

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee

08.21.2024



I have a few items to share,

We are incredibly excited about the opening of our school year, and I want to express my deepest appreciation for all of our staff. Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to our students and the communities of Dudley and Charlton have been nothing short of remarkable. As we embark on this new school year, I am confident that their passion and professionalism will continue to inspire our students and create a nurturing and stimulating environment for learning, helping every student strive to reach their full potential.

Here are a few important dates to start our 2024-2025 school year.

August

Monday, August 26, 2024 – Staff orientation

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 – First Day all students [exception K/Prek. Sept. 3]

Friday, August 30, 2024 – Early Release Day – All students and staff

September

Monday, September 2, 2024 – Labor Day, no school all students and staff

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 – First day Kindergarten/Prekindergarten

Friday, September 27, 2024 – Early Release Day – All students

October

Friday, October 10, 2024 – Early Release Day – All Students/ Parent Conferences – All

Monday, October 14, 2024 – Columbus Day – no school all students and staff

November

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – Staff In-service Day, no school all students [Election Day]

Monday, November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day – no school all students and staff

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 – Early Release Day - All - Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 28th and Friday November 29, 2024 - All - Thanksgiving Break

As shared with the School Committee, the need for an additional teacher at Dudley Middle School emerged in the middle of the summer due to increased registrations in 7th grade. This grade has traditionally been a larger cohort, pushing the limits on class size. Initially, this was seen as an anomaly, but the continued increase in registrations has made it clear that the situation must be addressed. As previously mentioned, we posted the position and successfully hired a qualified teacher to start the school year. However, in line with our practice, the additional position must be approved by the School Committee. The position will be funded through our hiring practices this summer and supported by the School Choice account.

I respectfully request that the School Committee provide a favorable vote this evening.

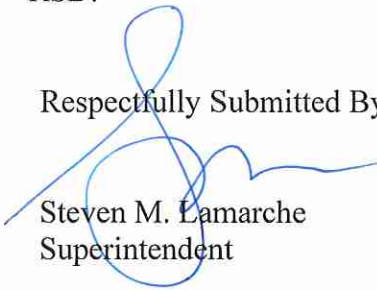
SHRHS is preparing for its Decennial Accreditation visit in October 2027, which will begin with a two-day Collaborative Conference Visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in October 2025. This is an incredibly valuable process that begins this school year. NEASC's Collaborative Conference Visit is a new step in the accreditation process. I am proud of the work of the SHRHS staff and have complete confidence in Principal Elwell to oversee the high school's efforts to meet the Standards for Accreditation.

Once again, the Dudley-Charlton RSD has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Last year, Dudley Middle School and Heritage Elementary School participated. This year, Dudley Elementary's 4th grade and SHRHS's 12th grade have been preliminarily selected. What is different this year is that the final selection process will not occur until all Massachusetts schools that were preliminarily selected complete a Technology Survey. If Dudley Elementary and/or SHRHS are chosen, the testing window will be from January 27, 2025, through March 7, 2025.

The Charlton Recreation Commission held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 10, 2024, at Charlton Middle School to showcase the completion of Adam Rydlak's Eagle Scout project, which involved creating a pickleball court and upgrading the tennis court for the Charlton community and Charlton Middle School. Special thanks go to Amazon, Sue and Peter Maly, Charlton Middle School Principal Stacy Monette, and others who supported Adam's Eagle Scout project.

The DCRSD administrative team has been working closely with Ms. Linda Johnson and Ms. Samantha Suss from MAPFRE Insurance to coordinate a MAPFRE Give Back project this fall. As a result, the plan is for MAPFRE volunteers to refresh the Mason Road Playground. We greatly appreciate this collaboration with MAPFRE and their support of the Dudley-Charlton RSD.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Steven M. Lamarche
Superintendent