

# MPS ROCKS!

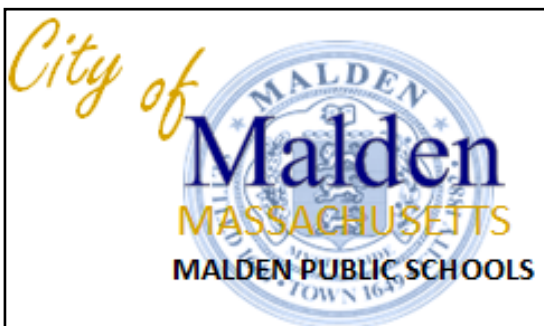
2023-2024

Vol. II No. 2

November-December



**Our Malden Public Schools district is active & vibrant!**



Bringing the **GOOD NEWS**  
from our District to the  
**Students, Families & Staff**  
of the Malden Public Schools

# From the Desk of the Superintendent

## Malden Public Schools had many 2023 End of Year District Highlights

### Connecting Families, Empowering Students, Building Futures

#### Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are thrilled to share some bright spots and developments within Malden Public Schools. Our commitment to enhancing the educational experience for your children remains steadfast, and we are excited to highlight some of our significant improvements of the ongoing School Year 2023-2024:

#### 1. Streamlining Handbooks for Simplicity and Clarity

We have consolidated five different handbooks—PreK, K-8, 9-12, After/Before School, and Athletics—into one comprehensive PreK-12 handbook. This unified resource aims to provide you with a clear understanding of our policies, procedures, and expectations across all grade levels.



Supt. Noriega-Murphy

#### 2. Expanded Program of Studies

We have developed a comprehensive PreK-12 Program of Studies. Previously, this resource was only available for high school students. Now, it provides a holistic view of the educational journey from early learning through high school, enabling better academic planning and continuity.

#### 3. Equitable Middle School Honors Program

Our newly developed Honors Program for middle school ensures equitable opportunities for all students to excel academically, fostering an inclusive learning environment where each child can thrive.

#### 4. Upgraded Curriculum Across All Grades

Collaboratively selecting, purchasing, and implementing curriculum enhancements for PreK-12 ensures that our students receive a high-quality, consistent education aligned with evolving educational standards.

### Progress Toward MCAS Targets

#### Strong Average Student Growth Scores (SGP) in K-8 Schools

School	2023 Math SGP	2023 ELA SGP
Beebe	51.5	50.3
Ferryway	52.4	51.1
Forestdale	48.6	51.9
Linden	55.1	53.7
Salemwood	53.6	50.1

SGP (Student Growth Percentile) is a measure of how much students learned compared to their "peers" across the state - "peers" are students in the same grade with a similar MCAS score in 2022.

### Steady Progress in K-8 Literacy

#### 3-Year Longitudinal i-Ready Data

- Percentages of students performing at or above grade-level at each benchmarking period.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
SY21-22	32%	40%	48%
SY22-23	31%	40%	51%
SY23-24	31%	40%	—

### Steady Progress in K-8 Mathematics

#### 3-Year Longitudinal K-8 IXL Data

- Percentages of students performing at or above grade-level at each benchmarking period.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
SY21-22	33%	40%	43%
SY22-23	43%	45%	48%
SY23-24	43%	47%	—

#### 5. Enhanced Communication Channels

We have opened direct lines of communication for students, caregivers, staff, and community members to connect with the Superintendent via text. This initiative aims to improve accessibility and responsiveness to the needs of our school community.

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# Malden Public Schools 2023 End of Year District Highlights

## 6. Adaptations at the Early Learning Center

Changes have been implemented at the Early Learning Center to better accommodate the needs of both students and staff, ensuring a supportive and nurturing environment for our youngest learners.

## 7. Media Center Specialists Enhancing Information Access

Our media center specialists are now equipped to assist in navigating the new methods of accessing information, ensuring that students have the resources they need to thrive in a digital learning environment.

## 8. Strengthened Campus Safety

We have hired hall monitors and a Dean of Students to bolster safety measures and support a secure and conducive learning environment for all students.

## 9. Additional Administrative Support

Newly hired assistant principals play a pivotal role in supporting school leadership, fostering student success, and maintaining a positive school culture.

## 10. Upholding Our Vision and Mission

We remain dedicated to continuing the vision, mission, and district strategic plan, ensuring that our actions align with our shared goals for educational excellence.

## 11. Upcoming Website Revamp

A new website is currently in progress, designed to provide a more user-friendly and informative online experience for students, parents, caregivers, staff, and the community.

## 12. Revamped Superintendent's Report

The new format for the Superintendent's Report, offers a more comprehensive and insightful overview of district happenings and achievements.

## 13. After-School Meetings with Educators/Staff

Optional after-school meetings have been organized, providing a platform for educators and staff to collaborate, exchange ideas, and further enhance our instructional methods for the benefit of our students.

## 14. Student Engagement Initiatives

We are actively engaging with various student groups to gather their valuable suggestions and insights, ensuring their voices are heard and integrated into our ongoing improvements.

## Progress — Chronic Absenteeism

### Exceeded DESE Target for Chronic Absenteeism at ALL Schools

Chronic Absenteeism		Outcome
School	2022	2023
Beebe	26.7%	18.3%
Ferryway	28.6%	23.1%
Forestdale	29.2%	23.1%
Linden	30.7%	19.9%
Salemwood	36.5%	28.1%
MHS	46.4%	42.5%

Chronic absenteeism is defined by DESE as the percentage of students missing 10% or more of the days enrolled (e.g., 18 or more days absent if enrolled the entire 180 day school year). This includes excused and unexcused absences as this is about the amount of missed instruction, not the reason for the absence.

## Progress — Multilingual Learners

### Percentage of Multilingual Learners Making Progress Towards English language proficiency exceeded DESE Target - High School

2022	2023	Outcome
11.4%	21.2%	Exceeded Target

## 15. Building Partnerships with Local Authors

We are continuing our initiative to build partnerships with local authors. These collaborations aim to bring diverse literary experiences to our students, fostering a love for reading and storytelling.

## 16. Credit Recovery Program

Our new Credit Recovery Program provides students with opportunities to regain academic credits, supporting their journey to graduation.

## 17. Robust Professional Development

We have invested in comprehensive professional development opportunities to empower our educators with the latest instructional methodologies and resources.

## 18. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

We are excited to present keynote speakers focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity aiming to enrich our school community's understanding and to foster an inclusive environment.

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## Plenty of 'PEP': Students rally for rivalry football game @ MHS



Malden High freshman Ryan Bowdridge is all smiles at the annual Pre-Thanksgiving football game Pep Rally at Malden High School. A full morning of celebration, games and competition took place in the Finn Gym the day before the big game.



'NEDLAM' takes a moment at the Annual Pep Rally to greet Christian Cassion, who missed most of this football season with an injury. Malden Public Schools Photos/ Steve Freker

## 'Feeling Accepted': Malden author takes new book to our schools



Malden author James Norris, left, shown with Salemwood Principal Van Huynh, visited K-8 schools for a second year in a row to speak with 2nd graders about his new book "Feeling Accepted". Mr. Norris was a former student of Principal Van Huynh at Malden Public Schools." Courtesy Malden Public Schools

## Basketball Seventh Grade Travel Boys

The Malden Seventh Grade Boys Travel Team is off to a good start this season. The team practices in the Salemwood K-8 School and plays its home games in the Finn Gym at Malden High School. The team is coached by Justin Bell, shown at left. Coach Bell is an MHS alumnus and former league All-Star guard. Go, Malden! Malden Public Schools Photo/ Steve Freker





## Culture Day at Malden HS had pride and creativity on display



Erickah Macharia

Many students took part in Culture Day during Spirit Week @ MHS. Anthony has Puerto Rico's Flag at right.

Steve Freker Photos/ For Malden Public Schools



## Beebe School First Graders make rainbows come to life

First grade students at the Beebe School loved taking part in this artistic endeavor recently, making rainbows come alive in a group project. *Courtesy/ G. Tannetta Photo*



## Linden STEAM Academy hosts Curiosity Cube

Student learn how food and water can get contaminated as well as how to identify problems and solutions. *Courtesy Photos*



## Children's Author Visits Salemwood



Fred Gracely, author of the young adult/ urban fantasy genre series, "Misfits Magic," recently visiting the Salemwood K-8 School and spoke to fifth graders about his writing. The students were very appreciative of the visit and were thrilled when Mr. Gracely generously provided them with complimentary copies of his books for their reading pleasure. *Courtesy/ Salemwood K-8*



## Holiday Craft Fair and Toy Swap draws students, families to Beebe



**SNOWFLAKE DECORATIONS**



**TOYS to SWAP**



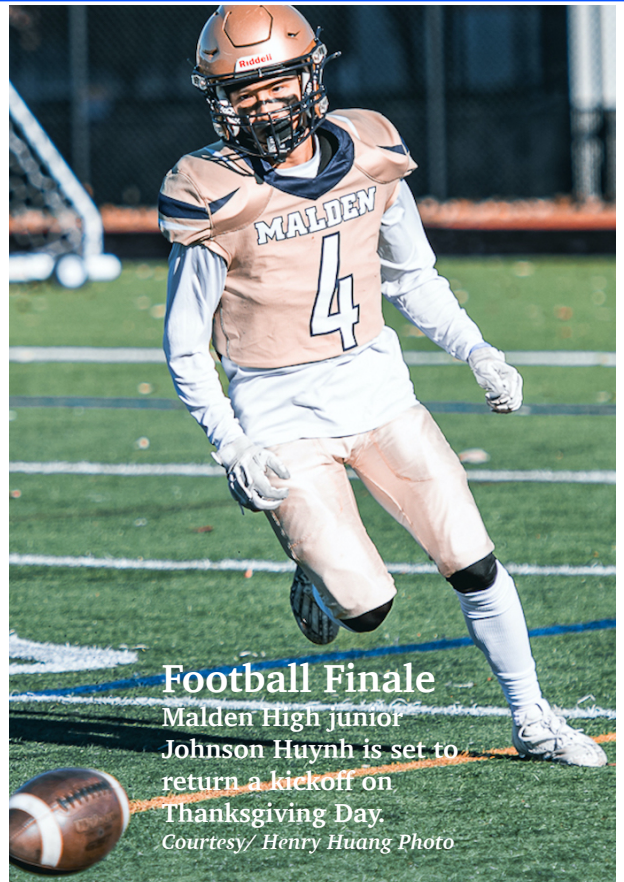
**SEN. LEWIS VIEWS ORIGAMI**

**ALL PHOTOS ABOVE/ Courtesy/ Henry Huang**

## 50 Years serving district for Jeanne Marquardo



Recognizing 50 years serving the Malden Public Schools, l-r, Supt. Ligiia Noriega-Murphy, Jeanne Marquardo, MPS Director of Wellness and Athletics Charlie Conefrey.



### Football Finale

Malden High junior Johnson Huynh is set to return a kickoff on Thanksgiving Day.

*Courtesy/ Henry Huang Photo*

*Last revised on March 3, 2023*



# Malden Public Schools 2023 End of Year District Highlights

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We are immensely proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to fostering a nurturing, inclusive, and academically enriching environment for every school, every classroom, every student, every day! Your ongoing support and involvement in our school community are invaluable.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education.

Warm Regards,  
**Dr. Ligia Noriega-Murphy**  
*Superintendent of Malden Public Schools*

