

The Gloucester Public Schools
Our mission is for all students to be successful, lifelong learners

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

August 22, 2018

Special Needs Summer Program

This summer, the Special Needs Summer Program housed at Veterans Memorial School, provided services for over 100 students in PK-12. All of the District's substantially separate programs participated in this six-week program which ran from June 27-August 7. Julie Rowe, a special needs teacher from Veteran's Memorial, returned for her sixth year as director. Eleven teachers and 17 paraprofessionals provided engaging lessons and physical activity during those six weeks. The program was fortunate that the air conditioners purchased for the summer program were in great working condition as it was an unusually warm summer. Despite the heat, an attendance rate of 90% was maintained for the duration of the program.

Students arrived by bus at 8:15 and departed at 12:15. For the past several years, Open Door has provided free lunch to all students attending. Pre-packaged lunches included locally grown produce, whole wheat breads, and low-fat milk.

Concurrent to the summer program for our substantially separate programs, 16 certified teachers provided summer tutoring for 142 students across the district. Services were provided as delineated in the Individual Education Plans who were eligible for the program. Tutors met students at their respective home school.

New Teacher Academy for Elementary Teachers.

This year, the district is introducing a new Teacher Academy for Elementary Teachers. It stands to reason that there is a lot of information and a myriad of instructional strategies that a teacher new to the district must become familiar with. At the same time, there is the need for elements of our programs to remain standardized so that we collectively follow a similar approach to our goals. The New Teacher Academy for Elementary Teachers is designed to jump start that process. The program will expose elementary teachers new to the district to a full day of literacy and a full day of math, led by our reading and math coaches, covering issues such as district-wide expectations, curricular materials, assessments, and online resources.

Countdown to Kindergarten

Countdown to Kindergarten was held this evening, August 22. This event is now an institutional part of the back-to-school program. It is, in effect, a citywide information night for families of incoming Kindergarteners.

Parents and guardians got to learn about our schools and programs, meet our elementary principals and school staff, hear a bit about our latest initiatives, and meet fellow

Kindergarten parents/guardians. In addition, Kindergarten registration packets were made available, and parents/guardians received information about Kindergarten screening and school orientation. The YMCA was also on hand to discuss their programs.

Opening Day for Staff

As mentioned in the Back-to-School Report, Opening Day for staff will be at Gloucester High School (auditorium) this year. The O'Maley air conditioning is not working and parts are on order. Given the number of people attending, this seems to be a necessary move. The opening welcome will be followed by meetings for the Gloucester Teachers Association and the Gloucester Association of Education Paraprofessionals. Each school's staff will meet in their respective buildings after the unions have finished their business.

Upcoming Open Houses

Schools will be holding their respective Back-to-School/Open Houses in September and October. The dates and times for these meetings are as follows:

O'Maley Gr. 8 Distribution of Chromebooks	Thursday, September 6	6:00 pm
Gloucester High School	Thursday, September 13	6:00 pm
O'Maley Innovation Middle School	Thursday, September 20	6:00 pm
Beeman Memorial Elementary School	Thursday, September 27	6:00 pm
Plum Cove Elementary School	Thursday, September 27	6:00 pm
East Gloucester Elementary School	Thursday, September 27	5:00 pm
Veterans' Memorial Elementary School	Thursday, September 27	6:00 pm
West Parish Elementary School, K-2	Thursday, September 27	5:00 pm
West Parish Elementary School, 3-5	Thursday, September 27	6:00 pm
Gloucester Preschool	Thursday, October 4	6:30 pm

DESE Resources for School Committees

The department of education has provided some resources which it hopes will help school committees, teachers, parents, and communities to be informed about educational matters for this coming school year. These resources include the following:

- The Year Ahead: This is a listing of major developments from DESE that will impact the 2018-2019 school year;
 - Promote Educator Development
 - Strengthen Standards, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
 - Support Social-Emotional Learning, Health, and Safety
 - Turn Around the Lowest Performing Districts and Schools
 - Enhance Resource Allocation and Data Use
- Back to School Basics: This is a brief overview for parents on how the state and districts work together to support teaching and learning.
 - Standards, , Curriculum, Instruction, and Testing

- Grade 10 MCAS Transition Timeline: A timeline and brief FAQs about the transition to the 10th grade next-generation MCAS in English language arts and math, including anticipated changes to the graduation requirement for the Class of 2023.
 - Grade 10 take the Next –Generation MCAS on Computer; same scoring as the old MCAS
- A Primer on the New School And District Accountability System: This document is a one-page summary on Massachusetts' new system to measure how a school or district is doing and what kind of support it might need. According to the DESE, this new system will be assessed for its usefulness and any for adjustment.
 - How is the school doing?
 - What kind of support does a school need?
- Superintendent's Checklist: This is a list of data, financial, and other reporting requirements local school districts must submit to DESE throughout the year.

For the School Committee's convenience, I have placed the documents in this packet.