

Dedham Public Schools
Interim Superintendent's Update
April 26, 2023
Day 141 of the 2022-2023 School Year

Teaching and Learning

Science Fair. On March 30, Grade 3-5 students from across the district participated in the Elementary Science Fair at the Greenlodge Elementary School. This year more than 60 projects were shared in which students (118 in total) explored their own interests in Physical, Life, and Earth Sciences as they engaged in scientific inquiry. We are so proud of all of our participating students for their creativity, scientific thinking, and hard work. Their excitement about science in the world around them was inspirational!



All students received certificates of achievement to celebrate their work. In addition projects were evaluated by science fair judges for our award categories of All Star Scientist, High Honors, and Special Recognition. This year's award winners are [shared here](#), and highlighted in the photos below.

A big thank you to our science fair judges who joined us from MIT, Boston University, Servier Pharmaceuticals, Depuy Synthes, General Dynamics, Pison Technologies, Boston Medical Center, and the Dedham Conservation Commission. Five are Dedham residents as well!

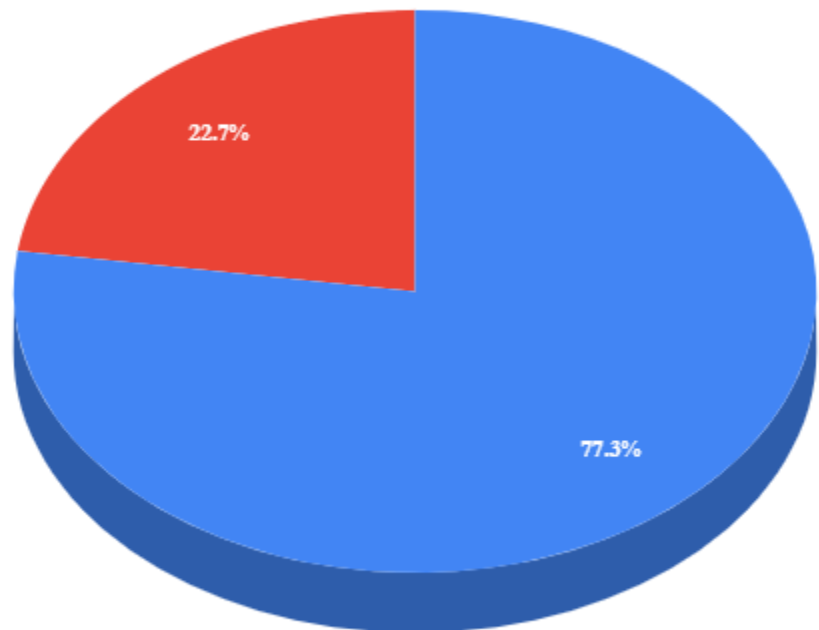


College Acceptance Data. [Here is a list](#) of the college/university acceptances for Spring 2023. The pie chart below indicates the percentage of our 12th grade students who've applied to a 4-year college or university, to date:

DHS Class of 2023 (n =173)		
Post Graduation Plan	#	%
4 Year College/University	134	77.3
2 Year College/Workforce/Trade/Military	39*	22.7

** 23 of the 39 students (~60%) secured acceptance to a 2-year college program as part of Dedham High School's "On the Spot Admission Day" (held in person on 3/21/23). The community colleges in attendance included MassBay Community College, Massasoit Community College, and the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology*

DHS Class of 2023 Post Graduation Plans



● 4 Year College/University ● 2 Year College/Workforce/Trade/Military

Professional Development

DPH Grant. The Office of Student Services was awarded a competitive grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Bureau of Community Health and Prevention. The primary goal of the grant is to strengthen school behavioral health infrastructure. Funding is allocated to building out the [System of Care model](#) for mental and behavioral health services. Work is underway this spring with the adoption of an intensive modular curriculum, extensive training in DBT-based (mindfulness, distress-tolerance, relationships and self-regulation) instruction for our program psychologists, teachers, and paraprofessionals; and the implementation of new progress monitoring tools. Next year, the grant will fund a clinical social worker to start the process of building a clinic in the schools program. This is likely to be a multi-year grant, but funding is always subject to legislative appropriation.

Talkies Training. On March 10 and April 13 the preschool team participated in Talkies training. Talkies is a multisensory intervention for building the expressive language skills of young children. The intervention is based on the process of providing verbal and visual inputs at the same time (called Dual Coding). Cognitive psychologists have shown that dual coding improves learning and memory. When children build multiple pathways for learning schemes they are more able to use those constructs to apply their learning, as in the case of reading comprehension.

Early Release Day. On May 3, the district will have an Early Release day to support professional learning of educators across the district. [Click here to view the offerings.](#)

Community Engagement

Grade 7 Investigating History Museum Exhibit at Town Hall. The DMS 7th grade teams piloted Investigating History: Grade 7 History/Social Sciences Frameworks on Central and South Asia, and East Asia. This is an innovative new history curriculum developed by DESE (Department of Elementary & Secondary Education) in collaboration with [Primary Source](#). The pilot aimed to empower students to ask authentic, interesting questions and explore diverse, complex sources. An emphasis was placed on collaboration, literacy and critical thinking skills. Students learned to ask questions about historical events; make sense of images, text, and artifacts from the past; and make arguments in which they connected their learning to real-life issues and current events. The culmination of all the student's learning and hard work is a completely student-curated museum experience about ancient Asian innovations, impacts and influences. Each class, led by student curators and project managers, worked as a team to develop every aspect of the project from planning to execution. Students were supported by community experts. Johanna McBrien, Executive Director of Dedham Museum and Archive, met with class leaders about being curators and telling stories through the exhibit. Sara Errickson, Communications Coordinator for Dedham Public Schools, met with student communication specialists about promotion and messaging. The exhibits will be showcased for 3 weeks at Dedham Town Hall on the second floor.

ECEC Hosts DESE Regional Early Learning Networking Meeting. On Wednesday, April 5th, the ECEC was the host for the DESE Regional Early Learning Networking Meeting. The group consisted of about 25 administrators from around the state who had a chance to visit classrooms, hear some Early Learning Team updates from the state, network on such topics as play, special education challenges, and instructional models. The group was also involved in supporting a colleague through a case consultancy protocol regarding a grade level instructional challenge. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase the ECEC and network with local Greater Boston colleagues