

2021 Annual Administrator's Report Mattapoisett Public Schools

Submitted By
Rosemary T. Bowman, Principal
Kevin F. Tavares, Associate Principal

Student Enrollment & Facilities:

In August 2020 parents of students from Center School and Old Hammondtown School were invited to join two informational sessions with the school administration regarding the format for opening school during the COVID-19 pandemic. These sessions were presented to parents using the ZOOM platform.

Enrollment at Center School was 239 students in Project GROW, Kindergarten, grade one, grade two and grade three. Enrollment at Old Hammondtown School in grades four, five and six was 175 students,

Open House at Old Hammondtown School was held on Wednesday, September 4, from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. The Open House at Center School was held on Thursday, September 12 from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. Parents were invited to the school using a staggered schedule. We were delighted to welcome all of our parents to our schools as we celebrated the beginning of a new school year!

On Wednesday, September 16, 2020 the school year began for all students in grades one through six. Kindergarten students participated in screening and orientation sessions with the Kindergarten teachers during the first week of school. The first full day for Kindergarten students was on Thursday, September 24, 2020.

In the 2020-2021 school year students attended school following a hybrid or remote model. Each grade level, Kindergarten through grade 6, has three classes. Using the Hybrid model, the students from each classroom were divided into two groups – Cohort A and Cohort B. Students in Cohort A attended school on Tuesday and Thursday; students in Cohort B attended school on Wednesday and Friday. Classroom teachers at each grade level communicated with their students on their “Hybrid-Out” days on three separate times during the school day: Morning Meeting / Mid-day check in / Closing Circle.

Each Monday students participated in classes with specialists using the Zoom format. Students also continued classroom work that was listed on their classroom's Google site. In each classroom at Center School and Old Hammondtown School the desks were placed with a six-foot distance between each desk. All students and school personnel wore masks throughout the school day. Each classroom had a designated area on the playground during the recess time block each day. In the cafeteria student desks were placed with a six foot distance between them. Each student was assigned a desk where they had lunch daily. In between each lunch block each desk was sanitized by an assigned worker.

Some families choose the remote education model for their children. Students participating in the remote model did not come into the school building. All of the educational interactions took place electronically with specific teachers assigned to specific grade levels and content areas.

On December 7, 2020 the Mattapoisett School Committee approved a five (5) day school Reentry Plan for students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 with an anticipated start date in mid-January 2021. Throughout the holiday break our custodians (James Martin and Amilcar Barbosa) and our administrators worked to prepare the large spaces at Center School and Old Hammondtown School that were designated as the new classroom spaces for the Kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 students. The plan was implemented in the following manner:

- Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal, worked with Howie Barber, Gene Jones and Bill Simmons, facilitating the process of purchasing the specific technology and basic equipment necessary for each of the large spaces that will be transformed into classrooms.
 - Orders were placed and received in a timely manner. Kevin Tavares worked throughout the holiday break to make sure that the rooms were prepared for the students who would be part of the Reentry Plan. Desk arrangement, sound systems, projectors, document cameras and portable whiteboards and portable sinks were the focus of the room preparation.
 - Our Kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 classroom teachers and special education educators collaborated with one another and the administration team to make the implementation of the Reentry Plan possible.
 - In order to implement the Reentry Plan for our Kindergarten students Mrs. Julian's class was moved to the gym; Five (5) students from Mrs. Sylvia's classroom and five (5) students from Miss Zajac's classroom and placed with Mrs. Maloof. Parents of the transferred students were contacted by Mrs. Bowman.
 - The new classroom locations at Center School are as follows:
 - Kindergarten: Gym (Julian); Individual classrooms (Maloof, Sylvia, Zajac)
 - Grade 1: Music Room (Hughes); Library (Aguiar); Art Room (Aarsheim)
 - The new classroom locations at Old Hammondtown School are as follows:
 - Grade 2: Instrumental Music Room (Barry); General Music Room (Renna); Library (Williams)
- Six-foot social distancing was maintained in each of these classroom spaces.
- Two (2) paraprofessional positions were posted on School Spring. Interviews were facilitated by the Interview Team.
 - Specialists and food service personnel worked with the administration regarding changes in schedules which were necessary to accommodate the Reentry Plan.
 - Transportation plans were reviewed by Craig Davidson and Howie Barber.
 - Students in Kindergarten through grade 6 returned to school on January 4, 2021. All students remained in the Hybrid model during the weeks of January 4 and January 11, 2021. Students who are part of the Remote Learning Model have maintained their designated schedule.
 - Grade 2 students remained at Center School during the week of January 4. Grade 2 students (maintaining the Hybrid Model) attended school at Old Hammondtown School starting the week of January 11, 2021.
 - Information regarding the details of the Reentry Plan was shared with all parents, in writing. Parents were informed that the targeted date for the start of the full Reentry Plan would be Tuesday, January 19, 2021
 - Question/Answer ZOOM meetings for parents took place on Thursday, January 7, 2021 (6:00-6:45 Parents of Kindergarten and grade one students /7:00 – 7:45 Parents of Grade 2 students).
 - On Monday, April 5, 2021, full in person learning returned for all students in grades three, four, five and six.

Personnel:

- Tanya Bungert was selected as a grade five teacher for the 2020-2021. Tanya worked at Old Hammondtown School for many years serving students as a paraprofessional. The school community is delighted to welcome Tanya to the grade five teaching team.
- Sue Powers, principal's secretary at Old Hammondtown School for twelve years, retired from this position on February 26, 2021. We want to thank Sue Powers for her commitment and dedication to the students, their families and the staff at Old Hammondtown School over the past twelve years. We wish Sue Powers good health and happiness in her retirement. Her star will always shine brightly in the foyer at Old Hammondtown School.
- We welcomed Mrs. Jennifer Janicki to the Old Hammondtown School community as the new secretary to the principal. Mrs. Janicki and her husband and children are residents of Mattapoisett. We are very pleased to welcome Jennifer to Old Hammondtown School.
- We also welcomed two student teachers from Bridgewater State University. Sarah Kelley worked with Mrs. Marissa Hughes and her students in grade one at Center School. Sonya Wilkinson worked with Ms. Laura Mirabito and her grade six class at Old Hammondtown School.

Parent Conferences:

Parent Conferences, scheduled on Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, took place utilizing a ZOOM meeting or a telephone conference. Parents choose the method that was best for them. Student dismissal, on October 22 and 23, was at 12:20 pm. The same format was used during the parent conferences that were scheduled in March, 2021.

Professional Development:

The following professional development opportunities were presented to staff this year:

- Data from the AIMS Web Plus assessments was analyzed by classroom teachers. Student interventions and progress monitoring timelines were developed at each grade level.
- Kindergarten through grade 2 teachers participated in training on the Shaywitz Dyslexia Screening Tool for AIMS Web Plus. This assessment is used with students to determine who may be at risk for reading difficulties.
- District nurses continued their work on planning and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Paraprofessional staff continued their work on supporting students with accommodations and modifications.
- Specialists (Art, Music, Science, Library, Physical Education and Technology) worked together to integrate technology into their curriculum planning.
- *Social/Emotional Learning for Cultural Proficiency and Global Understanding* was the focus led by presenter Eugene Hamilton. Topics included equity in the classroom, having conversations on culture in the classroom to support student engagement and reflective conversations to support cultural proficiency.
- District Full Day Professional Development Day. Focus: Prepare and Plan to Pivot to Full In-Person Learning and Instruction Teachers reviewed grade level content, with a focus on reading and math, and prioritized the skills students will need to be exposed to over the next 12 weeks. Teachers created scope and sequence maps for each subject. Teachers also identified and embedded Social and Emotional and Global Citizenship activities into their lessons.

Kindergarten:

- The Mattapoissett School System provides a tuition free full day Kindergarten program for all Mattapoissett students. Students must be five (5) years old by August 31 in order to enter the Kindergarten program for that school year.
- The incoming Kindergarten Parent Informational meeting took place on February 3, 2021. Doreen Lopes (District Early Childhood Coordinator), Kevin Tavares (Associate Principal) and the Kindergarten teachers (Jane Zajac, Christy Julian and Mackenzie Sylvia) met with the parents using a ZOOM format. The teachers shared with the parents what a typical day in Kindergarten was like. Doreen Lopes and Kevin Tavares explained the registration process for students entering Kindergarten in the next school year.
- “Meet and Greet” sessions are opportunities for the incoming Kindergarten students to meet in small groups (approximately eight students per group) for forty-five minutes with the Kindergarten teachers. The session times are scheduled in June and parents choose the time for their child. The children have an opportunity to play together and complete individual activities with the teachers. The “Meet and Greet” sessions took place on June 2 and June 3.

Title I Parent Information:

- Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell met with the Title 1 personnel to review the implementation of the services at Old Hammondtown School. Mrs. Linda Aruri (Math) and Mrs. Margaret DeMello (ELA) are working with students at Old Hammondtown School during their hybrid out days using the ZOOM format to provide support in Math and English/Language Arts.

Student Celebrations:

- Every student grades PreK- grade 6 is participating in the Hour of Code during the month of December. Students at Center School have been working with the Beebot robots as they learn about coding. The Dash program bots are being used at each grade level at Old Hammondtown School. The importance of learning the Computer Sciences is our focus and as a continuation on programming, the students will also be working on coding Micro Bit (<https://www.microbit.org/>) in grades 4-6.
- Scholastic Book Fairs, sponsored by the Mattapoissett PTA, were scheduled at Old Hammondtown School and Center School, in the fall and in the spring. Andrea Osborne, President of the Mattapoissett PTA, coordinated the outdoor book fairs with multiple parent volunteers. The funding from the book fairs at each school was donated to the Center School and Old Hammondtown libraries to purchase additional student books at each school.
- Poodle Skirts and Rolled Up Jeans in Kindergarten: Center School Kindergarten students kicked-off the fifty days left of school countdown with their annual 50's Day Celebration. Students participated in "50's" themed activities throughout the day to show off their math and reading skills. There were lots of twisting and shouting too.
- Center School Moves with the Boston Bruins: Thanks to the effort of first-grade teacher Marissa Hughes, the students at Center School were able to participate in a BFit Virtual Assembly. BFit is a collaborative venture between the Boston Bruins and National Grid. BFit's mission is to encourage movement and promote healthier living throughout New England. The virtual assembly emphasized the value of hard work and a healthy, active lifestyle. The Boston Bruins have pledged to use their expertise in professional strength & conditioning, nutrition, physical therapy, and community as a platform to bring fitness to everyone across the Commonwealth. It

was a positive message for the students to hear that not everyone is a professional hockey player or athlete, but everyone can agree on the importance of health, wellness, and exercise. The live Zoom event wrapped up with the students doing exercises led by Bruins mascot Blades.

- Center School students have another playground option thanks to the effort of Old Rochester Regional High School Senior Rachel Foye. Rachel researched, planned, and designed the colorful sensory walk for all of the students to enjoy. We were fortunate that Rachel chose Center School as her canvas.
- Field Day returned to Center School and Old Hammondtown School thanks to physical education teacher Mr. Chad Cabeceiras. It has been challenging trying to navigate the changing regulations and guidelines but Mr. C planned and implemented a great Field Day experience for the students at Center School and Old Hammondtown School.
- The Flag Day celebration on June 14 took place outside at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. This celebration was led by Kevin Brogioli at Center School and Kevin Tavares at Old Hammondtown School
- In June our third grade students prepared for their trip across Route 6 and the beginning of their new adventure at Old Hammondtown School. Several activities were planned for the grade 3 students which concluded with a pizza party on the school lawn.
- An Old Hammondtown School virtual walk-through and Q & A session for grade 3 students and families transitioning from Center to OHS took place on Tuesday, June 15th. The session was recorded for those who were not be able to attend. An in-person open house tour in mid-August gave our new 4th grade students a first-hand view of what it's like at Old Hammondtown School.
- Our grade 6 students celebrated their last few weeks at OHS before they transitioned up to Old Rochester Regional Junior High School. Egg drop trials, a kickball game, yearbook signing, and even a picnic at the town beach were special times for the students to remember. The school year concluded for our grade six students in a special ceremony held under a tent at Old Hammondtown School on Monday, June 21st.

Appreciation and Thanks:

- As always, we would like to thank all our stakeholders. We could not have made it this far into the school year without their unwavering support. It is greatly appreciated by all and we look forward to our continued partnership through each school year.
- A big thank you goes out to Captain Jason King and fellow officers of the Mattapoisett Police Department for all of the support that they have provided to our schools throughout the year.
- The Mattapoisett Land Trust supports our students at Center School and Old Hammondtown throughout the year. Their support gives students an opportunity to enhance their learning, especially in the science curriculum.
- We would also like to thank the Mattapoisett PTA for recognizing and celebrating the hard work of teachers and staff in both elementary schools.
- We would like to acknowledge the Tri-Town's Student Resource Officer Matt McGraw of the Mattapoisett Police Department for his assistance in planning our revised drop-off and pick-up plan for students at Center School and Old Hammondtown School.
- Special thanks to the Cape Cod 5 Bank for their educational grant program. Kindergarten teacher, Jane Zajac, and Speech and Language Pathology teacher Tracy Fiore were the recipients of a Cape Cod 5 Educational Mini-Grant this year. Cape Cod 5 provides thousands of dollars in mini-grants to fund educational projects to public school teachers in the communities that they serve. Jane received \$300.00 for her project that focuses on mindfulness and movement in the

classroom. Tracy was awarded \$500.00 towards a new computer. The computer will be used to create and enhance her lessons with green screen technology.

- We would like to extend our deepest thanks to everyone in the Mattapoisett community who supported our students during the pandemic. We would especially like to extend our gratitude to all of the families who have worked to support their children during this time where everyone faced the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented.