2020 GRADUATE OUTCOME SURVEY
HOW MANY GRADS DID WE REACH?
Through June 2020, 585 students have graduated from The Harbour School. Seven of our alumni are deceased. Five of our graduates are medically unable to work. Through mail solicitation, on-line surveys and follow-up phone calls we were able to reach 427 of our graduates or 74%, up from 70% last year. This survey goes all the way back to 1991, our first graduating class.

GRADS LIVING INDEPENDENTLY
News is good. Overall, 31.1% of grads are living independently, an increase of about 1.1% over last year. If we include students who have been out of school three or more years, 34.8% 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, just before our survey but also before the pandemic, 22.2% of people with disabilities were engaged in individual competitive employment. Compare this number to 85.0% of Harbour grads. We were four months into the pandemic shut down when these data were gathered. The percentage of employed was down about 1.3% year over year.

In the survey, only 40 individuals were self-employed. The Maryland study still showed the largest percentage (55%) engage in facility based non-competitive employment. In 2019, the study examined 200 fewer workers than the previous year (11,412). The largest increase in what individuals were doing during the day was in this area of non-competitive employment.

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 HARBOR SCHOOL BELIEVES IN OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS IS WHAT THEY HAVE TOLD US:
• The Harbour School prepared me to continue my education to receive two degrees. Harbour helped me more than you think. It gave me confidence for my social and educational development.
• 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 could have done at the time he was there. A lot of his growth has taken place after he left Harbour. So, the foundations were in place from H.S.
• Prepared me more for work. (this respondent has a B.S. from UMBC)
• The quality of instruction was not as individualized or creative as it could have been.
• Please keep doing Alumni Club, some high school reunions would be great.
• Please make sure I get invited to next year's prom because this one was cancelled.
• It was amazing, and the best school I ever went to, it helped me a whole lot in many different ways

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HOW DO WE COMPARE:

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<th>THS</th>
<th>MANSEF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of students:</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-secondary</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal involvement</td>
<td>.2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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- I want you to know that Harbour “saved his life”. He is a totally different person after attending the school. He graduated from culinary school, interned at the Manor Tavern and is still working at Santoni’s. I cannot say enough about Harbour! It not only saved his life but saved the entire family. He is truly a wonderful, responsible, young man.
- My anxiety/more social life/activity
- Teach me how to take public transportation.
- 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.
- Harbour did a lot to prepare for the real world.
- No, we love Harbour, we love Dr. Jacobs.
- Wish there were a broader spectrum of job training
- I needed more counseling about life and job expectations, taxes, paying bills, dealing with different personalities
- Provide more specific job training, and perhaps coaching in getting a job.
- 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.
- Did best you could under the circumstances, reading ability is still low, counting money is not the best.
- Better money handling skills, more info about disabilities.
- Job training, independent living training.
- I can’t think of anything. I think The Harbour School prepared me to succeed educationally and socially.
- Don’t think it could have helped more. He is blessed to have gone to Harbour.
- The Harbour School did wonders for my son. I just wish he could have stayed till he was 21.
- I could have gotten more math prerequisite skills that would help me to succeed in College Courses (i.e. Algebra, Statistics, etc.).
- I would like to have stayed a little longer
- Help me figure out my career path more thoroughly
- More mastery of reading and more self-advocacy skills & opportunities
- Time management and organization
- 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 full time job in my field of study. I hope to live independently and support myself.
- I have delivered 2 speeches, met with the Board of Directors at Melwood, and landed an internship in the finance department at Melwood
- It if wasn’t for The Harbour School I don’t know what I would be doing. Harbour 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 happen. I probably would have dropped out. All the work time helped me so much and the village. Thanks so much.
- The Harbour Village is so great and the jobs are wonderful. Thanks!
- 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 and I continue to experience it. I received the preparation to be successful as a college student. I was also prepared to succeed socially. Summer 2017 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. First year was hard for me and the teachers. But they knew what to do to help me and I improved in so many ways. I trusted everyone there. I wants to become an assistant teacher with special children.
- 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.

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

- This past March I got a job as a substitute daycare/classroom aide in “Lower Township Elementary School District” (NJ). I would not recommend “The Workforce and Technology Center to ANYONE!!! I had a terrible experience and I think this place has gotten other bad reviews.
- I currently have two jobs in the grocery field which I applied, interviewed and was hired on my own
- I now take Uber to & from work. I also frequently take Uber to the mall and book stores, comic stores etc. Uber has allowed me to feel quite independent.

Number of Harbour School grads in post-secondary education, working, or a combination: **92.2%**

CONTINUED ON BACK
Keep the Legacy Going

The Harbour School did wonders for me. I wish I never had to leave. I miss it so much. I came a long way since I went to The Harbour School. 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 have 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 really enjoy my job at Seton and I thank Harbour for helping me get ready to be there to help other children out. Thank you to everyone at The Harbour School.

I am happy to be where I am and would not have gotten there without the instruction and care I received at Harbour.

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 pandemic has caused us to pivot into a hybrid program of part in-school and part online. It is much more difficult to create a challenging academic program.
- Do a better job of helping students apply and be accepted into post-secondary schools.
- We have updated our transition program to include more parent participation and more cross-subject area involvement.

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 38th year as a school. We have achieved a great deal. And there is much left to do.

- We are hugely challenged this year by the pandemic. We do not believe that online instruction meets our students’ educational needs. The two challenges of safety for students and staff and giving our students an appropriately challenging educational program are often at cross purposes.

We need to continue to work with families on the benefits of soft-skill training. It is these skills that keep our students both in college or on the job. We either get better or not. We are definitely committed to getting better. The Harbour School has just completed its 38th year as a school. We have achieved a great deal. And there is much left to do.

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.