

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

SUMMER, 2017

UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>PLEASE SEE SCHOOL UPDATES BELOW FOR HAPPENINGS IN THEIR SCHOOLS</i>			
8/28	Full Day	First Day all Faculty and Staff	D-Wide
8/29	Full Day	First Day Students Grades 1-12	D-Wide
8/31	Early Release	1 st -12 – Teacher's Professional Development	D-Wide
9/1	NO Classes		
9/4	NO School	Labor Day – All Buildings	
9/5	Full Day	First Day PreK and Kindergarten Students	
9/11	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting	MHS-Media

ALSO PLEASE SEE THE PRESS RELEASE BELOW FULL OF INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal

Methuen High School is ready for students to hit the ground running in the 2017-2018 school year. For the first time in the five years of the 1:1 iPad program, iPads will be distributed to all students prior to the first day of school. Students can pick up devices on one of the four scheduled distribution dates so as not to infringe on class time at the start of the school year. Also a first, student schedules were made available online in mid-August, and students and families are expected to access schedules entirely through Infinite Campus.

When students arrive on the first day, they will notice a new patio installed by the main entrance, outside the cafeteria. MHS senior, Ben Walko, initiated the work as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project. Ben will furnish the patio with picnic tables and will design the landscape. A space to be enjoyed by all, Ben's hard work will result in a place where students can relax during lunches.

Also, a complete list of MHS athletic events can be viewed by selecting the link [Athletics Calendar](#) on the MHS webpage.

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

Much has been happening over the summer months at the CGS! Not the least of which is all the hard work our custodial staff puts into making our building shine. They help make the CGS look the BEST!

Some events that were held this summer were....

- The Kindergarten play date and meet and was held on 8/15 at the CGS Kindergarten Playground. We had several families attend this event. It was so much fun to see the

excitement on the faces of our incoming Kindergarten class and their families. We look forward to welcoming them for their first day of school on September 5th.

- Also on the 15th, we held our new student tours for incoming students grades 1-8. Students had an opportunity to have a guided tour of the facility, and have questions answered by our staff. We are excited to welcome these new families to our school.
- The district ESL Summer Program was a huge success. We were very fortunate to be able to run this program out of our building to continue educational experiences for our second language learners.

Please keep in mind important dates and Open House Schedules...

- **Open House schedules are as follows:**

Monday, August 28th

Kindergarten: 10:00am-11:00am

Grades 1-8: 11:00am-12:00pm * (This is only for families that work 2nd or 3rd shift)*****

Grades 1 and 2: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Grades 3 and 4: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Tuesday, August 29th (also first day of school grades 1-8)

Grades 5 and 6: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Grades 7 and 8: 6:00pm-7:00pm

- 8/29 is the first day of school for grades 1-8. It is a full day for students.
- 9/5 is the first day for PreK and Kindergarten, also a full day for Kindergarten.
- 9/5 8:45-9:15 am Tea & Tissues event for kindergarten parents in the café.
- Because the additional time slot for 2nd and 3rd shift families was so successful, we will offer it once again. This Open House time slot is only for families that work 2nd or 3rd shift. Though you may be free at that time as well, please attend the scheduled Open House for your child's grade level if you do not work the 2nd or 3rd shift. Thanks for understanding and helping the CGS better support and communicate with all of our families!

Looking forward to a great school year,

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

Administrators, secretaries and custodians at Marsh Grammar School spent much of July and August preparing for the upcoming 2017-2018 year, including:

A comprehensive cleaning of all rooms in the building, including washing rugs, waxing floors, painting and repairing. The custodians continue to work diligently to thoroughly clean the entire building so that it will be ready for our students on August 29th.

Closing out 2016-2017 and preparing for the upcoming school year, including: forwarding student records (Lower and Upper, Upper to High Schools), provisioning classroom supplies and curricula consumables (Eureka workbooks, science materials kits, etc.), creating grade level and master schedules to reflect the district's time on learning requirements and current staffing, registering

new/transfer students, assigning new kindergarten students to classrooms and preparing notification materials to send to parents.

Administrators have reviewed the preliminary ELA and Math MCAS data and will look at more information released by the DESE. This analysis will be part of grade level meeting discussions with teachers starting in September and may influence the teachers' student learning and professional practice goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

A Meet-and-Greet to meet Ms. Fawcett was sponsored by the PTO on Thursday, August 24 from 4:00-7:00 PM

LOWER

Three (3) new teachers were hired over the summer:

Lauren Giroux-Speech & Language, Julie Harrington—Special Education and Mary Smolak—K-8 Special Education with Reading Certification.

New student tour was held on Tuesday, August 15th at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Kindergarten Meet-and-Greet on the Lower School playground sponsored by PTO.

Open Houses have been scheduled as follows:

Grades 1-4 – Monday, August 28, 5:00-6:30

Kindergarten – Monday, August 28, 9:30-10:30 & 11:00-12:00

UPPER

Three (3) new teachers were hired over the summer:

7th Grade Mathematics Teacher-Travis Thibeault, 7th Grade Science Teacher-Gannon Paris and Upper School Learning Center Teacher-Lauren Mucci.

A new Upper School schedule was created for all Methuen Upper Schools. Upper School Secretary-Marie Bistany did an outstanding job following through with the implementation of this schedule on Infinite Campus.

Marsh Upper School Open House is scheduled for August 29th from 5:00-6:30. Upper School Associate Principal, Mr. Marino will meet with parents who would like to come in before then for a quick informational session about the Upper School at 4:30.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal

The Tenney was packed with activity all summer long as the building played host to a variety of programs. We enjoyed having the building buzz with activity and want to say a big thank you to our custodial crew for working so hard to prepare our school for the opening of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Our Tenney Rocks the Nevins brought 25 7th and 8th graders to the Nevins Memorial Library to talk about books, stay connected and have fun every Friday. This marked the second year the summer program has run and we are grateful to Amy Fowler, who is the young adult librarian at the Nevins

and Director Krista McLeod for hosting us. I enjoyed my Friday book discussions and I know Carrie Ingrassia, our Special Education Administrator did as well.

Our Third Annual Back to School Picnic was held on Aug. 22. Our PTO sponsored the tradition that included, music, informal games, a chance to get a back-to-school haircut, buy Tenney Gear and catch up with our school family

Here are some important dates:

Monday, August 28: Lower School Open House, Grade 1: 5:00 pm; Grade 2: 5:30 pm; Grade 3: 6:00 pm; Grade 4: 6:30 pm. Meet teachers and learn about goals and expectations for the coming school year during special scheduled presentations. Visit our cafe to learn about other opportunities for our children during the school year.

Tuesday, August 29: First full day of school, Grades 1-8 and Open House for Upper School. At Open House, classroom teachers will host scheduled presentations to outline expectations and goals for the school year. Grade 5: 5:00 pm; Grade 6: 5:30 pm; Grade 7: 6:00 pm; Grade 8: 6:30 pm. Visit our cafe to learn about other opportunities for our students.

Wednesday: August 30: Full day of school, Grades 1-8.

Thursday: August 31: Early release day. Upper School dismissal at 11:15 am, Lower School at 11:45 am.

Friday, September 1: No school. Enjoy a long Labor Day Weekend.

Monday, September 4: No school, Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 5: First day of school for pre-k and kindergarten.

We are looking forward to the school year and working with our family. For more information about happenings at our school, follow the Tenney on Twitter Tenney Grammar@MPS_Tenney and "like" The Tenney Grammar School PTO Facebook page for all the latest details about what is happening at our school.

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

With the school year fast approaching we are hard at work preparing for the return of the Timony students. Students will be returning to a building that our custodial and maintenance staffs have been working very hard to get in to tip top shape. All of the classrooms have been cleaned from rafters to floor, the corridors are shining and walls have been painted. Teachers have been preparing their classrooms and getting units and lessons ready to hit the ground running.

Open Houses will be held as follows:

Kindergarten Monday, August 28 10:00 AM
Lower School Monday, August 28 5:00-7:00 PM
Upper School Tuesday, August 29 5:00-7:00 PM

We will have representatives from the PTO, YMCA, Nevins Library, Scouts and a variety of school and community organizations at the Lower and Upper School open houses. I would love to see all of the Timony School community there.

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and is ready for a productive and exciting new year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESS RELEASE 2017

As we approach the opening of school I would like to update you with informational item reminders, upcoming district wide school events as well as what's **NEW** and **EXCITING** for School Year 2017/2018.

NEW STAFFING

Marsh School Acting Supervising Principal for 2017/2018

Mary Jean Fawcett a highly respected educator, former Methuen Public School teacher and Supervising Principal (retiring from the principal position) will be at the helm for the 2017/2018 School year. Ms. Fawcett brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Director of Food Services

Danielle Collins has been hired as our new Director of School Nutrition Services. Wayne Vespa who is retiring this September held this position for 14 years. Prior to her hire in Methuen, Danielle served as School Nutrition Director for SAU#39, in Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts in New Hampshire. Ms. Collins received her M.B.A. from Rivier University and B.S. from the University of Mass at Lowell She currently holds a School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) certification.

OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL

Grades 1 through 12	Tuesday, August 29, 2017
Early Release Day	Thursday, August 31, 2017
NO SCHOOL	Friday September 1 & Monday September 4
Pre-School & Kindergarten	Tuesday, September 5, 2017

BELL TIMES

Methuen High School	7:00am to 1:55pm
Upper School	7:50am to 2:15pm
Lower School	8:30am to 3:00pm
Pre-School	

Integrated Pre-School runs Tuesday- Friday,

Morning session 9:00am-11:30am, afternoon session 12:30pm-3:00pm

Intensive Integrated Pre-School runs Monday-Friday 8:45am-1:45pm,

Peer models runs Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:30am.

LUNCH PRICES

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL

Breakfast \$1.00

Premium Breakfast \$1.75

Lunch \$2.90

Premium Lunch \$3.40

UPPER SCHOOLS

Breakfast \$1.00

Premium Breakfast \$1.75

5th thru 8th grade Lunch \$2.65

LOWER SCHOOLS

Breakfast \$1.00 district wide

Premium Breakfast \$1.75

K thru 4th grade Lunch \$2.40

Monthly printer friendly menus with nutritional analysis and meal applications for free and reduced price meals are available on the school web page, as well as the convenience to parents to make meal payments with a debit or credit card on line.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Please check the school web site the week before school opens as all bus runs will be posted and updated continuously.

www.methuen.k12.ma.us

OPEN HOUSE DATES

CGS

Monday August 28

Kindergarten	10:00am-11:00am
Grades 1 and 2	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Grades 3 and 4	6:00pm to 7:00pm

Tuesday August 29

Grades 5 and 6	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Grades 7 and 8	6:00pm to 7:00pm

Thursday August 31

Pre-School	9:30am to 10:30am.
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Marsh

Monday August 28

Kindergarten	9:30am to 10:30am	Ms. Brouder, Ms.Jerz, Ms. Harris Classrooms
	11:00am to 12:00am	Ms. Reitano, Ms. Becotte, Ms. DeZenso Classrooms
Lower School	5:00pm to 6:30pm	

Tuesday August 29

Upper School	5:30pm to 6:30pm
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Thursday August 31

Pre-School	10:00am to 11:00am
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Tenney

Monday August 28

Kindergarten	9:30am to 10:30am
Lower School	5:00pm to 7:00pm

Tuesday August 29

Upper School	5:00pm to 7:00pm
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Wednesday August 30

Pre-School	10:00am to 11:00am
	1:00pm to 2:00pm

Timony

Monday August 28

Kindergarten	10:00am to 11:00am
Grade 1	5:00pm
Grade 2	5:30pm
Grade 3	6:00pm
Grade 4	6:30pm

Tuesday August 29

Grade 5	5:00pm
Grade 6	5:30pm
Grade 7	6:00pm

Grade 8 6:30pm
Thursday August 31
Pre-School 10:30am to 11:30am

MHS

Thursday August 17

Grade 9 5:00pm to 7:00pm - *iPads will be distributed to grade 9 students.*

Thursday September 28

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Families follow their student's schedule to meet teachers.

UP COMING DISTRICT WIDE SCHOOL EVENTS

New England Scholastic Band Association Home Show

On Saturday September 23, the award winning Methuen Ranger Marching band is hosting a home NESBA Marching Band competition featuring high school bands and colorguards from across Massachusetts with a special performance by the UMASS Lowell Marching Band. This will take place starting at 12:00pm at Nicholson Stadium.

An Evening with Cher, Andrea Bocelli, Celine Dion, and Barbara Streisand featuring “The Edwards Twins”

Coming, Friday, September 29th, to Methuen High School Auditorium is a fabulous Las Vegas show featuring the world famous impersonators, The Edwards Twins. This amazing fundraiser will directly benefit the awarding winning Methuen High School Ranger band's 2018 trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Tickets can be purchased on line for this evening performance:

www.theedwardstwins.com/membership.html mhsperformingartscenter.bpt.me

Methuen Public Schools Community Weekend

Friday October 6 through Sunday October 8.

Friday October 6 Homecoming Football game Nicholson Stadium 7:00pm

Saturday October 7 OPEN HOUSE 1:00pm to 3:00pm @ Methuen High School for students in grades 5 through 8 and their families. All Methuen residents are also welcome to come by for a visit and tour the flag ship building of Methuen Public Schools. There will be high school student performances, building tours, food vendors, games and activities.

Sunday October 8 MHS 5k Run/Walk start time 9:30am.

More information upcoming.

CURRICULUM

Literacy

Kindergarten teachers will be implementing Foundations this year, which is a multi-sensory structured language program. The teachers had a full day PD and received the teacher materials in June. They are excited for his program and the developmental approach to teaching foundation literacy skills. Grade 1 teachers will be implementing Foundations in the school year 2018/2019 and grade 2 teachers in the 2019/2020 school year.

Science

Grades 3-5 science teachers will be using a 100%aligned science curriculum supported by Mystery Science, web based resources that align with the 2016 Science, Technology, and Engineering Frameworks. Grade level teachers will have science kits for each unit for the selected investigations that all students should partake. It includes lessons, investigations, and literature to support content. Grades 6-8 teachers will also follow 100% aligned curriculum supported by our current Pearson material and will pilot a new web based interactive Pearson text. Grades K-2 teachers will have access to the Mystery Science web-based materials to use and the K-2 curriculum maps will be developed in the 2017/2018 school year.

Title I

Title I at the Tenney and Timony will be implementing two new intensive intervention literacy programs, 1) Multilevel Tiered Intervention Foundations for Kindergarten and grade 1. 2) iSpire, which is a multi sensory intensive intervention that students in grades 1 and 2 will use on ipads.

Grades 3-5 students at the Tenney and Timony will also participate in ST-Math intensive intervention, which is based on neuroscience and provides students with engaging, visual, creative, and personalized math learning.

History

Generation Citizen US History II classes.

Methuen High School will pilot Generation Citizen this school year in US History II classes. Generation Citizen is a nationally recognized program that "works to ensure that every student in the US receives an effective action civics education, which provides them with knowledge and skills necessary to participate in our democracy as active citizens." Students will debate and build consensus around issues that affect them, develop goals to address the issue and develop a strategic action plan. Students will present their action plans during "Civics Day" to local public officials, classmates and other community members.

Engineering and Robotics

Methuen High School will offer Engineering and Robotics for the first time, which will include all aspects of the VEX Robotics curriculum and competitions.

Computer Science

Methuen High School is offering the first course of a three course pathway for computer science. The first course is Exploring Computer Science, followed by Principles of Computer Science, then AP Computer Science. This is a state and nationally recognized pathway aligned with the computer science standards leading students to AP Computer Science.

Innovation Lab

We are excited to open our Capitol Skills Grant funded Innovation Lab at Methuen High School this fall. The district was awarded \$175,000 to build the innovation lab. This state of the art innovation lab will afford high school students opportunities in coding, engineering and robotics that support the three STEM content areas and two approved career and technology education courses **Web Design/Programming and Biotechnology**.

MENTAL HEALTH/WELLNESS

Members of the Methuen High School Guidance Department will facilitate two presentations in Washington DC in October at the Annual Advancing School Mental Health Conference. This is a great honor for the district staff to be asked to participate and share the outstanding work that our guidance team engage in on a daily basis with students.

TECHNOLOGY

Infinite Campus

We are continuing to expand our use of Infinite Campus and the Parent/Student Portal. High school schedules will be accessed via the student portal prior to the start of school. MHS teachers will continue to use the on line Gradebook, which allows live grade visibility via the Parent and Student Portals. All K-8 report cards will be printed from Infinite Campus throughout the year. Teachers in grade 7-8 will begin using the online Gradebook. Parents will be notified when grades become visible to parents midway through the school year.

1:1 iPad Program

MHS will continue for a fifth year. For the first time, iPad distribution will begin prior to the first day of school-beginning on August 17th at Freshman Orientation.

FINE ARTS:

Disney Music Magic Days

In February 2018, the award winning Methuen High School Marching Band will travel to Orlando, Fl. and participate in the Disney Magic Music Days at Walt Disney World. There, our students will have the

opportunity to participate in multiple performances including parades and concerts. They will also attend performance workshops with a professional musician and instructors. We are delighted to have our students participate in this worthwhile and meaningful experience that will create memories of a lifetime.

ATHLETICS:

MHS Unified Basketball Fall

MHS Unified Track and Field Spring

We are extremely proud and excited to announce MHS is now an MIAA/SOMA Unified Champion School of the Merrimack/Cape Ann League.

MHS Unified Basketball & Track and Field is part of a larger Special Olympics movement. The sport and inclusive activities and opportunities provided through this program embraces the philosophy of MHS/MPS as an inclusive school district that values diversity and the unique contributions that each student brings to the school community and classroom.

Athletic Season or Yearly Passes

Tickets can now be purchased on line. To purchase your tickets please go to <https://statechamps.com/clients/methuenhsma/>

PARTNERSHIPS

Methuen Community Television (MCTV) and Methuen High School

MCTV is offering an internship through a newly established partnership in the 2017/2018 school year. A total of 12 slots are available for this course, and preference will be given to students in grades 11 and 12. The internship will be led by Karen Hayden, Executive Director of MCTV. The internship will be a full credit and weighted level 4. The internship will take place Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00pm to 2:00pm at the new state of the art MCTV studio.

Quarrybrook Experiential Education Center in Windham NH

All students in grades 5-8 will be participating in at least one field trip to Quarrybrook this coming school year to experience an outdoor field course that is aligned with the Massachusetts Science, Technology, and Engineering Frameworks. Our middle school science teachers worked with the staff at Quarrybrook in late June to plan out the field experiences for each grade level.

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Grade 5-8 Instructional technology teachers and MPS Director of Instructional Technology have partnered with Dr. Fred Martin on a three year national Science Foundation Grant to create, align and execute engaging computer science curriculum in grades 5-8.

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Methuen Public Schools is partnering with the University's Project Lead Program. The Graduate School of Education Program is designed as a mentoring and induction program for our new Administrators.

Teaching Learning Alliance

The districts grade 5-8 teachers are working with the Learning Educational Alliance developing units of study in Writing. Teachers will continue throughout the year through Professional Development working on aligning the writing units to the curriculum.

Middlesex Community College

Early College Credit Program for MHS students

2 sections of Criminal Justice (3) college credits taught on MHS campus by college instructors.

University of Maryland

Methuen Public Schools has been accepted as a partner into the Center for School Mental Health (CSMH) for the Improvement and Innovation Task Force. Methuen will collaborate with CSMH staff and other districts across the nation in order to improve the quality and sustainability of school mental health.

NEW AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

MHS 21st Century After School Program

Methuen Public Schools highly successful After School K-8 21st Century Program was awarded \$150,000 by the Massachusetts Department of Education to expand its after school programming to Methuen High School students. This grant will serve a minimum of 40+ 9th and 10th grade students during the school year and during the summer. Students will engage in programming that includes homework help, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) project based learning, health and wellness education, academic support-particularly math, science, college and career readiness activities, and service learning activities. Program development starts this fall...target date for student after school participation the first of the year...2018.

Lego Robotics for the elementary students

This after school program will be offered to our students utilizing the new Innovation Lab at MHS. Start date will be the first of the year..2018

Flying into the Future-Drones, Careers and Competitions

This after school program is being designed for the younger students as well as the high school student. There will be two components - Elementary and High School. Our new Innovation lab will house these after school programs. Start date will be the first of the year...2018.

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT/CHANGES

CGS

Lighting upgrades for the classrooms
New make-up air unit in the kitchen area

Marsh

New roof and duct work covering
HVAC unit upgrades
Lighting upgrades in the classrooms

Tenney

Lighting upgrades in the classrooms
Created of a Kindergarten classroom out of unused space

Timony

New heat exchange for PDI water heater
Rebuilt building circulator pump
Wood floor on stage
Lighting upgrades in classrooms. Work in progress..auditorium renovations completion date of October 2017

MHS

New de humidification unit for the ice rink
New access driveway for the auditorium making it easier to unload equipment
Work in progress..a new patio dining area for students outside the Ranger Cafeteria

PARENT INFORMATIONAL NIGHTS

We will continue our highly successful District Wide parent informational presentations. More information on place/date/time will be announced through the district messaging system.

Topics to include but not limited to:

- Hidden Disabilities
- Cyber World the challenges and dangers
- School/Building Safety Procedures
- Improving Attendance and Preventing Truancy.
- Student Health/Wellness
- Technology in Education
- Mental Health Awareness
- MCAS 2.0 next steps

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The newly established Family Resource Center located downstairs in the Central Administration Building, 10 Ditson Place is the welcome center for our school district families. Starting this September all registrations for students entering pre-k through grade 12 will be take place at the center. The center will be the hub for parents looking for information on family and community engagement, academic information, student and parent support information, student registration process/information and student testing. We will eventually expand to have city information located in the center for the many new families moving into the city as they register their child. The center will have evening hours to accommodate working parents. The district had a soft opening in early April starting with incoming kindergarten registrations for the 2017/2018 school year. There will be a grand opening for the community this fall. Date and time will be upcoming.

Please check the MPS website www.methuen.k12.ma.us for school, departments and district wide information throughout the year. The site is up dated daily.

*Thank You,
Judith A. Scannell
Superintendent of Schools*