

# Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol.1, Issue 1, Oct. 2016

*"The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards."*  
-Anatole France

## Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson

**D**ear Malden Public Schools Community,  
I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your superintendent during this very important moment in Malden Public Schools (MPS) history. With committed teachers, thoughtful leaders, diverse and engaged students, we are poised to provide a "21st century ready" educational experience to every child, every day, in every classroom. I envision MPS providing access to a world-class quality education that allows our graduates to be globally competitive upon graduation. We have the expertise and resilience we need to achieve this vision. While we cannot ignore the resource challenges we face, we must not let it deter us from this important mission driven work.



As I continue to visit schools, classrooms, and meet teachers, students, and parents, I am encouraged and take solace in knowing that MPS is a strong community of learners, teachers, leaders, and many others who support the learning process. This summer, the district leadership team (all administrators) and I participated in a summer leadership institute where we discussed how to encourage and support the best of what Malden Public School teachers provide on a daily basis. We discussed and debated, what an ideal Malden graduate should know and be able to do, and we agreed to spend more time in classrooms supporting the instructional core: the interaction between the teacher, student, and the content. We look forward to partnering with you in this work.

I look forward to continuing to visit your classrooms (please invite me as well) to see the great teaching and learning happening across our system. As we continue the entry planning process over the coming months please continue to reach out and share your thoughts about moving our district forward. I know that this will be a pivotal year for our school district as we plan to become a world-class school district.

Best,  
Dr. Charles Grandson

## Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan CIA (Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment) Updates:

**F**irst and most important, thank-you for everything you do to make our students both academically and socially successful.

❖ **DESE Comprehensive District Review (CDR):** Oct. 24-27, 2016

The visitation schedule and protocols were e-mailed to all staff and consist of interviews, classroom observations, documents review, data analysis, etc. The CDR covers the following areas: Leadership and Governance, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment, Human Resources and Professional Development, Students Support, as well as Financial and Asset Management. All interviews took place at The Linden STEAM Academy (thanks Principal Bransfield for the space). This review happens approximately every five years and concentrates on system quality not compliance. During classroom observations, the team visited classrooms to "identify district-wide instructional trends not to evaluate individual teachers or principals". We will receive their findings report in approximately four months.

❖ **ELC NAEYC Review:** The review period is from Oct. 24-Nov. 11.



- ❖ **TeachPoint:** All teachers have been informed of their primary evaluator. Primary evaluators are now in the process of reviewing and signing off on teachers' Self-Assessments and Goals (Student Learning Goal and Professional Practice Goal) in TeachPoint.
- ❖ **November 8 Professional Development Day:** Schedule and logistics will be sent out to faculty by November 2.
- ❖ **MCAS and PARCC data:** Has been delivered to principals and shared with all teachers. Principals will discuss with faculty how to delve into and analyze our data to find areas of strength as well as areas of need.
- ❖ **BrainPOP:** All schools should have received their username and password. This is an excellent teaching and learning resource that covers all grade levels and all subjects.

[Click here for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment additional/ detailed updates](#)

# Superintendent's Newsletter

## Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson Student Support Services

### Harvard University MATCH Partnership



- ❖ We are fortunate to have been selected by Harvard University researchers to implement a two-year randomized trial of a new approach to evidence-based counseling. As part of this process school adjustment counselors at Beebe, Ferryway, Linden and Salemwood will receive extensive training and consultation at no charge, to provide a state of the art, evidence-based counseling for selected students in grades 1-7. The Mach curriculum combines 33 modules for evidence-based interventions for problems related to anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, and misconduct. MATCH is used in conjunction with a web based system for monitoring student responses to counseling. The system provides weekly feedback to counselor to guide their selection and sequencing of modules.
- ❖ MATCH includes activities children can use to practice the skills they learn, plus information for caregivers that describes each skill taught and how parents can support their children in learning and using the skills. In addition to information and family support, parents/caretakers will receive compensation for their time in completing project measures

### District School Spotlight: Ferryway Reading Buddies



This is Ms. Ivy's 8th grade and Mrs. Israelson's 1st grade reading buddies. They usually read but took time to write a letters together to a boy with autism. He lives in New Jersey and doesn't have any friends, so to show empathy, one of our core values, we did a mini lesson and wrote letters to this boy.

Check out more of our activities and events:

- ❖ [Ferryway Family Fun Night was a Success!](#)
- ❖ [Ferryway Fifth Grade Walk-A-Thon](#)

### State Senator Jason Lewis at MHS



Malden High hosted State Senator Jason Lewis as part of our annual Get Ahead Day. Senator Lewis started the day with seniors by addressing the entire class of 2017, and then moderated a debate on the four Massachusetts ballot questions. The debate participants were students in Mr. Hurley's and Mr. Tivnan's AP Government classes.

### Salemwood Middle School Band Ensemble Performed



On October 15th the Salemwood Middle School Band Ensemble performed at the New England Scholastics Band Association competition where we were awarded a bronze medal.

- ❖ [Click here for more Salemwood School Events and Updates.](#)

### Forestdale Fall Harvest



This month the Forestdale school held The Fall Harvest! Forestdale families and faculty came together for a night of pumpkin carving contest, candy apples, and much more.

- ❖ [Click here for more Forestdale School Events and Updates.](#)

**For more updates from MPS Schools, please click the links below:**

- ❖ [ELC Updates & Events](#)
- ❖ [Linden Steam Updates & Events](#)
- ❖ [Beebe School Updates and Events](#)

### School Committee:

Mayor Gary Christenson, Chairperson | Michael Drummey, Ward 1 | Emmanuel Marsh, Ward 2 | Lawrence Silverman, Ward 3 | Leonard Iovino, Vice Chair, Ward 4 | Tara M. Beardsley, Ward 5 | Jerry Leone, Ward 6 | Catherine Bordonaro, Ward 7 | John Froio, Ward 8

### Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Charles Grandson