

Dedham Public Schools
Interim Superintendent's Update
June 21, 2023
Day 179 of the 2022-2023 School Year

Teaching and Learning

Grade 3 Trip to the Dedham Historical Society. Recently, third graders visited the Dedham Historical Society to learn about local history. In this photo, students interact with and learn how to use rotary phones. It's part of a sequence connecting today's cell phones with what came before. They start with a candlestick phone and needing operators, then the rotary phones in the photograph, then to cell phones---then jump to early photography and we work up to, again, today's cell phones and talk about how they are combined with cameras. The convenience of quick calls and photographs compared to the past and the relationship among the various means. And how important patience was --- things weren't instant and instantaneous as they are expected to be in today's world. It's one of several walks through history with hands-on. Students visited the archive which includes historic photos of their schools, yearbooks to see teachers and parents pictured, etc.---and a tour of the museum as the third block.



Visual and Performing Arts

Elementary Spring Concerts. Oakdale, Riverdale, Greenlodge and the ECEC presented their Spring Concerts with every child, Kindergarten thru 5th grade, participating (Avery's concert was June 2) under the direction of elementary music teachers Chris Molinaro, Jen O'Shea, Sara Santos and Michael Williams.

Flag Day. The Dedham Middle School Band and the Dedham High School Band each marched in the Flag Day Parade under the direction of band directors, Kevin Martins and Heather Kirby.

Professional Development

LEAP Academic Support Programs. We're getting ready for a week of professional learning to launch our new integrated ESY/LEAP academic support programs for students. During the week of June 26th, Dr. Garand, Ms. Dineen-Serpis, Dr. Smith, Dr. Kobierski, and our instructional coaching team will train and orient educators to our summer support programs. The [staff training site](#) can be found here. At the elementary level, educators will utilize Ready to Rise (a tier-2 Foundations intervention), along with Amplify Intervention, Leveled Literacy Intervention, and Lexia to support students in literacy. And in math, students will have access to Reflex, ALEKS, Maneuvering Math, and Bridges.

Community Engagement

Fox Zip Trip Participation - July 7th. Dedham Public Schools will participate in an upcoming Town-wide media opportunity. On Friday, July 7th Fox News will visit Dedham for the morning to kick off their summer “Zip Trip” series. In addition to Town participation, DPS will be featured in several interview segments including: An interview with new Superintendent Nan Murphy; A performance by Oakdale students and interview with music teacher Chris Molinaro and Dept head Heather Kirby; An interview with the DHS Best Buddies group; and, an interview with Erin MacDonald who is our Varsity Field Hockey Coach, Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, Physical Education Teacher and a DHS Graduate, joined by athletes.

Panorama Family Surveys. Panorama family surveys are live and will be in inboxes shortly if they are not already. We kindly ask families to take a few minutes to complete the survey (one per child). The information that we gather through this process is incredibly valuable as we review our practice and plan for the future.

Avery	2250052693	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/2250052693/surveys
DHS	7566139803	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/7566139803/surveys
DMS	3883710014	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/3883710014/surveys
ECEC	8835069305	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/8835069305/surveys
Greenlodge	2518178451	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/2518178451/surveys
Oakdale	3616936794	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/3616936794/surveys
Riverdale	1447884942	https://surveys.panoramaed.com/dedham/1447884942/surveys

Management and Operations

DHS Turf Field. The turf field project is charging forward. The old turf has been removed from the work site, and the new turf carpet is currently being laid out and sewn together. Shipments of sand and crumb rubber have arrived on location and are staged to be installed.



Security and Safety. We will be meeting next week to discuss the timeline for the summer installation of building access hardware at the schools. These electronic points of entry allow additional building access using the issued swipe cards to allow better security and safety for classes and recess held outside the building. In addition we will be discussing new security cameras to be installed as part of the overall safety and security upgrades.

DMS Safety Vestibule. The kick off meeting for the safety vestibule at the middle school is being scheduled for next week. We anticipate this project lasting into the new school year, with the majority of the heavy installation occurring over the summer.

Director of Facilities. The district has completed the interview process for the next Director of Facilities, and we are excited to welcome Matthew Haffner into the position. Matt has held a similar role for the town of Norfolk for the past seven years, where he has managed the town and school facilities with great success. Matt will be working on a transition plan over the summer that allows him to start working for Dedham while successfully handing off his duties in Norfolk.