

# Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Today was the 40th day of school for the 2022-23 school year. There are only 140 days left this year. A reminder that next Tuesday, November 8 will be the district's third and final full day of professional development for faculty and staff. There will be NO SCHOOL for students on Tuesday, November 8. As a reminder, please remember to get out and vote in our state elections on this day.

As all of you are aware, Monday was Halloween and there were plenty of kids excited to trick-or-treat that evening. Our DELTA program did their annual Halloween Parade at DHS. Below are our DELTA students and staff and the DHS students who are completing internships in the program:



ECEC Principal Kim Taylor and Visual Arts Department Chair Bridget O'Leary will be presenting at this week's [National Association of Elementary School Principals fall convening](#). Kim Taylor is also on the Advisory Board for the fall convening. Bridget will be presenting "*Early Childhood Art Education: It is Not Just Finger Painting*" this Thursday, and Principal Taylor will be presenting two sessions for Principals on Saturday: "*Thoughtful Themes: Setting the Stage for a Successful Year*" and "*Let Them Play*". Descriptions of the conference and their workshop sessions are available in the [NAESP Fall Convening conference program](#).

SBRC Chair John Tocci, Dedham Town Manager Leon Goodwin, SC Chair Melissa Pearrow and I participated in the [MSBA Designer Selection Panel](#) on Tuesday, 11/1/22. We were 3 of the 16 voting members on the [designer selection panel process](#). I am sure there will be more about this session discussed in the SubCommittee portion of the meeting.

On Tuesday night this week I participated in the Avery PTO Meeting with Oakdale MSBA Project [OPM Compass/Vertex](#). There were about 25 parents in attendance and we discussed the scope and sequence of the pending MSBA Oakdale project and answered many questions from the group. [HERE](#) is a draft of the project "community update" flier that will be available at the Mini Town Meeting.

Over the past two weeks I have participated in the [DESE Influence 100 Program](#) as a part of the Department's Center for Strategic Initiatives. I am pleased to report that Dedham is one of only about a dozen districts selected to participate in this program that seeks to create more culturally responsive districts and leaders across the Commonwealth, and promote better outcomes for students. Dr. Fox Royce (Cohort 3) and Oakdale Principal Kim Hermes (Cohort 4) are both enrolled in this DESE leadership program.

On Thursday last week Dr. Fox Royce and I participated in the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents [MASS REDI Conference](#). There are 61 school districts across the state that are getting together 6 times over the course of this year to share best practices around Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (REDI) initiatives. We learned about the many different approaches that districts are using to achieve better outcomes for students, and how to best design our efforts strategically with an awareness of the unique situations present in every community.

[Cultural Appreciation Week](#) was celebrated last week by Massachusetts Trial courts across the state. The Dedham Session of the Norfolk County Juvenile Court hosted an art exhibit by Dedham High School students under the direction of DHS Art teacher Amy Vega and Visual Arts Department Chair Bridget O'Leary. Each student's work of art reflects this year's Cultural Appreciation Week theme: Out of Many, We Are ONE: Equal Justice for ALL. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to partner with the community on a collaborative art project.

Norfolk County Juvenile Court Probation Case Specialist Scharliea DaRoza and Ms. Vega went to great efforts coordinating the event. Each student's work of art is displayed throughout the courthouse. Ms. DaRoza prepared a montage compiling each of the students' art work. Committee members are welcome to visit the courthouse and view the students' work.







On Friday this week I will be attending the annual [MASC/MASS Conference](#). DHS Senior and Student School Committee Member Tara Duncan is going to attend the Student School Committee representatives seminar on Saturday morning. The schedule of seminars and presentations may be seen [HERE](#).

Just a reminder that Monday, November 7 is the "Mini Town Meeting" beginning at 7:00 PM at Dedham High School, and Monday, November 14 is the annual Fall Town Meeting at DHS starting at 7:00 PM, with a Special Town Meeting starting at 6:45 PM. Fall Town Meeting warrant books are available for all School Committee members tonight

The fall sports regular season is drawing to a close and the MIAA tournament seedings have been posted over the last week. Dedham High School will be well represented in the postseason in many sports! Click on the links below to view the DHS sports seedings and tournament brackets:

[Boys Soccer](#) (Division 3)

[MA Boys Soccer Records](#)

[Girls Soccer](#) (Division 3)

[MA Girls Soccer Records](#)

[Field Hockey](#) (Division 3)

[MA Field Hockey Records](#)

[Football](#) (Division 5)

[MA Football Records](#)

**Boys Soccer** has had an incredible undefeated season, winning the Tri-Valley League, and currently has a 15-0-3 record. They are ranked #2 in Division 3 and will have home field advantage hosting throughout the preliminary rounds of the playoffs. Their first game will be this Sunday, 11/6 at 4:00 PM. They are awaiting their assigned opponent which will be determined by the opening play-in round. Dedham also boasts the leading scorer (Juan-Pablo Giraldo) in the TVL.

**Girls Soccer** is ranked #10 in Division 3 with a 13-4-1 record and also won the Tri-Valley League. They are awaiting their first round opponent to be determined by the play-in round and will host their first round game at DHS this Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 PM.

**Field Hockey** finished with a 6-7-4 record and travels to North Reading for a first round MIAA playoff game this Thursday, 11/3 (tomorrow) at 6:00 PM.

**Football** currently has a 4-4 record and is seeded 15th in Division 5. They also will be traveling to North Reading for a first round MIAA playoff game this Friday at 6:00 PM

Boys and girls cross country are both competing in the Coaches Invitational meet and Kevin Cronin qualified for the Division 2 Sectional Championships in golf. Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches on their successful fall seasons!

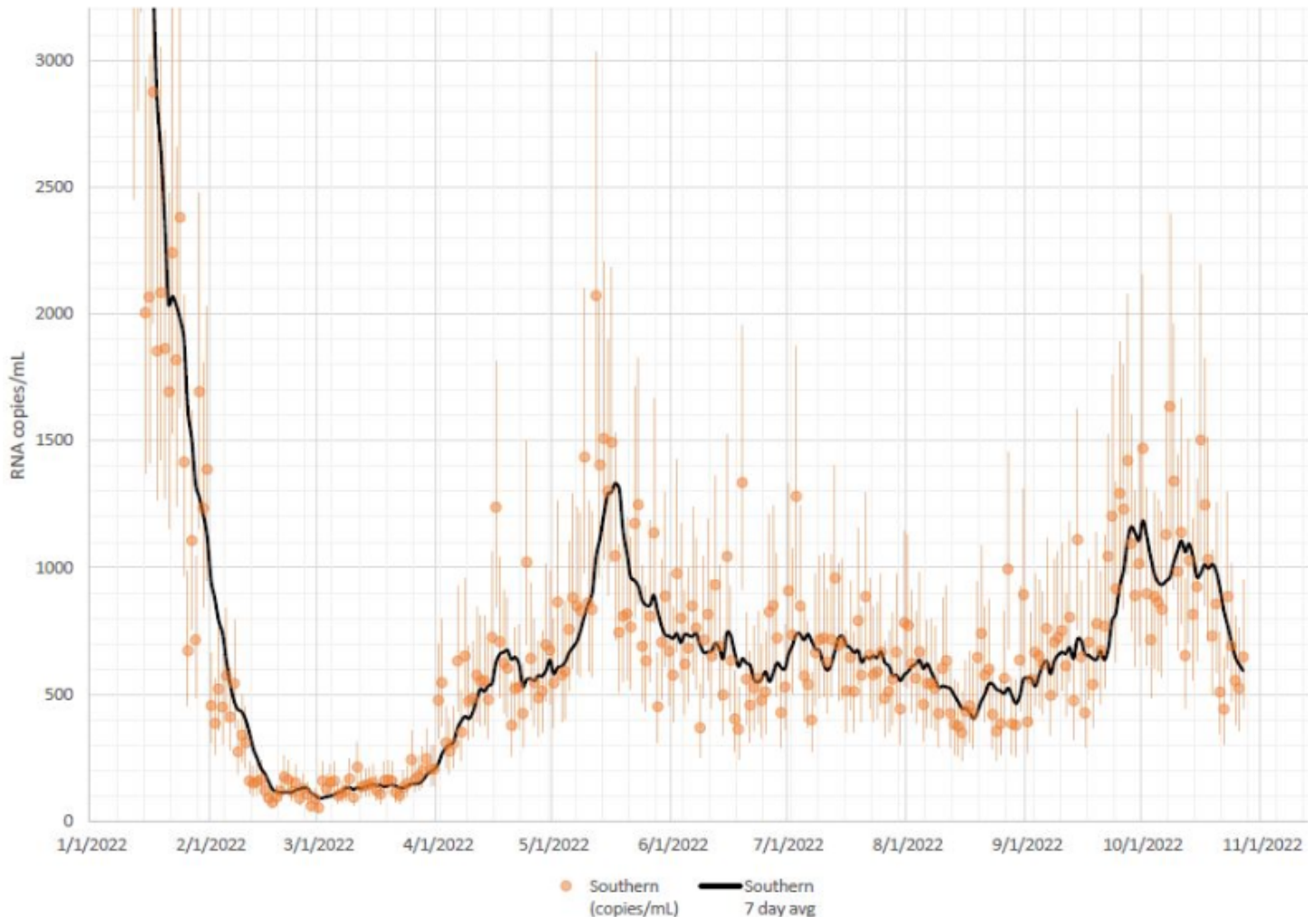
### **COVID-19 Update**

Information gathered over the summer as [COVID-19 data for Dedham](#) shows a very small, incremental decrease in cases registered in the town over the past 2 weeks. This trend continues a pattern of up-and-down case numbers going back to mid-July.

The [CDC continues to list Norfolk County in the “Moderate” community level category by their designation criteria.](#) The MWRA COVID-19 concentrations in wastewater over the past two weeks have declined VERY SHARPLY from the steep

rise of late September. Please take a look at the MWRA graph below to be aware of the most current trends in Dedham and surrounding areas. This information is updated every Thursday with the previous week's data. More comprehensive information may be obtained from the [MWRA COVID-19 wastewater surveillance website](https://www.mwra.com/covid19).

Recent South System Viral RNA Signal by Date



The Dedham Public Schools has taken advantage of a [DESE COVID-19 Rapid Test Kit distribution offer](#) and will be receiving a supply of two, 2-test kit boxes for every DPS student and staff member. These test kits are intended to be used for individual student and staff optional testing upon return from the November and December breaks and will be distributed prior to Thanksgiving.