



From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume IV No.3 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER September 30, 2020

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



Chromebook Central: Last shipment of devices arrives earlier than expected; All MPS students in K-12 now have devices

Due to a unexpected earlier arrival than hoped for series of shipments from Dell, plus a well-orchestrated yeoman's effort by district administrators & directors, all MPS students now have Chromebook devices to use in their homes.

It's a start..

Malden district's highest needs students will return to classrooms

By Steve Freker

For the Malden Public Schools

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic forced a nationwide shutdown of school

classrooms in all of the schools for "live," in-person learning on Tuesday, October 13. It will mark the first time in seven months that

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all in the Malden Public Schools Community,

There is a lot to be thankful for these past couple of weeks and plenty of people who deserve our gratitude. To call all the hard work, dedication and commitment our entire Malden Public Schools staff put into the planning for the reopening of our school system a monumental effort might be an understatement. Here in Malden we joined school districts across our nation in essentially creating *See P.6*



Superintendent John Oteri

Malden Public Schools educators participated in extensive training on social justice, equity, LGBTQ issues

Nationally-recognized experts Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson and Jeff Perrotti led sessions

By Steve Freker

For the Malden Public Schools

Jeff Perrotti has deep roots in the Malden Public Schools and its continuing goal of developing and maintaining a platform for nurturing a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ students, as well as those of all identities.

Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson is an educational, social and racial equity strategist that is deeply committed to the study of culture, innovation, and adult development.

Both are nationally-recognized, acclaimed experts in their fields and each led an intensive, well-received developmental training session for Malden Public Schools (MPS) staff members as part of a 10-day program overall.

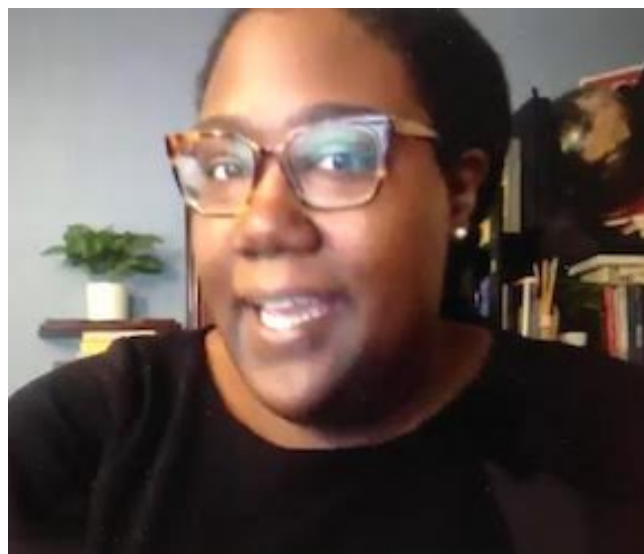
10 days of training and Professional Development

The 10 days of training and Professional Development also included substantial sessions on topics such as safety and health protocols, recognizing signs of child sexual and physical abuse and other social-emotional issues.

Also included were a number of sessions on theory, practices and "nuts and bolts" issues associated with distance learning, in concert with Malden's decision to use an all-remote learning model of instruction to start the school year.

Perrotti is an Ohio native and a 37-year psychologist and faculty member at Harvard University. He is also the Founding Director of the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students.

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Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson



Jeff Perrotti

Professional Development training centered on key topics as school year opened for MPS educators

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He was a student in Catholic schools growing up

He said being a student in Catholic schools growing up made it a bit easier being a gay teen as the nuns and others were intuitively supportive, to an extent.

He described the nuns who looked out for him as he was outgoing, but not very athletic kid. One of them was Sister Nicole, who arranged one day to have a student-athlete teach him how to throw a football.

"Most kids know they are gay by age 10, and come out when they are 16 or 17. When I was in middle school, I always found support, but I also always knew my sexuality had to remain a secret," Perrotti said in his presentation. "Secrecy makes your world seem a lot smaller. You walk around thinking you deserve less in life, that you are supposed to settle for less, That's why it's important to see visible signs of support. That's how you challenge negative stereotypes so that young people know they're not alone." Perrotti noted the annual Pride Flag-Raising at Malden High School and the acceptance of the gay-straight Rainbow Lions Club at Malden High School, that has now formed branches in two of the K-8 schools as positive. "Malden gets it and is regarded as a welcoming place for LGBTQ students. Now we have to work to maintain those elements of safety and trust."

Malden Superintendent of Schools John Oteri, who called himself a longtime colleague and friend of Perrotti, was highly complimentary in his introductions of Perrotti and Dr. Amante-Jackson before each of the developmental training sessions.



Comparative lesson on life in America

In introducing Dr. Amante-Jackson's presentation, Supt. Oteri used his own family as a comparative lesson on what people of color face in today's America. "I have two sons, aged 21 and 18, and I just don't have the same talk with them when they leave the house as our friends who are people of color have with their kids. That's the cold reality people of color live with every day," the Superintendent said.

"We in the public school system are often charged with rectifying every social ill that's out there," he added, "and we accept that daunting challenge, doing so in a way that will be equitable and just to all of those students and families we serve.Schools.

Dr. Amante-Jackson's training session centered on three main themes for the educators she faced:

- It's 'OK to not be OK' and that it is simply not possible to fix everything. Perfection does not exist and it's an unattainable goal.

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Malden's highest needs students will return to classrooms for in-person learning beginning Tuesday, Oct. 13 Continued from Page One

has been in the works for months, for a number of reasons. Supt. Oteri said, most notably, he and his central administration cabinet have been aware that educators and parents have expressed frustration at the difficulty high needs students have encountered in the distance learning model. Distance learning, also referred to as remote learning, supplanted traditional, in-person learning in mid-March when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

Malden officials now refer to that swift changeover to remote learning, where educators taught classes through Chromebooks and laptop computers, as well as iPhones, as "crisis learning". Over this past summer, many hours of work was put into developing a highly effective, much more robust remote learning plan for all students, Supt. Oteri told the School Committee. But still, the plan has remained for the highest needs students to return to in-person learning as soon as possible. Those students categorized as "high needs" include those who are substantially separate intellectually and/or physically challenged; and some of the students enrolled in the Pathways alternative learning programs citywide. As of the October 5 School Committee meeting, a total of 198 high needs students were expected to be welcomed back to the

About 275 students districtwide met the DESE criteria. This included students from all seven Malden Public Schools (MPS) buildings. "We are excited about this and looking forward to having our highest needs students back," MacDonald said.

MacDonald told the School Committee members that parents of the high needs students were all contacted individually and offered the option of coming to school in-person, or staying with remote learning.

"Initially, about 55 percent of the parents and caregivers chose to come back (to in-person classrooms). There's been a lot of movement over the past few weeks," she said.

In response to a question from Ward Three School Committee member Jennifer Spadafora, MacDonald confirmed all returning high needs students would be attending classes in their regularly assigned schools, not in a central location. "We had to shuffle a few of the classrooms, but students will be attending class in the schools they were originally assigned." Supt. Oteri added the district was also advised to keep the students and their originally-assigned buildings by Malden Health Department Director Chris Webb for safety reasons, based on limiting travel and maintaining social distancing.

The Malden Public Schools 2020-2021 Academic Year began on Wednesday, September 16. All students began the school year with a Remote Learning Plan. Get up-to-date information on all schools news and updates on our website:

www.maldenps.org

Free!

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASS

at your own home
via Zoom

Wednesdays:
1:00-2:00pm

NEW



To register e-mail: mplenglishclass@gmail.com

The Malden Public Library is hosting a FREE English Conversation Class for adults every Wednesday from 1-2pm via Zoom. The instructors will discuss daily life & learn new vocabulary. Learn English at home on your computer, phone, or tablet. You must register for the class. E-mail Stacy at: mplenglishclass@gmail.com

In September we celebrated Labor Day



It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare and retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label.

Former President Barack Obama

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*

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an entirely new method of educating our students, one in which we have confidence and trust. Our district wanted to have all of our students back in the classroom this fall and that will continue to be our goal. However, due to concerns over health and safety and with an abundance of caution, the Malden School Committee gave us plenty of notice with an early August vote to begin our school year in an all-remote learning format. Once again I would like to thank the 30-plus individuals who served on our Re-Entry Advisory Committee as well as the members of the central cabinet and our district's directors for the untold hours they spent in preparing us for our reopening. We started school on September 16 and after a few minor glitches, we have gotten off to a positive start. There are several reasons for that strong start, beginning with the collaborative, team effort these past two weeks which led to the district-wide distribution of several thousand Chromebooks so that, at this time, all of our students in grades K-12 now have use of their own devices. Thanks to some relentless efforts by our Business Manager Toni Mertz, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly Chase and our Director of Instructional Technology Natalia Brennan, we were able to get these Chromebooks delivered earlier than expected. Our original vendor was unable to deliver, but we were able to receive shipments directly from the manufacturer, get them unpacked, programmed and distributed to our K-4 students, who had been awaiting them. Thanks to all who helped in this effort and let's keep working together to continue our strong start. —Supt. John Oteri

Please take advantage of updates and other information related to Re-Entry to the new school year and other plans for the Malden Public Schools during the COVID-19 crisis, detailed on Twitter (@MaldenPublic), and on our website (maldenps.org).



CHROMEBOOK CENTRAL— Supt. Oteri was on hand for the unpacking and programming of thousands of new Chromebooks for distribution to Grades K-4. Steve Freker Photo/ For the Malden Public Schools

We Welcome Rick Rogers to Malden Public Schools as Interim Principal at the Early Learning Center



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.

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15-October 15



2020 Theme: Hispanics: Be Proud of Your Past, Embrace the Future

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

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— Humility is not a sign of weakness. Humility is not just about being humble. Humility is the ability to say "I don't know" and "Help me to understand". If everyone thinks you know, they will judge you and hold you accountable. Build a bridge of curiosity that leads you to ask "Why don't I know that?"

Working together to create an ethos

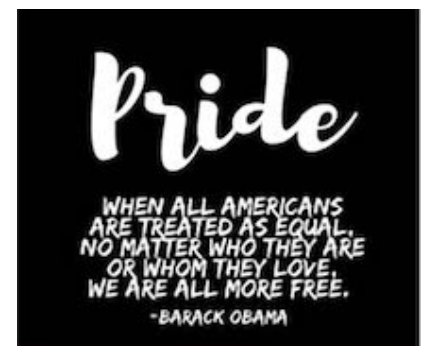
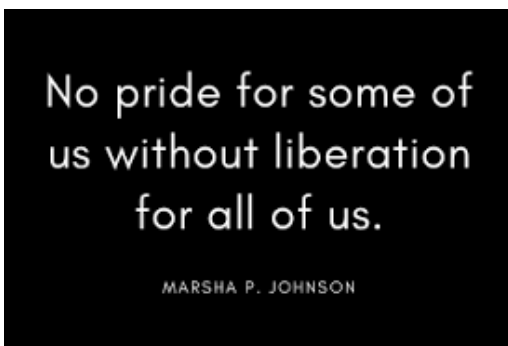
— Work together to create an ethos using shared wisdom, communication and end the actions of assigning blame to people and attempting to seek closure in most matters, when that goal is not attainable.

In gearing her session toward a staff that is dealing with preparing for a school year in the midst of a pandemic, and the myriad of challenges it presents, Dr. Amante-Jackson stressed that self-care is critical before being able to assist others.

"If you deplete yourself, there is no 'you' to teach and there is no 'you' to help others. We have been taught that to focus on ourselves, it is selfish. That is wrong!" Dr. Amante-Jackson said. In taking steps to build equity as well and social and educational justice, Dr. Amante-Jackson said building empathy through developing an ability to "understand someone else's lived experiences that were not our own" is a key.

'It's hard to say 'I don't know''

"Ask questions, answer questions, make humble inquiries in situations where you do not know the answer nor or how to find it," she said. "Get to the 'why' of the way you feel. The 'whys' will impact people, not the 'hows' and the 'whats'." "It's hard to say 'I don't know" — we all strive to be an expert, to have expertise— but you can't be an expert in most matters," Dr. Amante-Jackson said. "Lean into discomfort and the state of being uncomfortable," she added. "If equity is not uncomfortable, it is not working properly." Supt. Oteri said Dr. Amante-Jackson would be continue to be consulting on a number of initiatives regarding diversity, equity and inclusion as the school year progressed.



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.

Free meals (breakfast and lunch) are available at ALL FIVE K-8 Schools and @ Malden HS, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Malden Public Schools continues to provide free meals, every weekday, Monday through Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at all five of our K-8 schools: Beebe School, Ferryway School, Forestdale School, Linden School, Salemwood School and Malden High School. Also, on Fridays, free meals for the weekend days (Saturday and Sunday) can be picked up. More information is available at: www.maldenps.org.



Congratulations, David!

Serving as a Class Officer for the past two years, Malden High School senior David Lombardi is also a three-sport student-athlete who excels in the classroom. Now he will represent our district on the statewide level with the MIAA.

DAVID LOMBARDI



2020 - 2021

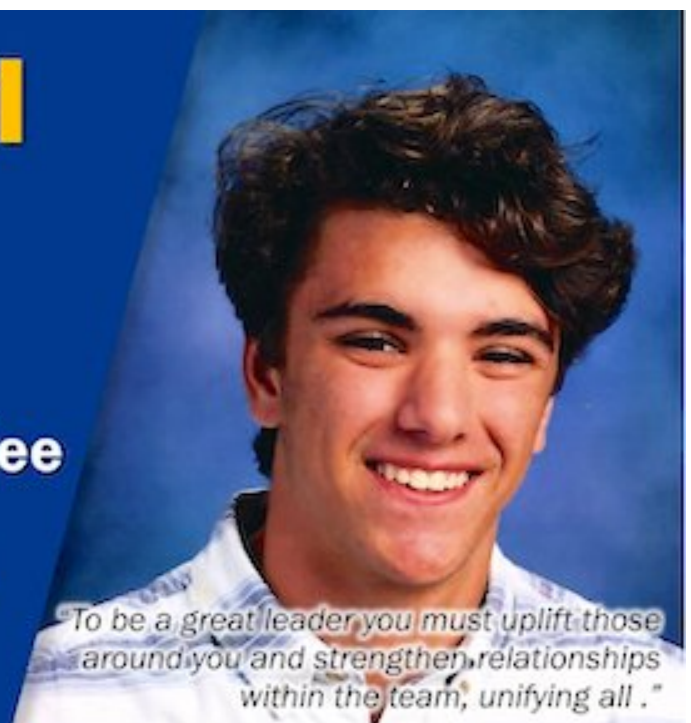
Student Advisory Committee

Malden High School

Sports: Soccer, Swimming, Men's Volleyball

Favorite Foods: Raviolis

Favorite Subjects: Biology



"To be a great leader you must uplift those around you and strengthen relationships within the team, unifying all."

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
- ✘ By Phone, toll free
- ✘ By Mail, postage paid

Published by the National Education Association.
Nea.org/Census #WeCount