

Malden Public Schools Newsletter

January 2025

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Malden Public Schools Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to our school district newsletter! We are thrilled to use this new resource to share important updates and district-wide developments with you on a routine basis.

In this newsletter you'll find:

- **District Happenings**
- **Community Resource Spotlight**
- **Dates to Remember**
- **Important Links**

As we move into the second half of the year, I'd like to thank our whole school community for your continued efforts in doing right by all kids. As I have been visiting classrooms across the district, it has been a joy to observe our students embracing learning with the support of our amazing educators. I'm looking forward to the progress we will make together through the rest of the year!

If there is any way we can better support your child's success, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal or reach out to the district office at (781) 397-6100.

Have a great rest of January!

Sincerely,

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.

Superintendent of Schools

District Happenings

Superintendent's Entry Plan: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the survey you were sent in December. In the next few weeks, Superintendent Sippel will be hosting more town halls to follow up on ideas shared through the survey. Stay tuned for dates and times for topic specific town halls and stay up to date on entry plan updates at maldenps.org/superintendent-2024-entry-plan/.

ACCESS Testing: This month, English learners in all grades across the district are taking part in ACCESS Testing. This test is a state-required

test, similar to MCAS, for English language learners. The test measures

their academic English language skills. The results of this test allow us to provide the right level of English language support services to students going forward. Thank you to all our educators helping to proctor this test and thank you to all the parents and students arriving to school on-time and ready for testing.

Extracurriculars: In a collaborative effort with principals, the district is now offering afterschool clubs and activities for grades 6-8 at all of our K-8 schools. With a variety of options at each school, students can learn a new skill, follow a passion, and spend more time bonding with teachers and classmates. To learn how students can get involved in current programs, please contact your school principal.



MCAS and Question 2: There has been some understandable confusion around what the passing of Question 2 in the November election means for students and schools. Question 2 did not eliminate MCAS testing or make the tests less important. The only thing that changed is that MCAS performance cannot be used to determine if a student is eligible for graduation. Federal and state law still require schools to administer the MCAS test in grades 3-8 and once in high school, and students are still required to take the test. Additionally, MCAS is still used by the state to measure school and district performance. With its alignment to standards, MCAS continues to be an extremely important measure of students' achievement and readiness for the future. Malden will continue to prepare students to succeed on the MCAS tests this spring. Please encourage your child to do the very best on the MCAS assessments!

Community Resource Spotlight

Each month we will highlight a local Malden resource that can help students and families. This month we are spotlighting the **Language Access Office**.



Malden's Language Access Office aims to ensure that everyone, regardless of language, can connect with community places, local events, and municipal services. If you need help accessing city resources in your language, the Language Access Office can provide that assistance.

You can start by calling the City Hall language line at 617-865-2273 to receive assistance in your language. You can also find the Language Access Office's webpage at cityofmalden.org/947/Language-Access.

You can find more local resources at cityofmalden.org.

Dates to Remember (January and February)



- **Jan. 20: No School in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day**
- **Jan. 21:** [SEPAC Virtual Presentation](#); details available at the link.
- **Feb. 3:** School Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm at City Hall
- **Feb. 5: Early Dismissal at 11am for all grades**
- **Feb. 10 - Feb. 14:** ELC Caregiver/Teacher Conferences 2:30-5:30 (please check with your classroom teacher about which specific days and times they will be available)
- **Feb. 11:** Ferryway Caregiver/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-5:00 pm
- **Feb. 12:** Forestdale Caregiver/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-5:00 pm
- **Feb. 13:** MHS Caregiver/Teacher Conferences 3:30-5:00 pm
- **Feb. 17 - Feb. 21: No School - February Break**
- **Feb. 24:** School is Back in Session



Important Links

Aspen Portal

Calendars

- [Report Card Schedule](#)
- [Caregiver/Teacher Conferences Calendar](#)
- [District Academic Calendar](#)

Meal Menus