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# Barnstable High School Become First Massachusetts School to Earn USA Blue School Designation for Marine Biology Curriculum

*Recognition Positions Barnstable as Regional Model for Ocean Education*

HYANNIS, Mass. – Barnstable High School is the first school in Massachusetts to be designated as a USA Blue School, an earned recognition that reflects the school's stellar ocean education program and commitment to cultivate career pathways in environmental science and technology.

There are appxoximately 50 registered USA Blue Schools, and with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Education and the National Marine Educators Association, the designation offers opportunities for students and faculty to:

- Connect with other schools within the Global Blue Schools Network through webinars, student symposia, and quarterly meetings of USA Blue School teachers
- Promote ocean literacy through authentic learning opportunities at multiple grade levels
- Enact ocean-related stewardship or social action projects to make our oceans a better place
- Involve other students, families and community organizations in their work

Barnstable's marine biology curriculum integrates the seven Ocean Literacy Essential Principals, linking ocean science to technology, geography, history, economics, public policy, and human culture. Additionally, with Cape Cod's natural aquatic surroundings, students have ample

educational opportunities to collaborate with scientists in a professional setting through field work, site visits and internships.

“The USA Blue School designation isn’t just a badge or title, it was earned by demonstrating that ocean literacy is deeply embedded in our institutional culture, practices, and community partnerships,” said Barnstable High School Marine Biology instructor Joanne Jarzobski. “As Massachusetts’ first and only USA Blue School, we are a regional model for ocean education while connecting our students and staff to an international movement dedicated to ocean conservation, sustainability, and coastal stewardship.”

Marine Biology studies are a part of Barnstable’s Environmental Science and Technology Pathway, a project-oriented, field-based curriculum designed to develop skills and preparing students to continue their education and/or enter the local blue economy workforce, a thriving sector on Cape Cod.

**ABOUT BARNSTABLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Barnstable Public Schools (BPS) is Cape Cod’s largest and most culturally diverse school district, serving more than 4,500 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in nine schools throughout the town’s seven villages. BPS fosters a welcoming environment and educates the whole child by creating a student-centered culture that addresses students physical, social, emotional and academic needs in a safe and healthy learning environment. Along with its community-based transition program serving student with developmental disabilities from grade 12 through age 21 focusing on life skills, career development and community integration, BPS is home to award-winning academic, career pathway, arts and athletic programs, and is committed to preparing students for life-long success and make an impact in the communities they live. For more information about BPS, please visit https://www.barnstable.k12.ma.us, or follow on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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