

Dedham Public Schools
Interim Superintendent's Update
May 3, 2023
Day 146 of the 2022-2023 School Year

Teaching and Learning

Principal for the day at Greenlodge. Throughout last week Principal McGowan hosted five students serving as principal for the day. These young leaders shadowed Principal McGowan throughout the day spending time learning all about what it means to be a principal. On Friday afternoon I was invited to a formal business lunch with Principal McGowan and her protégés to discuss teaching, learning, and their insights into the role of principal and the needs of the Greenlodge School.



New England Math League (NEML). In April, 109 of our 4th and 5th grade students across the district participated in the New England division of The Math League's nationwide problem-solving competition, also known as the NEML contest. This competition is designed to build student interest and confidence in mathematics by presenting them with opportunities to solve problems that are engaging and challenging. Each grade level contest has questions from different areas of mathematics that progress in difficulty from straightforward through moderate to very challenging in difficulty. Many students first develop an interest in mathematics through problem-solving activities such as this contest, so it is great to see so many students participate each year. This year we are proud to share that 46 of our participating 4th and 5th graders earned high scores for which they will receive Mathematics League Certificates of Merit. We would also like to note that 104 DMS students participated in the Grade 6-8 NEML competitions earlier in the school year and 38 of those students are high scorers who will be receiving Mathematics League Certificates of Merit. Certificates of Merit along with an invitation to be recognized for this achievement at the final School Committee meeting will be going out to families in the days ahead.

All State Treble. Five of our Dedham elementary students successfully auditioned, then were selected to participate in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association's All State Treble Chorus Festival on Saturday, April 29 at the Oak Middle School in Shrewsbury. Pictured from left to right, back row to front, are fifth grader Kamar Celestin, and fourth graders Alex Straghalis, Jeffrey Jr Geronimo, Mackenzie Auguste and Hailey Lepine. The Avery School, with music teacher Sara Santos, was among 24 schools represented across the Commonwealth. Students performed a varied and beautiful program: *Alleluia* (W. Boyce), *Oseh Shalom (A Prayer for Peace)* (Joan Beckow), *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* (Traditional African-American Spiritual) (arr. B. E. Boykin),



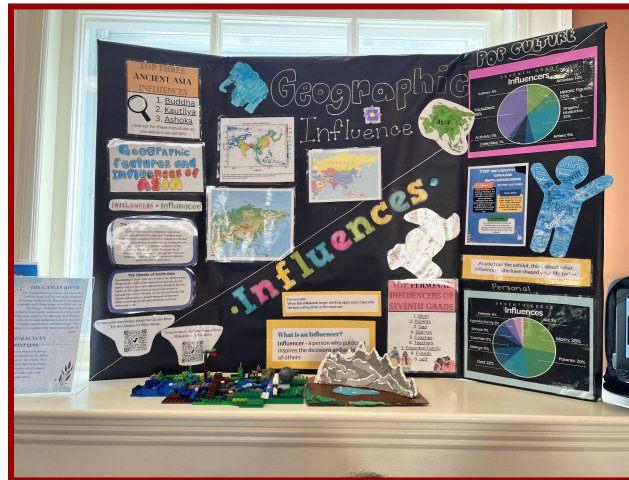
Nine Hundred Miles (Traditional American Folk Song) (arr. Philip Silvey), *Icarus* (Paul Jarman), and *Jabberwocky from Join the Dance* (Carolyn Jennings). Students learned their parts with the help of Mrs. Santos, then put the pieces together under the direction of the acclaimed children's chorus conductor, K.C. Conlan, the Founding Artistic Director of the award-winning Hampshire Young People's Chorus. Students enjoyed learning a diverse repertoire, performing in different languages (Latin and Hebrew), refining their singing and ensemble skills and growing in confidence as young musicians. Kudos to Mrs. Santos and Mr. Paris for providing and supporting this opportunity!



Community Engagement

Grade 7 Asian Influence & Culture Experience. On April 27th, seventh grade students from DMS invited the public to the opening night of their Asian Influence & Culture Experience exhibit at Dedham Town Hall. This exhibit, which is a culminating exhibition of student learning from the Investigating History pilot on Central, South, and East Asia will remain open for the next three weeks. The event was well-attended by the community and students were recognized by the Dedham Select Board. Administrators from the [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) even came out to see the exhibit!





Management and Operations

Trusted Learning Environment Seal

Hi all,

[It was just announced today](#) (open link and read) that we (i.e. the Dedham Public Schools) have earned the [Trusted Learning Environment \(TLE\) Seal](#) from the national technology's director's association (CoSN). We are only one of two dozen school districts in the over 16,000 in the country and the only one in the nine north Atlantic states to have earned this seal. The seal is earned by showing proficiency or better in five critical standard areas including Leadership, Business, Data Security, Professional Development and Classroom Practices.

Fundamentally this recognized the work of all of us in the area of protecting student privacy and cybersecurity. It doesn't mean we are perfect and it doesn't mean we can't get hacked; however it does mean we are doing a great job and strive for continuous improvement. Many members of the Central Office team (past and present) and members of the Technology Team should take a bow for their work on this. Fundamentally this is a credit to all of you! Congratulations!! Go Dedham!!!

Don

Data Privacy Team:

- Ian Kelly, Interim Superintendent
- Amy Hicks, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
- Heather Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction
- Matt Wells, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance

- *Sara Stetson, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services*
- *Don Langenhorst, Director of Technology*
- *Denise Moroney, Director of Facilities*
- *Liz Simone, Human Resources Manager*

Technology Team:

- *Don Langenhorst, Director of Technology, Cybersecurity Team*
- *Judy Foley, District Technology Integrator*
- *Erica Scannell, Database Administrator*
- *Michael Yang, Network Systems Administrator, Cybersecurity Team*
- *Bob Tucker, District Technician, Cybersecurity Team*
- *Dalton Looper, Lead Help Desk, Cybersecurity Team*
- *Tim Bowen, Erin Fellows, Harry Smith - Help Desk*
- *Susan Hanney, Administrative Assistant to Director of Technology*

Northeast Regional Director of the Year award from the School Nutrition Association

