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Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School Graduates Fifth Senior Class on Saturday, June 9

ADAMS, Ma – The Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School (BART) class of 2012 at will receive their diplomas in a ceremony on Saturday, June 9, at 11 a.m. at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' Church Street Center.

All nine members of the class completed an 80-hour internship, passed a college course on a local campus, and finished BART's unique portfolio process while also completing their BART course requirements. All seniors have been accepted into college.

"The graduation requirements are demanding," said Julia Bowen, executive director at BART. "But we believe when these students leave us, they'll be ready for the next step in their lives."

The graduation speaker, chosen by the seniors, will be Ellen Ennis, a founding teacher and principal at BART who helped usher the school into the successful model it has become. Ennis started as a teacher at BART in 2004, when the school was initially housed within Mount Greylock Regional High School. She later became principal after the school moved to its current location at One Commercial Place in Adams.

"Ellen played an incredibly important role in this school's beginning," said Julia Bowen, executive director at BART. "It is wonderful for our students to recognize this and for her to continue to be a part of our school community."

The school's Board of Trustees established the Ellen Ennis Faculty Award in her honor in 2008, for the faculty member who "best exemplifies the mission of the school."

In addition to Ennis, several students and administrators are scheduled to address the class of 2012.

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART's graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.