



Volume IV No. 2
September 11, 2020

THE NEDLAM NEWS



**9/11
We will
never
forget**

**WELCOME BACK, MHS !
Classes Begin on Wednesday in
Our Distance Learning Model**

Our administrators have been back for awhile, our educators returned on August 31 to begin training and Professional Development. But the true "Stars of the Show" will make their first appearance of the new 2020-21 school year on Wednesday, September 16 when our students start a new journey. Welcome back everyone! Let's make this a great year!

Today is the 19th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks on America: September 11, 2001

#Black Lives Matter



A new school year begins Wednesday and we are ready to give our best to our students

The best staff in all of Massachusetts has prepared well for the challenges that await

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

I have said it before: I will put our Malden High School staff up against any in our state.... and I know which one I would choose. MALDEN!! Never has that been more evident than after witnessing the response of our educators and administrators to the past two weeks of training and Professional Development sessions as we prepare for the first day of classes with our students. Whether it's been some of our staff who has been with us for decades, or the new members we are fortunate to have added to our MHS family just this year, it had been clear to see that everyone has come to meet these initial challenges with energy, commitment and optimism. Nothing has been the same for any of us since mid-March when we walked out of the building, not knowing it would be for the last time for the school year. Even we veterans of many back-to-school weeks have been brought all the way back to the starting blocks when it came to the new approaches and reconstructed parameters created in response to education in the COVID-19 era. It has not been easy these past two weeks. Daunting and nearly overwhelming probably describe it best. You could throw exhausting in there as well. But we have gotten through it, together. For that, I admire each and every one of you and I do not possess all the words to fully express my gratitude and that of our administrative team. To prepare for a Distance Learning regimen which we will present to our MHS students on the first day of class on Wednesday, you have all gone far past that extra mile. Honestly, I am not surprised, since the bar has been set high around here by you, our staff, for quite some time now. Our students deserve our best and I know you all are ready to provide that for them. Have a great weekend and rest up as we look forward to next week and getting back with our kids.

Chris Mastrangelo-Principal



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.



A moment of reflection held at 8:52 a.m. at Malden High School on Friday in remembrance of 19th anniversary of 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City & D.C.

UPCOMING @ MALDEN HS:

SEPTEMBER 14-15 — Week Three of Professional Development and Preparation Work for Malden High School educators and staff. On Monday and Tuesday.

SEPTEMBER 16— First Day of Classes for Malden Public Schools.



**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.

On Friday morning, Mr. Mastrangelo called for a moment of reflection open the MHS public address system in remembrance of the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America in New York City and in Washington D.C. on September 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people were killed and over 6,000 injured on that day when hijacked planes deliberately were crashed into the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The moment of reflection was held at 8:52 a.m., the exact time the first plane crashed into the first tower. *Steve Freker Photo/ For the Malden Public*

SUPERINTENDENT OTERI'S LETTER: An update to families on what to expect from a Remote Learning Day

To the Malden Public Schools Community:

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy during these difficult times. When we closed school buildings in March, we had all hoped that we would be in a place where we could welcome back students and families in person in the fall. Despite the decision not to return to a full in-person model, we are committed to making the coming year one filled with meaningful learning for all students.

We appreciate your patience as we work through negotiations with the Malden Education Association to ultimately bring our students the educational experiences



they deserve. We are grateful for the messages of support, the grace and patience with which you have partnered with us in your children's education, and your willingness to adapt to the many challenges you have faced while juggling health and safety, work, family, and school. We also acknowledge the feedback that, for many families, the crisis learning of the spring fell short of expectations; we know that we can and must do better as we head into the 2020-2021 school year.

Requirements and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education details a learning experience that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A school calendar that includes 170 student days (with 850 hours of time-on-learning for elementary



and 935 hours for secondary schools)

Daily attendance

Remote learning programs that include regular, two-way communication among students, educators, and families to ensure meaningful opportunities to connect regularly with staff

Grades and assessment of students based on the district's and educator's performance criteria for students

Access to grade-level instruction in all content areas included in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks

A plan to deliver services for special education services and English Learner Education

So how do we deliver all of the above in a remote setting? Our approach is to start with what we know – the structure of a school day – and use that structure to inform the creation of learning experiences that all students can access.

We understand that six straight hours of screen time for students is neither healthy nor engaging for our learners, especially our youngest students. But we also know that predictable schedules and routines, along with a balance of live meetings and independent work, create a structure that provides stability for students and the framework needed for families to fully support their child's learning. What might a class look like in the world of remote learning? We believe that connection **Cont. on P.6**

Malden First Responders join Sen. Markey, city & state officials to mark 9/11's 19th Anniversary



Firefighters, police and elected officials gathered in front of the Central Fire Station Friday morning in tribute to the lives lost on 9/11. *Steve Freker Photo*

**PLEASE
CONTRIBUTE TO
'THE NEDLAM
NEWS'!**

**LET'S SHARE THE
GOOD NEWS
ABOUT MHS!**

NEDLAM NEWS is published and distributed digitally every Friday. Past editions available at www.maldenps.org under the Malden High School Resources Tab/Principal's Newsletter. Any questions? Contact Steve Freker, Editor @ : sfreker@maldenps.org

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 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

Greater Boston League will push ALL Fall Sports to the 'Fall II' season (Feb. 22-April 25)

The following was released by the Principals and Athletic Directors of the Greater Boston League (GBL), whose schools includes Malden, Everett, Medford, Revere and Somerville

After serious deliberation and discussions, the Greater Boston League has decided to participate in the Fall II season in all Fall Sports (Cross Country, Golf, Girls Volleyball, Soccer, Field Hockey, Football, Competitive Cheer and Unified Basketball). Although this decision was not easy, we agree that safety of our student-athletes and coaches is the most important factor. There were a number of factors also that played into this decision...

- Safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and school communities.
- The current designation of two of our schools (Everett and Revere)
- The limitations with scheduling.
- The uncertainty around potential changes in Covid -19.
- All GBL schools are currently engaged in Remote The ability to provide a “true” interscholastic athletic experience with the current guidelines in place for individual sports.
- The potential of providing a “true” interscholastic athletic experience during the Fall II season
- The ability to provide our students with supervised and controlled opportunities to participate in outdoor activities, in our own communities, to provide an outlet for our students.



**The GBL: Everett
Malden Medford
Revere Somerville
(in 2021-22 Chelsea)**

Like everyone, we are saddened that our students will not be able to participate in the traditional fall season, but optimistic that the Fall II season will be a success. Now more than ever, the MIAA has afforded member schools with as much flexibility as possible to provide an athletic experience for our students. We will continue to meet with our students and provide support and encouragement during this confusing and difficult time.

Superintendent's Update to Malden Public School families on Remote Learning details for School Re-Entry

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to caring adults is essential for students' social-emotional health and that it is important for our learners to be able to interact with their teacher and peers throughout the day in various ways. One example of how this could look is to think of a class from the perspective of Launch – Explore – Land:

❑ Launch – The whole class signs onto the platform to be greeted by the teacher and have face-time with peers. During this portion of the class, the teacher might read a story, ask a probing question to activate students' thinking about a topic, or teach a new concept.

❑ Explore – During this stage, students step away from the screen (or log off completely) to practice on their own. Or, they might work with a peer through a set of questions or a mini-project. During this time, the teacher might pull a student or two together for some extra support and guidance. Or, they might use this time to connect with a family using google meet (or an old fashioned phone call) to see how remote learning is going.

❑ Land – In this phase, students will come together at the end of the class to share their experiences. In another example, students may be engaged in an exploratory class, such as physical education. In this scenario, the teacher might log on for attendance with the larger group, then offer some suggested physical activities that the student could do inside or outside of the home. Again, at the end of class, students might come together to wrap up the lesson and think about how they can stay physically active throughout the day.

Of course, we know that these are just a couple of samples out of many that illustrate how online learning experiences can look. We understand that learners at different stages have a variety of needs that affect the choices we need to make about time on-screen and types of activities. This is a starting point. We know that remote learning is far from perfect and communication between home and school will be critical in the coming weeks as we enter the new school

but we believe that providing a predictable structure that allows for regular, two-way communication between home and school; a mix of academics and exploratory activities (i.e. music, physical education, art); and a balance of on-screen and off-screen time, will serve as the building blocks for a successful learning experience in the coming weeks.

We also recognize that families need some help being the best educational partners they can be. To that end, we are making efforts to provide dedicated family help-desk assistance (in multiple languages) to assist with technology issues. We are also working tirelessly to build an online hub of resources for families and to develop training sessions on a variety of topics – from how to use Google to tips on staying emotionally healthy during these challenging times. We can't promise perfection, but we do promise that we will do our very best to serve Malden's families on every level. We thank you for your continued patience and support as we embark on the next stage of education in Malden for the 2020-21 school year.

**Sincerely,
John Oteri
Superintendent**

**For updated information on
Malden Public Schools
Reopening plans, go to the
website: www.maldenps.org**

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