



MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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To the Malden School Community,

At the May and June Malden School Committee meetings, the School Committee discussed programming for the 2020-2021 school year and voted to pause on applications for the Academically Enriched and Advanced Program (AEAP program, also known as the "gifted program") at the Linden STEAM Academy for the 2020-2021 school year.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Committee did not want to place students in the AEAP program without giving them a full opportunity to demonstrate their readiness in light of the school closure during the pandemic. This will mean that there will be no new classroom for the incoming grade 1 program, as well as a pause on all application slots for the upcoming school year in grades 2-8. This move affects all grades levels of the program, but particularly the first grade as this is the largest entry point for the program. Upper grades generally see a few openings due to natural attrition. Should some of these classes need to be balanced out to ensure equitable numbers across a grade level, the school will redistribute Linden students to balance those affected classes for the 2020-2021 school year only.

During this upcoming school year, the Committee will evaluate the program through an equity lens and make a determination of the best way to move forward in subsequent years.

Sincerely,


John Oteri
Superintendent