

2024 GRADUATE OUTCOME SURVEY



Featured Graduate

This year's featured grad is also back working part-time at The Harbour School. Matthew Saracino graduated from The Harbour School in 2022. He works most mornings at Redner's Fresh Market. At Redner's Matthew was recently awarded the Employee of the month honor. He is a general customer assistant. Matthew recently earned his Commercial Driver's license (CDL) which is very tough to get. It's his CDL that has brought him back to Harbour where he is a part-time bus driver for field trips. Most recently Matthew has been hired as a school bus driver for Harford County Public Schools.

Matthew has always loved the idea of driving. That interest goes all the way back to his go-cart driving days at his grandparents' house. As a graduation gift, Matthew received a real car. He attended Harford Community College and received his passenger endorsed CDL. It is his intent to earn more driving endorsements. That won't keep him from pursuing his other interests in tech. He was in the Tech Academy while at Harbour.

As a CDL driver, Matthew must perform a safety inspection of the bus, familiarize himself with the expected route and provide safe transportation to students and staff. Matthew's motto is "If something is hard it never hurts to keep trying, to persevere for your passions and goals". This strong value has allowed Matthew to achieve his initial goal of getting that CDL passenger license and to be a school bus driver. With that in his wallet, there is no guessing how far he will go. After all, Matthew is a Harbor grad and our grads can fly.

Year #43 was a GREAT one for our grads!

A MESSAGE FROM DR. JACOBS

The Harbour School has graduated just over 750 students. There continues to be a lot of noise about test scores and how important they are to future success. Are we supposed to take that as an article of faith? Very few schools have the interest or courage to go back and check to see just how predictive those test scores are and how well has the education they have received prepared them for the future. This behavior isn't Harbour. Harbour is not big on test scores but we are big on asking questions of our grads and finding out how they are doing and what could we have done better. And our grads tell us the good news and where we need to improve. Our alumni tell us what we have always believed. They would not have graduated if they did not come to Harbour. Harbour is starting its 43rd year of providing a very special education. Many of our alumni have gone on to college and great jobs. Other grads have entered tech fields as IT workers, plumbers, electricians, HVAC techs, retail sales, and medical coding. There are lots of jobs for non-college grads that are just as lucrative as those that require a college degree. We have multiple grads who are giving back in education, from being kindergarten aides, assistant teachers and tenured teachers in both public and private schools. Our grads have earned certificates, associate degrees, bachelor degrees and master's degrees. Some of our grads have traveled far and wide as part of either jobs or post-secondary training. We have grads who are married in heterosexual relationships and grads who are married in same sex marriages. Many of our grads are parents.

Our "kids", and they will always be our kids, are living all over our country and have traveled the world or stayed right here in Maryland. Wherever they go, they carry the Harbour Magic they received.



Matthew Saracino, 2022 Harbour School Graduate

HOW MANY GRADS DID WE REACH?

Through June 2024, 758 students have graduated from The Harbour School. Nine 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 566 of our graduates or 74.4%, up from 74% last year. This survey goes all the way back to 1991, our first graduating class.

GRADS WORKING AND IN SCHOOL

A total of 70.4% of our grads reported working. This is up from 67% three years ago. The longer the alumni were out of school the greater the likelihood that they were working. Alumni in the 1991-2020 classes report that 93.6% are working. The study showed a rise in the number of students in post-secondary from the last survey. Only 31.8% of all grads were in school, but 56.1% of recent grads were in school. Students with disabilities are disproportionately impacted negatively by online instruction and most institutions of higher learning went online during the pandemic. As schools have reopened in person, it has impacted the number of alumni who are back in those classrooms.

GRADS 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. Our alumni are also experiencing the trend of their non-disabled peers who seem to be returning to the comfort and low-cost of living with their parents. Even with the current trends, Harbour grads exceed the expected with 32.6% living independently. The huge jump in rental costs has added to this issue. Many non-disabled young adults have boomeranged back to their family home. Additionally, the number of funded supported living arrangements is going down.

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

These data are not encouraging. In May of 2019, before our survey but also before the pandemic, 22.2% of people with disabilities were engaged in individual competitive employment. Compare this number to 84.9% of Harbour grads. We were eighteen months into the pandemic when these data were gathered. The percentage of employed was down about .5% year over year.

Only 40 people were self-employed, .4%. In the Maryland study 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 two years 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.

HOW DO WE COMPARE:

| | THS | MANSEF | NTLS2 |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| # of students: | 758 | 210 | 12,000 |
| Post-secondary | 56.1% | 57% | 31.9% |
| Employed | 70.4% | 53% | 48% |
| Criminal involvement | .2% | 13% | Unknown |



THE HARBOUR 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 to obtain 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.
- 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 Santori’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.
- I still keep in contact with Dr. Jacobs via email and I cherish this connection. The Harbour School helped me to develop skills to advocate for myself. The high school listened to my concerns and put me in math classes more in synch with my ability. I am proud of my college degree.
- Unfortunately I was terminated from my job at Becton Dickinson on April 30. My training in Excel at Harbour helped me to in getting this data entry position.
- Harbour School prepared me very well for life after school, it builds my sense of independence and desire to work and live fully. I also loved how dogs were part of the school.
- I am working at the FDA
- I’m an Anne Arundel Community College class of 2021 graduate. I am currently employed at ChicFil A in Severna Park.
- I recently graduated from AACC with a degree in human services
- Harbour did a lot to prepare for the real world.
- No, we love Harbour, we love Dr. Jacobs.
- Thank you for all your support during my time at Harbour. I do not know where I would be without it
- Pace is too slow and losing interest is a problem
- Provide more specific job training, and perhaps coaching in getting a job.
- If it wasn’t for The Harbour School, I would not be living a complete life like I am now.
- It has helped me more than I can say and I am so grateful for it.
- I have been at Royal Farms for 7 years, have made many friendships there and I love it.
- I take Uber to and from work which is a service I receive from DDA. I am engaged to a graduate from the Baltimore campus, my life is very full.
- I am a ServSafe certified food manager and a certified food handler also I completed a program in entrepreneurship and have applied for another job

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW, OR 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 have delivered 2 speeches, met with the Board of Directors at Melwood, and landed an internship in the finance department at Melwood
- The Harbour School taught me so much. I made friends and felt safe. I am doing well
- If it wasn’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. Very sadly Mrs. Pickhardt passed away August 2021.
- I got divorced last year. (looks like Harbour grads are not immune from marital problems)

Number of Harbour School
grads in post-secondary
education, working,
or a combination

93.9%

An increase of 1.2%
over last year

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.
- Harbour is back in school in person full time.
- Do a better job of helping students apply and be accepted into post-secondary schools.
- Harbour updated our transition program to include more parent participation and more cross-subject area involvement
- Continue the work on helping families and students prepare for post-secondary pursuits that align with their abilities



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 started its 43rd year as a school. We have achieved a great deal. And there is much left to do.

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 believe that our fledgling birds will fly farther 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. The workplace has changed dramatically coming out of the pandemic and we are not there yet. The school is going to assess how that workplace has changed.

On the positive side, our alumni often get service sector jobs and there are many openings in those areas with increased hourly wages and benefits. Our alumni are not immune from the changes in society. There are at once better opportunities and more discrimination against those with disabilities.

We are a fine, fine school with fine, fine students and fine, fine teachers- it is no wonder we all just love this school.



www.harbourschool.org

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410-974-4248

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11251 Dolfield Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117
443-394-3760

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS & INTERESTING JOBS

4 YEAR COLLEGES

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

2 YEAR COLLEGES

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

COLLEGE MAJORS REPORTED

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

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

COOL EMPLOYERS & OCCUPATIONS

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