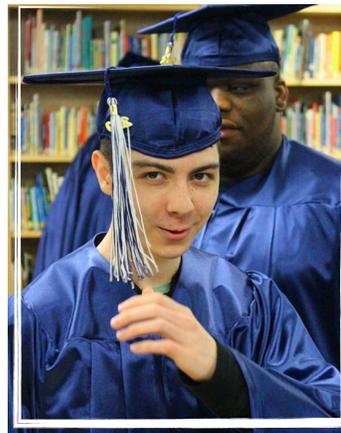


2019 GRADUATE OUTCOME SURVEY



Give me a chance and I'll show you what I can do

BY DR. JACOBS

Harbour Magic comes in many forms. Jack came to us as a boy. He graduated as a young man who had learned a great deal about himself and better understood what it took to succeed. Jack has bi-polar disorder. He struggled mightily in public school. His mom works for Harbour and she asked if Jack might come to our school. We agreed. It was difficult. Jack is smart. In the early days he was not nearly as smart as he thought he was. Jack felt it was his mission to assist the staff in doing their jobs by correcting them. He was out-spoken. It was a challenge for the staff to remember that at school his mother was not his mother; she was a staff member. Jack's language was often not school appropriate. Harbour is a non-aggressive school. Jack's mom gave the Executive Director permission to smack him as needed. Although that never came to pass, it was a continuing joke between Jack and the Executive Director (*pictured right*) who would regularly tell Jack that she had his mother's permission to smack him. Then one day, Jack decided that he would do better in a public school. He believed that it was the special school setting that was causing his issues not his behavior. So he went off to public school. At first all was sunshine. Then the bloom came off the rose. Jack got into serious trouble with the school and the staff. Jack decided that perhaps he needed to be back at Harbour after all.

It was not that easy. Jack pleaded his case to the Executive Director. Although she had a soft spot for Jack, it was the high school staff that was going to be with him day-to-day. So Jack was required to present his case for re-admission to the high school staff. That did not go easily but Jack prevailed and agreed to a set of expected behaviors.

When Jack returned to Harbour he was a new man. His behavior was dramatically better. He became involved in performing arts. He was kind to younger students and tried to mentor several kids.

Jack graduated a few years ago. Since then he has been steadily employed. Some of that employment has been serial. Sometimes he has held multiple jobs at one time. Most recently, Jack has a new job. He is working for a home improvement company and making good money. He is learning to do all manner of home improvement work. The work is varied and changes during the day. It is a great job for Jack who has come so far! Does he still struggle with his bi-polar challenge? You bet. Has he learned a great deal about who he is and how to manage all of that? You bet. Is he on his way to making his life? Check that box, too. That's what Harbour Magic is all about.



HOW MANY GRADS DID WE REACH?

Through June 2019, 552 students have graduated from The Harbour School. Seven of our alumni are deceased. Through mail solicitation, on-line surveys and follow-up phone calls we were able to reach 382 of our graduates or 70%, slightly fewer than last year. This survey goes all the way back to 1991, our first graduating class.

GRADS LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

News is good. Overall, 30.7% of grads are living independently, an increase of about 1.5% over last year. If we include students who have been out of school three or more years, 34.4% of our alumni are living independently.

According to a 2013 study by Shaun Heasley reported in Disability Scoop, only 17% of people with autism ages 21–25 have ever lived independently. The current majority of our students has autism.

MARYLAND RECENTLY RELEASED DATA ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN MARYLAND

These data are not encouraging. In May of 2019, about the same time frame as our survey, 22.2% of people with disabilities were engaged in individual competitive employment. Compare this number to 86.4% of Harbour grads. The percentage of those employed was an increase of .8% year over year.

Only 40 people were self-employed, .4%. The largest percentage was 55% who were engaged in facility based non-work. Probably some sort of care center. Altogether the study looked at 11, 412 people down just over 200 from a year ago. The largest increase was in community based non-work, again probably some sheltered work in the community. Harbour puts a great deal of emphasis on preparing our students for life after Harbour, whether that be in a job, post-secondary education or both. Some have criticized the school for not emphasizing test scores enough. But until someone can show the school data that correlates post-secondary success with high standardized test score, the school will keep believing in our own data.

THE HARBOUR SCHOOL BELIEVES IN OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS IS WHAT THEY HAVE TOLD US:

- Need classes that can be used daily. Teach me how to change a door handle, unclog a toilet, change a light bulb.
- My parents would say this school was a lifesaver for me. I really loved school, but needed more help when I graduated.
- We cannot think of anything more that Harbour School could have done at the time Eli was there. A lot of Eli's growth has taken place after he left Harbour School. So, the foundations were in place from H.S.
- Prepared me more for work. (*this respondent has a B.S. from UMBC*)
- Learning more functional skills such as cleaning, cooking, grocery shopping...
- Teach students how to live on their own independently and help parents with disabilities get help/tools to help their child live a better and independent life.
- No, we love Harbour, we love Dr. Jacobs.

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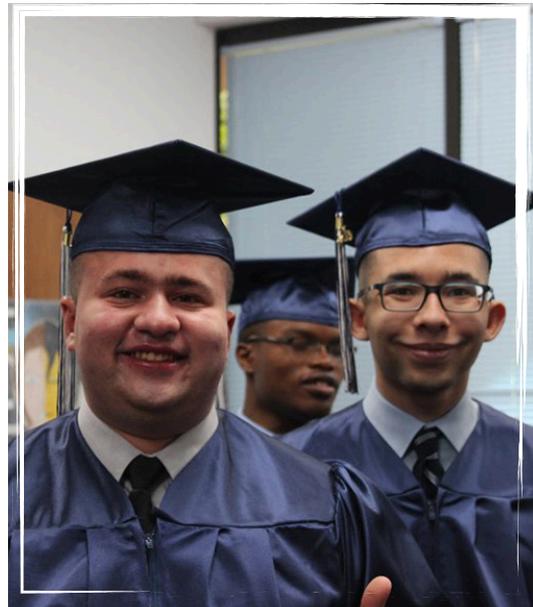
HOW DO WE COMPARE:

| | THS | MANSEF | NTLS2 |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| # of students: | 382 | 210 | 12,000 |
| Post-secondary | 49.1% | 57% | 31.9% |
| Employed | 86.4% | 53% | 48% |
| Criminal involvement | .2% | 13% | Unknown |

- Wish there were a broader spectrum of job training.
- Harbour School taught me how to get along with others and work as a team. They taught me to be the best. They also taught me to get a job.
- The Harbour School did wonders for my son. I just wish he could have stayed till he was 21.
- More mastery of reading and more self-advocacy skills & opportunities
- Time management and organization

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW, OR THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH HARBOUR?

- I will be graduating with my bachelor's degree in December 2019 with a degree in media and communications from UMBC. I will be looking for a fulltime job in my field of study. I hope to live independently and support myself.
- I currently have two jobs in the grocery field for which I applied, interviewed and was hired on my own.
- I have delivered 2 speeches, met with the Board of Directors at Melwood, and landed an internship in the finance department at Melwood.
- If it weren't for The Harbour School I don't know what I would be doing. Harbour School was amazing and helped me so much. Mrs. Pickhardt was such an inspiration in my life. She is the one who influenced me to want to work with special needs children. Thank you, Harbour School
- Harbour did a great job of providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. The social group activities, the musicals and social skills training were extremely helpful.
- You all helped me get my diploma, otherwise in a public school that would not have happened. I probably would have dropped out. All the work time helped me so much as well as Village.
- I am doing well! I am working very hard at Graul's Market in May's Chapel and the Chestnut Ridge Fire House as well.
- I experienced Harbour Magic while at Harbour school and I continue to experience it. I received preparation to be successful as a college student. I was also prepared to succeed socially. In Summer 2017 I received AA degree from Baltimore City Community College. GPA 3.5. I am a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Currently I am a junior, majoring in History at the University of Baltimore.
- From the first day I walked through the doors of The Harbour School I was amazed. The students, the staff and the teachers were so helpful and nice. I love this school. If I didn't start here I wouldn't know what might have happened. Harbour School did wonders for me.
- THS's exceptional vocational program inspired me to start my own neighborhood lawn mowing service and I made two wonderful friends during my time at THS. I also am still friends with and keep in frequent contact with my former middle school homeroom teacher over twenty years after being a student in her homeroom. Thank You THS!!!
- My degree is in Early Childhood Development. After I graduated and got medical issues resolved, I got a job which allowed me to work with children.
- The Harbour School did wonders for me. I wish I never had to leave. I miss it so much. This fall I will be taking classes so I can work with special needs children. I went through a lot of things with having Autism and I want to be there to help other children out. Thank you to everyone at The Harbour School.
- I do not know where I would be without Harbour's support, and I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to attend. In the grand scheme of things, I did not think I would be able to handle college many years ago. I lived independently when I was working full-time, and now I am in graduate school. I have surprised myself in several positive ways, and I definitely believe I could not have overcome so many hurdles without Harbour. Thank you!
- I am happy to be where I am and would not have gotten there without the instruction and care I received at Harbour



**Number of
Harbour School
grads in
post-secondary
education, working,
or a combination:
93.6%**

WHAT ARE THE DIRECTIONS FROM HERE? HOW DO WE BUILD AN EVEN BETTER SCHOOL?

- There is an alumni link to the school's Facebook page and alumni have their own page.
- The rigor of college preparation courses has been increased. Stricter timelines for assignment completion have been imposed.
- Do a better job of helping students apply and be accepted into post-secondary schools.
- A secondary analysis of the National Longitudinal Transition Study (NLTS-2) showed a positive connection between parent expectations and student outcomes. Our transition program will work with families to support appropriate post-secondary expectations.
- We have added academies to push students further in technology, performing arts, and health careers
- We have added an adult social club for graduates
- We continue to offer an after-school social skills class and social skills for all students during the school day.
- We are doing a major overhaul of our post-secondary preparation program. It now begins in 6th grade. The new program more effectively engages students, families, and instructional/related service staff in early, intensive short and long-term planning. Our intent is to reach families so they have a better understanding of the gap between entitled and eligible post-secondary services.

CONCLUSION

At The Harbour School we believe in the law of physics that nothing stays the same. We either get better or not. We are definitely committed to getting better. The Harbour School has just completed its 37th year as a school. We have achieved a great deal. And there is much left to do.

We continue to be challenged by helping parents and students understand how very different the post-high school environment will be. We still have not figured out the best way to reach our families so they will believe how hard it will be. Unfortunately, by the time alumni and their families learn this very tough lesson, entitlement for service is gone. We need to do a better job of helping our alumni and families understand that the post-high school world is not welcoming to people with disabilities and there will be many challenges. We will continue to try a better plan.

It is clear from this year's responses that we need to do a better job of helping families to understand the importance of good soft work skills and social skills in meeting those challenges. Too often our families buy into the academic standards approach and neglect what will really impede their children from taking the next step into adulthood until the entitlements run out.

We believe that our fledgling birds will fly further and faster if they are not only well fed; but also have a clear focus on where they are going and the real challenges that lie ahead. **We are a fine, fine school with fine, fine students and fine, fine teachers —it is no wonder we all just love this school.**



The Harbour School at Annapolis
1277 Green Holly Drive
Annapolis, MD 21409
410-974-4248

The Harbour School at Baltimore
11251 Dolfield Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117
443-394-3760

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS & INTERESTING JOBS

4 YEAR COLLEGES

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| American University | Lincoln Tech |
| Assumption College | McDaniel College |
| Arizona State University | North Idaho College |
| Bowie State | St. Mary's College |
| Cabrillo | Salisbury State University |
| Culinary Institute of Jerusalem | Towson University |
| Delaware State University | University of Hawaii |
| Delaware Technical Institute | University of Maryland-Baltimore Co |
| Frostburg State University | University of Maryland-College Park |
| Elizabeth State University | Washington Adventist University |
| Full Sail University | Washington College |
| Leslie College | |

2 YEAR COLLEGES

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Anne Arundel Community College | Brevard College |
| Chesapeake College | Harrisburg Area Community College |
| Baltimore City Community College | Community College of Baltimore Cty |
| Prince Georges' Community | Carroll Community College |
| Montgomery College | Patrickerson Community College |
| College of Southern Maryland | Paradise Valley Community College |
| Howard Community College | Harrisburg Area Community College |

COLLEGE MAJORS REPORTED

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Automotive Technology Certificate | General Studies |
| Biology | History |
| Business | Mechanical Engineering |
| English | Music |
| Computer Science | Organizational Leadership |
| Cyber Security Certification | Special Education/Integrated |
| Digital Forensics | Education |
| Engineering | Theater |
| Early Childhood Development | Web Design |

***Graduates have earned certificates, associates, bachelors and master's degrees

COOL EMPLOYERS

| | |
|--|---|
| Apple Call Center-Tech Support | Montgomery County P.S.-Set Up |
| National Institute of Health | Mobile Classrooms |
| Montgomery County | Infologics Corp - Research Assistant |
| Dept. of Corrections-Parole & Probation Agent | Department of Veterans Affairs-Law Library Clerk |
| Baltimore City Police Officer | ATK Space Systems-Admin Assistant |
| National Institute for Science & Technology | Department of Health & Human Services Admin Assistant |
| Lincoln Tech | RGIF-Inventory Control Supervisor |
| Ranger | National Guard-Military Police |
| Dept. of Health & Human Services | Anne Arundel Community College-Teaching Assistant |
| NASA Goddard Space Center | CCCBC-Dundalk |
| United States Army mechanic-E4 | Goddard Schools |
| Maryland State Dept. of Education | Maryland Aerospace |
| Federal Aviation Admin.-Air Traffic Controller | Vermont Park Ranger |
| Lifebridge & Courtland Gardens (Kosher Supervisor) | Maryland Aerospace |
| Department of Transportation | Owner of a Landscape Company |
| Research Assistant | U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| Library of Congress | Goodwill Lead Supervisor |
| Retrieval Technician | Correctional Officer, PG Corrections Dept |
| Department of the Interior | Quevera-Computer Programmer |
| Department of Juvenile Services, | Wegman's Senior Team Leader |
| Case Management Specialist | Serenity Acres Treatment Center |
| World Bank-Clerk | Residential Coordinator |
| Norris Ford-Mechanic | Walker Mills Auto Collision-Auto Body Tech |
| Darcars-Mechanic | Sp.Ed. Teacher, St. Mary's County Public Schools |
| Veterans Administration | Medical Assistant-Sunrise Senior Living |
| Legal Clerk | |
| Anne Arundel County P.S. | |
| Howard County P.S. | |