Prospect Hill Academy Charter School was founded in 1996 by a diverse group of community members who were united by the common vision to create a public school that prepares each student for success in college, inspires a lifelong love of learning, and fosters responsible citizenship. The school is located on four campuses in the urban Boston Metropolitan area; the Early Childhood campus (K-3) and Upper Elementary campus (4-6) reside in Somerville, and the Upper School campus (7-10) and the Collegiate Institute (11 & 12) are housed in Cambridge. Admission to Prospect Hill Academy is non-discriminatory (lottery-based) and open to all Massachusetts residents. Grades 9-12 currently enroll 320 students from 20 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Prospect Hill Academy graduated its first class in 2001 with 11 students. Graduating classes have grown to nearly 80 students in 2016. 95% of the graduates have gone on to college and 100% of those who have applied to college have been accepted.

Prospect Hill Academy’s K-12 curriculum aligns with Common Core Standards by articulating the essential subject area and grade level learning objectives, course content, and major assessments. It is designed to promote high expectations for all students, provide all students with the opportunity to learn, and ultimately equip all students with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the college environment. It is dynamic and responsive, constantly addressing the academic needs of our students, as informed by both internal and external assessment data.

Unlike traditional high schools, Prospect Hill Academy students are promoted to the Collegiate Institute in grade 11. The goal of the Collegiate Institute is to prepare students for a successful transition to college, careers, and responsible living by providing a balance of challenging, relevant coursework, authentic learning experiences, and strong relationships with students and families. By actively engaging in interdisciplinary studies, leadership opportunities, and restorative practices, Collegiate Institute scholars take ownership of their learning through advocacy, choice, and increased independence, graduating with the capacity to succeed both individually and collaboratively, and practice habits of mind that support the pursuit of lifelong learning and growth.
Curricular Features in the Collegiate Institute

Prospect Hill Academy has shifted the Collegiate Institute schedule to include both semester-long, 85 minute blocks (Humanities and Science courses) as well as year-long, 60 minute periods (Spanish and Math).

In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the Prospect Hill Academy college preparatory curriculum, students also have the option to take up to seven Advanced Placement courses.

- **Pre-AP Program**: PHA was invited to apply and one of 150 schools selected to pilot the pre-AP program through College Board. This year all grade 9 will take pre-AP Algebra I, pre-AP World History & Geography, and pre-AP Biology; next year grade 10 will take pre-AP Geometry and pre-AP US History.

- **Computer Science Requirement**: Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, all grade 10 takes Computer Science or AP Computer Science as their science; every student has the option to take Chemistry in 11th grade.


- **Humanities Courses**: In grades 9 and 10, humanities courses meet five days per week for 60 minutes per day and are sequential: English 9, English 10, and 9th Grade World History, 10th Grade U.S. History. In the Collegiate Institute, courses meet five days per week for one semester for 80 minutes per day. English courses currently offered: Literature: Identity & Love, Post-Colonial Literature, American Literature: Power, Race, & Identity, Madness & Literature; History courses currently offered: The Sociology of Gender, Psychology, Economics, Art History.

- **Science Courses**: In grades 9 and 10, science classes meet five days per week for 60 minutes per day and are sequential: 9th Grade Biology and 10th Computer Science. In the Collegiate Institute, courses meet five days per week for one semester for 80 minutes per day. All science classes include a lab component. Courses currently offered: Physics, Human Physiology, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Chemistry of Food.

- **World Language**: Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, PHA has revised the scope and sequence of its Spanish program, and also renamed course titles. Students in 9th grade will start in Spanish 1 or Spanish 2, and will progress through a sequence that includes Spanish 3, Spanish 4. Starting in 2018-2019, grade 9 students can choose between Spanish and French.

- **Math**: Courses are sequential 9-12 and meet for one full-year for 60 minute periods. Courses currently offered in grades 9 and 10: pre-AP Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II. In the Collegiate Institute courses include: Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus.

- **Arts and Technology**: Courses meet for one semester for 80 minutes per day. Courses in this department are rigorous and designed to prepare students for continued study in college. Courses currently offered include: Art II and III, Advanced Studio Art, Art History, Advanced Illustration, Advanced Theater Arts, Digital Music & Composition, Improv, Guitar I and II, Choir.

Graduation Requirements

**Academic Requirements**

Students receive midyear and final grades which are based on tests/quizzes, class projects, oral presentations, portfolios, homework, and other assignments. Both year-long and semester-long core academic courses are worth one credit each. Students must earn a minimum of 23 credits in order to graduate. Core academic requirements are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required # of Credits</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required # of Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As mandated by the State of Massachusetts, all students must pass the 10th Grade Mathematics and English Language Arts Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), along with one Science MCAS in order to graduate high school.

**Collegiate Institute Graduate Portfolio and Defense**

The Graduate Portfolio is a collection of standards-based student work and reflections that demonstrate student growth and proficiency in the most important skills and competencies across the 9-12 curriculum. The Portfolio Defense is a presentation of this portfolio to a panel of internal and external judges in June. The Portfolio focus on four skills: Inquiry, Analysis, Research, and Creative Expression.

**Non-Academic Requirements**

The school further requires students to conduct 60 hours of independent community service (a minimum of 15 hours per year.)
GRADING SYSTEM
Grading is given on a 100 point scale. Students’ final grades in all classes will be calculated consistently. Each grade is calculated using the following formula: 35% “process” (quizzes, homework, citizenship and classwork) and 65% “product” (mastery assignments including exams, projects and research papers).

WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE
GPAs at Prospect Hill Academy are based on a weighted 0-100 scale with an additional 10 percentage points calculated for AP classes as recommended by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education for admission to state colleges and universities. All courses taught at the high school (grades 9-12) are college preparatory. Each GPA is calculated yearly according to how many credits each class is worth and the cumulative average is determined by calculating the average of all years together, divided by the total number of credits earned.

Prospect Hill Academy Charter School does not compute class rank.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2017 – CALCULATED AT THE END OF JUNIOR YEAR

ADVISORY
Research reveals that students who are well known by at least one adult in their high schools fare better academically, interpersonally, and extracurricularly than their peers who feel isolated. The functions of Prospect Hill Academy Advisory include: academic advising and monitoring, home/school communication, school governance, character development, and service learning. Advisory groups consist of 10-12 students and one advisor; the groups meet three times per week for 40 minutes.

ATHLETICS
At Prospect Hill Academy, athletics affords students the opportunity to push themselves to higher levels of achievement and to become more focused and disciplined as they compete amongst their peers for honor and respect. Prospect Hill Academy is the founding member of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) which enables students to compete interscholastically in soccer, basketball, baseball and softball leagues and tournaments as well as volleyball, cross-country, and cheerleading competitions.

RESTORATIVE APPROACH
Starting in 2012, Prospect Hill has taken a restorative justice approach to community building. We believe that deep relationships between adults and students make for a positive school community. To this end, students participate in weekly circles with their advisors to discuss issues and build connections. When disruption occurs in the community, circles are used to create a place for healing and

Prospect Hill Academy Charter School will prepare students for success in college, inspire a lifelong love of learning, and foster responsible citizenship.
rebalancing harmful relationships. PHA will elaborate on serious disruptions to our community in a student’s letter of recommendation to colleges.

**Discipline Reporting Policy:** PHA communicates with colleges when student behavioral situations in grades 9-12 have resulted in external suspensions. Students also participate in restorative interventions and consequences whenever a suspension is assigned.

### JUNIOR JOURNEY

Junior Journey is a unique program that culminates in a two to three week trip, designed to increase student awareness of social justice issues outside of their own communities. For example, a group of students will travel to Guatemala where they will participate in intensive individual Spanish language study, cultural immersion through homestays, and community service learning through teaching at a rural elementary school. Other trips have included Costa Rica, New Orleans, and Vermont. 80% of all costs are carried by Prospect Hill Academy and its foundation.

### STANDARDIZED TESTING STATISTICS

**SAT Scores**


### COLLEGE PROFILE

Since our first graduating class in 2001, 90% of Prospect Hill Academy graduates have chosen to enroll in a wide array of 4 year colleges and universities and another 8% have chosen to attend 2 year colleges. The classes of 2009 through 2014 have matriculated at the following colleges and universities:

- Amherst College
- Assumption College
- Bates College
- Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
- Bennington College
- Bentley University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brandeis University
- Bridgewater State University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Cambridge College
- College of the Holy Cross
- Connecticut College
- Denison University
- Drexel University
- Emmanuel College
- Endicott College
- Fisher College
- Fitchburg State University
- Framingham State University
- Hamilton College - NY
- Hampshire College
- Harvard University
- Haverford College
- Howard University
- Ithaca College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
- Keene State College
- Lesley University
- Loyola University Maryland
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- MCPHS - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
- Mitchell College
- Mount Holyoke College
- New England Institute of Technology
- Northeastern University
- Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
- Providence College
- Regis College
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Saint Anselm College
- Simmons College
- Smith College
- Spelman College
- Suffolk University
- Syracuse University
- The George Washington University
- Trinity College
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- Union College (New York)
- University of Chicago
- University of Connecticut at Hartford
- University of Maine
- University of Maine at Farmington
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Massachusetts, Boston
- University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- University of Miami
- University of Rochester
- University of Vermont

Prospect Hill Academy Charter School will prepare students for success in college, inspire a lifelong love of learning, and foster responsible citizenship.