

Agawam High School

2019 School Profile

School:

Agawam High School is a comprehensive high school serving students in grades 9 through 12. The school is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Current enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is 1,212. At Agawam High School, we are dedicated to preparing our students for the 21st century and improving our facilities, curriculum, instruction, and assessment to meet that goal.

Mission Statement:

The Agawam High School community strives to provide a safe, diverse, and advanced learning environment for all students. We offer challenging learning opportunities and extensive extracurricular activities which encourage our students to become productive, respectful, and responsible citizens.

Learning Expectations:

Academic Expectations

Agawam High School students will be able to:

- listen and read for understanding.
- speak and write to communicate effectively.
- research information using appropriate methods.
- use critical thinking skills to solve problems.
- use technology competently.

Social and Civic Expectations

Agawam High School students will demonstrate:

- universal respect.
- integrity and honesty.
- compassion and understanding.
- behaviors that reflect accountability, reliability and trustworthiness.
- active citizenship in the community.

6 Core Values:

Mutual Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Compassion, Achievement, Safety

School Motto:

"Do the Right Thing"

Facilities and Resources:

Agawam High School continues to upgrade technology, guided by our mission statement, to meet the ever-increasing needs of our community realizing its vital role in supporting teaching and learning.

To accommodate the growing need for robust instructional technology, every teacher was given a new high-speed computer in their classroom. New laptops with docking stations were issued to itinerant teachers, who regularly move between classrooms, to help with their more mobile teaching needs. Also, special education teachers were given iPads to help with their duties and with the assistive technology regarding their students. Approximately 350 Chromebooks/Cloudbooks and 7 mobile carts were added to the environment, either on an "as requested" basis, or specifically assigned to departments.

To facilitate more mobile access for laptops, iPads, etc. a more pervasive wireless network was implemented with over 75 access points added to the environment. A Google Apps for Education domain for Agawam was created to give teachers another option for collaborative student work and cloud storage. With all the online resources used in the high school's curriculum, the network backbone of core switches was replaced to handle the extra bandwidth more efficiently and optimally.

New multifunction machines have been installed in each wing that will allow color printing, copying, fax, and scanning directly to teachers' network home drives. This allows staff the ability to print to any copy machine in the high school from any computer in the building.

New networked television screens were installed in public areas to broadcast the town's educational channel to students and visitors. New Bright Links presentation units were purchased for several Special Education classrooms, and a new mobile BrightLinks cart was purchased for the library. InFocus JTouch touchscreen monitors were added to over 30 classrooms and the library to add more interactive functionality to the curriculum.

Additionally, the high school conference room was updated with new technology (InFocus BigTouch, video camera, etc.) to allow for a more efficient setting for meetings with administration, students, parents, Special Education, and others. Video conferencing for interviews and other interactions is now possible.

Eight security cameras have been added to the high school, which currently has more than 65 cameras to help ensure the safety of the Agawam High School community.

To support all these growing technologies, a full-time support specialist was added to the IT department, and many professional development classes were added to the roster of classes offered.

One example of a physical learning environment that supports the teaching and learning of 21st century skill outcomes and project based learning is the General Creighton Abrams Library Media Technology Center and Learning Commons. The library is open 7:05-2:30 Monday through Thursday, and 7:05-2:00 Friday providing access to quality learning tools, technologies and resources. The center has five large group learning areas: four in the main facility and one adjacent double-sized lab. There is a double-sized classroom technology outfitted space scheduled by the library staff. Its location is near the main library center. The Library is also home to the school's first Makerspace. Students and teachers may access the library's resources via the library's Edline page in and outside of school. The library's Edline page is located at http://www.edline.net/pages/Agawam_High_School/Library/LIBRARY_MEDIA. All areas of the main and adjacent rooms have InFocus devices, digital projectors, smart boards or a Bright Links board.

Resources for teachers and students include a book collection of more than thirteen thousand volumes, access to eBooks, 40 online databases, newspapers and other media provided free of charge through the state library's information network. There is a digital streaming site providing curriculum-based videos for teacher to use in classes. Electronic (eBooks) supplement the library's hard copy book collection to provide current materials for research. The library's main room and adjacent library lab have a combination of PCs and Chromebooks. Staff have a small library work room with four computers, tables and easy seating chairs.

In its role as a support center for teaching and learning in Agawam High School, the library's mission is rooted in the Massachusetts Common Core standards, and the AASL's and Partnership for 21st Century Skills. Teachers use the library with their classes for a variety of research and problem solving activities, and students arrive to work independently or in small groups. Mrs. Mokrzycki supports teachers virtually and in person.

Since the summer of 2011, thirty-four faculty members have been trained in Capturing Kids Hearts, a three-day, off-site workshop that provides tools for administrators, faculty, and staff to build positive, productive, trusting relationships –among themselves and with their students. These processes transform classroom and campus environments where trust, respect, and caring relationships flourish. We will continue to encourage and fund this worthwhile learning experience.

This Fall, Agawam High School is proud to announce the completion of the new state-of-the-art athletic complex with tennis courts, track, football, baseball and softball fields, athletic stadium and more! The boys' and girls' locker/team rooms have been fully remodeled, too. These pictures by students demonstrate their appreciation and delight of this project.