

# METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

### OCTOBER 2018

#### UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b>PLEASE SEE SCHOOL UPDATES BELOW FOR HAPPENINGS IN THEIR SCHOOLS</b>			
10/22	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Workshop	MHS-Media
10/25	3-5 p.m.	Academic Bowl	Hosted by Marsh
10/26	Early Release	K-12 Professional Development Day	
11/13 (Tuesday)	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting	MHS-Media

#### METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

*Submitted by Richard Barden, Principal*

##### JROTC

##### Drill Meeting

On September 5th, the Ranger Battalion held its Drill Team meeting to put together our Drill Team. The Drill Team is made up of 6 different teams which will compete in the COMAL (Commonwealth of Massachusetts League) against 11 other JROTC units for trophies.

##### Football Color Guard

On September 14th, the Ranger Battalion conducted a 5 man color guard at the Rangers Football home opener against Tewksbury. The cadets presented the colors during the national anthem.

##### Mentorship Meeting

On September 20th, the Ranger Battalion Mentorship Officers held a meeting where they matched up cadets with students from the Timony and the Tenney middle schools. The meeting will also have a google survey to be completed by all 80 cadets participating in mentorship. The survey will help determine the best matches from cadets to students, which will give everyone an overall better experience in the mentorship program.

##### Adopt-A-Vet

On September 27th, 5 cadets from the Ranger Battalion will participate in the Adopt-A-Vet Program. Cadets will meet with residents at the Methuen Village located on 4 Gleason Street. The cadets will properly introduce themselves with their names and ranks and talk about their plans and goals they have for the year. This is the 3rd straight year the Ranger Battalion has visited the Methuen Village.

##### MHS Open House

On September 27th, the Ranger Battalion will participate at the Methuen High School open house. Cadets will give briefings to the parents on what the mission of JROTC is all about.

## **VIDEO CLUB**

The video club met on September 17th and 24th. We discussed the format of the club. we will convene twice a month. Some of the goals include utilizing the studio cameras and equipment to create different programs such as news or movie review show. The members also explored how to edit videos using Premiere Pro. We completed the exercise where members recorded themselves in front of the green screen in the studio and then found a photo or video and placed it behind them using the ultra-key effect in the editing software. Other activities included an overview of the studio control room utilizing the camera switcher. Our meetings in October will be held on the 15th and 22nd from 2 to 3 PM in room 2110.

## **GSA**

GSA will be selling t-shirts, wristbands, pens, and buttons during all three lunches on October 9, 10, 11.

On Thursday, October 25 GSA is holding a fundraiser at Launch from 5-8:00 p.m. Please come with friends and family to support a good cause.

Please wear pink on Thursday, October 11 to honor National Coming out day. Pink t-shirts can be purchased from the GSA for \$15 and pink wristbands for \$1

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The student council this month is running the freshman class officer nominations, recording and broadcasting candidate speeches on Youtube, and holding the elections. We are also planning the upcoming Homecoming dance on 10/13/18

## **NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY**

During the month of September, students in the National Art Honor Society met in L025 after school every Wednesday from 2 to 3pm. Our first meeting of the year was an overview of the club, its goals, and the opportunities students in the National Art Honor Society can take advantage of with regards to showcasing work, and community service. At our second and third meetings of the month, we decided as a group to participate in the Festival of Trees. Chose our tree theme: Nightmare Before Christmas, and began constructing a tree and ornaments to fit our theme. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 3rd.

## **MOCK TRIAL**

The Mock Trial team has been moving forward with preparation of competition. The team has been working on how to read affidavits and witness testimony, looking for evidence and forming testimony questions. The application to the Mass Bar Association has been passed in and accepted. Next stop is competitions in January.

## **ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT**

Adopt-A-Grandparent is in full swing. We had a huge number of students join the club this year. As we do each year, we meet every Wednesday afternoon at the Methuen Senior Center from 2:15 until 3:45pm. We play 45s and other card games, as well as ping pong and pool. Last week a retired veterinary doctor was talking with the students about medicine and what is required to go into a medical field after they finish high school.

## **SCIENCE CLUB**

Science Club has designed and began construction of a 2nd hover craft in an effort to maximize efficiency. The 2nd design is circular and uses 1/2 the lift power of the original design. We meet 1x per week currently. Mondays and Wednesdays (alternating)

## **BOOKS AND BAGELS**

"Books and Bagels will be having its first official meeting on October 25, when we will be discussing Lev Grossman's *The Magicians*. We will also be distributing our next book, Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*."

## **EVENTS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER (*Subject to change*)**

- Faculty Meeting - Monday, October 1, 2018
- MEFA Financial Aid Presentation - Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.
- Grade 12 College Planning Presentation - Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
- Senior Class Photo - Thursday, October 4, 2018
- SAT Administration at Methuen High School - Saturday, October 6, 2018
- Columbus Day - Schools Closed - Monday, October 8, 2018
- PSAT Administration - Wednesday, October 10, 2018
- Colleges, Careers, & Community Service Fair - Wednesday, October 10, 2018
- Connections - Thursday, October 11, 2018
- Homecoming Football Game - Friday, October 12, 2018
- [Community Open House for Grades 5 through 8 - Saturday, October 13, 2018](#)
- Homecoming Dance - Saturday, October 13, 2018
- MHS Marching Band NESBA Competition (Wakefield) - Saturday, October 13, 2018
- Department Meetings - Monday, October 15, 2018
- Mathematics Olympiad - Thursday, October 18, 2018
- MHS Marching Band [NESBA](#) Competition (Billerica) - Saturday, October 20, 2018
- First Term Ends - Friday, November 2, 2018
- [Methuen Scholarship Foundation Trivia Night - Saturday, November 3, 2018](#)

A complete list of MHS events can be viewed by selecting the [MHS Calendar](#) and Athletic Events can be viewed by selecting the link [Athletics Calendar](#) on the MHS webpage.

## **COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Christopher Reeve, Principal*

### **LOWER**

- The kindergarten students will visit Farmer Dave's farm in Dracut, MA on October 11th. This engaging experience will provide students with key science knowledge. Students will learn that bees are important garden helpers, as they are responsible for pollinating apple blossoms. It is always a great time!
- Our annual CGS Fundraiser is wrapping up this month. We appreciate the dedication of our PTO, and thank our families for their generosity. We hope to use the proceeds to fund our enrichment opportunities within the school.
- "BOX TOP Thursday" will take place on October 18th. This lucrative activity has generated great funds for our school! Families are encouraged to continue to send "BOX TOPS" to school in a labeled bag/envelope.

- On October 19th students will partake in our Popcorn Day fundraiser! For \$1 students can purchase a small bag of popcorn to eat with lunch.
- Calling all creative CGS families! On October 19th from 6-8pm, the CGS will hold its first ever “Trunk-or-Treat” event. Families will decorate automobile trunks with festive, seasonal decorations and park them in our lot. Students will visit the displays and receive a little treat. We are looking forward to a fun event!

### **UPPER**

Welcome to Fall! There are many things happening at the CGS Upper School:

- 10/3 Start of Continental Math League for 2018-2019
- 10/17 Grade 8 will have a visit from Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School
- 10/19 Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- 10/24 Grade 8 field trip to Camp Lincoln
- 10/25 Academic Bowl Meet at the Marsh School

### **MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Rebecca Gordon, Principal*

We had a very busy September here at the Marsh. Everyone has nicely settled back into the routine of school. It has been a pleasure meeting everyone and I look forward meeting those that I have not yet met.

In September, we welcomed the following **new staff members** to the Marsh team:

Fatima Ghoujlami- US Program Assistant  
Alex Hammel- PreK Program Assistant  
Jennifer Iannalfo- LS Program Assistant  
Sarah Robinson- Building Based Educator  
Jennifer Rodriguez- Lunch Monitor

This past month, we have been teaching our **PBIS expectations** throughout the building so students can earn their **Marsh Star Blue Slips**. We had our first upper school spirit day where students were able to “cash in” their blue slips to play kickball against the teachers. A good time was had by all!

Our first **Parent Coffee** was a success. We had lively conversations about several current events and issues. The next Parent Coffee is on October 19 at 1:15. All are welcome to attend.

#### October Events:

October 3- Kindergarten Field Trip to Farmer Dave’s  
October 10- Lower School Store Open  
October 11- Grade 4 Field Trip to Lowell National Historic Park (Witkum and Labrie)  
October 11- Upper School Store Open  
October 12- School Picture Day  
October 19- Parent Coffee at 1:15  
October 24- Lower School Store Open  
October 25- Upper School Store Open  
October 31- Grade 8 Field Trip to Camp Lincoln (Pine, Mancini, Ragucci)  
November 1- Grade 8 Field Trip to Camp Lincoln (Dickey, Burke, Zraket)

## TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

*Submitted by Mary Beth Donovan, Principal*

Welcome October! The Tenney has been busy with all sorts of activities and events as we usher in a new season. For example:

- Our efforts to bring Upper and Lower school students and staff together for meaningful activities and learning has begun. **Grade 8** students invited **Grade 2** students to check out some cool lab instruments and look through microscopes as they studied plant life. The older students served as teachers. Grade 8, inspired by the short story “Charles” (about a rascally kindergartener), visited **kindergarten** and connected as reading buddies.
- Our Very Important Volunteers are heading back to their after-school Tenney jobs to spend 30 minutes before lower school dismissal to serve as mentors to students and teacher helpers. About forty 8th grade students who took the Invisible Disability course and worked with **Officer Gardner and Ms. Donovan** on safety and confidentiality issues are on the job.
- Our guidance suite is getting a new look. The waiting area was spruced up, and plants are now starting to flourish there with the help of students who care for them. We hope to create a more serene environment.
- Welcome to our new PTO president **Emily Kaminsky** The first meeting of the year was well attended and planning has begun for a number of events to support our students. The PTO is wrapping up its biggest fundraiser of the year, Yankee Candle sales. Catalogue sales ended Friday, Oct. 5, but on-line sales will continue through the holidays.
- We are rooting for the Red Sox. Oct. 5 was Sox Spirit Day and most staff and students showed their Boston pride by wearing Sox gear. Thanks to **Ms. Barnhardt** and the **Peer Leaders** for organizing.
- To make sure all our students get home safely, we have tightened up the dismissal at what was known as the walker door for our lower school students. That dismissal site has been moved to the main office door and parents sign in as they pick up their students. We have also worked with parents to limit the traffic in the bus loop area during morning drop off, with almost all students being dropped off on the Pleasant Street side of the building. This has cut down on congestion, illegal parking and allows buses to move safely on our property. We so appreciate our parents’ patience and understanding and thank Officer Gardner and colleagues for the extra support.
- Some important events are coming up:
  - Oct. 11 Kindergarten Field Trip to Connor farms
  - Oct. 15 Grade Trip to camp Lincoln
  - Oct 18, Tenney Grammar PTO meeting, 7 pm staff lounge
  - Oct 26, Monster Mash sponsored by Tenney Grammar PTO, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

## TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

*Submitted by Timothy Miller, Principal*

Autumn is here and the staff and students of the Timony are moving forward. It is always interesting to watch how quickly the students become familiar with new routines and develop new friendships with the students in their classes.

Our PTO has been busy already. The first fundraiser ran from September 14 - 28 and, although final numbers are not in yet, it looks like it will be a great success. Their first meeting had a great turnout and we are hoping that the parent interest will continue. PTO will be hosting our annual Fall Festival on October 25th from 5:00-8:00 PM. This year many of our staff will be having a

‘Trunk or Treat’ with the trunks of their cars filled with treats for the children. This is always a popular event and I’m sure that this year will be no exception.

Our eighth graders made their annual team-building trip to Camp Lincoln. Teachers and students will use the skills taught there all year and there will be a culminating trip back in the spring.

We’ve recently received our un-embargoed MCAS results from last spring. The teachers and administrators have been unpacking this data to help us address the specific needs of each child at the Timony. This MCAS data along with other student specific data will inform our instruction as we strive to meet the needs of every child.

## **FACILITIES**

*Submitted by Bruce Stella, Director*

General maintenance continues at this time. We will be preparing to switch from cooling to heating on October 15, 2018.

As a point of interest - HERA testing is finishing up at the Tenney Grammar School. We will have a final report next week. HERA testing is complete at the Central, Timony, Tenney and Marsh. We are HERA compliant.

Ice Rink over the weekend experienced complication with the cooling tower. That repair is complete and operations are back to normal.

Our maintenance staff is collecting all our outdoor grounds equipment and preparing the cold weather equipment for use.

Over the weekend, MPS staff cut down approximately 10 tree at Methuen High School. The Methuen DPW Tree Department will be cutting down and removing dead trees and limbs this coming weekend.

I would like to acknowledge at this time what a pleasure it has been to work with Acting DPW Director Daryl Lorenzo.

## **FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

*Submitted by Cheryl Mancini, Supervisor*

Please check out our “Week In Review” to see all the wonderful things going on in our schools.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1u2\\_NgAbof-9D6hFDfcKntpLW2yhtbGf-DNteG47G1mI/edit#slide=id.g381d346030\\_1\\_51](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1u2_NgAbof-9D6hFDfcKntpLW2yhtbGf-DNteG47G1mI/edit#slide=id.g381d346030_1_51)

Also visit us on twitter @ MethuenFineArts@Methuen Arts for updates!

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

*Submitted by Gina Bozek, Director of Student Services*

### **Out of district update:**

- 20 programmatic students
- 130 fiscal students in placement
  - 2 students waiting placement

**PK update:**

Current numbers:

CGS Full day Integrated: 8 IEPs/8 peers  
Intensive Integrated: 8 IEPs/5 peers  
Marsh Intensive Integrated: 8 IEPs/6 peers  
Intensive Integrated: 8 IEPs/6 peers  
Tenney Integrated AM: 8 IEPs/6 peers  
Integrated PM: 7 IEPs/4 peers  
Intensive Integrated: 7 IEPs/4 peers  
Intensive: 9 IEPs  
Timony Integrated AM: 7 IEPs/8 peers  
Integrated PM: 7 IEPs/8 peers  
Intensive: 10 IEPs  
Intensive: 8 IEPs

Walk-ins:

Evaluations:

24 evaluations in process; 10 consent to tests out; 16 referrals to be processed

As stated last year during the budget process, we opened the 18-19 school year at capacity in our Intensive programs. We had a student move in requiring that level of programming and we have an additional three students right now that will be requiring that level of programming in the next couple of months.

Also during the budget process, we discussed and followed through with closing two Intensive Integrated preschool classrooms understanding that if/when the time arose, we would need to look at opening an additional classroom. We are over capacity in the classrooms and have a number of students that will require that level of programming in the next couple of months.

We are in the planning stages of opening one additional intensive classroom and one additional intensive integrated classroom. We are working on exact timeframes and will have more information in the coming month.

**Medicaid update:**

First quarter report reporting begins October 5th

**McKinney-Vento:**

- 6 students living in Methuen attending other districts
- 16 Methuen students that are homeless
- \$2,300.00 for transportation

**TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

*Submitted by Edward Lussier, Director of Technology*

**Ticket System/Support**

Opening schools is always hectic. Our team continues to rely on a ticket system to organize staff needs and requests. A large percentage of tickets are handled remotely, but some still require on-site attention. Much of September was devoted to getting everyone up and running for the new year.

### **Infinite Campus**

Students at MHS have been accessing the Student Portal regularly for updates on grades & attendance. Availability of grades and assignments for parents and students has made the entire grading process much more transparent. Students are taking responsibility to monitor their grades and assignments as evidenced by the two tables below. The following are statistics from only one week: 9/24-10/1. The top table is from last year (2017) and the bottom one is from the current year (2018).

There were 26,336 MHS student logins last week to the IC portal- which is a huge increase over the previous year.

<b>Methuen High School</b>				
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Student Accounts</b>		<b>Student Logins</b>
All	1978	1967	99.44%	16435

<b>Methuen High School</b>				
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Student Accounts</b>		<b>Student Logins</b>
All	2033	2033	100.00%	26336

### **iPads at MHS**

Tech support is open daily from 7-9am for all MHS students. These hours will be available throughout the school year in our new office inside the Media Center. During September, students visited with issues concerning wifi, google apps, cracked iPads, Infinite Campus access, etc.

### **WELLNESS DEPARTMENT**

*Submitted by Jeffrey Osgood, Supervisor*

- Back by popular demand! Please view our K-8 Wellness Award Winners on the Wellness Website, now including our new K-4 Wellness teachers and their excited students!
- Over the summer, we received \$20,000. In grant funding to improve upon our substance abuse prevention curriculum through the Project Here Grant. This grant, funded by the Chris Herren Foundation and the State of Massachusetts, was awarded to us to incorporate the Positive Action Drug Education curriculum into our existing programs at the grammar schools. Following our round table discussion with Attorney General Maura Healey last June at the Marsh, we continue to lead the way in our efforts to educate all students in prevention strategies and healthy behaviors. Training in our new curriculum begins in October.
- Faculty from the University of New Hampshire and Merrimack College administered a health education survey to our high school students to determine the effectiveness of skills-based health education in schools. This national trend in health education has reached our state legislation and Department of Education and Secondary Education, and we are part of the rewriting of our state Health Education Standards. Kudos to our health educators.



- I am proud to announce that Methuen High School will host the Northeast Professional Educators Network Health, PE and Wellness Extravaganza on Election Day. This growing professional development network included over 600 PE, health and wellness teachers last year in Tewksbury. Several of our educators presented last year, and will present again this year.
- Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated during the week of October 22-26 with activities happening across the district. As schedules from each building are posted, I will post them on the health and wellness website. Please check in frequently to see the great things we're doing.

That's it for now! For up to date information about what's going on at each school in Health, PE and Wellness, visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/mpspehealth/> and follow us on Twitter @MPS\_Wellness.

### **ACADEMIC BOWL 18-19 SCHEDULE**

**Dates:** There will be four matches with all four schools that the Timony, Tenney, Marsh and CGS will host and one final match with all four schools in the evening at Methuen High School. Parents will be responsible for transportation.

Thursday October 25th	3:00-5:00 pm hosted by Marsh
Wednesday December 5th	5:30-7:30 pm hosted by CGS
Tuesday March 5th	3:00-5:00 pm hosted by Timony
Thursday April 25th	5:30-7:30 pm hosted by Tenney
Final match: Tuesday June 4th	6-8pm hosted by MHS

**Format:** Matches will be 2 hours with 1 hour dedicated to a team challenge to create, build, or complete an obstacle and 1 hour for Jeopardy style questions in 4 categories: STEM, Humanities, The Arts, and Potpourri. While 7th grade is competing in the Team Challenge, the 8th grade will be competing in the Jeopardy round and then they will switch.

**Scoring:** There will be judges for both the Jeopardy rounds and the Team Challenge using a rubric to calculate team points for correct answers and team points for completing the Team Challenge (partial points may be accrued for Team Challenge as there will be multiple scoring categories) Each 7th grade and 8th grade team will enter the Final Match with a set number of total points and there will be one 7th grade team champion and one 8th grade team champion.

**Parent/guardian/student participation:** All parents/guardians and all students are welcome to watch the Jeopardy rounds at all matches in the auditorium of the host school. Parents/guardians and other students will not be allowed in for the Team Challenge. There will be judges in the host cafeteria and it will be timed so we cannot have spectators in the cafeteria.

All advisors are aware of the match dates, format, and what teams need to practice and will be communicating this to their teams if they haven't already done so.

Timony advisor:	TBD	Marsh advisor:	Fernando Mancini
CGS advisor:	Heather Jones	Tenney advisor:	Kathy Bodenrader

