

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

MARTHA JONES SCHOOL - WESTWOOD, MA

[Westwood Public Schools](#) | [Martha Jones School](#) | [Martha Jones PTO](#)

Issue 6 - November 11, 2022



MARTHA JONES CELEBRATED VETERANS DAY WITH A RED, WHITE AND BLUE SPIRIT DAY

Mrs. McDonough's class really showed some spirit on Thursday!

Accessibility

 Translate

 High Contrast Mode

Aa

Aa

Aa





LUNCH TIME LOOKS!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Martha Jones Families,

Working on a character trait like gratitude is intuitive and organic at this time of year. We have been emphasizing this theme through our morning announcements and we will be holding our All School Meeting on Nov. 18th. The theme of gratitude, along with recognition of Veterans Day, Native American Heritage Month, as well as Diwali and Thanksgiving, makes for a full and fun agenda. Thank you to Ms. Saada-Smith, our music teacher, who will lead the Kindergarten in the song, *Thankful*. These All School Meetings have been a great way to build community and a sense of belonging.

I also would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our veterans for their service on behalf of our country. I deeply appreciate your sacrifice.



Happy fall! 🍂 🍁
Donna



DIWALI FESTIVAL

[Westwood Diwali Festival](#) will be held at the High School on Saturday from 6 - 10pm.
Please click the [link for more information](#).



Communicating gratitude is always important, but especially at Thanksgiving time.

"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude." ~ Karl Barth

HALLOWEEN SPIRIT!

Thank you to the PTO Halloween Carnival Committee. The event was spectacular!
Here are a few pictures from that event and from MJ's Halloween's Stripes and Orange Spirit Day.





IMPORTANT DATES

Fri., Nov. 11

Veterans Day No School

Sat., Nov. 12 Diwali Festival WHS 6:00pm

Tue., Nov. 15

Gr. 3 Enrichment: David Coffin Recorder

Site Council 3:30PM

SEPAC Board Meeting 8:30

Wed., Nov. 16

Early Release Day 11:50AM

Parent Conferences - afternoon only

Safe Gun Storage (See flyer below)

Thur., Nov. 17

All School Enrichment: Mat Heagerty Author Visit 1:30

SEPAC Meet and Greet 9:30-11:30

Fri., Nov. 18

All School Assembly 2:25

Tues. Nov. 22 Spirit Day - Sports Day

Wed., Nov. 23

Early Release Day **12:00PM**

Thurs., Nov. 24-Mon., Nov. 28

Thanksgiving Recess

Mon., Nov. 28

In Service Day - No School for Students

Tues., Nov. 29 Lynn Lyons Presentation

Fri. Dec. 2

5th Grade Play 6:00PM

Mon. Dec. 5

Rabbi Karen Citrin Faculty Meeting 3:15

Tue. Dec. 6

PTO Meeting 7:00

Wed. Dec. 7

Early Release Day 11:50

Thurs. Dec. 8

SEPAC Meet and Greet

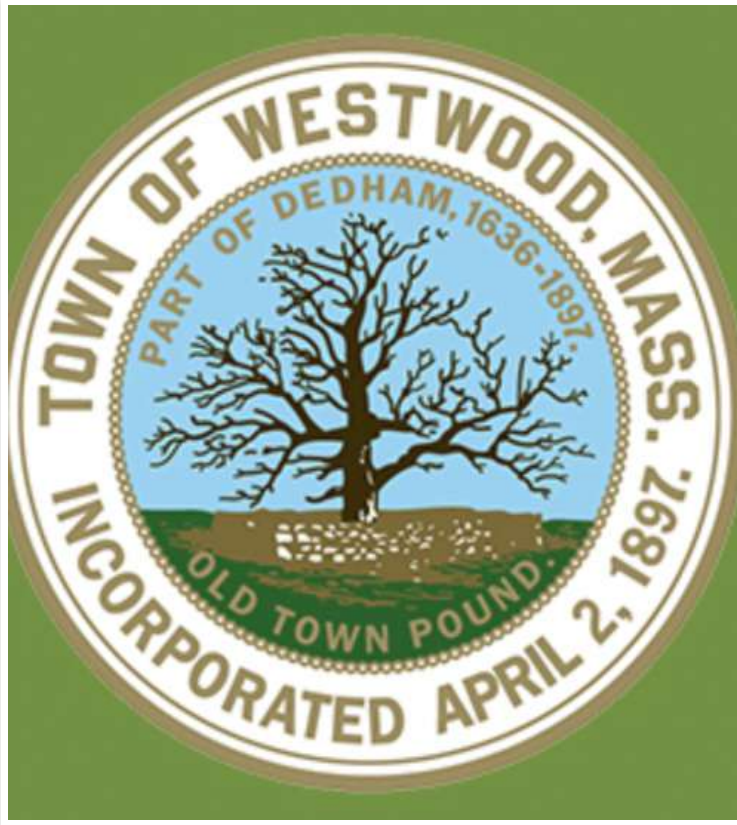
Fri. Dec. 9

ImprovBoston: Improv for Inclusion: Acceptance & Support

Mon. Dec. 12

All Grade 5 Concert at WHS





DISTRICT AND SCHOOL NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are underway. It's been a pleasure to welcome you to Martha Jones to discuss your child's progress. Conferences continue on November 16th. For parents/caregivers with conferences scheduled for Nov. 16th, your students' Status Reports will be sent home on Monday, November 14th. Hard copies of the Status Reports will be sent home in envelopes in the students' backpacks.

Martha Jones Library, Music, Physical Education, and Art Specialists are also available to meet with you to discuss how your child is doing in their classrooms. Please email the specialists directly, if you would set-up a conference time.

Specialist Teachers:

- Pat Foley (Physical Education): pfoley@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Chelsea Santos-Friberg (Art-Th): csantosfriberg@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Beth Swinney (Library): bswinney@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Mark Goguen (Gr. 3 Coding): mgoguen@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Mary Comer (Technology, K): mcomer@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Lori Labeledz (Instrumental Music: Woodwinds): llabeledz@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Deana Saada-Smith (Music): dsaadasmith@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Katelyn Pickering (Music): kpickering@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Joel Yennior (Instrumental Music: Brass): jyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us

Food Services Reminder

From time to time the lunch menu may change without notice. Please understand we will do our best to let you know if we have enough advance notice. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Our nurse is notified so she is able to anticipate any allergy concerns.

Food Sent to School



Halloween has passed and the holidays are coming. As you know, we encourage our students to bring in healthy snacks and lunches to school. As parents/caregivers, you send in your food preferences for your students to eat and we support you.

However, if you do choose to send in many pieces of candy with your student, please review with him/her the importance of not sharing candy, or any food, with others. Due to allergies, we must be very cautious to ensure our students' safety. Thank you for your understanding.

School Grounds

I just want to provide a friendly reminder to the community that our school grounds are closed to the public during the school day.

Many people also bring their dogs to the school grounds. Technically, dogs are not allowed at school. If you do walk here after school with your dog, please clean up after your animal. Thank you very much.

WELCOMING SCHOOLS

This week the Welcoming Schools Committee had its second meeting. I am thrilled to share our progress. Last year the committee had many ideas for the coming school year. I am pleased to let you know we have accomplished many of the committee's goals.

Thanks to the PTO Enrichment and Grants Committees, we have secured funding for a variety of presentations and assemblies for the school year. Thank you to Susan Paik and Meredith Balint for their hard work in booking the assemblies. Thank you to Kristen Donahue for writing the Dedham Savings Grant. We received a \$500 grant for the Danielle Murray presentation for staff.

Thank you to the Welcome Schools Committee members for their hard work!

The following assemblies and presentations have been planned:

For Students:

Mat Heagerty (author visit) - Lumberjackula (Story about being true to yourself) He will present his book and do a talk *Strength in Learning Differences*, which discusses neurodiversity. He was a struggling dyslexic student in the past. <https://www.matheagerty.com/school-visits.html>

Inclusive Schools Week program:

Young Audiences of MA (YAMA) - ImprovBoston: Improv for Inclusion: Acceptance & Support 12/9/22 (Inclusive Schools Week) <https://yamass.org/index.php/programs/theater/interactive-anti-bullying-program>

We also have all school reads planned for Inclusive Schools Week, as an all schools elementary activity.

YAMA - Illstyle & Peace - Become Your Dreams: History of Hip Hop Dance 2/3/23 (African American History Month)
<https://yamass.org/illstyle-peace-productions/>

Peter Reynolds (author visit) - *Say Something* (Using your voice to fight injustice) for grades 3-5 and *Ish* (Thinking creatively is more important than "getting it right") grades for K-2



(Scheduling in progress) YAMA Eth-Noh-Tec - Asia Fantasia - Asian American Heritage Month in May <https://yamass.org/index.php/programs/storytelling/asia-fantasia>

Programs for Staff:

Rabbi Karen Citrin will present information on Judaism and holidays at our December Faculty Meeting.

Danielle Murray will present information on diverse families at our January Faculty Meeting.

Throughout the months we are embedding character traits into daily school life. This month we have focused on **Gratitude**. The month of December, in recognition of respecting various customs and holiday traditions and practices, will be **Respect**.

Our November All School Meeting will touch upon Diwali, Thanksgiving, Gratitude and Native American Heritage Month.

For Parents/Caregivers:

For our parents and caregivers we are preparing to send out a survey to determine your areas of interest for future presentations. Currently, Lynn Lyons will be presenting on "The Emotional Skills Your Family Needs Now". This presentation is timely and aligns with our goals.

Please see below for another inclusive activity offered to our parents/caregivers by our librarian, Mrs. Swinning.

While we have more to do, I think we are off to a fine start this year! Thank you to all of our stakeholder groups for your support.



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

If a student is diagnosed with a communicable disease, please contact the School Nurse. This is vital for control measures, as well as for protecting students and staff who may be medically at risk from exposure to these illnesses. Children need to remain home until they are no longer contagious. This limits the spread of the disease and allows the child to recover more quickly. Mrs. Doyle, recently sent home a letter further explaining the above information.

Most common communicable diseases:



Chicken Pox/Shingles
Strep Throat
Conjunctivitis
COVID
Fifth Disease (Hand Foot and Mouth)
Influenza (Flu)
Mono
Vomiting/Diarrhea
Head Lice/Pediculosis

Please refer to the Elementary Handbook for further information.

Thank you for supporting a healthy learning environment at MJ! Nurse Doyle

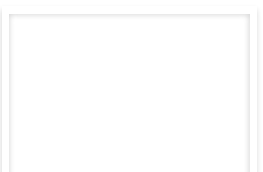
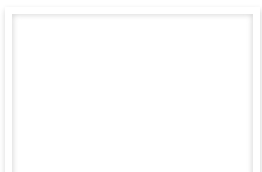
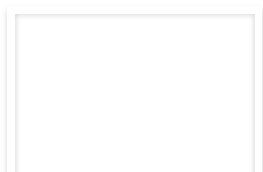


NEWS FROM 5G (MS. GROSS)

With one final year before 5th graders head off to middle school, it's important to build up strategies that will help students tackle the more complex texts that they'll be encountering. We launched this nonfiction unit by "getting to know" a variety of nonfiction books. The topics ranged from the history of comic books to beauty and costume design.

Veterans Day

Students in Ms. Gross's class spent time decorating cards and writing notes to show their gratitude and appreciation for our country's veterans.





NEWS FROM 2M (MS. MUNDY)

In second grade, the students have started a unit on Geometry. Second graders have learned about rectangular and triangular prisms, and how they can be distinguished by the number and shape of their faces. Students are also learning to identify the vertices and edges of prisms. In a recent lesson in Ms. Mundy's class, students worked together to apply their geometric knowledge in order to identify a variety of prisms using cards containing the outline of their faces.

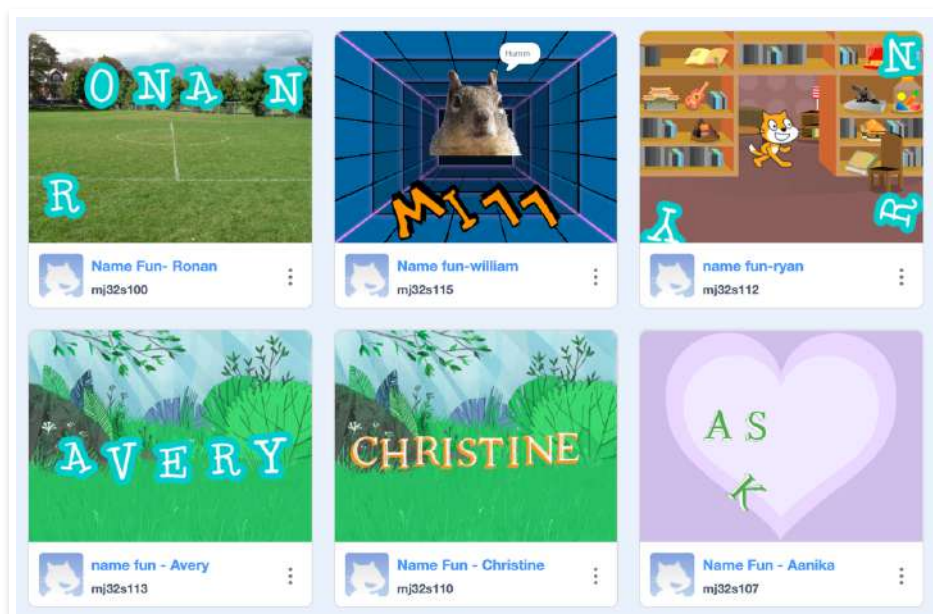


NEWS FROM MUSIC (MRS. SAADA-SMITH)

Students in Mrs. Saada-Smith's Music Classes have been learning to read music notes. Second graders (2 Mundy) are learning to read music notes in the shape of pumpkins and are playing melodies on the xylophones and metallophones. Third Graders (3 Luskin) are learning to read notes on the music staff and take turns being the teacher to review the steps to learning music!

NEWS FROM THE TECH ROOM (MR. GOGUEN)

Third graders are busy programming each week during their Coding special. This picture shows thumbnails of the beginning stages of an "Animate Your Name" project using Scratch. Students will make each letter of their name do interesting things like move, change color, make sounds, etc...



A MESSAGE FROM LIBRARY



As part of our effort this year to "Read Around the World in 180 Days". I would like to invite family members to come visit during library classes and share with students any special



holiday traditions that are celebrated in our community during the month of December. If you would like to come in during your student's library time, or if you would like to send Mrs. Swinning something to share, please contact her at bswinning@westwood.k12.ma.us. You can find the library schedule [HERE](#).
Thank you!
Mrs. Swinning



STUDENT COUNCIL

Thanksgiving is the perfect holiday to help students cultivate an "attitude of gratitude." And what's more, research shows that it's really good for both students and staff. Gratitude helps students feel better about school. - greatergood.org

"Each year MJ students reflect on what they are grateful for and write it down on a paper feather. November's Student Council members are assisting with the preparation and collection of MJ's annual 'gratitude feathers'. Student Council Members assisted Mrs. McDonough and Ms. Gross in creating the turkey and its feathers. They will then help put all of the feathers on the Thankful Turkey in the front lobby." ~ Student Council Advisors

This year we are holding off on a food drive until later in the year. We have found that everyone does a Thanksgiving Food Drive and there is greater need in the winter or spring.

The Student Council has planned a Spirit Day for November. Our Sports Day will be held on November 22nd. The theme will be **Fall** Sports Day. Students may wear sportswear, hats, etc. However, students should not wear cleats or bring accessories. Thank you!

Student Council is also excited to report that as a school community, we collected over 70 items to be donated to the Dedham Animal Shelter. Thank you to all who brought items in to help the animals!





**MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PTO**

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.



SAVE THE DATE: PTO MEETING ON DECEMBER 6 AT 7:00 PM

Spoiler alert... we have a ton of fun and enriching activities planned for 2023! Come with your calendars in hand and learn how you can get involved in a way that fits your schedule and leverages your talents.

Please join us in-person at the **Martha Jones School Library** or via Zoom. Details to follow.





HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL VOLUNTEERS

The night was a huge success and only possible because of the many volunteers that dedicated their time. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Stay spooky!

“THE EMOTIONAL SKILLS YOUR FAMILY NEEDS NOW”: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT 7:00 PM

The PTOs of all Westwood Public Schools and SEPAC are pleased to sponsor this event hosted by Lynn Lyons, which will take place in the Little Theater at Westwood High School. Parents, caregivers, and students who are 13+ are welcome to attend. For additional information and to RSVP, please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXh6KkmOtCjP729Oo-4E4h_2uMnYVmFrjAEAZ3HWXx-bmb1g/viewform. Please note that attendees are required to RSVP.

SUPPORT MONTREPRENEURS AND MJS PTO

When you shop [Pixie Lane](#) with Jen Ostroff during the entire month of November, **20% of all sales will be donated to the Martha Jones PTO!** Please email Jen pixielanejenostroff@gmail.com and let her know you'd like your purchase to support MJS. Rather shop and socialize? Sara Mirson will also host an adults-only shopping event on Wednesday, November 16 from 7:00-9:00 PM at 35 Autumn Drive. 20% of all sales at this event will also be donated to the MJS PTO! Please RSVP to Sara at sara.mirson@gmail.com if you plan on attending.



SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY BINGO NIGHT AT MJS ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

More details to follow!



MJS PARENT SOCIAL: SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Please save the date for the MJS Parent social, our largest fundraiser of the year, which will take place on Saturday, March 11 in the evening at the German Club in Walpole. This is an adult-only event, so please book your babysitters!



JOIN THE PTO!

Sign up today at: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/198140>

PTO Members get exclusive access to the full school student directory, including guardian contact information and voting privileges. Plus, your membership fees help fund our programs like field trips, enrichment activities, playground equipment and our larger signature events.

MJ PTO - CONNECT WITH US!

MARTHA JONES PTO FACEBOOK GROUP

Did you know Martha Jones PTO has its own Facebook group page? Join the Facebook group to get the latest PTO news and updates delivered right to your news feed! Click [here](#) to join!

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to: PTO Co-Secretary Beth Klaene at baklaene@gmail.com or Mary Jason at maryjason06@gmail.com.





SEPAC NEWS

Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for our upcoming parent groups and meetings! You may be just starting your journey or be years into an IEP/504. All are welcome.

- Nov 15: Board Meeting
- Nov 17: Parent Coffee
- Nov 29 Lynn Lyons Presentation

Visit us at www.westwoodsepac.org/events for more information.

SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Frank and Caitlyn Jurczak caitlynp82@yahoo.com



NEWS FROM WYFS

We are currently accepting registrations for our Structured Play Groups, 8 week groups that focus on the development of positive social skills and self-esteem.

Below are the online registration links for each group-

- Kindergarten/1st Grade: <https://forms.gle/MWGXFUqBzCQh57z99>
- 2nd/3rd Grade: <https://forms.gle/C6PDs7h41DQdUEhc6>
- 4th/5th Grade: <https://forms.gle/K5oWziLxKrehexty9>



[Click the link](#) to register your student for WYFS programs and activities.



Structured Play Group

2022-2023 Group Description
These 8 week groups for K - 5th graders emphasize the development of social skills as well as building self-esteem and confidence. Organized play and activities are used to reinforce topics such as initiating and developing friendships, working cooperatively, and recognizing personal strengths. All groups are free of charge and run in person.



Winter 2023 Groups

Kindergarten/1st Grade
• Mondays, Jan 9-Mar 13, 4:00-5:00pm, Location TBD

2nd/3rd Grade
• Thursdays, Jan 12-Mar 9, 4:00-5:00pm, Location TBD

4th/5th Grade
• Tuesdays Jan 10-Mar 7, 4:00-5:00pm, Location TBD

**More Groups will be available for Spring 2023!
Check back in January 2023**

Register through our website
<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services/programs-for-youth>

Contact: Shen Loneragan, LCSW
781-320-1006 or sloneragan@townhall.westwood.ma.us

SAFE GUN STORAGE

On November 16th, Westwood Public Schools, Westwood Police Department, Westwood Youth & Family Services, and Everytown for Gun Safety will present *Safe Gun Storage*, an event to educate our families on safe storage and responsible gun safety actions.



PROTECTING OUR KIDS IS UP TO ALL OF US

BEING SMART SAVES LIVES

SECURE all guns in your home and vehicles	MODEL responsible behavior around guns	ASK about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes	RECOGNIZE the role of guns in suicide	TELL your peers to be SMART
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The Be SMART framework is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2022 alone, there were at least 232 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in 102 deaths and 142 injuries nationally.

JOIN US!
Safe Gun Storage
November 16, 2022
Westwood Youth & Family Services
Wentworth Hall Community Room
273 Washington St, Westwood
7:00 – 8:15 PM

Visit BeSMARTforKids.org to learn more.
When it comes to kids' safety, we're ALL in this TOGETHER.

Sponsored by Westwood Public Schools, Westwood Police Department, Westwood Youth & Family Services, and Everytown for Gun Safety

LYNN LYONS PRESENTATION

The PTOs of WHS, Thurston, Downey, and Hanlon are thrilled to welcome Lynn Lyons, anxiety expert, author, family therapist, and internationally recognized speaker, to Westwood on Tuesday, November 29th at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Emotional Skills Your Family Needs Now." The presentation will take place in the Westwood High School Little Theater.

[Please click here to register.](#)



Brought to you by the Westwood High School PTO
with support from Thurston, Downey & Hanlon PTOs

"The Emotional Skills Your Family Needs Now"

by author, podcaster, and
internationally recognized
speaker, Lynn Lyons



Please use link to RSVP

Recommended for adults and kids 13+

For more about the speaker visit
LynnLyons.com



**Tuesday
Nov 29th
@ 7:00 PM
Westwood HS
Little Theater**



"Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie." - Jim Davis



"Thanksgiving, man. Not a good day to be my pants."
- Kevin James



"When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup." - Sam Lefkowitz



GET YOUR THANKSGIVING GROOVE ON!

With this fun intergenerational playlist, perfect for a chill vibe or to accompany your holiday meal.



Thankful by The Juicebox Jukebox | 2022 ...



2022-2023 School Calendar

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

29 Teachers report
31 Students' First Day
2-5 Labor Day Weekend
26 Rosh Hashanah

October 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

5 Yom Kippur
10 Columbus Day

November 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

11 Veterans Day
23 Early dismissal
24-25 Thanksgiving Recess
28 All Day Inservice (No school for students)

December 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

26-30 Vacation

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 New Year's Day (Observed)
16 Martin Luther King Day

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

20-24 Vacation

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

7 Good Friday
17-21 Vacation

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

29 Memorial Day

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

16 Students' Last Day (Teachers' Day 180)
19 June 18th
26 Students' Last Day (Includes 5 make-ups)

School Hours						
High School 7:25am-2:05pm (Dismissal at 12:45pm on Early Release Days)						
Middle School 7:48am-2:25pm (Dismissal at 1:10pm on Early Release Days)						
Elementary Schools 8:50am-3:10pm (Dismissal at 11:50am on Early Release Days)						
Preschool 4-day 9am-1pm or 9am-2:45pm (Dismissal at 11:30am on Early Release Days)						
Preschool 5-day 9am-2:45pm (Dismissal at 11:30am on Early Release Days)						

Early Release Days highlighted in yellow

School Committee Start Date Guidelines: When Labor Day is September 5, 6, or 7, the first day of classes will be the following Tuesday. When Labor Day is September 8, 9, or 10, the first day of classes will be the preceding Wednesday. In addition, there will be no school for students on the Friday preceding Labor Day.

Approved by School Committee January 13, 2022

