The 2021-22 school year marked a return to school for all of Harmony’s 1,100 students. In the summer, our staff worked diligently to design new lessons and collaborate with peers to help make the upcoming year the best one possible. And in August, 2021 for the first time since March 2020, the entire student population was back in school for in-person learning. It felt great.

I saw students excited to participate in classes and learn new ideas. I saw them working with peers and teachers with sustained interest and a growing ability to dive deeper into authentic problems. Students participated in many new clubs, electives, and activities throughout the year.

We were even able to once again conduct our annual, spring musical, and hold in-person musical concerts.

When the mask mandate was lifted in February, there was another round of excitement as kids and staff were able to see the smiles that had been behind the masks since August. When you read this annual report, and reflect on many of the activities that occurred this year, I hope you see the commitment our staff had to helping your children achieve deeper learning and be part of a positive climate. This school year was a huge success in that regard and we can’t wait to start the next one!
Science 6 Students Sought Deeper Learning Through PBL

Science 6 continued immersing students in PBL experiences. Each PBL experience began with a "challenging problem or question" and worked with students on "keys to success." The students then moved through the PBL essential elements, culminating in a public product. A rocket launch, student created weather reports, solar system brochures, and natural resources guides were just a few of the PBL experiences 6th graders enjoyed.

Math 7 Students Applied Mathematics to Everyday Situations

In Math 7 this year, Performance Based Assessments replicated real-world situations. Students experienced a restaurant simulation and an Amazon shopping activity where they worked with calculating tax, tip, and discounts. They also had to stay within a budget during a Velocity Wings Challenge and connect various representations of rational numbers to personal interest in the world around them.
Latin Students Created a Mythology Museum

If you came through Harmony's library one special day in February, you may have had a unique experience: meeting an ancient god or goddess. The Harmony Latin students presented their second annual Mythology Museum. Students temporarily took on the roles of gods and goddesses with ornate outfits and eye-catching props. The gods allowed the museum guests to interview them to learn more about the ancient world.

Students spent several classes preparing for their final mythology museum. Through full-class lessons about ancient art and independent research on one god or goddess of their choosing, students answered questions about what the gods meant to the ancient Romans, and how ancient people portrayed their gods in art. Finally, students were given this challenge -- “Can we look at you and tell who you are?” Just like the artists in ancient times, students used costumes, props, and symbols to portray information about who their god was and what the ancient myths say about them. Great job to all the wonderful gods and goddesses in the museum!
Math 7 Students Created Digital Diaries

Part of being a wall-to-wall PBL school involves reflecting as one of the key components of learning. In Foundations of Algebra, students are offered prompts, open ended questions, or even asked to summarize the class. They focus on reflecting on the learning whether it be related to the content, the delivery, or the activity involved in the lesson. Students are encouraged to use good writing mechanics, provide examples, and focus on mistakes that they made or are aware that might occur. We continue to normalize writing and reflection in math class to help grow our students as reflective learners.
Letters to Airman Wyatt Buckley

This past December, 6th grade students learned that Mrs. Buckley, their house secretary, had a 20 year-old son who was in boot camp for the Navy, and wouldn't be home for the holidays. They took their experience in learning how to write purposeful letters to a personal level by writing compelling letters to encourage, thank and entertain Wyatt and the other recruits. He received over 250 letters from Harmony 6th graders and reported back to his proud mom that they really did buoy the spirits of many! The students were rewarded in May, when he stopped by for a surprise, in-person visit to thank the students for their letters.

Spectrum Students Competed In an Invention Convention

Spectrum 6 and 7 students worked to become inventive thinkers. Students conceptualized an invention, worked to obtain a “patent,” created prototypes, researched target markets and developed ad campaigns to market their original ideas. Students even recorded their development process to provide proof of idea ownership. The top invention this year was a design for fog free glasses to be worn above masks!
A Progressive Era News Broadcast was created in History 7

7th Grade History students had the opportunity to create public service announcements dealing with important issues from the Progressive Era (1880-1920.) The students had to link the issue from that time to the same issues that persist in American society today working in cooperative and collaborative groups. Topics included industrial working conditions, the power of monopolies, child labor, and women's rights. Students had the option of developing a video version of their PSA using WeVideo, or they could have developed a Google Slide show based on research and classroom learning activities. As part of their PSA, students had to offer a solution for the problems they discussed in their PSA. Government action, new laws, referenda, initiatives, labor negotiations were all developed during the Progressive Era.

Spectrum Students Created Animated PSA’s

8th grade Spectrum students created animated films, which were used as PSA’s concerning A World of 7 Billion, and the long-term effects of an ever increasing population on our world. These films were presented to their peers through our Spectrum Film Festival, Family Arts Night, and entered into the World of 7 Billion video contest.
8th Grade National Novel Writing Month

NaNoWriMo stands for National Novel Writing Month- a worldwide challenge to write a novel in the month of November. The students learned new skills in our class lessons, including how to write and punctuate effective dialogue, use sensory details to create an immersive setting, and craft realistic, round characters. These lessons culminated in the NaNoExpo, where they were able to learn from some of Harmony’s writing experts and share their writing with one another. Collectively, Harmony students wrote over 2 million words in November!

Robotics Students Participated in an EOD Demonstration

In May Sergeant Bolland, of the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Department, came to Harmony to demonstrate one of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal, or EOD, robots that Loudoun County uses to diffuse bombs and enter into dangerous situations. The students were able to go outside and view the demonstration and ask questions of Sergeant Bolland. It was a great opportunity for them to see a real world application of the skills they are learning in class.
PBL Experiences

English 7 held a Poetry Slam

The Poetry PBL was kicked off with an introduction to the life of Edgar A. Poe with a focus on the poem, Annabel Lee. Students were shown poetry can have a surface meaning (literal), but oftentimes have a deeper meaning sometimes based on an author's experiences. 7th graders created their own Haiku, Limerick, Rhyme Scheme, Ode and Free Verse Poem. A class poetry slam was conducted where students voted on the best-represented poem for their block. Finally, the top three students in Mr. Binford's, Ms. Butler's, and Ms. Hillebrand's class presented their poems in front of their English classmates, and eighth-grade judges scored the poems, and chose the final block poetry slam winner.

English 6 Students Created Book Trailers

6th grade English students collaborated with the Instructional Facilitator of Technology, Mrs. Jones, to create book posters, trailers, and jackets as means of book recommendations for the Harmony community. The PBL project will also be shared with local libraries.
Tech Ed. 8 Students Incorporated a Variety of Technology

Students in Mr. Hendricks' Tech Ed. 8 class had the opportunity to participate in a variety of engineering and design challenges. Students learned foundational skills in the areas of technical drawing, computer-aided design, 3D printing, structural design, and participated in a variety of engineering and design challenges. Students also had the opportunity to learn about machine safety and utilize the Tech Ed lab to construct various wood projects including a mantle clock.

Computer Science Students Made Their Own Entertainment

Intro to Computer Science students learned to do more than just write computer programs. They researched the impacts of technology, experimented with hardware and software, built projects with microcontrollers, explored the fundamentals of the internet, and worked together to develop skills that extend beyond the classroom. One of our favorite PBL projects this year was a student-created arcade. This machine provides computer science students with opportunities to create authentic public products that can be shared within the school community.
Family Arts Night

Family Arts Night was celebrated in March as part of Youth Art Month. Hundreds of student works of art were on display throughout the building. The evening also included art stations, displays from Off Beat Art Club and Pre-Algebra, Aladdin Shorts, The library used book sale, guitar performances, Latin Club, paper mosaics, guest artist demos, and Spectrum claymation videos.

STEM Expo

Students in 8th Grade Tech Ed, Technology of Robotic Design, and Computer Science were able to design and create projects of their own interest using knowledge and skills from previously learned content. They were able to utilize elements of PBL by creating authentic projects of their own choice that they could publicly display to their families and faculty members at the STEM Expo.
Empty Bowl Dinner

The Empty Bowl Project is a community service art project to raise awareness about the issue of hunger and food security in Western Loudoun County. This year, we had 5 local potters, who made over 150 bowls: Carrie Althouse, Geoff DeMark, Shawn Grove, Yousung Choi Largent, and Sherri Fiolek. 8th grade art students made an additional 150 bowls using slab techniques. 6th and 7th grade classes glazed the artists’ bowls and 8th grade art students glazed the handmade bowls. There were 300 bowls available at our event, which raised $4,500 for the Western Loudoun Food Pantry. This brings our total donation to $27,500 since the start of this project.
Odyssey of the Mind Team Wins World Finals!

The Harmony Odyssey of the Mind Team competed and won 1st place in the World Finals. The team is composed of eighth-graders Avery Wood, Isabella Krimsky, EJ Banta, Gwenyth Mayo, Emma Edwards and Eve Clarke. They were coached by Lovettsville Elementary gifted resource teacher Heidi Mayo (Gwenyth’s mom), who has coached these students in Odyssey of the Mind (OM) competitions since the students were fifth-graders.

Life is a Circus! requires teams to create a performance about a young person enjoying a regular life, who wakes transported into a circus world. In the circus world, animals perform unexpected tricks, a clown and circus acts are featured and a ringmaster announces the activities. The young person returns to the regular world thinking it was all a dream until they see a mysterious figure that turns out to be from the circus.
Accolades and Awards

Foxcroft STEM Challenge

Congratulations to Harmony Middle School, Champions of the annual Foxcroft STEM Challenge, sponsored by Stryker. Emma Edwards, Charlotte Gisselle, Gwenyth Mayo, and Vera Pry, placed first overall in the “OCEANS 911” STEM CHALLENGE, a series of 5 collaborative, cooperative problem-solving experiences.

In addition to the overall victory, Harmony also won and placed in two of the individual problem areas. Challenges included content focused on science, technology, engineering, and math!

Lynne Gianelos nominated for Washington Post Teacher of the Year!

Harmony was pleased to nominate Lynne Gianelos for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Gianelos truly has a gift for encouraging and motivating her students. She always works to show her students the relevance of the work they are doing and to motivate them to do their absolute best. She has been a teacher in Loudoun County since 2010 and continues to excel each and every year. It was a privilege to recognize such an outstanding teacher as a nominee for teacher of the year.
CML Continental Mathematics League Math Competition

An ongoing goal for Spectrum students is to compete in academic competitions. To that end, Harmony 6th, 7th and 8th grade Spectrum students competed in the Continental Mathematics League.

6th Grade:
1st Place: Johnny Honcharik
2nd Place: Arabella Horton
3rd Place: Pierce Brown

7th Grade:
1st Place: Jason Zhang
1st Place: Xavier Peterson
1st Place: Violet Wasko
2nd Place: Alexander Deltorre

8th Grade:
1st Place: Nathan Nocon
2nd Place: EJ Banta
3rd Place: Madison Brown
Virginia Department of Education Co-Teaching Excellence Recognition

Kerry Giattino and Brian O'Neill completed their second year as teachers recognized by the Virginia Department of Education Excellence in Co-Teaching Initiative. Through this initiative, Ms. Giattino and Mr. O'Neill have done work for VDOE to share strategies designed to enhance the achievement of students with disabilities. Their classroom has been a place educators throughout Virginia could visit and learn from. We are proud of their great work, as all Harmony students benefit from their excellence.
Harmony Chorus

Six 6th grade students represented Harmony at All-County Chorus.

Nineteen 8th graders went to District Chorus.

Two 6th graders, one 7th grader, and one 8th grader were selected to ACDA All-Regional Chorus.

2 seventh graders and 2 eighth graders were selected to the All-VA Chorus.

8th grade Chorus received all Superior Ratings at the District Choral Academy.

8th grade Chorus was invited to perform the National Anthem for the LCPS School Board meeting.
Harmony Band

District Band: Henry Campbell, Charlotte Gesell, Tommy Miles, Gwenyth Mayo and Nathan Nocon Alternate: Daisy Tramel

District Jazz Ensemble: Noah Chinemilly, Charlotte Gesell, Logan McConnell, Alternate: Gwenyth Mayo

Harmony takes over
Hershey, PA

**Choir:** 1st Place in Division and a Superior Rating

**Orchestra:** 1st Place in Division and a Superior Rating

**Guitar:** 1st Place and a Superior Rating

**Band:** 1st and 2nd places overall
Mental Health Awareness

Penny Wars
This year marked the inaugural penny wars put on by the United Mental Health Team at Harmony Middle School. The penny wars created some healthy competition among the grades in order to raise money for a good cause: the Ryan Bartel Foundation. Ultimately, the 6th graders raised the most amount of money, but over $1600 was raised in total for teen mental health.

Harmony Wellness Week
In May, Harmony students participated in Wellness Week, organized by the Harmony United Mental Health Team. Students participated in Review and Do Monday, Tech Tuesday, You’re Worth it Wednesday, Thriving Thursday, and Physical Friday. They were welcomed each morning by live music in the school lobby and enjoyed music being played throughout the building during class changes.
It is with hearts full of joy that we brought Aladdin Jr. to Harmony after a 1-year hiatus. The Harmony family of staff, students, and parents is a resilient one! With an audition pool of 230 students, a play that promised a “Magic Carpet Ride” and more volunteers from staff and parents than we could ever have hoped for, Harmony drama is back!

Aladdin Jr. came to life under the direction of Lisa Washington and Nancy Stevens. It was truly a family affair with so many faculty members adding their experience and expertise! We cannot adequately express our gratitude for the wonderful volunteer coordinators, who tirelessly organized volunteers, fielded questions, collected money, created numerous emails, spreadsheets, and google forms, while never failing to support and uplift! To our very special cast and crew, we say thank you for giving Harmony a “Magical Moment!”
Harmony Clubs

Harmony sought to expand its club program this year to add to the excellent climate at the school. We were very proud to be able to offer Harmony students a choice of over 50 clubs. Some of those clubs are listed below:

- Acts of Kindness
- All Things Korea
- Beginner Volleyball
- Birthday Card
- Board Game
- Bounce Back
- Build a Solar Powered Car
- Chamber Carolers and Spring Quartets
- Chess
- Chicken Keeping
- Color Guard
- Community Service
- Crochet/Knit
- Crafting
- FCA
- Fishing
- Free Throw Contest
- German
- Golf
Harmony Clubs

- Happy Tails
- Humanities
- Intermediate Volleyball
- Juggling
- Kickball
- Latin
- Lego Challenge
- LIAM
- MAD Science
- Model UN
- Song Share
- Movie Making
- Offbeat Art
- Ping Pong
- Pitch Perfect
- Pride
- Project Lit
- Running Club
- Social Squad
- STEM
- Ukulele
- WEB
- Wrestling
- The Write Place
- Yoga
A special thank you to some of Harmony’s business partners

Harmony would like to take a moment to thank our business partners who have generously contributed to many of the programs that help support our students. These organizations have helped with our weekly backpack buddy program, eye exams and glasses for students, school supplies, winter jackets for students, and much more. Some of these partners are listed below:

- Backpack Buddies Foundation of Loudoun
- Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- Community Empowerment of Northern Virginia
- Girl Scout Troops
- Harmony Needs Network
- Harmony PTA
- Harmony United Methodist Church Mission Committe
- Hillsborough Ruritan Club
- Knights of Columbus, St. Francis de Sales Church
- Lovettsville Waterford Ruritans
- NOVA Diaper Bank
- Purcellville Lions Club
- Round Hill United Methodist Church Food Pantry
- Sterling Baptist Church
- Tari Orthodontics
- Town of Lincoln Community
- Tree of Life Purcellville
- Wegmans
- Western Loudoun Food Pantry