

**Dedham Public Schools**  
**Interim Superintendent's Update**  
**June 7, 2023**  
**Day 170 of the 2022-2023 School Year**

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## Teaching and Learning

**Superintendent's Academic Dinner.** On Monday May 22nd we held the District's annual Superintendent's Academic Top 30 Dinner. This was a wonderful opportunity to honor members of the class of 2023 who have demonstrated the very highest levels of academic achievement over their time at DHS.



**Class of 2023 Commencement.** This Saturday we celebrated the 170 members of the graduating class of 2023 at our annual commencement ceremony. While it was chilly and a little damp, the morning was full of the honor and celebration that our graduates have earned over many years of hard work. Congratulations again to the class of 2023.

**Inquiry Journeys Update (Elementary History/Social Sciences).** This year's Inquiry Journeys pilot is wrapping up. Feedback from families, students, and teachers has been outstanding and, as a result, implementation of Inquiry Journeys will continue and expand into next school year. 29 teachers have requested to participate! Featured below are a few "kindness rocks" from Ms. Fay's students in 2F. The inquiry question that guided the particular unit that Ms. Kieffner and Ms. Fay taught was: "How do people work together to help their communities?" After learning a great deal about needs and wants, students identified a need in the community and developed an action plan to address the need. As a class, they decided to create "kindness rocks" to spread joy and kindness throughout the school. Students created prototypes on paper before painting their rocks and completed a planning and reflection sheet.



Name Ellery

Kindness Rocks Project

Do you want a base coat of paint on your rock?

☒ yes    ☐ no

If you do want a base coat of paint, what color would you like? Personal no color

☐ white    ☒ light yellow    ☐ light blue    ☐ light purple

What makes your rock special? I think my rock is special because if some one is having a bad day the rock I painted the rock in its beautiful. It will cheer them up.

What do you hope will happen when someone finds your rock? I hope people will think happy thoughts like forgive love etc.

**Grade 8 Trip to Washington, D.C.** Last Wednesday-Friday, 138 eighth grade students and 16 chaperones traveled to Washington, D.C. This marked a great return for this important field trip after a 3 year hiatus due to COVID. In addition, this is the first year that students were able to see civics in action while also having a year of civics education within the history department. On the trip, students visited all of the important DC highlights: multiple Smithsonian Museums including American History, Natural History, the recently renovated Air and Space, and the Museum of African American History and Culture. In addition, students learned about and visited the various memorials including the Lincoln, Jefferson, FDR, Korean War and Vietnam War. One of the annual highlights is the dinner and dance boat cruise down the Potomac River during sunset! At our visit to Arlington National Cemetery, Dedham had the honor of performing a [wreath laying](#) at the site of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. At the Capitol, Senator Ed Markey took time out of his schedule to meet our students and discuss their educational opportunities here in Massachusetts. And we also had an impromptu meeting with Throughout the trip, DMS students embodied our "3 R's" - being respectful, responsible, and resilient. In fact, multiple fellow travelers and our bus drivers commented on how respectful our students were throughout the trip. And while the travel home may have been challenging due to weather, our students exemplified resilience at the airport and were even happy for the delays as it extended the trip! We look forward to continuing this tradition for DMS 8th graders.



## Visual and Performing Arts

**William B. Gould Memorial Dedication.** Several DHS band students along with seven 5th graders performed the National Anthem at the William B. Gould Statue Unveiling Ceremony, Sunday, May 29, under the direction of Heather Kirby.



**Spring Concerts at DHS and DMS.** DHS and DMS presented their Spring Concerts on May 16 and 23, respectively. Each concert featured chorus, concert band, and jazz band. The high school also featured string ensemble, in partnership with the Dedham School of Music. Choral directors were Andrew Wray (DMS) and Heather Kirby (DHS), band directors were Kevin Martins (DMS) and Heather Kirby (DHS), jazz band director was Joseph Borsellino, III (DMS & DHS) and string ensemble director was Zoe Chau. Nearly 200 musicians performed in all!

**DPS Art Show.** On May 25, 2023 that DPS PK- Grade 12 Art show was hosted at the Dedham Middle School. This was by far one of the most well attended art shows in recent memory. There

were over 1,000 pieces of student works on display. Thank you to the visual art teachers: Kristin Prata, Sarah Altone, Sarah Olivieri, Bridget O’Leary, Courtney Sousa, Joanna Mears, Amy Vega and Miranda Jang.



## Athletics

**Track.** Senior Catherine Sargent won the MIAA Division 5 Shot Put State Title with a school record throw of 42 feet. In the discus she won the MIAA Division 5 State Title & was the MIAA Meet of Champions Winner. She was named the Tri Valley League Girls Track MVP

### MIAA Tournaments:

Softball won a MIAA Div 3 First Round game vs Bishop Stang and are still awaiting their next opponent.

Boys Tennis won a MIAA Div 3 First Round Match vs Hanover before falling to Bedford.

Baseball won a MIAA Div 3 Prelim Game vs Essex North Shore before falling to Weston.

Girls Lacrosse fell to Swampscott in a MIAA Div 3 First Round game.

Girls Tennis Fell to Belchertown in a MIAA Div 3 First Round Match.



## Community Engagement

**Unified Game Day at ECEC.** The ECEC held its first, of hopefully many, Special Olympics Unified Game Days on Thursday, May 25th. The unified athletes have been working with their staff coaches during this school year to learn many skills such as throwing, batting, running, jumping, and most importantly, teamwork!! The students had an opportunity to showcase all they have learned at the Game Day with their classmates, families, staff



members, and members of the DHS Unified Basketball Team cheering them on. They ran, they galloped, they threw, and they completed an obstacle course that morning, and all athletes received a medal in a very special ceremony at the conclusion of the games. A huge shout out to Lauren Lydon, ECEC Physical Therapist and Marie Madden, ECEC PE/Wellness teacher for their enthusiasm in organizing and facilitating such a wonderful event.

**Visit to ECEC.** On Tuesday, May 30th, the ECEC hosted a visiting team of educators from the Boston Renaissance Charter School. They contacted us with the hopes of learning about our inclusion practices in preschool and kindergarten as they seek to shift their practices in early childhood special education service delivery. The group had a chance to talk to members of our teams and observe 5 of our classrooms.





## **Management and Operations**

**DHS Turf Field Replacement.** The procurement for the turf field installation firm was completed in May. The firm Field Turf supplied the lowest responsible and responsive bid for completion of the project. Work will begin this week with project staff onsite for a project kick-off meeting, and to provide a project schedule and to start work in removing the old field turf carpet. A more detailed schedule will be available in the weeks ahead. Please note that parking along Recreation Road and at the top of the track/football field will be used for storage of materials for this project.

**Summer Capital Projects.** A number of capital projects are currently in process for work over the summer. The high school kitchen freezer replacement project has the freezer boxes ordered, and the assessment of the current electrical systems for possible upgrade is underway. The middle school safety vestibule bid came in near the most recent projection. The initial projected schedule has the vestibule work on site starting in late June with projected completion in mid October. The replacement of the Greenlodge fire panel has received updated quotes and the replacement work is scheduled to begin in early July. The district has more projects that will be discussed after a new Director of Facilities is hired.