



For Immediate Release

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BART Charter Public School Announces 2012 BART Scholars

Adams, MA – September 24, 2012

The Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School (BART) is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the BART Scholars awards. These awards were created through the generous support of a donor who wanted to provide BART students with college scholarships and encourage families to begin saving for their children's college expenses.

"We see so many students who believe college is out of their reach for financial reasons. This program helps students and families understand that if students prepare themselves academically for college, they should be able to find money to help pay for it," said Julia Bowen, the school's executive director. "Its also important to encourage families to start saving for college early – even \$100 a year, less than \$10 a month – will make a difference."

The 2012 BART Scholars are: Heather Belisle, Jacob Bristol, Noah Chicoine, Nathan Ellis, Elizabeth Laurin, AJ Morrisette, Heather Perkins and Harrison Todd.

The BART Scholars Program, launched in the 2007-2008 school year, provides scholarship money to students who demonstrate significant academic achievement or growth during the school year. Academic performance is measured by students' results on the MCAS exams. Students who achieve the highest combined scaled scores on the English and math exams, or the highest combined student growth percentile on the English and math exams, in each of grades 6, 7, 8 and 10 receive a scholarship of \$100 to be invested directly into a 529 College Savings Plan.

Later this year, representatives from Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) will present an information session at BART for all families interested in setting up college savings and investment accounts. All participants, including BART Scholar recipients who do not already have a fund in their name, will be able to set up accounts that evening.

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. In 2012, BART was ranked #1 in the state for 10th grade student performance; 100% of BART 10th grade students earned proficient or advanced on both English

and math MCAS exams. To date, 100% of BART's graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

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