



From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume III No.12 JUNE NEWSLETTER June 30, 2020

For timely updates and information.... Twitter: @MaldenPublic Website: maldenps.org

Nearly 2,000 participate in the Black Lives Matter March led by Malden High School students



Organizers of the march, l-r, Christelle Jean and Micaela Henry of MHS and Kimberly Timothee speak before the start. Steve Freker Photo/MPS

#BLACK LIVES MATTER

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all in the Malden Public Schools Community,

This school year has posed many challenges to the entire community. However, the resilience and cooperation by our students, staff, administrators, city officials, families and entire Malden Public Schools community were inspiring and heartwarming. The common phrase "reinventing the wheel" was not at all out of place this school year, due to the pandemic crisis. Our day-to-day lives were changed and impacted in so many ways, on many levels. Yes, we did indeed have to "reinvent" at times, creating and then adapting to new ways in providing education as well as other key services to our students. The number one priority of our response as a district remains the same today as it was on Day One: The safety and well-being of our students and their families. Along with creating and instituting See P.6



Superintendent Oteri

HONORING 'Mr. J': Supt. Oteri supports a request to rename MHS Pathways Program in honor of retiring 38-year MPS educator

Alternative studies program would become the 'Ron Janowicz House' and become fifth division at high school if School Committee approves

By Steve Freker

For the Malden Public Schools

One could consider the house system at Malden High Schools, in effect for decades now, as the MHS community's own personal "Mount Rushmore" when it comes to the names of the four divisions. If the Malden School Committee eventually grants a request made at its last meeting of the school year Monday, a fifth luminary may be added to the list.

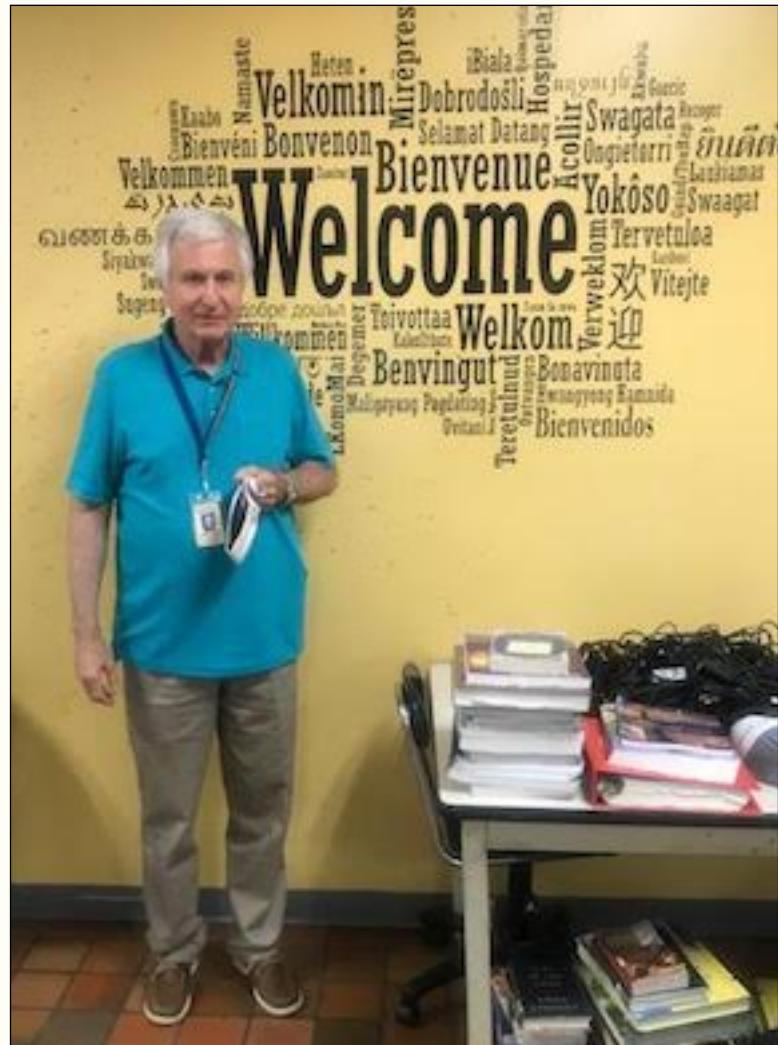
Longtime MHS Pathways and PACE program manager Ron Janowicz, who retired at the end of this school year on June 19, has mentored, counseled and assisted thousands of students to achieve their goals and attain success in his 38 years of service to the Malden Public Schools. In all, this past school year marked his 42nd in education.

At Malden High, the Pathways Program, established in that name over a decade ago, provides "within a single organizational unit, an array of educational, counseling, outreach, transitional programs, and services to students who require an alternative to the regular day program at Malden High School," according to its official description on the Malden Public Schools website.

Janowicz hailed across the district as 'Mr. J'

Janowicz, hailed across the school district affectionately by students and staff alike as "Mr. J," designed the present-day program, after spending about a quarter-century, beginning in the 1980s, supervising the alternative studies program at MHS. At the June 22 Malden School Committee meeting, MHS principal Chris Mastrangelo made a formal proposal to rename the Pathways Program the "Ron Janowicz House".

"Over his 42 years in education he has been a champion for all students, particularly students who had significant roadblocks in their lives," Mastrangelo said of Janowicz, in making his request. "Mr. J would do whatever it took to see that kids were successful. "He would meet them in their houses, the library, a coffee shop, or the hospital. He created after school hours to meet the needs of the kids," Mastrangelo added.



Longtime Pathways Program Coordinator Ron Janowicz retired June 19 after 38 years in the Malden Public Schools. **Steve Freker Photo/ MPS**

"His positive outlook on life is contagious and the genuine care for his students is evident." To measure the size of the honor proposed for the outgoing Janowicz, the existing four houses at MHS are named: Boyle, Brunelli, Holland and Jenkins.

Boyle House named for Arthur P. Boyle

The Boyle House is named in honor of former longtime headmaster Arthur P. Boyle, who led the school from the end of the 1960s through the early 1980s, as well as *Cont.on Page 8*

Superintendent Oteri's Letter on initial DESE Guidance on the Reopening of Schools in the Fall

**Members of the Malden Public Schools
Community:**

On June 25, Governor Baker's Office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released their initial guidance about reopening schools this fall. We are now reviewing the guidance to begin to understand how it impacts what we can do in Malden. We also acknowledge that these initial guidelines do not address every topic and that there will be additional guidance coming throughout the summer. (*Letter from Commissioner Riley is on Page 6*)

The full document can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/return-to-school/guidance.docx>, but here are some key components:

—This is the “Initial guidance.” There will be further guidance coming to us in July. Our leadership team and the re-entry advisory task force will need time to review the guidelines.

—The Guidance emphasizes that students returning to school is a primary objective.

—Current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults. •Preventive measures include masks/face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces

—Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above and for all adults; they are recommended for students in Grade 1 and below

—Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been established



We are working through these issues And it will require patience and understanding among us all. Districts will need to develop three separate plans - one for return to full in-person instruction with safety requirements, one for full remote learning, and one for hybrid learning that combines in-person and remote learning. Based upon the current medical situation, the expectation today is that students will return to full in-person instruction in September; however, that is subject to change based upon how the medical situation develops.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be more questions than answers at this time, and we will continue to communicate with you in the coming weeks and months. We also encourage you to read the full document, and if you have questions to please send them to our dedicated email address: 2020reopen@maldenps.org

Thank you for your patience and understanding,

John Oteri Superintendent

Remember to practice social distancing and proper hand washing. For more tips on how to stay safe during these times go to: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Nearly 2,000 participated in Malden Black Lives Matter March in an event led by Malden HS students



Clockwise from above, Supt. Oteri was n hand at the Malden BLM March. Crowd of nearly 2,000. Sign makes a point. 'Silence is Compliance'. Organizer Micaela Henry of MHS leads kneel of silence. Those of all ages, all genders, many races took part in the inspiring Malden BLM Msrch. Steve Freker Photos/For Malden Public Schools

Here's a look at the 2020-2021 MPS School Calendar

MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2020				
(0 Day)				
M	T	W	T	F
31*				

8/31* First Day for Teachers

SEPTEMBER 2020				
(19 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
	1*	2	3	X
X	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

9/1* Prof Dev Day - All Grds
9/2* First Day of School for
Grades PreK, 1-12
9/2-9/3 Kindergarten
Orientation/Screening
9/4 No School
9/7 Labor Day
9/8 First Day of School for
Kindergarten

OCTOBER 2020				
(21 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	(9)
X	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

10/9 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
10/12 Columbus Day
10/19 Late Entry Day MHS

NOVEMBER 2020				
(17 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3*	4	5	6
9	10	X	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	X	X
30				

11/2 Late Day Entry MHS
11/3* Prof Dev Day-All Grds
11/11 Veterans Day
11/25 11:00 Dismissal - Thanksgiving
11/26-27 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2020				
(17 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	X	X
X	X	X	X	

12/7 Late Entry MHS
12/23 11:00 Dismissal
12/24-1/1 Winter Vacation

JANUARY 2021				
(19 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				X
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	(15)
X	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1/4 School Resumes
1/11 Late Entry MHS
1/15 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
1/18 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2021				
(15 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	(5)
8	9	10	11	12
X	X	X	X	X
22	23	24	25	26

2/5 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
2/8 Late Entry MHS
2/15-19 February Vacation

MARCH 2021				
(22 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12*
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

3/8 Late Entry MHS
3/12 * Prof Dev Day-All Grds

APRIL 2021				
(17 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
X	X	X	X	X
26	27	28	29	30

4/2 11:00 Dismissal - Good Friday
4/5 Late Entry MHS
4/19-23 Spring Vacation

MAY 2021				
(20 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	(7)
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
X				

5/7 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
5/10 Late Entry MHS
5/31 Memorial Day

JUNE 2021				
(13 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	(4)	
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	

6/4 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
6/17 Last day w/o snow days (180 Days) - 11:00 Dismissal
6/24 Last day w/five snow days - 11:00 Dismissal

First Day for Teachers – Monday, August 31, 2020

Please note that five (5) additional days are built into the calendar in case of inclement weather

 Early Release PreK-12

 Late Entry Dates for High School

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE: The #1 priority of our response to the crisis caused by the pandemic has been the safety & well-being of our students and their families and that will not change

Continued from Page One

our own district's version of the Remote Learning Program, we also tackled the issue of "technology equity" by first contacting our Malden Public Schools families to determine their status and needs. Through the efforts of many, we then addressed these needs by providing Chromebooks as well as internet access to families requiring either or both. Food security was another key issue we identified early in our pandemic response. We immediately started a continuous and efficient free meal distribution program at two sites on opposite sides of the city and they are now providing nearly 1,000 meals to close to 500 Malden families every day. That safety-monitored, outdoor program will continue through the end of the summer.

Planning and coordination of end-of-school activities have always brought its own set of challenges and once again, we had to reinvent our approaches this year. Even though many of our normal end-of-year programs and traditions were canceled, due to COVID-19 precautions or guidelines, all of our schools made valiant and commendable efforts to hold some sort of celebrations that brightened the days of our students and their families. Most notable were alternative "moving on" and graduation ceremonies. We are very pleased that the signature event for our Malden High School Class of 2020 seniors, Graduation Day, will now be held on August 3, outdoors at Macdonald Stadium, albeit with restrictions on distancing and spectator attendance. We are hoping the climate and status of the pandemic allows it to go forward as planned on that date. **Continued on P.10**

DESE Commissioner Riley introduces initial guidance on Return-to-School and addresses dual issues of pandemic and social unrest here, across the nation

The following communication was addressed from Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Jeffrey Riley to Mass. school educators, administrators, caregivers of students and all the members of the Mass. schools community. In this June 25 letter, he updates the status of reopening/returning to schools in the fall. He also addresses the well-being of students and their families as they are affected by both the coronavirus pandemic and the unrest across the nation caused by the death of George Floyd and others.

Dear Dear Fellow Educators, School Administrators, Parents, and Community Members,

After a spring unlike any before, I write to you about our plans for the fall with the wellbeing of our students, teachers, staff, and communities firmly in mind. It is sobering to think of the sickness and fatalities caused by COVID-19 in our state, in our nation, and around the world. It also distressing to witness the murder of George Floyd and others and know that this is a reflection not of a single incident, but a long history of inequity. Through the lens of these two issues, we look at how to best open our schools this fall.

After weeks of discussion with many stakeholders, including our members of our Return-to- School Working Group, infectious disease physicians, pediatricians, and other public health experts; a thorough review of the medical literature; and evaluating what works best for our students, we want to start the school year with as many of our students as possible returning to in-person settings—safely. If the current positive public health metrics hold, we believe that when we follow critical health requirements, we can safely return to in-person school this fall with plans in place to protect all members of our educational community.

Part of our responsibility as educators, administrators, and parents is to do all that we can to help **Continued on P.10**



Commissioner Riley

The Malden Public Schools: 'Our Diversity is Our Strength'

The Malden school district is ranked #1 as the most culturally diverse by *niche.com* in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with Malden High School rated the #1 most culturally diverse secondary education school overall. Throughout the district, all educators, administrators and students are unified in our stated mission to cherish and embrace our diversity, striving for excellence in the classroom and beyond.



June is Pride Month in the U.S., recognizing the LGBTQ community and last year Supt. Oteri was able to be one of the leaders of a Pride Flag-raising outside MHS. This year's raising was held on June 2, photo at right. *Steve Freker Photos*

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Pride Flag was raised the first week of June to mark Pride Month at Malden High School.

A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

***IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMON
LANGUAGE USED, EXEMPLIFYING
THE BELIEFS, VALUES, STRENGTHS IN RELATIONSHIPS
AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY***

Malden School Committee considering request to rename the Pathways Program at Malden HS to 'Ron Janowicz House' for its retiring manager

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the boys basketball team to a pair of state titles. The newest MHS building bears his name as well. The Brunelli House is named for Donald Brunelli, a former teacher, department head, coach, and class advisor, who died suddenly at age 41 back in 1993. The oldest-standing MHS building bears his name as well.

Holland House is named for Marguerite Holland, an influential Malden School Committee member from the 1950s through the early 1970s and mother of former Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Holland.

Jenkins House (and the Jenkins Auditorium) are named for Thornton Jenkins, the longest-serving MHS principal in school history, at the helm 28 years (and parts of two World Wars), from 1915-1943.

Malden Superintendent of Schools John Oteri also had high praise for Janowicz at the June 22 meeting. "Personally, in my 30 years in the

"Personally, in my 30 years in the field of education, Ron Janowicz is one of the top two or three people I have met who has worked with students to the level of effectiveness he has had. He (Janowicz) will be an incredibly difficult act to follow. His name is synonymous with the Pathways Program. His dedication, patience and passion for our students is nothing short of inspiring."

—Malden Superintendent of Schools John Oteri

field of education, Ron Janowicz is one of the top two or three people I have met who has worked with students to the level of effectiveness he has had," Supt. Oteri said. "He (Janowicz) will be an incredibly difficult act to follow. His name is synonymous with the Pathways Program. His dedication, patience and passion for our students is nothing short of inspiring," Supt. Oteri added.

Janowicz came to the Malden schools in 1982, after four years as a special education teacher and sports coach in New Hampshire. He was hired to design and develop the Malden High School Alternative Program. After 10 years of leading the program, then housed off-site of MHS on Jackson Street in Malden Square, he moved on to create the transitions program at Malden High School, which he ran until 2010. In 2010

the Pathways Program began at Malden High School under Janowicz's direction.

A long reach of influence

MHS principal Mastrangelo told the members of the sheer reach of Janowicz's influence of his nearly four decades with the Malden Public Schools

"During his time in Malden (Janowicz) has worked with thousands of students. He remembers their names, their stories, their disappointments, and their accomplishments," Mastrangelo said. "Countless numbers of students have earned their diplomas because of his efforts and support. He has served as a mentor for all students, teachers, and administrators. Beyond that, he has served as an inspiration,

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Malden Public Schools Mission Statement

Malden Public Schools is a place where students are encouraged to follow their dreams and become well rounded members of our community. The Malden Public Schools prepare students to be independent thinkers and enthusiastic learners who: Work hard; Respect others; Cherish our diversity; Seek challenges; Discover and Develop their individual talents; Strive for academic excellence; and look to Demonstrate personal and social responsibility. Malden Public Schools graduates are prepared to be active participants in our economy and democracy.

The 'Ron Janowicz House' may be coming to Malden High in 2020-21

Continued from Page 8 he is what a teacher is supposed to be." In addition to assisting Mastrangelo in forwarding the naming request to the school committee, Supt. Oteri also said the administration is also considering a recommendation of the Barr Foundation to create a House Principal's position to oversee the Pathways and PACE programs. Janowicz had supervised them as a program manager. To that end, Supt. Oteri said the program manager position has been posted as a one-year, interim position, with the intention of the new House Principal position hopefully being in place for the 2021-22 academic year.

"In every sense of the word, he (Janowicz) is an angel on earth. He leads with his heart and at all times treats students and their families with respect," Supt. Oteri said, "and always with a smile."

"I can think of no better tribute than to officially rename the Pathways Program to The Ron Janowicz House," Mastrangelo said. "His name should be a reminder, to all that enter Malden High School, of what the concept of educating the whole child should be."

After School Committee members Adam Weldai and Jennifer Spadafora joined in expressing their own accolades for Janowicz, Weldai's motion to send the request to the Policy Subcommittee for review was approved unanimously.

The request will be discussed in September when the subcommittee meets next.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

for the 2020-2021 School Year is now available online at Malden Public Schools website located at www.maldenps.org
All forms and information are available on the website!



Your Opinion Matters
and we'd certainly like
to hear from you!



Please assist us in our Return to School planning with your input by taking part in a confidential, online survey. It is available on the Malden Public Schools website at: www.maldenps.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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As summer is now upon us, we invite all of our students and families to make full use of the resources that are part of a robust Summer Enrichment Program the Malden Public Schools is offering. There are many choices online and available on our website at www.maldenps.org. We continue to work closely with our own School Re-Entry Task Force and city and state leaders to develop a plan to return to classes in the fall. It has been formally announced that returning students to the classroom is the highest priority and we move forward with that goal in place. We miss our students dearly.

Racial equity and social justice are issues that continue to be a key focus of the Malden Public Schools and its administration. The events of this past month surrounding the national reaction to the murder of George Floyd have clearly illustrated the need for action. We are so proud of all of the students and staff members who played a role in one of the most impressive displays of social activism in the city of Malden's history, when nearly 2,000 participated on the Malden Black Lives Matter March in early June. Malden High's own Black Culture Club's officers planned and coordinated the March, which was inspiring and uplifting for myself and all others who took part. Malden CORE (Community Organizing for Racial Equity) hosted two remarkably moving virtual events, a citywide vigil for George Floyd and other victims nationwide, and then its traditional Juneteenth Celebration, marking the true abolition of slavery in 1865. Let us all continue to open our hearts and minds as we begin our summer break, listening to the stories and statements of all those who deserve a voice. I hope that all of you stay safe and healthy and I want to wish everyone a happy summer! **John Oteri-Superintendent**

COMMISSIONER'S LETTER

Cont. from Page 6

our children in this difficult time. As we all know, there is no substitute for the attention and engagement that is only possible with in-person learning. We can mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school programs and prevent the significant consequences of keeping students out of school and isolated. It will take all of us working together to make this successful.

DESE is providing initial guidance for school reopening this fall that prioritizes getting our students back to school in person—safely, following a comprehensive set of health and safety requirements. The 14-page initial guidance document may be viewed on the DESE website, www.doe.mass.edu. At the same time, DESE is requiring each district and school to also plan for remote learning and a hybrid school model, a combination of in-person and remote learning, should local conditions change this fall or winter.

The fall reopening guidance comes from a place of deep care and concern, with a focus on translating the public health data and evidence into practical application for school settings. We also acknowledge that it will likely elicit many new questions. We intend to address the most common questions in a running series of FAQs, along with additional specific topical guidance throughout the summer.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together to plan for our children's individual and collective success in the school year ahead.

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary

The Malden Public Schools Food Service Dept. WILL CONTINUE THROUGH the SUMMER MONTHS to provide free meals (Breakfast & Lunch) at two sites: Malden High @ Ferry St. entrance/CVS & Salemwood School, 529 Salem St. DAILY from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Both sites are DRIVE-UP and both meals may be received at once. Children do not have to be present @ the pickup site in order for families to receive the meals *NEW FOR SUMMER: Meals for the WEEKEND DAYS of Saturday & Sunday may be picked up on FRIDAYS