

WESTON METCO ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



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Introduction

The 2021-2022 school year marks our 54th School Year of METCO in Weston. This report will show our ongoing programming, highlight student accomplishments (both in the Weston and Boston communities), as well as those events that have become traditions of our Weston METCO program. While we ended last year with the hope of beginning it completely free of the impact of our 2020-2021 school year spent in a full blown pandemic; we quickly learned that life and school-life “post-pandemic” in particular is truly a gradual transition. A transition that was and is not back to what we knew to be normal but clearly a new normal. While we were able to begin our school year in person, we were masked and several events and activities were not able to happen immediately. As you will see in the report many were able to be modified and/or begin by the midyear point. Given that changes and impacts varied based on building and grade level restrictions; this report will include a breakdown submitted by each liaison as well as a final report by the program director.

We continue to be grateful for the strong district and community support of our program and are continuing to maintain our high standards in both our programming and our student/family support. It would be my hope that the information provided along with direct follow up with the program director could help facilitate authentic discussions about moving an already great program to one that is exemplary!

Accomplishments

STUDENT-SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 3 National Honor Society members.
- Posse Scholarship: three students made it to the final round, 1 winner (Four Year Scholarship to Rutgers University)
- 2 High School students serving on Student Council
- 2 High School student School Council Rep.
- 4 High School students serving on Principal's Advisory Council
- 1 High School student volunteered at Pumpkin Fest
- 3 High School students are in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group
- 1 High School student is a student Ambassador
- 2 High School students are members of competitive dance companies
- 2 High School students work for Future Chefs
- 1 High School student received a lifeguard Certification.
- 1 High School student won first place in the BNU (Business Not as Usual)
- 2 High School students work for "Artists for Humanity" in Boston.
- Several of our High Students volunteered for local political campaigns, community organizations as tutors and churches to feed the homeless.
- 2 High School students won the Weston/ Wayland Rotary award (recognizing students for good public service)
- 1 High School student received the Comeback Player of the Year Award for Football.
- 1 High School Student received the 2022 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Award
- 54% of High School students participated in fall and winter sports.
- 1 High School Student is a member of the Civil Air Patrol Boston Division and served as chair of volunteer services committee
- 1 High School student received a certificate of recognition for Lifesaving.

- 34 Middle School & High School students belong to Chorus, Band & Concert Orchestra
- 78% of all MS students participate in virtual afterschool clubs/programs at the Middle School
- 2 MS students participating in School Council
- 1 MS student serving as the FIRST EVER WMS representative to Weston Health Advisory Council
- 1 MS student nominated to serve as WMS Project 351 representative. Project 351 is an independent nonprofit organization that builds a movement of youth-led service by engaging an unsung hero from each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns.
- 5 MS students participating in AAU Basketball; 1 MS student earned MVP Honors; 1 MS student won Player of the Game
- 3 MS students participate in AAU Track and Field. 1 MS student won All-American at 2021 AAU Track and Field Nationals.
- 1 MS student was nominated for Junior Leader of the Year at the Boys & Girls Club, Yawkey Branch.
- 2 MS students participate in Boston United Volleyball Club. BostonUVC is a youth volleyball program where strong mentors and athletes from the community provide mentorship and facilitate a safe environment for developing core values through volleyball skill training.
- 1 MS Student participating in The Boston YMCA Bluefins swim program
- 1 MS student participating in 826 Boston's (nonprofit writing, tutoring, and publishing organization) Running for Boston Book Project has had their speech selected for publication in an upcoming book composed of student speeches from across the city that captures the priorities and spirit of this current generation of K-12 students.
- 5 MS students participating as peer leaders in Sources of Strength, school based program focusing on connectivity, school bonding, peer-adult partnerships, and help seeking behaviors

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- 2 MS students performing with Debra Mason Studio, and The Gold School Dance Art
 - 1 Field student was elected by their classmates to serve as a Student Council representative
 - 72% (18 of 25) of Field students participate in one or more after-school music ensembles (Band, Orchestra and/or Chorus)
 - 48% (16 of 25) of Field students participate in the After-School Sports program.
 - 20% (6 of 25) of Field students participate in the Art Club. Art Club is an extremely popular activity with enrollment selected by lottery. Many students applied but did not get a seat in the program due to limited availability.
 - Field students are members of their local community sports teams including soccer, track, football, swimming, cheerleading, hockey, gymnastics, wrestling and martial arts.
 - 100 % (14 of 14) of the grade 3 students participate in Orchestra.
 - 42 % (6 of 14) of grade 3 students participate in Chorus.
 - 2 Country School students (grade 2) elected by their classmates to serve as Student Council representatives.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

This year, there are 12 METCO graduates in the class of 2022 and as of the time of this report they have received acceptances to the following institutions:

- Arizona State
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Bowie State University
- Bryant University
- Bucknell University
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Curry College
- Delaware State University
- Drexel University
- Florida Memorial
- Franklin Pierce
- Florida State University
- Goucher College
- Howard University
- Kean University
- Lasell University
- Lincoln University
- Manhattan College
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Merrimack College
- Morgan State University
- North Carolina A&T
- Norwich University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- Northeastern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Providence College
- Quinnipiac University
- Rutgers Newark
- Rutgers University, New Brunswick
- Spelman University
- Suffolk University
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- Tennessee State University
- Thomas University
- University of Arizona
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Hartford
- University of Kentucky
- University of Maine Orono Honors College
- University of Maine, Augusta
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Massachusetts, Boston
- University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
- University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- University of New Haven
- University of Tampa
- Valparaiso University
- Virginia State

Academic Liaisons' Reports – Year In Review

The METCO Academic Liaisons: (Country/Woodland)K-3, Field School, Middle School and High School, are responsible for providing both academic and social-emotional support to METCO Students. They work collaboratively with Weston faculty and staff to ensure smooth transitions and equal access to resources and curriculum in their respective schools. They serve individually and collectively as advocates for families, students and the program. Likewise, as Weston Public School staff they serve as liaisons for the families to the district. They work for the district to help form connections and bridge any divides that there may be between the two communities. They also will hold positions outside the direct scope of their position that make them visible to all students and allow them to be seen as an active, innovative member of the school community. This is critically important as there is a shortage of diverse staff in the district.

Country and Woodland School Summary Submitted by Riola Liazo (K-3 Academic Liaison)

The METCO Academic K-3 Liaison provides social-emotional support at different times during the academic day. When children arrive at school, in or out of the classroom, individually or in small groups, depending on the student's needs and situation. The cases are referred by the teacher and follow the support protocol that has been implemented in our schools. She attends student progress data analysis meetings to offer consultation and assist in the development/implementation of the support plan.

In regards to transportation, she coordinates meetings with the students of each bus to reinforce safety, health, and behavioral rules while they are on the bus. She facilitates the resolution of any problems with transportation among students or parents, involving counselors or administrators as needed.



The METCO K-3 Academic Liaison helps facilitate third-grade students' participation in after-school activities, which include Orchestra, Choir, and After School Sports. To that end, she follows up with permission slips, transportation issues, attendance, dismissal, and the right equipment to participate in the activities. She works closely with the faculty of the after school programs to ensure our students' success and participation, often stopping in if her schedule permits.

She is an integral part of the Family Friends Program, working with the school staff and community coordinator to help match students who did not have the opportunity to be paired with a Weston classmate. With the input of the teachers and the observations during the school day, she proposed names of potential matches to our Community Coordinator, who continues with the official process. She also continues to foster these connections through small lunch and snack groups.

The METCO K-3 Academic Liaison communicates with families as often as each case requires, at least twice a month. Oftentimes more, at the request of teachers or interventionists, to respond to parental requirements, to follow up on academic support plans within and after school, to communicate how their children are progressing, etc.

She facilitates and manages access to the services offered by the Weston Public Schools system to support and develop their pupils' academic and socio-emotional development. These include transportation, access to school meals, access to after-school enrichment opportunities in the Town of Weston and the city of Boston, helping them navigate the processes in Special Education and Regular Education Services, and if the case requires it, access to electronic equipment and technical support.

The METCO K-3 Academic Liaison runs the METCO Kindergarten Academy Program with the support and participation of the school community at both schools. This involves coordinating the topics and volunteer professionals for each session throughout the school year.

We have math, reading, science, and technology among the topics. Attendance is 100% and runs once a week, on Wednesdays from 12:15 PM to 2:20 PM. She also facilitated the Math Academy Program. Students participating in this program are grade 1 and 2, who need remediation and review of math facts, but do not qualify for intervention services. It happens twice a week from 2:15 PM to 3:15 PM in each school.

The METCO K-3 Academic Liaison belongs to the CRE team that trains teachers at Country School in Culturally Responsive Education. This activity is aimed at all school staff and meets twice a month. She participates in Classroom Support Team meetings when introducing a METCO student to determine a specific support plan. She is a part of the Instructional Support Team, which analyzes the cases referred and evaluated by teachers of students in need of academic or socio-emotional support. We meet once a month or when required.

Field School Summary Submitted by Theresa Dryden (Field School Academic Liaison)

On a daily basis, the Field METCO Academic Liaison works with students individually or in small groups during academic blocks to provide academic and SEL support. She also meets with students before school and provides after-school homework assistance. On a weekly basis, she meets with students in snack groups and lunch groups to reinforce social-emotional learning, solve problems, and provide a safe, facilitated affinity setting where students can discuss their shared experiences as METCO students in Weston. For students absent from school, she communicates with teachers and the Technology team to obtain necessary materials and devices. If parents are unable to come to school and pick up materials, she delivers items directly to students' homes. The METCO Academic Liaison at Field School is responsible for assisting classroom teachers in meeting with students upon their return to school to get them caught up on missed work.

In addition to student support, the Liaison frequently communicates with parents by telephone and email to answer their questions about academics, social-emotional concerns, special education, transportation, extracurricular activities and more. She attends all IEP meetings for



4th and 5th grade METCO students and participates in many consultations with faculty and staff. When invited by parent leaders, she attends evening meetings of the Boston Weston METCO Parent Organization (BWMPO). In collaboration with the other METCO Academic Liaisons, she is compiling student information in the K - 12 Student Success Plan document.

Transportation is an essential component of the Weston METCO program. The Liaison collaborates with others (including parents, the Director of Transportation, the K-3 METCO Academic Liaison, the Weston METCO director, school principals, school counselors, bus drivers and bus monitors) to support students, address safety concerns, solve problems, and communicate important information. This is one of many areas in which the Liaisons from Field and Woodland/Country work closely together, recognizing that our elementary students are one interconnected cohort.

The Field METCO Academic Liaison is a member of the Field School Council. She was a co-facilitator as the School Council and the Weston Public Library jointly sponsored a book club for parents focused on issues of race and racism, discussing the book So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeomo Oluo. She is a member of the Field School data team, participating in quarterly meetings to collaboratively assess student needs and develop interventions. She is a co-facilitator and serves as a mentor for a student in a school-based mentor program. The Liaison is also an advisor for the Field Student Council. She also collaborates with the Field Responsive School Team (RST).

The Field METCO Academic Liaison is a member of the Culturally Responsive Education (CRE) Leadership team, responsible for working with a few other Field staff members to present CRE training to the entire Field staff each month. She is currently a member of the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) team, participating in analysis and improvement of Weston's tier 1, 2 and 3 student support for grades K-12.

Middle School Summary Submitted by Cyril Kakulu (Middle School Liaison)

The METCO Middle School Academic Liaison works with students via small group and individual academic support and student check-ins. He meets regularly with the grade level teams at their meetings as well as the guidance counselors to work on targeted interventions. He facilitates weekly Responsive Classroom Advisory meetings focusing on social and emotional learning as well as the development of student skills. He provides daily 1:1 academic support blocks and student check-ins with students in grades 6 through 8. The METCO Middle School Liaison runs daily Flex student support sessions.

The METCO Middle School Academic Liaison holds weekly lunch groups with all METCO students to foster positive student interactions, relationship building, and strengthen Weston METCO middle student bonds. He facilitates affinity groups of which topics have included: positive group identity affirmation, challenges of schooling within a pandemic, and overall acclimation and adaptability to “the new normal”. He has also collaborated with the high school liaison regarding 8th grade student issues and specifically transition programming for both the students and their parents.

The METCO Middle School Liaison has been involved in a number of school based and district wide initiatives. The Liaison serves as a member of the Weston Middle School Culturally Responsive Education Team, presenting Culturally Responsive Education training to the entire middle school faculty each month. He is a member of the Middle School Advisory Think Tank which brainstorms and develops topics and issues to be discussed by middle school teachers during the school-wide Student Advisory meetings. The Weston METCO Middle School Liaison is a member of the district-wide Reimagining Integration Diverse and Equitable Schools Team (RIDES); which brought a team of district staff together to focus on particular issues of equity within the school district. Lastly he served as a member of the Science Department Review Committee.

High School Summary Submitted by La Toya Rivers (High School Liaison)

The METCO High School Liaison facilitates academic support to METCO students by collaborating with teachers to ensure students are meeting with them to complete work, attending class regularly and accessing additional in and out of school resources. This is done largely through the managing of requests from teachers to meet with students, holding 1:1 academic meetings with students and creating action plans with them. Additional academic support is given through reviewing and assisting with class selections for the upcoming school year. The METCO High School Liaison attends IEP meetings as she is able and works with parents to identify areas of need for their child. She communicates both with students and parents regarding enrichment opportunities both in and outside of school.

The METCO High School Liaison provides social-emotional support to students through a variety of traditional and non-traditional ways. She allows for the METCO Office to be an open space for not only lunch periods but also student study halls. In these times she is able to informally check in on students by observing behaviors, providing a safe space and following up on teacher, parent and peer concerns. She also holds monthly Affinity Meetings covering a variety of topics and building community among the METCO students as well as forming a connection and providing a structured time for programming designed to meet the needs of the group. She also maintains a google classroom for high school staff to regularly and immediately communicate any concerns (large or small) they may have regarding a METCO student.

The METCO High School Liaison is a member of the high school Instruction Support Team (IST) and works collaboratively with a team of other support staff and teachers to identify students in need of support, brainstorm possible interventions and follow up with on their progress. She is also a member of the high school leadership team collaborating with the high school principal on upcoming plans to ensure there is a METCO High School Student lens considered in the process. She is the advisor of the Black Student Union and assisted motivated METCO students in creating the Weston METCO Scholars. She served on the high school CRE leadership team prior to being moved to the District Level CRE Leadership Team. She also hosts a freshman advisory. She is also a member of the High School Safety Team. Additionally the METCO HS Liaison has served as the Faculty advisor for the Class of 2022.

Director's Reports – Year In Review

Submitted by La Toya Rivers (METCO Director)

The METCO Director oversees all aspects of the METCO Program in the district K-12. She is a collaborating supervisor of the liaisons along with their building principals. She is responsible for the assisting in the hiring of any METCO staff (liaisons, METCO summer positions, Community Coordinator, METCO Admin, Bus monitors Kindergarten Academy). She is responsible for the enrollment and placement of incoming METCO students to the district as well as working collaboratively with METCO Inc to remain up to date and advocate for METCO Programming and support on a statewide level. The METCO Director is often requested to serve in otherwise voluntary positions to ensure there is some diversity in the representation on hiring committees, diversity committees, planning committees. This is critically important as there is a shortage of diverse staff in the district.

The METCO Director is a member of the District's RIDES (Reimagining Integration Diverse and Equitable Schools) Team. She is also a member of the District's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Group and The District's Culturally Responsive Education Leadership Team. She is also a member of the Assistant Superintendent's Curriculum Cabinet.

The Weston METCO Director has participated in several forums and made various presentations throughout both the school and larger Weston Community such as: PTO, BWMPO, Weston Council on Aging, First Parish Social Justice Group, Wayland/Weston Rotary Club and the METCO Annual Meeting as a panelist speaking on best practices for METCO.

The Weston METCO Director has also facilitated professional development and run discussion groups for the district and the larger community such as: Friends of Weston METCO, BWMPO John Hudson Memorial Scholarship/Black History Month Presentation, BWMPO and PTO Joint Parent Meeting on "Building Community" and What Can Weston Do on "Difficult Conversations". She has also been a guest speaker in classes, interviewed for the school newspaper as well as a student documentary entitled "Racial Inequality in Education".

The Weston METCO Director is invited by parents at all levels (K-12) to attend meetings on their behalf as an advocate and support system. She regularly meets with and hosts conversations with and gives updates to Boston METCO Parents at their monthly parent meetings. She also holds 1:1 meetings with students in crisis as requested by their parents, building liaison, building principal, school and/or district support staff.

Supporting Students – School Year Programming

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS – WOODLAND AND COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students PARTICIPATING	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type(s)
<u>MAP (Math Academy Program)</u>	Strengthen mathematical foundations; Reinforce language and mathematical concepts; Strengthen thinking and factual math operations; Reinforce the curriculum by extended exposure to the concepts; and strengthen leadership skills of the mathematician mentors.	N/A	1 and 2 (as well as third grade Mentors)	2 days a week at each school	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
<u>Academic Support</u>	Provide in-classroom services to METCO students who need regular education support in specific areas, such as math, writing, reading and/or science.	14	K, 1, 2 and 3	3 times per week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
<u>METCO Transition Meetings/Activity</u>	Provide support for third graders transitioning to fourth grade at Field School; reduce anxiety about going to a new school building and environment; meet METCO students currently in fourth and fifth grade at Field School as well as the FS METCO Liaison.	All	3	1-2 times per school (WS/CS)	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison and FS METCO Academic Liaison
<u>Snack Groups</u>	Provide opportunities to students in K – 3rd for learning and reinforce the development of social-emotional skills as well as language and communication skills. This group work is based on the Responsive classroom guideline and the precepts of Social Emotional Learning. Skills that help children learn to navigate school life (playground, bus ride, transitions) better by learning self-regulation strategies and following the personal health care protocol. Students learn the meaning of teamwork, having good "sportsmanship", confidence and friendship. This promotes appropriate student-like behavior in order to better access the curriculum using virtual platforms and digital tools. Some essential themes are: Positive and appropriate interactions with peers, digital-social awareness, use of appropriate language in social settings, negotiation and play skills, safety in the school, on the bus. I reinforce the Responsive Classroom behavior guidelines.	Open to All	K, 1, 2, and 3	2-3 times a week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison

<u>Breakfast Academic Program (BAP)</u>	Provide breakfast and social-emotional support to students under stress as a result of family circumstances, long journey from Boston and the dynamics generated on the bus; Opportunity for the students to prepare themselves and finish academic work required for the day; Opportunity for students to talk about their plans for the day and planned attendance to after school enrichment programs.	N/A	K, 1, 2 and 3	2 days per week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
<u>Lunch Groups</u>	Strengthen the interaction between Boston Students and a Weston Family Friends, provide opportunity to build social relationships and develop social skills, provide opportunity to reinforce proper manners when eating, encourage appropriate conversation, share experiences.	All	K, 1, 2 and 3	2 days per week in each school	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
Kindergarten Academy	To enhance the learning experience of Kindergarten students in the METCO program.	N/A	K	3 days a month	METCO Academic Liaison
Student Mentor Program	Support the Faculty-Student Mentor Program as regards to students in the METCO program	N/A	K, 1, 2, and 3	As needed	METCO ACADEMIC Liaison / Elementary Faculty.
Summer Book/Reading Program	Designed for incoming students in grade 1 through grade 5. The goal is to promote reading, conversation, and provide a space for students to meet during the summer around a common topic. We learn and grow as we talk together! In the Summer Book Clubs, students will read diverse books focused on race, equity and social justice.	Open to All Boston and Weston Students	1, 2, 3, 4, and 5	Twice in the month of July 2021	METCO ACADEMIC Liaisons (Field, Woodland/ Country Schools) Director of Media/Library
Home Visit to METCO Grade 3 students going to grade 4	Provide the first contacts and opportunity for information exchange with METCO families whose pupils will enter grade 4 at Field School.	All	Grade 3	A home visit during August to the 14 METCO families	METCO ACADEMIC Liaisons (Field, Woodland/ Country School) Field Adjustment Counselor

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS – FIELD SCHOOL

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students participating	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type(s)
Field METCO Mentor Program <i>This program is not running during the 2021-2022 school year</i>	Enhance the social and academic success of Field METCO students by facilitating a mentoring partnership for each student	N/A	4 and 5	Approx. once a week	Field School staff volunteers
METCO After-School Achievement Program (M.A.A.P.) <i>This program is not running during the 2021-2022 school year</i>	Build a culture of academic collaboration and excellence among METCO students, introduce young students to the benefits of seeking extra help from teachers outside of class time, support homework completion by providing a supervised setting where students begin homework before their commute home, and provide co-curricular enrichment opportunities	N/A	4 and 5	2 days per week	Field School METCO Academic Liaison
METCO Boys' Group <i>This program is not running during the 2021-2022 school year</i>	Enhance academic achievement and social skills through an affinity and mentoring program model	N/A	4 and 5	1 day/week	Middle School METCO Academic Liaison
Math Lunch Groups <i>This program is not running during the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year</i>	-Strengthen mathematical foundations, reinforce mathematical language and concepts, practice basic math skills, promote risk-taking and outside-the-box thinking, and explore the understanding that every student is a mathematician	N/A	4 and 5	1day/week	Elementary Math Specialist
Lunch Groups	Promote social and emotional learning and community-building in an affinity group setting, facilitated by a trusted adult . Reinforce and practice Responsive Classroom concepts and skills.	All Field METCO students	4 and 5	4 days/week 1 - 2 meetings per week for each student	Field School METCO Academic Liaison
Snack Groups	Promote social and emotional learning and community-building in an affinity group setting, facilitated by a trusted adult . Reinforce and practice Responsive Classroom concepts and skills.	All Field METCO students	4 and 5	As needed	Field School METCO Academic Liaison
Family Friends Lunch Groups	Specifically designed to rebuild Family Friends relationships by providing opportunities for Boston and Weston friends to meet together	All Field METCO students	4 and 5	Approx. 2 days/month	Field School METCO Academic Liaison

Reading Skills Boot Camp	To improve reading comprehension and writing skills and provide preparation for standardized tests	N/A	4 and 5	4 full days during February school vacation week	Academic tutoring and test prep center in Boston
Grade 5 to 6 Transition Support	Provide orientation and support for fifth graders transitioning to sixth grade at the Middle School. Reduce anxiety about going to a new school building and environment. Meet and begin building a working relationship with the MS METCO Academic Liaison.	All Grade 5 METCO Students	5	One meeting each school year	Field School and Middle School METCO Academic Liaisons
National Honor Society Math Tutoring Program <i>This program is not running during the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year due to transition in NHS leadership.</i>	Provide academic support and enrichment in math for grade 5 students to increase their skill and confidence so they are prepared for the rigor of Level 1 Math in grade 6. The long-term goal is to increase the number of METCO students who meet the academic and mindset requirements of Weston's most challenging math and science courses. b) Provide academic support in math for students who are having difficulty.	9	4 and 5	1x per week	Tutoring provided by WHS NHS members. Program administered and facilitated by the NHS Advisor, Elementary Meth Specialist and Field School METCO Academic Liaison
Morning Motivator Boys' Group <i>This program is not running during the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year</i>	Help students begin the day with a positive mindset and physical energy. Specifically designed to support students who frequently arrive at school with low energy, low engagement, and/or lack of positive attitude. Also provides an affinity space for boys of color.	4	4 and 5	3x per week	Services provided by Field School Learning Assistant
Weston Public Library and Minuteman Library System access	Ensure that all Grade 5 METCO students have their own Weston Public Library card by the end of Grade 5, in anticipation of the need for Public Library access in Grade 6 and beyond		All Grade 5 METCO students		Weston Middle School Librarian and Field School METCO Academic Liaison

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
METCO X-Block	Designated weekly extra support time for students experiencing academic struggles. Liaison, teachers, and students/parents may request meeting time for any allotted subject. Students may meet in groups and/or 1 on 1 for assistance provided by teachers/liaison.	N/A	6, 7 and 8	1 day per	Weston Staff, Middle School Academic Liaison
Lunch Group	Provide social and emotional support in semi-structured affinity groups	varies	6, 7 and 8	2 x per week	Middle School Academic Liaison
Academic Support (METCO Academics)	Provide individual and small-group academic support during structured support blocks	N/A	6, 7 and 8	5 days per week	Middle School Academic Liaison
MCAS Prep Program (STE)	To improve students' test taking skills and strategies, while also enhancing writing skills, reading comprehension and vocabulary usage	Via invitation based on MCAS scores	N/A	1 day per week	Weston Staff
METCO Transition Meetings/Activity	Provide support for eighth graders transitioning to the High School; Reduce anxiety about going to a new school building and environment; Meet METCO students currently in the high school as well as the HS METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director.	Varies	8	1-2 times per school	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director
Affinity Meetings (Running 2nd Semester of 2021-2022 school year)	Opportunity for METCO Students to meet as a group to discuss issues that are most relevant to them as students of color as well as METCO students.	Open to All Students		6 1 per quarter per grade level	Middle School METCO Academic Liaison

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
Tenacity Challenge	An academic scholarship competition for teams of Latino and African-American students from urban and suburban high schools across Massachusetts	N/A	9, 10, 11 and 12	6-month preparation leading to annual competition	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director and Weston High School Staff (2)
Academic Planning and Support Meetings	Scheduled appointments to review academic struggles and create a plan for academic support. Review schedule and discuss potential course selections for upcoming year	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	2-4 times per year (midterm reports, term report, spring course selection)	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director
Affinity Meetings	Opportunity for METCO Students to meet as a group to discuss issues that are most relevant to them as students of color as well as METCO students.	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	Once a month	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director
Black Student Union	School Club to help address the needs of the Black students in the school as well as allow them an organized voice and way to contribute positively to the school. Organize the Black History Month Assembly.	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	1-2 times a month	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director
Weston METCO Scholars	School Club focused on providing peer support of academic excellence among METCO students, helping METCO students to maximize their high school experience, creating a reasonable stretch for all METCO Students, character development and raising the standard of the METCO presence in our school community.	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	1-2 times a month	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director

Highlights represent new or improved programming for the 2021-2022 school year.

Supporting Students – Summer Programming

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS – RISING STUDENTS IN GRADES 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
Summer Opportunities in Academics and Recreation (S.O.A.R.)	Builds skills, expands upon prior learning, and provides opportunities for students to work together on team building and problem solving	N/A	4, 5, 6, 7 and 8	CANCELED	METCO Liaison(s), Weston Staff
<i>This program did not run '21</i>					
Summer Book Club (virtual)	Encourage young students to read and respond to diverse books (focused on race and social equity) appropriate to their age, maturity, and grade level. The format was a virtual book club facilitated by Weston Public School professionals with extensive training and expertise in this area. Two groups were offered. Group I: Grade 1 and 2, Group II: Grade 2, 3 and 4.	20 students (Boston and Weston residents)	1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	One session per group	K-3 and Field School METCO Academic Liaisons and Elementary Library Media Specialist
Summer Welcome Visits	Provide orientation and begin building relationships between 3rd grade students and families and the Field staff during the critical 3rd grade to 4th grade transition. The goal is accomplished by meeting with every METCO incoming family during the summer before 4th grade. Whenever possible, Summer Welcome Visits are held in Boston, at a location convenient for the family.	All METCO incoming 4th grade families		One meeting with each family	K-3 and Field School METCO Academic Liaisons and Field School Adjustment Counselor

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
METCO Summer Academy	To review material from the prerequisite courses (when applicable), preview material for the upcoming school year, build relationship(s) with WHS faculty	N/A	9, 10 and 11	1-2 weeks	Weston Staff

Highlights represent new or improved programming for the 2021-2022 school year.

Supporting Students – Community Coordinator Programming

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students/Population	Grade(s)	FREQUENCY	Educator Type(s)
Kindergarten Luncheon	To provide an opportunity for new potential Family Friend families to learn about the program and meet in person	METCO and Weston Kindergarten Families	K	1	Community Coordinator
Family Friends After School Program	To strengthen the relationships between the Family Friend pairings by having shared enrichment activities	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	1-3	CANCELED	Community Coordinator
<i>This program did not run '21</i>					
Country, Woodland and Field School Field Trips (Virtual)	To strengthen the relationships between the Family Friend pairs by providing an opportunity for a shared social experience	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	1-5	1 Event	Community Coordinator and Liaison
Middle School After School Activity	To strengthen the relationships between the Family Friend pairings by providing an opportunity for a shared social experience	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	6-8	1 Event	Community Coordinator and Liaison
Pot Luck Supper	To strengthen the relationships between the Boston and Weston families by providing an opportunity for a shared social experience for the students and their families	METCO students and their Weston Families, members of the Community, and Staff	K-12	1 Event	Community Coordinator and METCO Director
Ice Cream Social	This annual event is held in September to reconnect Weston and Boston families. Participation remains high for both Boston and Weston families as well as METCO staff. With high school students volunteering their time to entertain the younger students and scoop the ice cream, all grade levels are well represented at the event.	METCO students and their Weston Families, members of the Community, and Staff	K-12	CANCELED	Community Coordinator
<i>This program did not run '21</i>					
Field and Middle School Afternoon Activity/Field trip	These are events similar to the FFAP held at the K-3 level. These trips and/or afternoon activities are held to continue to strengthen the bonds between Weston and Boston resident students	METCO Students and Weston resident students	4-8	CANCELED	Community Coordinator and Liaison
<i>This program did not run '21</i>					
High School Support and Connection Event(s)	Building in supports and making arrangements to provide meals/places to stay and transportation and allow HS METCO students to fully engage in the community	METCO HS Students	9-12	As needed	Community Coordinator, Liaison and community volunteers

Community Support Organizations

The following organizations, which represent both communities, continue to be an integral part of the success of our METCO program:

- Friends of Weston METCO (F.W.M) – The committee consists of members from both the Boston and Weston communities. In support of the METCO Director and staff, the committee offers recommendations for fundraising opportunities. A letter distributed to Boston and Weston resident families in the spring, has become an annual fundraising vehicle. The METCO Director/High School academic liaison, the Field School academic liaison and the Community Coordinator served as members on the committee this year.
- Boston Weston METCO Parent Organization (BWMPO) – The BWMPO continues its work by co-sponsoring the annual METCO Informational Session held annually in Boston. The organization also continues to assist the METCO Director and the Transportation Coordinator in a variety of areas pertaining to program goals and transportation issues and policies. The organization holds monthly meetings in Boston for parents and supporters for discussion and review of procedures and policies of the METCO program and the school system. The organization supports our graduates with an annual scholarship program for qualified students. This gift award is given during the annual Class Day at the High School.
- Weston METCO Scholarship Committee – The members of this committee consist of former METCO graduates, members of the Boston and Weston communities who volunteer their time to raise scholarship money for our graduating seniors, and former students who are currently attending college. The committee works closely with parents, students, the METCO staff, and the Guidance Department in support of the scholarship process.
- Weston PTO – This organization continues to support our program in several areas, which includes working with the Community Coordinator to advertise METCO events to the Weston community. It also donates a portion of the proceeds of the annual PTO calendars to the BWMPO for their scholarship program.

- Land's Sake Farm (Weston) – Thriving community farm that is dedicated to building meaningful connections between people, the food they eat, and the land. For the past 5 years, the farm has raised funds to cover the cost of the summer programming they provide (free of charge) to our METCO Summer SOAR Program.
- First Parish Church in Weston – Gathered in 1698 by the Puritan settlers of Weston, First Parish was founded to serve all the residents in our neighborhood and was known as the “parish” or town church. For over 9 years First Parish has awarded the Weston METCO Program a grant to establish (and continue to fund) our Educational Travel Assistance for METCO Families.
- Weston Recreation Department – For the past 7 years, the Weston Recreation Department has allowed our METCO Students, participating in our summer program, use of the pool as well as access to discounted swim lessons.
- Weston Historical Society – The Weston Historical Society Inc. is a private, non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. It was founded in 1963 at the time of the town's 250th Anniversary. Their mission is to collect, preserve, and make available artifacts relating to the history of Weston, and to educate residents about our community heritage. The Roxbury Weston Preschool and its founders were instrumental to the launch of the Weston METCO Program.
- What Can Weston Do - Weston Community Members, Weston METCO/Boston Resident Community Members, Weston Public School Parents, Staff and Students committed to raising awareness and educating the community to support racial justice. Through the work of its various sub-committees we aim to create anti-racist initiatives, events and recommendations to the school system and broader Weston Community that will help to both recognize and combat institutional racism in Weston.

2021-2022 Next Steps

- **2022-2023** As a department the METCO Staff worked to create a Weston METCO Parent Education Series for the 2020-2021 school year. The series consisted of presentations, workshops, and materials for parents in the Weston METCO program to help them be better equipped to support their children. Due to the pandemic and residual issues the following year we were not able to successfully launch these workshops. We will work to do so in the 2022-2023 school year
- **2022-2023** Summer 2022 officially begins our 2022-2023 school year and we are planning to implement both the return of our SOAR summer program for rising 5th -8th grade students as well as introduce a new “Jumpstart” program for our incoming Kindergarten students. We are also looking to utilize the results from the data teams at the lower levels to make recommendations to parents for our METCO Summer School Program in Boston as well which is 4 weeks long. We are hoping this initiative will help to prevent any summer regressions for at risk students.
- **2022-2023** While METCO has not had a program review in over 8 years and the one scheduled for this past year was canceled; we hope to work together and find a way to collect, document and report crucial program information in hopes of continuing to improve upon our program.

Acknowledgements

The METCO Staff would like to thank all of the following stakeholders for helping to ensure that we are not simply a functioning program, but a flourishing Weston METCO Community: the Weston School Committee, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendents, members of the Central Administrative staff, building Principals, Faculty and Staff members, members of the Transportation Department, Office Support Staff and Aides, the members of the Food Services Department, and members of the Custodial and Maintenance Staff. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to work at making this program the success that it is and supporting our students! Additionally, we would like to thank both the Weston and Boston families for a collaborative spirit and continued dedication to work together.

Last, but certainly not least, as Director, I would like to thank the METCO staff for their persistent dedication to our students' success. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing team and look forward to helping our students reach their fullest potential!

METCO Staff

LA TOYA RIVERS
DIRECTOR/HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
LIAISON



Tel 781-786-5850
RiversL@weston.org

CYRIL KAKULU
MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC
LIAISON



Tel 781-786-5626
KakuluC@weston.org

THERESA DRYDEN
FIELD SCHOOL ACADEMIC
LIAISON



Tel 781-786-5511
DrydenT@weston.org

RIOLA LAZO
WOODLAND/COUNTRY SCHOOL
ACADEMIC LIAISON



Tel 781-786-5414
LazoR@weston.org

ANNA LAMBERT
COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



Tel 781-786-5852
LambertA@weston.org

MAUREEN CABRAL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Tel 781-786-5850
CabralM@weston.org