



2017/2018 School Year

Public Schools of Brookline

Steps to Success

Elementary School Highlights



WHAT IS STEPS TO SUCCESS?

Building upon the aspirations and skills of the young people we work with, the mission of Steps to Success is to enhance educational outcomes for students from low-income families in order to defeat the cycle of poverty.

WHAT DO STS PROGRAM ADVISORS DO?

Elementary Program Advisors located in Pierce, Lincoln, Lawrence and Devotion build relationships with STS students and their families to support them throughout their schooling. They serve as a bridge between school and home to help students/families access supports through Steps to Success, Inc., Public Schools of Brookline (PSB), Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) and the community-at-large.

WHAT IS THE STS/PSB/BHA PARTNERSHIP?

Our Partnership: Steps to Success is a 3-way partnership between Steps to Success, Inc. (an independent nonprofit organization), the Brookline Housing Authority, and the Public Schools of Brookline.

Our Vision: We envision a community where all students can attain their educational, economic and life goals into adulthood.

Our Mission: We partner to leverage resources from each organization to provide comprehensive, integrated services and supports to achieve educational equity that will empower families and students who are low-income in the Public Schools of Brookline.

Highlights from the E/M PSB Steps to Success Program Advisors

- **High Street Housing Development/Lincoln Events:** PSB STS Advisor, Jason Murray, has been collaborating with Lisa Brown, Family Learning Center Coordinator of BHA and the Lincoln School to have a series of events at the High Street Veteran Housing Development such as the Parent Portal Night.
- **February Break Winter Exploration STS Trip:** During February vacation, 2/20 to 2/22, PSB STS Advisors JT Lench and Jason Murray, in addition to PSB STS Coordinator, Jeanette Lindor and STS, Inc. College Success Initiative Advisor, Emy Takinami, took 10 STS 6th graders on a three-day winter exploration trip to the Highland Center located in Crawford Notch, NH. During the stay staff taught students how to cross-country ski, explored the hiking trails around the lodge and spent the evenings playing games.
- **April Lawrence/Egmont Event:** PSB STS Advisor, Jacob Page, coordinated an STS Lawrence Families/Staff Event at the Egmont Development Community Room to improve family outreach & engagement.
- **April Break Girls Spring Forward Conference:** PSB STS Advisor, Sophya Williams, coordinated April Vacation week of workshops and classes for 6-8th grade STS girls. Through social-emotional, dance and basketball workshops, Girls Spring Forward focused on building self esteem, empowerment and promoting wellness.
- **STS 8th grade transition events: All PSB STS Advisors have been instrumental in planning and facilitation of the following events for STS 8th graders:**
 - **September:** Step movie screening with BHS students at Coolidge Corner movie theater and debrief facilitated by BHS STS Student Leadership Team
 - **December:** 8th grade meeting for all Lincoln students held at High Street Community Center
 - **January:** STS 8th graders attended the annual BHS METCO Girls Retreat
 - **February:**
 - STS parent pre-meeting for 8th grade Curriculum Night at BHS
 - STS 8th graders visited the BHS Calculus Project Homework Center
 - **March:**
 - PSB STS High School Advisor visits to Elementary Schools
 - March: STS 8th grader all day shadowing of BHS 10th & 11th graders
 - May: STS 8th grader workshops at BHS
- **Summer Camps & Internships:** PSB STS Advisors have helped to facilitate valuable summer engagement (camps & internships) for over 70 4th-8th grade Steps students as of May 2018! Advisors will also spend time visiting almost all of these camps and internship sites during the summer, to make sure the experience goes smoothly for all of our students.
 - **Camp & Internship Partners offered through STS, Inc. include:** Summer At Park, Beaver Country Day, Brimmer & May, Camp Mitton, Camp Wing, Camp Lapham, Camp Becket, Camp Chimney Corners, Smart Summers, Brookline Recreation, Extended School Year, Project Achieve, BEEP, Project Discovery, Project Explore, Project Achieve & Smart Summers.

EM STS PSB Program Advisors



James (JT) Lenocho: I am the PSB STS Advisor at **Devotion** (Upper & Lower) since 2005. I joined STS because of their commitment to empowering the lives of students and their families, who live in Brookline's housing developments, through educational supports and extracurricular opportunities. STS is now seventeen years old and continues to grow and positively impact the lives of students, their families and the community. It is exciting to be a part of such a dynamic program.

Jacob Page: I am the PSB STS Advisor at **Lawrence** since 2016. Before this role I was a Special Education Paraprofessional at Lawrence starting in 2014. Working as a Program Advisor collaborating with Steps to Success families is amazing and fulfilling. I cherish every moment of it. I enjoy creating bonds with each student and their families as well as watching them grow and excel throughout the year. In addition to the advisor role, I am also currently interning to become a Mental Health/Guidance Counselor and I am the Lawrence basketball coach.



Jason Murray: I am the PSB STS Advisor at **Lincoln** since 2016. I love working with students in STS because it is purposeful work. I grew up in Brookline attending Lincoln School and then Brookline High School. I love and find great joy in giving back to the community I grew up in. I am currently participating in a theory of change group for Steps to Success, Inc. We are focused on honing in on our target population of students and creating measurable outcomes. I am also involved in collaborating with Lincoln faculty to impact the opportunity gap and increase family engagement.

Sophya Williams: I am the PSB STS Advisor at **Pierce** School since October 2017. I have over five years of youth development experience. In the past I have worked for Boston Center for Youth & Families and worked with a diverse population of students from all over the city of Boston. I am Suicide & Trauma Awareness Certified. I have also participated in numerous Conflict Resolution and Mediation trainings. I am motivated to come to work every day by the growth & development of my students as well as the support I have from my colleagues. I truly believe it takes a village to raise a child.

