which honors the victims of the tragedy.



"It was a very emotional experience for everyone," Huffman said, adding that the students had a great time on the week-long trip and will have many memories for years to come.

Huffman is planning another trip for middle school students for the presidential inauguration in January, 2017, in Washington, D.C.



H.S. STUDENTS TREK NEW EDUCATION PATH

• MASS CUSTOMIZED LEARNING/MODULAR SCHEDULING IMPLEMENTED

The start of a school year means new beginnings for students, teachers and a school district.

That sentiment took on new meaning for Harrisburg High School at the start of the 2013-14 school year when the district implemented modular scheduling and mass customized learning (MOD/CL) for their incoming freshmen class.

"The Class of 2017 (students) are the pioneers and have

had the great courage to lead from the edge," Harrisburg High School Principal Kevin Lein said.

In modular scheduling class scheduling occurs in customized time frames to accommodate courses and students in a more flexible method of delivery. Mass Customized Learning utilizes research-based methods of individualizing learning and technology to allow students to reach potential.

"This is a far path from the normal lecture format, or even the guided discovery we sometimes reward as constructivist and individual," Lein said. "The strategies employed by the instructors are individualized and personalized."

Currently, between the freshmen and sophomore classes there are 310 students going down the MOD/CL track with the program expected to grow to more than 500 students next year.

Lein said there is no eligibility requirement or enrollment cap, but students need a well-developed work ethic and maturity of accountability and responsibility to be successful in the program.

"This method is harder, requires skills not normally expect-

MOD/MCL Sample Schedule

		Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
8:00 - 8:20	MOD 1	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band
8:20 - 8:40	MOD 2					
8:40 - 9:00	MOD 3					
9:00 - 9:20	MOD 4	IMC	Writer's Workshop		Literature Seminar	Science Lab
9:20 - 9:40	MOD 5					
9:40 - 10:00	MOD 6	Science Seminar	IMC	Science Lab	Math Lab	Spanish I
10:00 - 10:20	MOD 7					
10:20 - 10:40	MOD 8		Math Seminar	IMC	Wellness	IMC
10:40 - 11:00	MOD 9	Spanish I	Math Lab	Lunch		Lunch
11:00 - 11:20	MOD 10					
11:20 - 11:40	MOD 11	IMC	Social Science	Wellness	Writer's Workshop	Math Seminar
11:40 - 12:00	MOD 12	Lunch	PBL			Math Lab
12:00 - 12:20	MOD 13	Science Lab	Lunch	IMC	IMC	
12:20 - 12:40	MOD 14		IMC	Math Seminar	Lunch	Writer's Workshop
12:40 - 1:00	MOD 15	Writer's Workshop	Writer's Work		Social Science	Literature Seminar
1:00 - 1:20	MOD 16					
1:20 - 1:40	MOD 17	Social Science	Literature Seminar	Spanish I	IMC	Wellness
1:40 - 2:00	MOD 18					
2:00 - 2:20	MOD 19	Intro to Ag	Intro to Ag.	Intro to Ag.	Intro to Ag.	Intro to Ag.
2:20 - 2:40	MOD 20					
2:40 - 3:00	MOD 21	Wellness				

ed of high school students and the uneasiness and anxiety always associated with educational transformation," Lein said.

Parents and students understand the benefit of the program, but also sometimes experience doubt when the targets and expectations seem so elevated, said Lein. During a conversation prior to Christmas break, a group of students in the

program cited four characteristics needed to be successful in MOD/CL:

- Work ethic and accountability;
- Educational Extrovert not afraid to ask questions and meet with teachers;
- Responsibility and time management;
- Self-Awareness.

MOD/CL allows for students to develop and reach potential within a timeframe that matches their development and graduate within four years like their peers on the traditional track, which Lein praised for being exemplary.

Lein credited stakeholders in the district and the Class of 2017 for their commitment to the new beginning at Harrisburg High School and setting an example for the classes to come.

Our staff, (school) Board and parents involved are committed to our mission to have Harrisburg High School students become 'Independent Learners' ready for any life path," Lein said.

"This method of instruction is excellent preparation."