

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

MARTHA JONES SCHOOL - WESTWOOD, MA

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

Issue 7 - November 25, 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Martha Jones Families,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your families and friends. I hosted this year. We had a full house and enjoyed the day. It's a wonderful time to pause and reflect on all of the ways we are thankful. I am very grateful to be part of this wonderful school community this year. I appreciate the warm welcome I received this fall and all of the support you offer as we work in partnership to educate the children. Thank you.

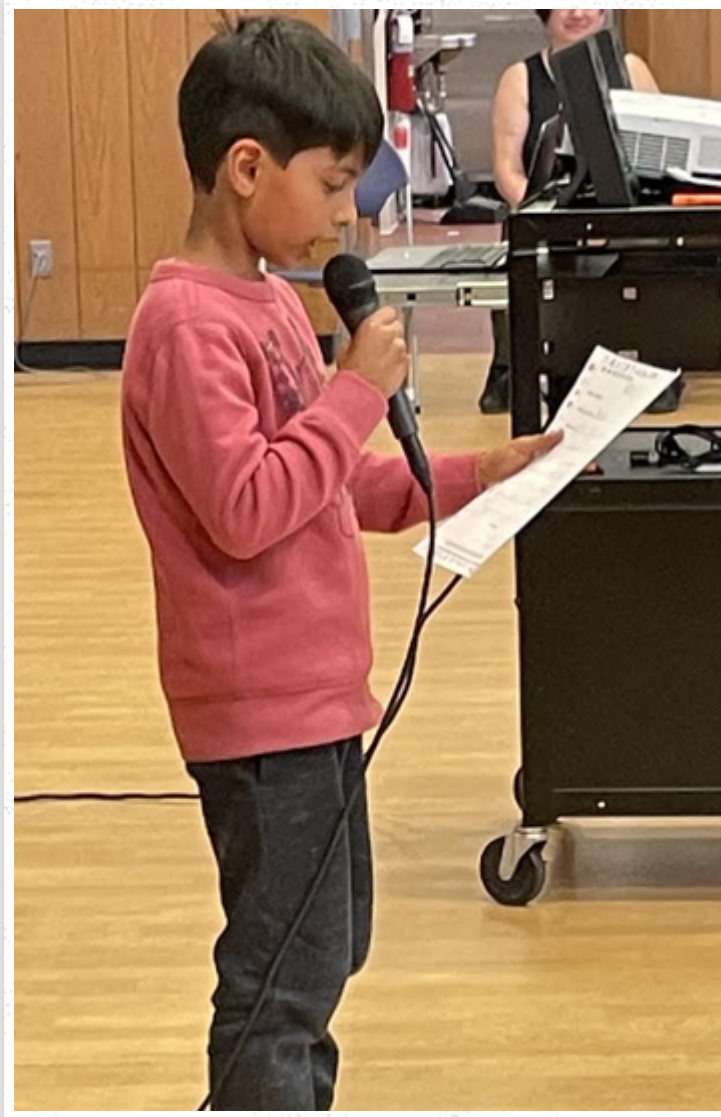
We had a fun All School Meeting last Friday. It was great to gather together to read [Grow Grateful](#) by Sage Foster-Lasser and John Lasser. We also celebrated our students with October/November birthdays and those who had received Victory Slips for above and beyond behavior reflecting our Big 3 Core Values: Be Kind, Be Curious and Be Respectful or Gratitude. Our kindergarten was adorable, singing *Thankful*, led by Mrs. Saada-Smith.

Warmly, 🍂 🌿

Donna



Kindergarten sings *Thankful* at our All School Meeting led by Mrs. Saada-Smith. Thank you!



First grader, Vihaan, from Mrs. Dunn's class, shares his letter to a veteran.



THANK YOU TO MRS. MCDONOUGH, MS. GROSS, STUDENT COUNCIL AND OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, FOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY THIS YEAR. STUDENT COUNCIL CUT OUT ALL OF THE FEATHERS FOR THIS SCHOOL-WIDE ACTIVITY!

Each year, as we get ready for Thanksgiving, each student writes on a turkey feather stating what they are thankful for... It is precious to read what the students say. Many write about how thankful they are for their family, their friends, their homes, their food, their teachers, their siblings, and their grandparents. Here are a few that stood out to me:

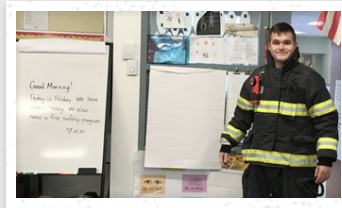
I'm thankful "for books. They are more entertaining than TV." (I loved that one!)

I'm thankful "for the turkey. He makes the feast delicious!"

I'm thankful "for my dog. He cheers me up when I am sad."

I'm thankful "for Martha Jones, the best school ever!"

**WESTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT VISITS
KINDERGARTEN**



IMPORTANT DATES

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. - Fri. Dec. 5-9

Inclusive Schools Week

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 Student Assembly

Mon. Dec. 12

All Grade 5 Concert at WHS



DISTRICT AND SCHOOL NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Food Services

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.

Covid Rapid Test Kits

On Tuesday, two Covid rapid test kits were sent home with your student. As Superintendent Parks noted, *DESE provided districts with COVID rapid test kits for distribution in anticipation of the upcoming school breaks. Testing is not required, but you may find them a useful tool to keep people healthy over the next couple of months as you gather with relatives and friends, possibly travel, and return to the school community after breaks.*



INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

During the week of December 5th, Westwood schools will celebrate Inclusive Schools Week. Our elementary schools will be reading [The Invisible Boy](#) by Trudy Ludwig.

The Martha Jones Welcoming Schools Committee and the Martha Jones PTO will host the Young Audiences of MA (YAMA) - ImprovBoston: Improv for Inclusion: Acceptance & Support program (<https://yamass.org/index.php/programs/theater/interactive-anti-bullying-program>) at Martha Jones on 12/9/22.

We are excited to bring this program to our students.



A NOTE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

Just a quick THANK YOU to all the families who have embraced the new School Dismissal Manager (SDM) technology. Having this new tool has made both daily attendance and the dismissal process here in the MJ Front Office run much more efficiently. Please remember any changes to your child's routine should be entered before 11AM on the day. And... you can also always enter changes in advance - a doctor's appointment in January, a special family absence in February, etc., you can enter those now. If you still need help logging in - please send me a

quick email and I can request to have your credentials resent. Having all families onboard using SDM is the end goal :)

Thank you again

Diane Santangelo

MJ Administrative Assistant

dsantangelo@westwood.k12.ma.us



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
jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us

CLASSROOM NEWS

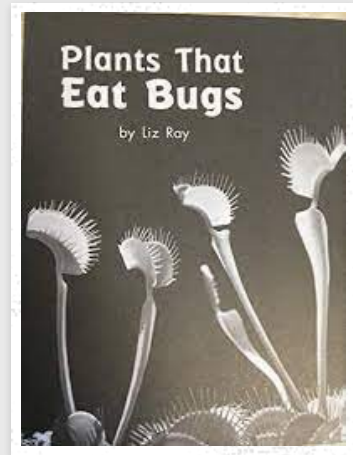
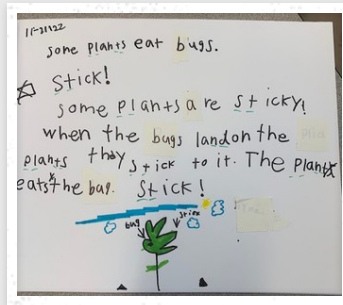
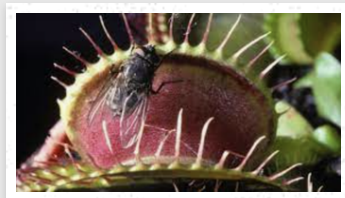
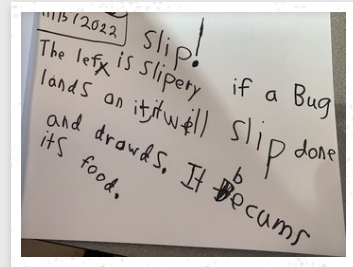
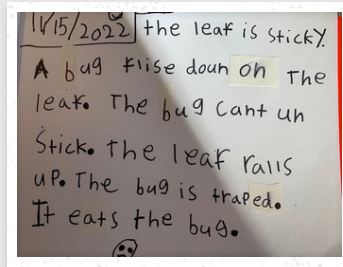
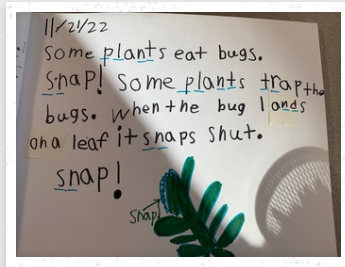
NEWS FROM 3LA (MRS. LANE)



NEWS FROM MRS. PICKERING (MUSIC)

Making music with Mrs. Pickering:

The second grade musicians from Ms. LeBlanc's class, learned a stone passing game from Ghana, Africa called "Obwisana". The students sat in a circle where everyone had a rock that they tapped on the floor to the rhythm of the music. Then they pass it to their neighbor. Finally, the students got "out" and played a drum (tubano, djembe and hand drum).

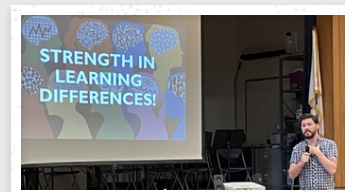
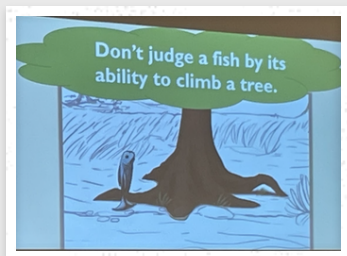


NEWS FROM LITERACY (MS. CHILD)

Second Grade Readers are Learning About Consonant Blends!

Second grade readers are learning about consonant blends. A consonant blend is when two consonants come together at the beginning or end of a word. You can hear each sound in the blend and the sounds are blended together. Students are learning to use letters and sounds in words, blending sounds together to decode words. After practice reading words with blends in isolation, students read a nonfiction book called, *Plants that Eat Bugs* by Liz Ray. In addition to teaching readers that some plants eat bugs by trapping them on their leaves, this book also gives students many opportunities to read words with blends.

Next, students had an opportunity to write about what they learned. I am very proud of their hard work!



MAT HEGEARTY, AUTHOR PRESENTATION AT MARTHA JONES

Thanks to the PTO our school enjoyed a presentation by Mat Hegearty. Mat is a graphic book author who grew up in Westborough, MA. Mat now lives in Boise, Idaho with his family. He has written Martian Ghost Centaur, Unplugged and Unpopular, and Just Another Sheep. His latest book, Lumberjackula, written by Hegearty and Sam Owen.

Mat presented *Strength in Learning Differences* to the students. After the main performance, Mat worked with grade 5 students sharing his *Creative Collaboration in Comics* talk.

It was an exciting day for our school!!



DAVID COFFIN PRESENTATION FOR GRADE 3

Thank you to the PTO Enrichment Committee for bringing David Coffin to Martha Jones School to perform for our third graders.

David's work is traditional and contemporary folk music. He draws on vocal and instrumental music from North America as well as England, Scotland, Ireland and Brittany. David also has an extensive collection of songs from the Maritime tradition.

The performance was wonderful and the children enjoyed it.

REMINDER – 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!

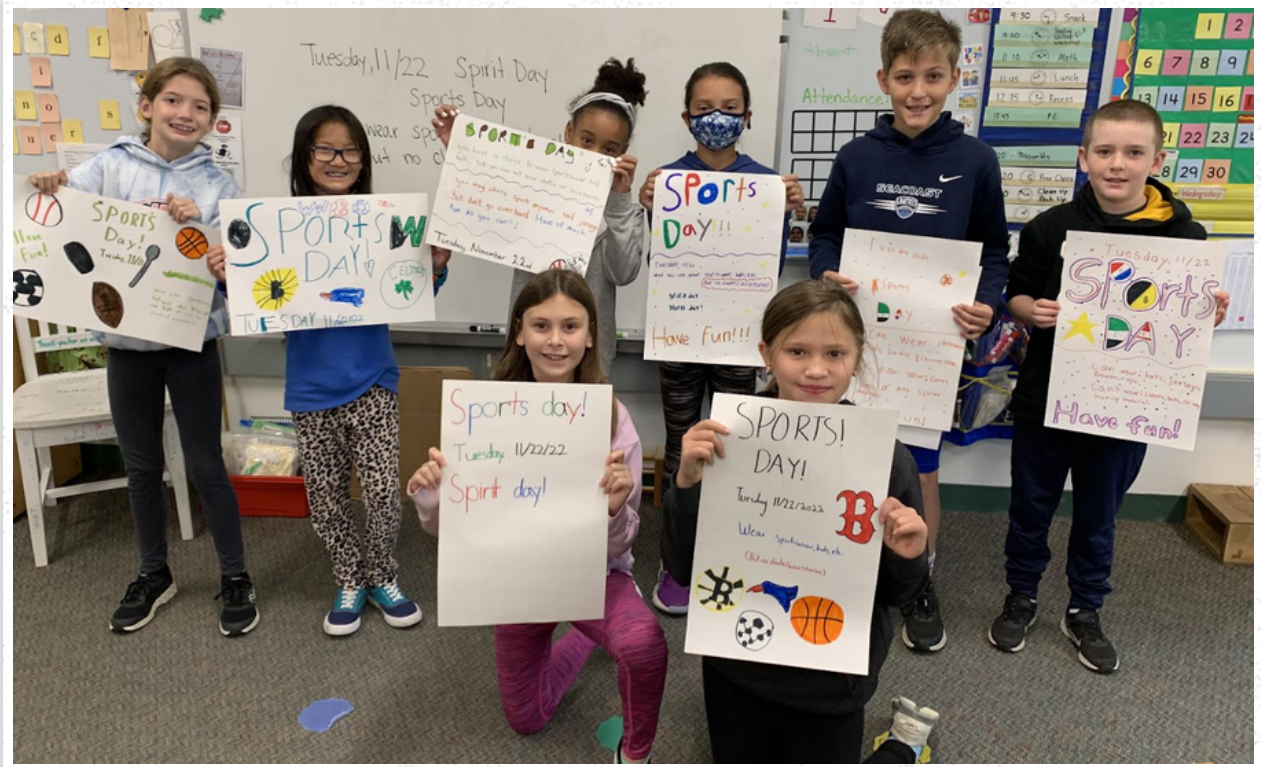
Mrs. Swinning



"November Student Council members took time this month to assist with MJ's Thankful Turkey. They also worked on creating and hanging posters around the building to remind

students about our Sports Spirit Day."

We are unable to send out a schedule of Spirit Days for the year because each Student Council group sets the spirit days for that month. We share the spirit day in the following Leaps and Bounds, unless it is soon and we need to alert you. In that case, we send out a message with the information. We are sorry if it causes you any inconvenience.



STUDENT COUNCIL SPORTS DAY SPIRIT DAY





MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU

The MJS PTO would like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who has helped make the beginning of the year a memorable one for all the students.



PTO MEETING ON DECEMBER 6 AT 7:00 PM

Join us to learn more about what's planned for 2023. Please join us in-person at the Martha Jones School Library or virtually via Zoom.

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84345904061?pwd=cUk2MEtMTzhbjkraDFOSW50T2Fidz09>

Meeting ID: 843 4590 4061

Passcode: 179698

“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.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 P.M.** - “The Emotional Skills your Family Needs Now” For additional information and to RSVP, please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXh6KkmOtCjP729Oo-4E4h_2uMnYVmFrjAEAZ3HWXx-bmb1g/viewform.
- **Friday, January 20** - Family Bingo Night (more info to come)
- **Saturday, March 11** - MJS Parent Social (adults only); book your babysitters!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

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.



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.



WESTWOOD SEPAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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 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: Shea Lonergan, LCSW
781-320-1006 or slonergan@townhall.westwood.ma.us

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**



September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			31	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 (Tentative)/Day 180
19 Juneteenth
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 Guideline: When Labor Day is September 1, 2, 3, or 4, the first day of classes will be the following Tuesday. When Labor Day is September 5, 6, or 7, 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