



## Franklin Public Schools

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### Superintendent's Report to School Committee March 8, 2022

#### Thank you to FHS students for your work at Jefferson Elementary School

We are so appreciative of three FHS students who visited Jefferson on two afternoons recently to assist the 5th grade classes paint murals in the hallways. We also have a student creating a video for the Jefferson reading program. I thought it would be nice to highlight these acts of service among our older and younger students.



#### Launch of Unified Basketball at Middle Schools

This has been a huge moment for the Franklin unified community as we kicked off UBB at the middle schools. We are piloting two teams in a short 4 week season. One team is at RMS and one is at ASMS. Athletes and peers from HMMS participate on both teams. Both teams came together today to kick us off for an afternoon of learning unified, team building and pure fun!! According to the amazing Lisa Burger, a high school unified coach, one of our BCBAs and a huge help in organizing this, "The afternoon was filled with teamwork, smiles, cheering, fun...." A thanks also goes to our principals and coaches:

Kristen DeSimone, Leslee Differ, Michelle Leach, Deirdra Dickson.

### **Middle School Concerts this Week**

I had the pleasure to see our 6th grade band at HMMS rehearsing last week for the All Town music concerts this week. These concerts feature ensembles from all three middle schools and FHS and are held in advance of the MICCA festival on April 2.

All Town Choir and Orchestra - Tonight at 6 PM

All Town Bands - Wednesday at 6:00 PM

It's so nice to see the return of these important events. Best wishes to all!

### **Brief COVID Update**

No longer including metrics in School Committee packets. We are communicating school cases on a weekly basis with 14 cases being reported out last Wednesday. A new report will come out after we report to DESE tomorrow. This change has significantly cut down on our tracking between health offices and central office and our communications, which is a nice relief. Should cases rise, we would revisit.

*Masks Optional* – The School Committee decided to go mask optional on February 28. Participation varies by building - approximately 20-50% within a school are wearing masks.

### **Congratulations to Music Teacher Ms. Mary MacMurray**

Ms. MacMurray was awarded a \$3,300 Massachusetts Cultural Council/Franklin Cultural District Partners grant! The grant is to be used for teaching our elementary students traditional West African music and culture, broadening their understanding of music from around the world. Ammaya Dance and Drum will be visiting our schools as well as participating in an ArtWALK performance.

And a big thank you to the Franklin Cultural District and Massachusetts Cultural Council!

