

The academic expectations set forth in the Brien McMahon High School mission statement drive curricular and instructional decisions. Academic curricula were refined at the district level and are designed to reflect the academic expectations set forth in the mission statement. Students take part in daily lessons that are centered on mastering curricular objectives. The performance rubric that is used to assess student mastery of the objectives is based on the CAPT rubrics for English, science, writing and math. Using CAPT as a framework, teachers routinely integrate CAPT-like learning experiences into lessons. The implementation of Raise the Bar Day, which gives students the opportunity to take practice CAPT assessments, was also created to help students fulfill the expectations in the mission statement.

There are several programs available at McMahon to help students satisfactorily meet the civic and social expectations in the school's mission. The School to Career Program operates in conjunction with the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and connects students to various opportunities available in the community. The Center for Youth Leadership, the largest youth activism organization in Fairfield County, sponsors two programs at McMahon: the Senators Community Foundation (SCF) and the Peace Project. The mission of SCF is to prevent child abuse through public awareness activities, volunteer programs and social change campaigns. Peace Project promotes safe schools and communities with an emphasis on teen dating violence, stalking, the rights of day laborers and human trafficking. In September of 2010, the school converted the center courtyard into a community garden. Volunteers from the community, the National Honor Society, teachers and students worked together to build plant beds and plant seeds. The garden will be used by biology classes, business classes, art, health, and food service career classes.