



NORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE MASSCUE CONFERENCE

The Lancer

Newsletter of the Superintendent's Office of the Norton Public Schools

October 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Office of the Superintendent

by Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools [@NortonSchools](https://twitter.com/NortonSchools)

Redefining our Purpose

Over and over again we find ourselves as educators dealing with an increase in social emotional and behavioral issues. As a district we are taking this issue head on. Our Social Emotional and Behavioral Learning Advisory Committee has been working since the late winter of 2018 to find the best way to provide our staff with appropriate professional development. Moreover, we have decided to clearly articulate a vision that is grounded in Redefining Ready and a Portrait of a Graduate.

Redefining Ready is an outline for how we believe our students are more than a test score. We want to help our students around three critical areas- College Skills, Career Skills and Life Skills. *The Portrait of a Graduate* will consist of a group of six competencies that we want to make

sure all of our students have an opportunity to master. You will be provided an upcoming survey to help us develop these competencies.

As important, we are working to finalize what data points to collect for all students- academic, attendance, behavior and social emotional learning. Students will be asked via parental permission to complete the social emotional learning surveys and these will be kept for each student in Grades 3-12. Information on this is being finalized to share with you. Our goal is to be a district that prepares students for LIFE. We want students to have the self-management, social awareness, self-awareness, responsibility and relationship skills that will move each student beyond a score.

Accountability isn't going away but our students are more than a test score that they take once per year.

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Business Office

by Matthew Wells, School Business Administrator

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We are pleased with the support that the schools received at the October Town Meeting and would like to issue a thank you to both the residents and the town officials. At the Town Meeting the schools moved forward a number of supplemental budget items to support the district classrooms:

- \$281,440 for K-12 materials and supplies
- \$61,275 for extended school services K-5
- \$24,115 for professional development PreK-12

In addition, we requested capital items for needed facilities and technology repairs and upgrades:

- \$60,000 to upgrade system and data backup
- \$101,000 for Promethean Interactive Displays for LGN and JCS
- \$55,000 for heating pipe replacement at LGN

I want to thank the residents of Norton for approving our requests. I would also like to share how amazed I was at the process of town meeting in Norton. The officials and residents were focused and well educated on the items before them, and after 45 minutes had conducted all the business before them. I have been to numerous town meetings in six municipalities in my school business career and this was by far the most efficient I have seen. I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Town Meeting.

Buildings and Grounds

by Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities

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Summer has ended and fall is quickly upon us. We have inspected and serviced all of our boilers. The heat has officially been turned on in all buildings. Outside, our fall clean-up has begun with winterizing the sprinkler systems, fertilizing our fields and raking the leaves. We've also been busy servicing our winter equipment, getting our plows, snow blowers and tractors ready to go so when the snow starts to fall, we will be prepared.

Last week, I was fortunate enough to attend the Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association Fall Conference. The week was spent largely on steps we can take to protect our students and staff and make them feel safer coming to school.

Thank you to the Norton Public Schools for investing in staff by providing us with opportunities to attend professional development and training sessions.



Office of Teaching and Learning

By Jennifer O'Neill

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

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MCAS Score Reports Sent Home

Norton Public Schools received district MCAS data for all students that tested in the spring of 2018. Score reports have been sent home to families. We are pleased to have been recognized as a district that does not require any assistance or support from the state because of the progress that students are making towards targets. Additionally, all five Norton schools were placed into this same category.



As you know, we have a strong belief in the academic, social emotional, civic, and athletic well-being of our students. We want our students to succeed at the current and next grade level. As important, we want them to be successful citizens. This is why our constant philosophy with attention to access, equity, social emotional and behavioral learning, and accountability is the very reason why we take into consideration all assessments and results and not just one state assessment.

Dangers of Vaping with Dr. Lester Hartman

This past Monday, October 22nd, Dr. Lester Hartman presented to parents on the dangers of vaping. This presentation highlighted the marketing attempts of these companies to students, how to recognize vaping devices, and the importance of educating students. Dr. Hartman will be presenting to students in Grades 9-12 on Monday, October 29th. He will also present to our middle school students in January (Date TBD).

[If you are interested in viewing the handouts from this event, please click here!](#)

Global Education Travel Night

On Monday, November 5th the Norton High School Global Education Club will be hosting the First Annual Fall Travel Night! Parents and students in grades 8-12 are invited to join us as we discuss the Global Education Club as well as opportunities for international travel and service learning projects. Partnering with EF Tours, we have three great experiences to share with you!

- April 2019: Venice, Florence and Rome *only a few spots left!*
- Spring 2020: Paris and Barcelona
- Spring 2020: Service Learning in Peru!

If you plan to attend or are unable to join us but are interested in information, please click the RSVP [here!](#)

Student Services

by Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

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Specialized Program Review

This year we will be conducting an internal review of our specialized programs. Our overriding goal is to evaluate if our programs are providing the appropriate supports and meeting the needs of our students. The program review will include a review of student IEPs, progress reports, curriculum used, specialized supports available.

SEPAC

The SEPAC is the Special Education Parent's Advisory Council. The SEPAC meets monthly on Tuesday evenings to discuss topics such as procedural safeguards, homework help, transition from school to school, disability specific topics, etc... The Norton SEPAC has been in a rebuilding phase for the past few years and is actively new members. All who are interested are welcome, you do not have to have a child with a disability to join. If you are interested please reach out to Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services jsullivan@norton.k12.ma.us or Hannah Morrison, SEPAC Chairperson hlmorrison@comcast.net or Kathleen Stern, School Committee Representative, kstern@norton.k12.ma.us

Substitute Nurses

Norton Public Schools is seeking substitute school nurses. If you are interested, please apply via School Spring.



Technology Department

by Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology

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Thank You Town Meeting!



The technology department will be purchasing 33 interactive flat panels and carts for our K-3 classrooms after receiving approval at Fall Town Meeting. These panels will replace technology that is 8-10 years old in many classrooms. It will allow our students and teachers to engage with digital content using modern technology. We will also be upgrading the District's back-up system. We are grateful to the residents of Norton for supporting these technology requests.

Robotics at Norton High School

Students in Robotics I with Ms. Kerri Murphy recently went on a field trip to Boston. The trip included a visit to VECNA Robotics where students learned about building robots for



logistics and innovation, lunch at Spyce restaurant where robots cooked each dish, and finally a stop by HUBweek, the technology and arts festival in Boston. Quote from a student, "It was a very interesting experience that showed the use of robots in the real world."

Woodshop Engraver

The Norton High School Business and Technology Department is excited to welcome a new addition this year. A new laser engraver is being used by students in Mr. Steve Brown's woodshop. Students are just beginning to program and create with the engraver and we look forward to future projects!



Drone Club at Norton Middle School

New this year at NMS is a weekly drone club facilitated by 8th grade math teacher, Mr. Jason Ladino. Students are learning how to program the drones to complete flight challenges while also learning flight and safety recommendations and FAA regulations. Drones and starter supplies were purchased through a Norton Media Center grant. We hope to expand. Students are excited to participate in this new club!



MassCUE Fall Conference

Each year, we are fortunate to send several Norton staff members to the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators fall conference in Foxboro. Attendees are able to learn about innovative ways to utilize technology to enhance teaching and learning from educators from across the country. Again this year, we had many teachers and administrators who chose to showcase the exciting work they are doing in Norton. We also sent student representatives from both Norton Middle and Norton High. We are proud of all of our presenters! It was a fantastic event where everyone learned something new to share with colleagues.

