

# Dedham Public Schools

Home of America's First Tax-Supported Free Public School

**Michael J. Welch**  
Superintendent  
781-310-1011



**Dr. Ian P. Kelly**  
Assistant Superintendent  
781-310-1020

**Samuel A. Rippin**  
Assistant Superintendent  
For Business & Finance  
781-310-1023

**Elizabeth O'Connell**  
Director of Special Education  
781-310-1025

Dear Dedham Public Schools Community:

May 29, 2020

We have watched with horror, despair, and outrage as recent events in Georgia and Minneapolis have once again revealed injustices against people of color across our nation. The killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, and Breonna Taylor in Louisville remind us again of the pervasive disparities that persist in the treatment and experiences of citizens in this country based upon the color of one's skin. These tragic incidents punctuate the inequities that we see in the infection, treatment and mortality rates for people of color as we live through the COVID-19 pandemic. These disparities exist in the richest country in the world, yet these kinds of outcomes are a daily reality for far too many in our communities.

As leaders of the Dedham Public Schools, we denounce these deplorable actions. We embrace our families of color and remain committed to honoring and protecting the rights and dignity of all members of our school community.

The collective diversity of Dedham is one of our greatest assets. We ask that all members of the community stand with us in appreciating and affirming our commitment to the ethical and moral treatment of all people.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Welch  
Superintendent

Dr. Ian Kelly  
Asst. Supt

Samuel A. Rippin  
Asst. Supt.

Elizabeth O'Connell  
Special Ed Director

Dr. Don G. Langenhorst  
Technology Director

James P. Forrest  
Dedham High School  
Principal

Karen R. Hillman  
Dedham Middle School  
Principal

Kimberly A. Taylor  
ECEC  
Principal

Dr. Clare A. Sullivan  
Avery Elementary School  
Principal

Ashley F. Bodkins  
Greenlodge Elem. School  
Principal

Kimberly Hermesch  
Oakdale Elem. School  
Principal

Edward F. Paris  
Riverdale Elem. School  
Principal

Tim Dwyer  
DHS History Teacher  
Dedham Education Association  
President

*The Dedham Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or handicap in its educational activities or employment practices.*

**Administration Building, 100 Whiting Avenue, Dedham, MA 02026 (781) 310-1000 [www.dedham.k12.ma.us](http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us)**