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March 13, 2020

# THE NEDLAM NEWS

## **Malden Public Schools closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus pandemic** *As of Friday morning, the announced closure will be for at least a minimum of two weeks*

**By Steve Freker**  
**For the Malden Public Schools**

Due to the outbreak of the international COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, it was announced late Thursday afternoon that the Malden Public Schools would be closed until further notice beginning Friday, March 13.

Superintendent of Schools John Oteri made the announcement in an email to Malden Public Schools educators and staff and on social media at about 4:30 p.m on Thursday afternoon, March 12. In a letter now posted on the district website ([maldenps.org](http://maldenps.org)) it states, "As the situation remains fluid, Malden Public Schools will remain closed indefinitely." ***A copy of that letter appears inside on Page 3***  
In a recorded message sent out to all Malden Public



Schools families Thursday evening, Supt. Oteri further clarified the announcement by stating schools would remain closed for a minimum of at least two weeks, or, at least until March 30.

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**Stay safe, stay healthy,  
be vigilant and very  
importantly, stay  
positive through these  
increasingly difficult  
times we now face**

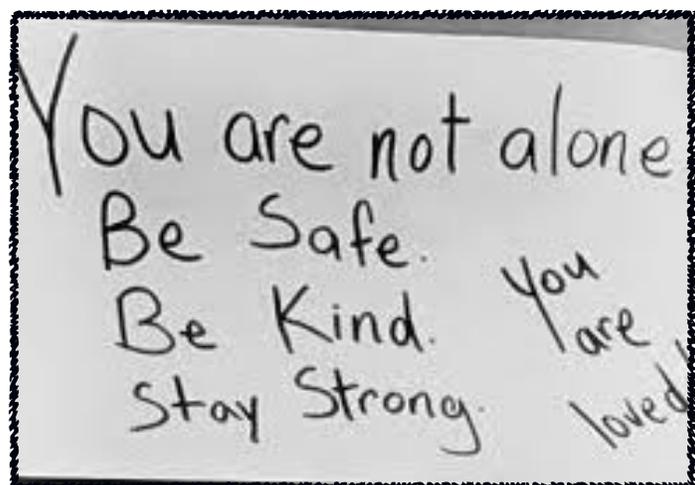
***We will continue to be strong for our  
students and their families, as well  
our own loved ones and colleagues***

**To All Malden High School Educators, Staff, Students &  
Administrators:**

When we welcomed in the new year and new decade in January, no crystal ball could have predicted the situation we now face with Thursday's announced closure of the Malden Public Schools, including Malden High School, until further notice, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We have been informed that schools are now closed beginning today, Friday, March 13. In a recorded message to all Malden Public Schools families delivered last night, Supt. Oteri related the closure would be for a minimum of at least two weeks. That means the very earliest we could possibly resume classes would be Monday, March 30. Of course, just about 24 hours since the original announcement, it would be inappropriate to forecast or speculate on any future decisions at this time due to what has proven to be a swiftly evolving and fluid situation. City, state and federal leaders and agencies continue to work around the clock to come up with and implement strategies to hopefully contain the spread of Coronavirus, which has now had a presence in nearly every corner and country in the world. This is a scary time for all of us and I would like to thank and commend all of our educators and staff for how you have handled this difficult situation so far. Your love and care for our kids has truly shown through this week. The calm and cool manner that you have displayed has helped keep them calm. I thank you for that! We will learn more as the situation unfolds. Stay safe, healthy, vigilant and importantly, stay positive and united as we continue to provide updated information.



**Mr. Mastrangelo**



## ***Malden High School Aspirational Instructional Focus Statement***

Malden High School educates an inclusive and equitable community of diverse learners whom we are preparing to be Communicators, Collaborators, Critical Thinkers, Innovative Learners, Empowered Citizens, and Persistent Individuals. As such, MHS instructional practices present authentic and relevant experiences that are intellectually engaging, student-centered, inquiry-based, cognitively complex, process-oriented, and encourage productive struggle. Furthermore, these instructional practices encourage students to pursue their interests, leverage their strengths, and explore unfamiliar concepts that prepare students for life in our ever-changing modern world.



**UPCOMING @ MALDEN HS:**

**EFFECTIVE Friday, March 13**— It has been announced that the Malden Public Schools, including Malden High School, will be closed until further notice for a minimum of at least 2 weeks. No entrance to the MHS building for any activities will be allowed.



**Malden High School  
Vision Statement**

The Malden High School community believes in the potential of all students to learn, to grow and to become active, conscientious participants in the 21st century global society. We believe that students learn most effectively in a safe, respectful environment that encourages diverse viewpoints, promotes critical thinking and perseverance and establishes vigorous standards for all. We honor the diverse nature of our Malden community, promote social awareness and community involvement and strive to meet the needs of all students through innovative methods and continued continued professional development. We are committed to ensuring that Malden High School graduates are thoughtful, independent, purpose-driven, lifelong learners. We seek to equip all students with the skills and habits necessary to successfully navigate and contribute to our ever-changing world.

***LETTER from SUPT. OTERI to  
MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAMILIES on ACTIONS RELATED  
to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
March 12, 2020***

Dear Malden Public Schools Families,

I am writing with important information regarding the steps the district will be taking to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families as the situation surrounding the Coronavirus continues to evolve.

Based on the evolving conditions associated with the COVID-19 outbreak occurring throughout the state, the Malden Public Schools, in consultation with City of Malden officials, have made the decision to close all Malden Public Schools beginning tomorrow, Friday, March 13, 2020. As the situation remains fluid, Malden Public Schools will be closed indefinitely.

The decision to close schools is not one we take lightly. We understand the serious implications this action has. We understand this is an extremely difficult situation for families to face. However, we believe these steps are necessary given the information we have gathered from local and state experts over the past few days.

For those readers who are staff members, over the next few days, the Superintendent of Schools will work collaboratively with the Malden Education Association to finalize plans for moving forward. We will update staff and families in the coming days with additional information about our plans.

We ask for your flexibility, support and understanding as we work to best address the needs of our community at this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
**John Oteri**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

# Malden Public Schools, many other districts across Mass., announce school closure due to Coronavirus pandemic

Continued from Page One

While there have no confirmed or presumptive cases of the Coronavirus reported in the city of Malden as of Friday morning, Supt. Oteri stated in a letter posted on the MPS website, the decision was made after a key consultation with Malden city officials Thursday "to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families as the situation surrounding the Coronavirus continues to evolve." "The decision to close schools is not one we take lightly. We understand the serious implications this action has," Supt. Oteri stated. "We understand this is an extremely difficult situation for families to face. However, we believe these steps are necessary given the information we have gathered from local and state experts over the past few days."

Malden joins many other districts across Massachusetts in announcing school closures. In the immediate area, Everett Public Schools have taken an even lengthier move, announcing it would close schools until April 27, taking them beyond the already planned April school break week. for a total of six weeks.

Melrose Public Schools announced Friday morning it would close schools until at least March 27. Medford Public Schools also announced Thursday it would be closing schools for at least two weeks.

In Medford, which announced Friday its second presumptive case of COVID-19, city officials also announced the city was also canceling or postponing all events, gatherings and programming sponsored by the city or the Medford Public Schools where attendance is anticipated to be 25 people or more. For gatherings fewer than 25 persons, they are calling for "social distancing" which includes maintaining a distance of at least six feet from all other individuals in a group setting and avoiding physical contact such as handshakes or other physical greetings.

## OFFICIAL CITY of MALDEN PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT:

*As of March 12*

***This message and other Coronavirus Updates are on [cityofmalden.org](http://www.cityofmalden.org)***

Given the evolving circumstances around COVID-19 in our communities, Malden's Health Department and Emergency Management Team have been actively monitoring the situation and working collaboratively with the Department of Public Health, all Malden City Departments and our School Superintendent. As of today, the following measures have been taken to protect the health and well-being of our residents, employees and all community members:

—**Beginning on Friday, March 13th, the Malden Public Schools will be closed until further notice**, but for a minimum of at least 2 weeks. Please continue to check the Malden Public Schools website at [www.maldenps.org](http://www.maldenps.org) for updated information;

—**All programming at the Malden Senior Center has been cancelled until further notice.** The City is working with our Director of Human Services & Community Outreach, Karen Hayes, to reach out and make sure our seniors are still receiving the resources and services they need;

—**The Malden Teen Enrichment Center will be closed, and the Malden Recreation Department is postponing** all activities until further notice.

—**Public hearings of the City Council Committees, Boards, and Commissions will only be scheduled if required by law or are time sensitive.** Additional information about public hearings and meetings will follow.

—**At this time, all City Departments remain open. This is subject to change.** We are working with Department Heads to ensure the continuity of city operations while taking every measure to ensure the safety of our employees.

These precautions are necessary in order to reduce opportunities for the virus to spread. We are urging members of the public to continue to be vigilant and practice social distancing and good hygiene.

**Please check the City of Malden website at [www.cityofmalden.org](http://www.cityofmalden.org) for updated information**

# MIAA MANDATES START of H.S. SPRING ATHLETICS PUSHED BACK to THURS. MARCH 30

*Due the rapidly-evolving situation regarding the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, The start of the 2020 High School Sports Spring Season has been delayed statewide by a vote of the MIAA Board of Directors until Thursday, March 30. Malden High School Athletic Director Charlie Conefrey made this announcement to MHS coaches and players on March 12. The Spring Season had been scheduled to begin on Monday, March 16. Mr. Conefrey stressed the following:*

- The new start date, via the MIAA, for Spring Sports is on March 30th. This is obviously contingent and may change at any time.*
- All city parks, fields and buildings are closed until further notice. Therefore, at this time, no MHS Athletics Coach should be on any field or in any building with any of our student athletes.*



Malden High School spring season athletes will have to wait until at least March 30 to start practices.



If High School sports seasons DO resume on March 30 the start date of official games would also be pushed up to April 11th, at earliest



Most college leagues in the Eastern U.S. have cancelled their entire Spring Sports Seasons, including schools like Tufts, UMass-Boston and UMass-Amherst



## Junior Varieties Scenes

Above, Kevin Laughlin performs Remarkably Human by Nick Johnston on electric guitar, one of several fine instrumental acts. At right, Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Scibelli from the MHS Main Office NEVER miss a Junior Varieties show. *Steve Freker Photos/*

*Fro the Malden Public Schools*

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE  
TO 'THE NEDLAM  
NEWS'!  
LET'S SHARE THE  
GOOD NEWS ABOUT  
MHS!**

Do you have some good news to share about students, teachers, administrators and other staff members? An extracurricular activity, club or sports team? There is LOTS of Good News @ Malden High School! Let's share it with EVERYONE! Mr. Mastrangelo encourages everyone to email Steve Freker: [sfreker@maldenps.org](mailto:sfreker@maldenps.org) with any news you like to share: stories, snippets, photos, announcement of meetings, events coming... and ones held. **THE NEDLAM NEWS** appears every Friday in your Inbox and is then shared on the District website [www.maldenps.org](http://www.maldenps.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?

That the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a pandemic was the first such statement since the H1N1 Pandemic (Swine Flu), which lasted from April 2009-August 2010 worldwide. Estimates were that **59 million Americans were infected throughout the course of that period, 265,000 hospitalized and 12,000 deaths were reported.**

## LOOKING FOR OVERDUE MHS LIBRARY BOOKS

Hello all,  
For homeroom teachers, I put  
your students' overdue library  
book slip in your mailboxes.  
Please pass them out to your  
students and have them bring  
back their books asap or come  
to the library to renew them.



Thank you for your help in  
getting the books back to the library!

—Mary Liberge/ MHS Librarian

**The SAT Exam that  
had been planned @  
MHS for Sat., March  
14 has been  
cancelled here at  
Malden High School**



## March is Women's History Month

*Ms. Veritas writes:* Hi Everyone,

I wanted to share a resource with all of you during Women's History Month in March. The National Women's History Museum has online exhibits that students can go through independently, in groups, or as part of a more guided lesson.

The exhibit topics range from women in STEM to women in sports. They look at women as inventors and entrepreneurs. The different exhibits look at a wide range of women and their contributions and activism. If you hover over the titles there is a description of what is contained. They use images and video and I think has the potential to be pretty interactive.

I hope to get to a day where we don't need a month; where the contributions of all members of our society are treated with the respect and attention they deserve. We are not there yet but I believe we can get there. More information about events for Women's history month will be shared soon.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits>

# JUNIOR VARIETIES 'Back to the 80s' a big hit!



All Photos by Steve Freker/For the Malden Public Schools