NEW HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL BROCKTON

NEWSLETTER

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September 2026 Issue

From the Principal's Desk: Enjoying the Magic and Embracing the Transitions of Fall





Dear New Heights Community,

As we enter the fall season, I find myself reflecting on the vibrant autumn leaves and how their colors mirror the rich diversity and beauty of our New Heights community. Having completed our first full month of school, I want to share how deeply grateful I am for the warm welcome I have received every single day.

The Joy of Being an Educator

Getting to know our students throughout September has been an absolute delight. They are passionate advocates for their own learning, resilient athletes on the field and court, dedicated servant leaders, and creative thinkers full of fresh ideas for scholar community-building. It was also a pleasure meeting so many of you at our recent Curriculum Night. Through those conversations, I gathered wonderful feedback regarding communication and school growth.

Moving forward, I am actively exploring ways to incorporate more family voices into our decision-making processes both this year and beyond. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure our scholars thrive; I look forward to even deeper collaboration ahead.

Celebrating Our Progress

I am thrilled to share that New Heights was recently recognized for its outstanding MCAS accomplishments by both the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association. Our results have fully returned to—and in several areas surpassed—our pre-pandemic achievement levels. This significant milestone reflects a strong recovery from learning loss and stands as a testament to the hard work and resilience of our scholars, teachers, and families.

Looking Ahead to October

We have several exciting initiatives and events lined up for the month ahead:

After-School Programs & Clubs: Under the guidance of our new coordinator, we are launching an array of after-school programs ranging from the arts and academic tutoring to student government.

First Annual Game Night–October 21: Scholars are invited back to campus for an evening of board games, friendly competition, and fun prizes with their peers.

Trunk-or-Treat & Birthday Dress-Down: We will wrap up the month with our beloved annual Trunk-or-Treat—where staff showcase their decorated car trunks—alongside a special dress-down day celebrating all scholars with October birthdays.

I am immensely proud of what we accomplished in September and cannot wait to see all the great moments October will bring!

In appreciation,
Dr. Ondrea Johnston
Principal
New Heights Charter School of Brockton

Congratulations to our Senior Student-athletes!

Thank you for representing us with such pride and professionalism! I am very proud of you!

Dr. Johnston

ACADEMIC

New Heights Charter School Provide Free, 24/7 Online Tutoring for Its Students





New Heights Charter School of Brockton today announced a new partnership with UPchieve to provide free, 24/7 online tutoring to all New Heights students, effective immediately. The initiative adds an essential layer of academic support to the school's established Early College model, ensuring scholars have access to on-demand assistance both inside and outside the classroom.

As part of our commitment to continually strengthening our Early College model, New Heights Charter School of Brockton has partnered with UPchieve—a nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the college enrollment gap and promoting upward mobility. Their vision directly aligns with our core mission: to prepare our students for college, period.

UPchieve provides live, online academic support with real instructors, connecting students with a tutor within minutes of a request. Tutors cover all middle and high school subjects, including advanced and college-level courses. New Heights Early College 11th and 12th graders can also access UPchieve for extra support. While all subjects are not available, tutors can assist with many closely related courses.

"While closing the college attainment gap for urban students is an ambitious goal, it is one we know is fully achievable," said Dr. Andrea Johnston, New Heights Principal. "Over the past 10 years, New Heights has saved our families millions of dollars in college tuition. This partnership will ensure our scholars have the tools they need to unlock their full potential, while giving families peace of mind knowing help is always available."

The implementation of UPchieve comes as a direct response to feedback from school leaders, teachers, staff, and families regarding student support needs. By offering around-the-clock academic aid, New Heights reinforces its holistic commitment to helping scholars thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

As New Heights marks a decade since its founding, the new tutoring platform positions the school to deepen its impact, build on its track record of college preparation, and continue bridging the educational gap for Brockton students over the next decade and beyond.

New Heights Welcomes Families to Its Annual Fall Curriculum Night & Open House





New Heights recently hosted its Annual Fall Curriculum Night and Open House. Curriculum Night provides an opportunity for New Heights to partner with families in support of students. Families meet New Heights teachers, explore the rigorous academic framework, and discuss elevated standards set for our scholars. Teachers engage with families about what students are New Heights recently hosted its Annual Fall Curriculum Night and and Open House. Curriculum Night provides an opportunity opportunity for New Heights to partner with families in support of students. Families meet New Heights teachers, explore the rigorous academic framework, and discuss elevated standards set for our scholars. Teachers engage with families about what students are learning in the classroom and expectations for student success so that families can reinforce those expectations at home. New Heights recognizes the vital role families hold in supporting student outcomes. Curriculum Night is one event that actively seeks to strengthen family communication.

UPchieve

Other highlights of the evening included introducing our partnership with UPchieve, which delivers free, 24/7, live online tutoring to every student. We are thrilled to offer this round-the-clock academic resource to empower our scholars whenever they need assistance.

At New Heights, we know that educating the whole child requires a dynamic, unwavering partnership between home and school. As an Early College Academy, our community recognizes that the path to a college degree begins with the strong foundation built right in the home.

We thank every family member who joined us to invest in our scholars' bright futures. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences at the end of the fall semester!

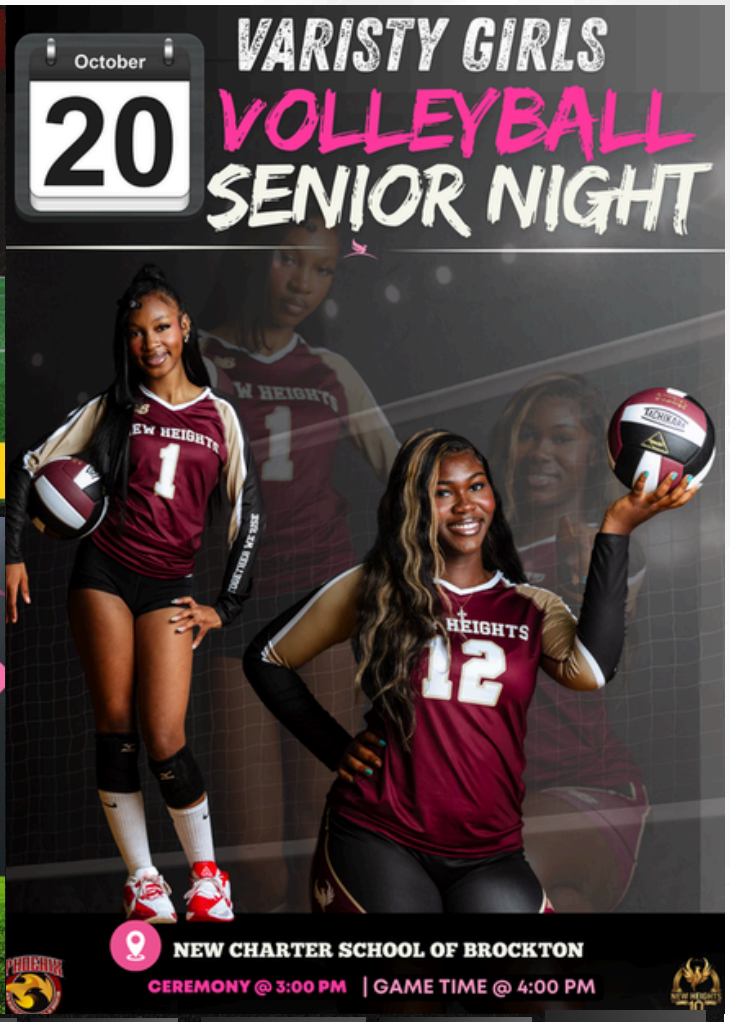
ATHLETICS

Get Ready for New Heights Fall Senior Night Celebrations!

The New Heights Athletics Department is thrilled to announce three Senior Night Celebrations this October! We invite families, friends, and our entire community to fill the stands and join us in honoring these remarkable student-athletes.

Come celebrate their unwavering dedication to our athletic program and applaud the grace, professionalism, and determination they bring to our school—both on and off the field and court. Let's make these nights unforgettable!



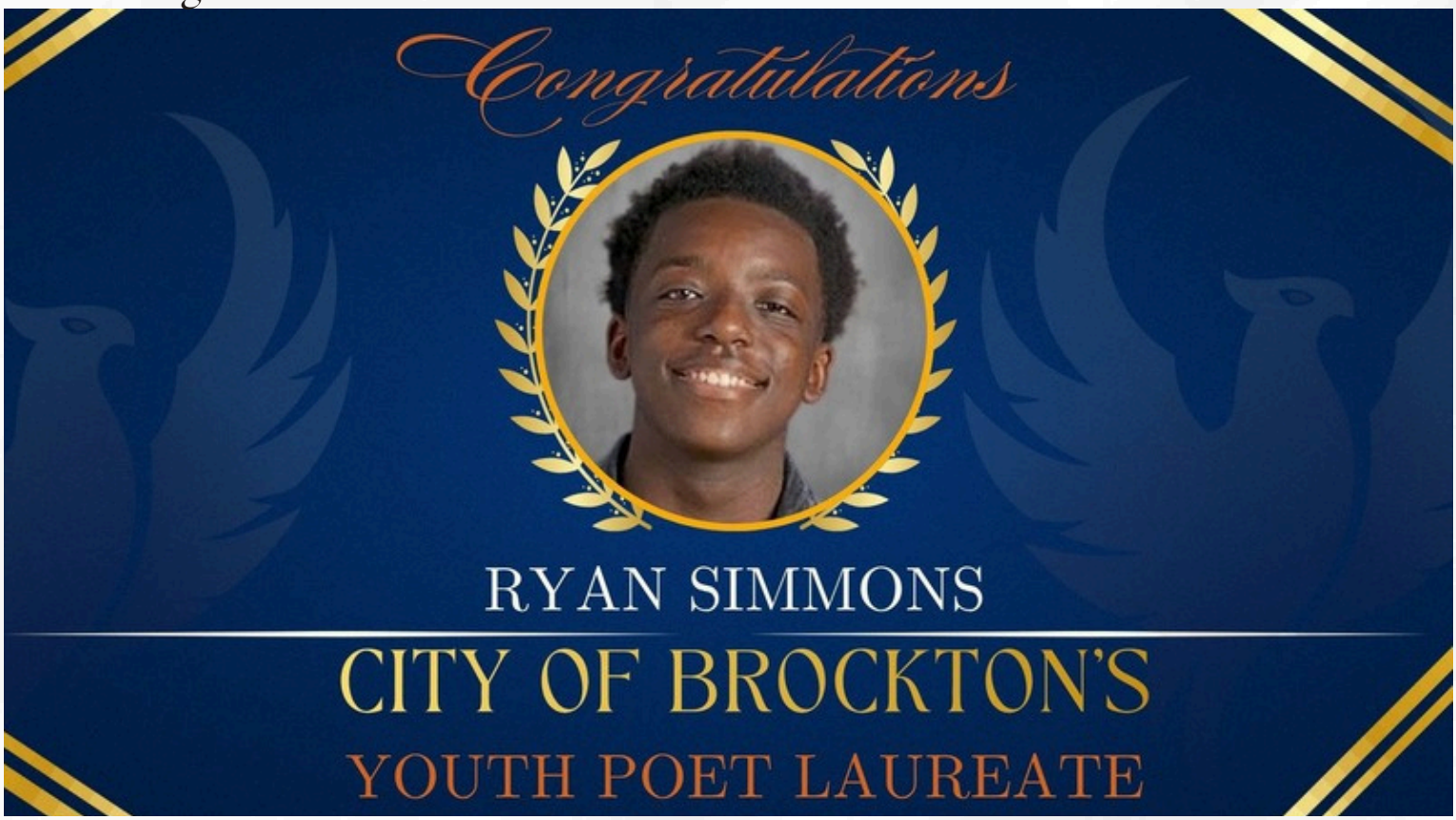






COMMUNIYTY NEWS

New Heights Tenth Grader Named Brockton's Newest Youth Poet Laureate



New Heights Charter School tenth-grade scholar Ryan Simmons has been selected as the City of Brockton's newest Youth Poet Laureate–a distinction that recognizes his talent, dedication to the literary arts, and distinctive voice as a young writer. Simmons will serve a two-year term starting October 10, 2026.

The Youth Poet Laureate position provides a young writer with an opportunity to share their work, engage the community through poetry, and use their voices to explore and illuminate issues that matter to their generation.

Ryan has been using poetry as a tool to express himself and convey thoughts he could only describe through his verses. He said, "Outside of school, poetry has become one of my main forms of artistic expression. I enjoy writing about emotions, relationships, identity, community, and experiences that people sometimes have difficulty putting into words."

When asked what inspired him to write poetry, Ryan credited his curiosity for artistic expression and a desire to understand others through their feelings. "I've always been someone who thinks deeply about things and pays attention to what other people are feeling. Poetry gave me a place to turn those thoughts into something meaningful," Ryan explained.

Ryan's 9th-grade ELA teacher, Dr. Matthew Henry, was overjoyed when he received a phone call from his colleague, Evan Baxter who shared the news alongside Ryan. Dr. Henry said, "I received a phone call from Mr. Baxter. He put Ryan on the phone to deliver the news himself. I screamed my congratulations loud enough that I'm pretty sure I disturbed the neighbors on my street."

According to Dr. Henry, Ryan's work addresses social issues that challenge both his community and the world at large. "He [Ryan] is very deft at finding powerful images to illustrate the complex social interactions and personal reflections that his poetry tackles," Dr. Henry noted.

Hope Fernandes, New Heights Early College English Language Arts (ELA) teacher, host of the Brockton Public Library's monthly "Everyone Has a Voice" poetry series, and organizer of New Heights' monthly Coffee House series, praised Simmons' achievement. "This honor is a testament to Ryan's extraordinary talent, his dedication to the craft of writing, and the power of his unique voice," Fernandes said. "For Ryan to be recognized in this manner is a true honor for our school community but more importantly an open door of opportunity for Ryan.







I am truly looking forward to watching him soar during his two year tenure as Brockton's Youth Poet Laureate," she added.

Simmons' appointment marks a significant achievement not only for the young poet, but also for the New Heights community, which continues to foster opportunities for students to develop their creativity, confidence, and individual voices through the arts.

While poetry has become an important instrument for Ryan to convey his message, he also aims to use it to uplift others. "I want my poetry to give people a voice, especially people who feel like they aren't being heard. I want my writing to make people feel understood and remind them that their experiences and stories matter," Ryan concluded.

The Youth Poet Inauguration event will be held at Brockton's Main Street Library at 2:00 on October 10th promptly at 2:00 PM for anyone who is interested in supporting this endeavor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

