



# From the Desk of the Superintendent

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## Malden Public Schools adopts Remote Learning model for start of the 2020-21 academic year



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

The Malden Public Schools will begin the 2020-21 academic year with a Remote Learning Plan, following a unanimous vote of the Malden School Committee recently. The decision was made at a special meeting of the School

Committee called for the express purpose of determining which educational model our district would effect this fall, due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. Malden Superintendent Oteri had been working for months with central administration staff and an appointed Re-Entry Advisory Task Force to come up with options.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

**Greetings to all in the Malden Public Schools Community,**

This "year like no other" that has evolved from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has provided new and continued challenges through the summer months as the Malden Public Schools staff and administration have put our efforts on both assessing what has already taken place, as well as planning for the immediate future. As everyone is now aware, the Malden School Committee has instructed the district to adopt and implement a Remote Learning Plan for our MPS staff and students that will be robust, educationally intensive and one that will strive to ensure academic equity and integrity for Malden students. The safety, health and well-being of our students, staff and their families has driven each and every decision that has been made along *See P.6*



Superintendent John Oteri

# Malden School Committee votes unanimously on an all-Remote Learning Plan for our district

## *Malden Public Schools were second in Mass. to opt for Remote Learning to start year*

**By Steve Freker**

**For the Malden Public Schools**

Less than 24 hours after another nearby district declared the same, the Malden School Committee unanimously agreed with a recommendation by Mayor Gary Christenson, voting to follow a remote learning plan to start the school year.

In doing so, the Malden Public Schools became just the second district statewide to adopt a remote plan. Since the special meeting was held and the vote taken on August 6, a number of other districts around Massachusetts followed suit with remote learning plans, including Lynn and Medford, among others. Somerville was the first district to declare all-remote learning to start the school year, on August 4.

Malden Superintendent John Oteri and his staff had been working with a task force for the past several months in following Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) directives toward establishing options for a return to school plan. DESE had instructed districts across the state to come up with three options: Full in-person instruction; a hybrid model of in-person instruction and remote learning; and an all-remote learning program.

Supt. Oteri had made public a draft plan which focused on Malden's version of a hybrid learning plan, which featured one week of in-person learning followed by a week of remote learning. Within the past two weeks, Supt. Oteri also shared results of a



The Malden School Committee includes, top row, from left, members Robert McCarthy (Ward 2), Leonard Iovino (Ward 4), Chairperson and Mayor Gary Christenson, Michael Drummey (Ward 1), Adam Weldai (Ward 5). Front row, from left, Joseph Gray (Ward 6), Michelle Luong (Ward 7), Jennifer Spadafora (Ward 3)

citywide survey which drew over 3,600 responses. The Superintendent also hosted a series of Community Listening sessions in which parents and other stakeholders were able to share and input their opinions on how school should proceed in the fall. Recently, Mayor Christenson, who is also chairperson of the Malden School Committee, shared on social media a copy of a **Cont. Page 8**

# Superintendent Oteri's *Letter to MPS Families on Remote Learning Decision for Reopening of Schools*

**Dear Malden Public School Families,**

On Thursday, August 6, the Malden School Committee unanimously voted to begin the 2020-2021 school year in a remote manner. We appreciate all of the thoughts, feelings, and feedback that we have received from our families. Much has happened over the last few months, and I am writing to provide some context and share with you the details of the work that continues to happen over the summer weeks.

As we began to plan for all possible scenarios for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, we sought out input from families and commissioned a re-entry task force with a cross section of key stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, representatives from the facilities department, and city health and safety officials. Understanding that the pandemic has affected our diverse learning community in so many ways, we wanted to hear firsthand from the many stakeholders who experienced teaching and learning during this challenging time. To gain a sense of needs that would inform our work, we launched a survey that generated 3,615 responses from families. More recently, we organized three listening forums where participants offered comments about the fears, challenges, and even successes that have emerged during this period. Whether through comments in the survey or statements made at a listening forum, one theme emerged time and time again: the importance of SAFETY; specifically, the safety of our children during this pandemic. As superintendent, and in collaboration with the Malden School Committee, we have been guided by a firm commitment to the health and safety of both our Malden Public Schools families and staff. Malden and neighboring communities are witnessing an uptick in COVID-19 cases and rising key metrics. Wisely, our School Committee voted to begin the year remotely.

What will this mean for families in September? The official start to the school year will now be Wednesday, September 16. For incoming kindergarten students, screenings will take place on Thursday and Friday, September 17 and 18; over the next few weeks, we will continue to consider ways to accomplish this task in light of the remote start to the year.



The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has reduced the number of required school days from 180 to 170 and has designated the first ten days of the school calendar for staff professional development.

In order to guarantee that our families are able to access the remote learning, we are taking steps to ensure that every student, PreK-12 will have a Chromebook or device to use. In addition, we are making plans to offer training and assistance in using those devices. Knowing that internet access is also essential, we will be providing a hotspot to families in need of one. We will begin a distribution program before school starts.

This spring we were all thrown together into a period of "crisis learning," while we reacted to the pandemic and the changes it brought to our community. Our amazing staff, families, and students came together to make the most of that situation in many creative and beneficial ways. Now, we are confident that as we start the 2020-2021 school year in a more thoughtful and proactive manner, our remote learning will be very robust and will more closely resemble the full day of school our students and families are used to. There will be a combination of synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (independent) learning along with the needed supports for all of our students.

As we continue to develop our remote learning plan and negotiate and finalize the details with the Malden Education Association, we continue to maintain that our first priority is and always will be the safety *Continued Next Page*

**MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH DAILY PROGRAM:**

Nearly 500 free meals per day are distributed at two school sites in this city. The program is expected to continue as fall arrives and the school year begins.

Steve Freker Photo/Malden Public Schools



**SUPERINTENDENT OTERI'S LETTER to the COMMUNITY on REMOTE LEARNING DECISION by vote of the MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

*Continued from Previous Page* of our community. We will also be aiming to provide services in-person for our highest needs students, in a safe and productive manner.

We appreciate your partnership, continued patience and understanding as we do our best to work through this unprecedented challenge. Expect to see regular updates from the district over the next few weeks, including but not limited to the new academic calendar, technology updates, food service updates, and other relevant information for our families. We look forward to partnering with you throughout this process and making sure the experience for our students is the best that it can be.

Stay safe,  
John Oteri

The Malden Public Schools Food Service Dept. **CONTINUES 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 **REMEMBER: Meals for the WEEKEND DAYS of Saturday & Sunday may be picked up on FRIDAYS**

# MALDEN FAMILIES: Please take the time to complete the 2020 U.S. Census Form *(English, P.10)*

## 被计算在内



在2010年的美国人口普查中，儿童的人数被极大地低估。在五岁以下的儿童中，有十分之一以上的儿童未被计入。如果我们未计入儿童人数，支持儿童福祉的计划——例如托儿、学校、医疗保险、住房和公共交通——会在接下来的十年（即儿童的整个童年期）中失去所需的资金。

### 什么是人口普查？

美国宪法要求政府每十年对居住在美国的每个人进行人口统计。首先，每个家庭将在三月中旬收到美国人口普查局的邮件。如果在四月下旬尚未收到家庭的答复，人口普查工作人员会亲自跟进。

### 为什么人口普查很重要？

- ✘ 人口普查信息用于分发逾1.5万亿美元的联邦资金，包括用于美国每个社区的学校、医院和道路的资金。
- ✘ 人口普查用于确定社区在美国国会、州议会、甚至校董会中的代表人数。
- ✘ 人口普查有助于确定您的学校能领到多少资金，以便减少班级人数、支持教育工作者、提供免费和减价餐饮以及帮助有特殊需求的学生。当儿童及其朋友被计入后，所有的儿童都会受益。

### 人口普查很安全。

- ✘ 人口普查信息仅用于统计目的，以便更好地了解我们的人口和社区。
- ✘ 联邦法律严格禁止将人口普查信息用于执法、移民执法或与个人或家庭相关的任何原因。披露保密信息的人口普查工作人员可被判处五年监禁和25万美元的罚款。

### 如何被计入？

- ✘ 计算住在你们家中的每个人，包括任何年龄或家庭关系的人，尤其是在这些人可能不会在其他地方被计入的情况下。婴儿应当被计入（即使仍然住在医院），与您同住的侄子/外甥、继女、祖母/外祖母或孙子/外孙也应被计入。
- ✘ 人口普查很简单。家庭可以寄回填妥的表格或以打电话或在线方式填写表格。可提供用英语和另外12种语言编写的表格。可提供用60种语言编写的人口普查指南。

**安全、重要、必要**  
请今天就填写人口普查表：  
**2020census.gov**  
用拨打免费电话的方式填表  
用邮资已付邮件寄回表格

由美国教育协会发布。  
Nea.org/Census  
#WeCount

***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**

those being made in the coming weeks and months. Planning, research, discussions regarding the course of action for the Malden Public Schools as we face these historic times have been continuous and basically non-stop this summer. At the guidance of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) we did, with the help of our Re-Entry Advisory Task Force, come up with the three learning model options for our district; All in-person; hybrid mix of in-person and remote learning; and all-remote learning. The decision by our School Committee determined our path for the impending start of our school year with a remote learning model. We have been heartened by the high interest shown by MPS families in our reopening plans. Most recently we conducted an extensive reopening survey with nearly 4,000 responses, the most to any citywide survey on any subject in recent memory. We also sponsored a series of community listening opportunities for students' families which also drew many participants. I would like to personally thank all of those who took the time to give input, feedback and their own opinion on which routes we should follow in reopening our schools. Your voice matters and we heard it loud and clear. As the summer winds down and back-to-school approaches, please know that we wish you all health, safety and a great finish to your vacation as we continue to navigate through uncharted waters with the success and achievement of our students as the top priority. —Supt. John Oteri

***To our Parents and Staff: Please take advantage of updates***

**DESE Commissioner: Mass. educators will get 10 additional days to prep for Return-to-School; School Year is now reduced to 170 days of instruction**

***The following information was provided by Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Jeffrey Riley through the DESE Website: [www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)***

Educators and staff are essential to our preparations for a safe and successful fall school reopening. Following collaborative discussions with the Massachusetts Teachers' Association, AFT-Massachusetts, and the Boston Teachers' Union, Commissioner Riley announced today that school districts will have 10 additional days at the start of the 2020-2021 school year to prepare for the reopening of schools.



**Commissioner Riley**

To provide sufficient training for educators and staff, Commissioner Riley is reducing the 180 day and student learning time requirements for the 2020-21 school year to 170 days and 850 hours (for elementary schools) and 935 hours (for secondary schools), so long as districts begin providing instruction to students no later than September 16, 2020.

If a district is unable to meet the September 16, 2020 requirement, it may apply for a waiver. Any request for a waiver should have been submitted by email to [reopeningk12@mass.gov](mailto:reopeningk12@mass.gov) no later than Friday, August 14, 2020 and must include a full description of the justification for the request.

# 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.



The Malden Recreation Department started a new program for middle school aged students, shown above, to teach basketball skills in appropriate drills. MPD School Resource Officer Trent Headley, right, and other officers are instructors. *Steve Freker Photo/MPD*

## 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 votes for Remote Learning plan to start

Continued from Page 2

letter he had sent to his School Committee colleagues. In the letter, the Mayor laid out his opinion that Malden should at least start the school year in an all-remote learning mode.

The Mayor cited safety considerations, noting that while the number of cases had lowered considerably in Malden and around the state this summer, he stated "the COVID-19 pandemic is still very much a threat."

Mayor Christenson reiterated this opinion at the meeting Thursday and was joined in his endorsement of remote learning to start the year by his fellow members, including Adam Weldai, who is also an educator and administrator in another

"Safety is our number one priority. "Until we can ensure safety for our students and staff, remote learning has to be in place. That is the best option."

—Malden School Committee member Adam Weldai

school district. "Safety is our number one priority," Weldai said. "Until we can ensure safety for our students and staff, remote learning has to be in place. That is the best option."

The members also made clear that some segments of the school population, including some special needs students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELL) and others could still be considered for in-person learning plans this fall.

After the unanimous vote, the School Committee then took a second vote, establishing Wednesday, September 16 as the

first day of school for 2020-21. Originally, school had been scheduled to begin on September 1. Supt. Oteri told the School Committee he would have further information on the new all-remote learning plan at the next meeting in late August, before school opens.

*A copy of the re-entry plan the Supt. Oteri submitted on behalf of the Malden Public Schools to DESE by the established deadline is available for review on the MPS website: [www.malden.ps.org](http://www.malden.ps.org)*

## 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.

# Many participants in MPS Return to School survey, Community Listening sessions on re-entry

By Steve Freker  
For the Malden Public Schools

The outreach efforts of the Malden Public Schools to get feedback and insight from the families it serves were very successful this summer.

A Return-to-school survey for parents was formulated by Superintendent John Oteri and his central administration cabinet drew over 3,600 responses. As a followup, Supt. Oteri and staff hosted a series of three Community Listening sessions, held in a virtual Zoom



format, which also drew many participants. “Both the survey and the Community Listening segments were extremely valuable in helping us get the pulse of the community as to their concerns and opinions of reopening the Malden Public Schools,” Supt. Oteri said. “It helps us in the present and will help us in the future as we continue to develop and implement strategy and plans.”

## Play Ball!

Salemwood School 5th grader Kendrick Noelsaint and his dad, Rodens, getting ready for Malden Youth Baseball game at Bruce Field recently. Kendrick’s older brother, Clifton, is captain of the Malden High baseball team! Good luck in the playoffs! *Steve Freker Photo*

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**for the 2020-2021 School Year is now available online at Malden Public Schools website located at [www.maldenps.org](http://www.maldenps.org) All forms and information are available on the website!**

An accurate Census count is critical to local & state school funding by the federal government

# BE COUNTED



Young people were drastically undercounted in the 2010 U.S. Census—which missed more than 1 in 10 children under the age of five. When we fail to count children, the programs that support their well-being—such as childcare, schools, health insurance, housing, and public transportation—lose out on needed funds for the next 10 years, an entire childhood.

## What is the census?

The U.S. Constitution requires the government to count everyone who lives in the United States every ten years. To start the count, each household will receive a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau by mid-March. If households don't reply by late April, a Census employee will follow up in person.

## Why is the census important?

- ✘ Census information is used to distribute more than \$1.5 trillion in federal funds, including funding for schools, hospitals, and roads in every community.
- ✘ The census is used to determine how communities are represented in the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, and even on school boards.
- ✘ The census helps determine how much money your school receives to reduce class size, support educators, offer free and reduced meals, and help students with special needs. All children gain when they and their friends are counted.

## The census is safe.

- ✘ Census information is used for statistical purposes only, to better understand our population and communities.
- ✘ Federal law strictly prohibits using census

information for law enforcement, immigration enforcement, or any reason related to an individual or family. Census employees who disclose confidential information can be punished by 5 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

## How to get counted?

- ✘ Count everyone who stays in your home, whatever their age or relationship, especially if they might not be counted somewhere else. Babies count (even if still in the hospital), and so does your nephew, stepdaughter, grandmother, or grandchild who stays with you.
- ✘ The census is easy. Households can complete the form by return mail, by phone, or online. Forms are available in English and 12 other languages. Census guides are available in 60 languages.

**Safe. Important. Necessary.**

**Fill Out Your Census Today**

- ✘ At [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)
- ✘ By Phone, toll free
- ✘ By Mail, postage paid

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Nea.org/Census #WeCount