

Pollard Middle School support and enrichment programs

Men's Mentoring Group

Students meet monthly during half-days with a college student and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) alumnus to build a community of learners and discuss student and school stressors and solutions as a Boston student/BIPOC young man.

Mentors Like Me

Mentors Like Me partners student mentors from Needham High School's Castle Program and Black Student Union with Pollard students. The goal is to pair students together so they can discuss shared experiences particularly in relation to race. Mentorship is designed to create friendship and a confidant, and to identify and use strategies for disrupting or reducing unconscious bias. The hope is that the program will not only transform and enhance the experience of middle school students, but also provide a transformative leadership opportunity for NHS student mentors.

The Tenacity Challenge

The Tenacity Challenge is an annual academic competition for teams of 7th and 8th grade Latino(a) and African American students from urban and suburban middle schools across Massachusetts.

The Middle School Tenacity Challenge competition will consist of four (4) events centered around the theme of leadership, empowerment, and tenacity. Each team (6-8 members) will determine its own division of labor to prepare for the four events:

- Leadership Action Project,
- Global Voices Literary analysis,
- math Quiz Bowl challenge, and
- STEM Challenge.

Special Education

Special education for those students who are on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) - having an identified disability and a higher level of educational needs such as those with autism, a language disability, or benefiting from therapeutic services. This program also serves students who live at the Walker School and youth housed by the Department of Children and Family.

Individual Learning Center (ILC)

The ILC is in each school, PreK-12 (at Newman, Pollard, & NHS) supporting students with relatively high needs e.g. down syndrome, feeding needs, with specialized programming and support services until they reach 22 years old.

Launching Scholars

- One-week summer day camp to review and preview grades 7th and 8th Math content, integrate Social Emotional Learning, foster a community of scholars and friends, read the One School, One Book together, tour Pollard and connect with Pollard faculty and staff
- Weekly After School Sessions, focusing on math and STEM
- Math support with Math teachers
- High School alumni return to support students at weekly sessions

Needham Steps Up (offered at Needham High School)

Pairs under-resourced 8th grade students with high school teacher mentors for duration of high school period.

For more information, go to <https://www.needhamstepsup.org/>