

Dedham Public Schools
Interim Superintendent's Update
February 1st, 2023
Day 93 of the 2022-2023 School Year

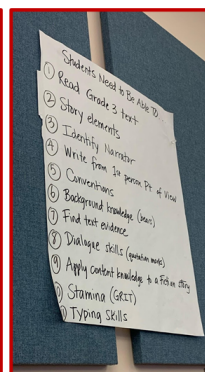
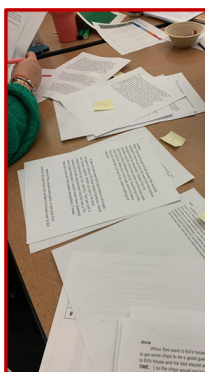
Teaching and Learning

Instructional Rounds at DMS. On Thursday January 26th, the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment facilitated [instructional rounds](#) for district leaders at Dedham Middle School. Rounds focused on teaching and learning in the History & Social Sciences, Science, and World Language classrooms. Leaders observed instruction looking for student engagement, visible thinking, and the opportunities that students have to demonstrate their learning.

Early Bird Screening. Students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 completed their mid-year [Early Bird assessments](#) this week. [On January 24th](#), Dr. Smith brought elementary principals and coaches together with Early Bird to look at the preliminary data. In the weeks ahead the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment will work with principals, teachers, instructional coaches, and interventionists through data teams to assess student progress and make informed instructional decisions to meet the needs of our early learners.



Writing in Grades 3-5. During the month of January, all teachers in Grades 3-5 administered a district wide narrative [writing assessment](#). During the yesterday's early release day, the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment [worked with all faculty](#) in grades 3-5 to score the assessments against state rubrics and make instructional plans to support student growth and development within this genre of writing.



Non-fiction Texts in Grade 1. Students in Ms. Morrill's Grade 1 class at Oakdale are enjoying the Geodes decodable readers. The Geodes texts are new to the District this year and are being deployed throughout the primary grades to enhance phonics and phonemic awareness instruction. Ms. Morrill reports that students are highly engaged and love reading the books. The District's young readers are finding success in decoding and accessing content, learning to work independently, and conducting research using non-fiction texts that reinforce fundamental early literacy skills. Last week, students studied author Leo Lionni and wrote all about their learning.



Professional Development

Early Release Day 1.31.23. Early release time is precious and our District Leadership Team puts tremendous time and energy into the planning, development, and execution of high quality professional development for all faculty and staff. A high level summary of yesterday's offerings can be accessed via the [link here](#).

New Teacher Induction. Director of Counseling Services, [Dr. Ashley Dube](#) [presented](#) at our New Teacher Induction program on Tuesday January 24th, speaking with educators new to Dedham about building youth resilience, safety, and skills. Dr. Dube guided educators through discussions of current mental health data and strategies for supporting all students.



[DPS - CIA - PD - New Teacher Handboo...](#)

[New Teacher Induction: Supporting Multilingual Learners](#)



Mentor Training Level I. All Dedham educators invited to become mentors are provided thorough [training](#). Last week, our new mentors attended a [“Level 1” training](#) focused on how to provide effective and ongoing support to new educators.

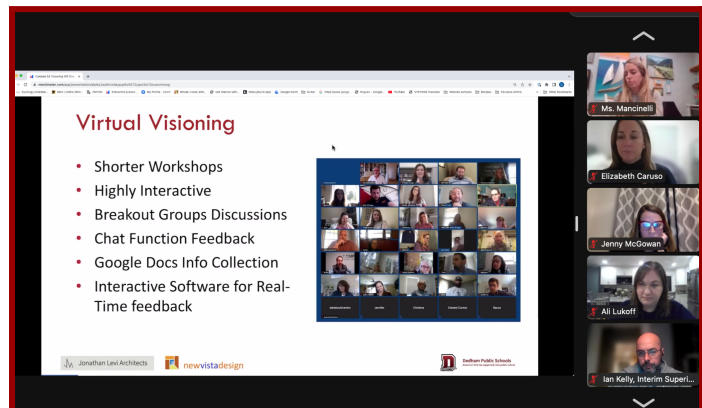
MASS Midwinter Meeting. Last Thursday I attended the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's (MASS) annual midwinter meeting. This year's conference focused on managing crises and pushback in polarized times. The presentation and resources shared were both timely and relevant. Presenters were able to provide Superintendent's with targeted and specific strategies for leading in difficult circumstances. I will share resources with the Committee when they become available.

Community Engagement

Interim Superintendent's Transitional Leadership Plan. On Wednesday afternoon I met with members of the Oakdale faculty and staff from 3:00 - 4:30. This was a voluntary meeting and the Oakdale team was well represented. My conversation focused on how our educator's are doing and what they see as critical needs in the months and years ahead. The collegial dialog, critical thinking, and creative ideas were outstanding and I am incredibly grateful to the Oakdale team for their direct and honest communication. In the weeks ahead I will be meeting with faculty and staff at all buildings to have similar conversations and setting up community forums/conversations. My primary goal is to develop a deeper understanding of the District's needs so that I may better support the transition and entry of our new Superintendent Nan Skiff Murphy.

Oakdale Visioning. On January 25th I participated in the first of three visioning sessions for the next school building project. The visioning team is composed of nearly 40 people including members of the District's Central Office team, faculty and parents from Oakdale, Greenlodge, and Riverdale, members of the Dedham School Committee, and members of Dedham's School Building Rehabilitation. The visioning process is facilitated by [Newvista Design](#) and [Jonathan Levi Architects](#).

In this phase of project development the design team is working with the community to understand the needs of the community, the educational vision of the school system, and how the design of a new building can best meet the needs of Dedham students, faculty, and residents.



Management and Operations

School Safety. On Friday January 27th the District Safety Team (DST) convened its [4th meeting](#) of the 2022 - 2023 school year. The DST is an interdepartmental team with representatives from the school, police, and fire departments. This group meets regularly to evaluate, develop, coordinate, and implement safety and security policies, procedures, and practices for the District. The Dedham Police Department through our School Resource Officers have been conducting safety process and procedure reviews with faculty and staff throughout the district

 District Safety Team - 2022-2023