



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee May 8, 2018 School Committee Meeting

MCAS and Advanced Placement Testing

Spring is testing season! Students in grades 3-8 have been very busy completing the MCAS 2.0 tests. They took ELA in late April and in early May, students have been testing in mathematics, using the school-issued Chromebooks. The science exams will be mid-May across the buildings and will be taken online for the first time this year.

Mathematics at the high school will be in late May and the science exam is administered in early June. These tests are still the "legacy" MCAS exams and are not administered electronically yet. Like many Massachusetts high schools, we were asked to participate in a trial of the online MCAS 2.0 in preparation for this exam in a few years. This occurred with a sampling of students last week.

Advanced Placement testing occurs during the first two weeks of May every year and we wish the best of luck to our high schoolers taking these exams.

Teacher Appreciation Week

This week is teacher appreciation week. I want to take this moment to publicly acknowledge our faculty and staff for their hard work, commitment, and dedication to their students and the children of Franklin. They are outstanding and our greatest asset and very deserving of all our appreciation not only this week and but also throughout the year.

Activities to recognize our teachers are being planned across all buildings by parent groups and I want to extend my thanks and appreciation, as well, to our parents for their generous support.

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Spring Meeting

Mr. Light and I will be attending the spring meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents next Thursday, May 17.

The keynote speaker for this meeting will be Steve Vinter, the head of Google Boston. His speech is entitled “The Emergence of Computer Science: How it is Changing our Lives”. This follows up from the fall meeting, which also had a theme of computer science and a panel speaking about policy initiatives at the state level to include more computer science in students’ education experiences.

The agenda later in the morning will focus on recent events related to safety and school violence. Students from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, members of Boston’s March for Our Lives, and Project 351 Ambassadors will be speaking and discussing about “how students think about their role and destiny in the world today and how they view their civic responsibility in making society a more just place for everyone.”

A luncheon will follow with remarks from the new state Commissioner of Education, Jeff Riley.

We look forward to attending and relaying more information to you about our experience.