



Medfield Central Office Insights

Issue 18 - May/June 2026

Jeffrey J. Marsden - Superintendent

Thank You, June 8th Ballot Vote, and Survey Information

Thank you to everyone who took the time earlier this month to attend the Annual Town Meeting. The large turnout affirmed that civic participation is important to the residents of Medfield. I'm told it was a record turnout for an Annual Town Meeting in Medfield. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our teachers for generously offering babysitting services so that parents/guardians could attend this important meeting. Your support helped make participation more accessible for our families.

We are grateful that the voters took the **first step** in approving the \$1.5 million override that would provide additional funding for the Medfield Public Schools. In order for the override to take effect, it must now be approved by a majority of voters in a **special election**:

- **Monday, June 8**
- **Ballot voting**
- **Council on Aging, 1 Icehouse Road**
- **Polls open 6:00 am - 8:00 pm**

As we have shared with you in previous communications, the outcome of that vote will determine the school district's final budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

- If the **override is approved**, we will move forward with the budget approved by the School Committee, which includes an increase of 3.64% over the current year budget.
- If the **override is defeated**, next year's budget will include an increase of only 1.8% over the current year. That outcome would require the Superintendent and School Committee to identify additional reductions for next year in order to achieve a balanced budget.

The District will continue to post updates on the **[FY2027 Override page of the district website](#)**. We also encourage you to follow the Medfield School Committee on **[Facebook](#)** or **[Instagram](#)**.

Annual Town Meeting also supported our new K-5 literacy program. A "Free Cash" allocation of \$221,000 will be used to purchase our new program, "Bookworms".

Thank you for the support!

Thank you again for making your voice heard in these important decisions about the future of our town and our schools.

School Start Time Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous growth and improvement, please watch for a survey in June as we gather feedback on the implementation of our school start time initiative and its impact on students and families.

Open Now- Public Health Survey for Residents of Dover, Medfield, and Sherborn

The towns of Dover, Medfield, Needham, and Sherborn, working together as the **Charles River Public Health District** (CRPHD), are seeking resident input about key public health needs in our communities. Just 15 minutes of your time to complete the Public Health Needs survey will contribute key information about the people and resources in our communities, and help our health departments understand strengths, challenges, and needs. The survey is completely anonymous and results will be used to make decisions about community public health priorities in each town.

You can use this link to access the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2026PHN>.

Mary Bruhl - Director of Student Services



Inclusive Programming Updates

It has been an exciting few months with multiple examples of inclusive programming in Medfield. Thanks to the generosity of MCPE, Dale Street had the Understanding Our Differences Organization present on March 25 and 26.

Fourth grade students listened to a young woman with dyslexia describe her super power that is dyslexia and reflected on her journey as a learner and how it has shaped who she is today. She challenged students to "be curious instead of critical". Students then worked in class break out sessions to try an activity that simulated the experience of having a disability. For this group, they were challenged to write their names, draw shapes, etc. while looking into a mirror. It was a challenging activity that brought about wonderful conversation afterwards. Fifth grade students heard from a young man with autism and the experiences he had in school, both positive and negative. Many students connected with him when they heard of his affinity for video games! He challenged the group to "be that one person that gives that act of kindness". Afterwards, the students did class break out sessions with a volunteer that challenged them to act out emotions without using words. Students embraced the activity and worked from the simpler emotions (e.g. happy) to the more complex (e.g. jealousy) in a collaborative manner. They then reflected on the difficulty of reading some emotions and that this may be more difficult for someone with autism.

On April 28, Medfield took part in the 5 Town Special Olympics with Medway, Holliston, Ashland and Millis. This year Medway hosted the game with the theme of soccer. Over 170 athletes from all five towns took part in a meaningful day of inclusion and athleticism.

On May 5, SEPAC hosted senior Lily Beck for a presentation on the student side of having an IEP. She provided insight into her experience on an IEP and reinforced the importance of advocacy. It was an incredible event and conclusion to Lily's senior project.

Christine Power - Director of Instruction and Innovation

District Learning Day 2026: AI Exploration

On April 8th, Medfield Public Schools hosted our annual District Learning Day (DLD), bringing together a vibrant community of over 350 educators. This year's event, centered on the theme of AI Exploration, welcomed PK-12 staff from Medfield and colleagues from over a dozen neighboring districts. The day was a collaborative deep dive into how artificial intelligence is shaping the PK-12 landscape.

Keynote speaker Jeffrey Riley, Senior Advisor at the Day of AI Organization and former Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, shared his vision for AI use in the Commonwealth's schools. Complementing the keynote was featured presenter Greg Kulowiec, Principal and Lead Learner at The Kulowiec Group and Strategy Consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, who provided practical strategies for integrating generative AI into the classroom effectively and ethically. Other aspects of the day included numerous hands-on workshops led by Medfield and area teacher-educators who encouraged teachers to engage with AI tools and reflect upon their potential use in the classroom.

The impact of our recent professional development day was immediate. Since the event, educators have been thoughtfully integrating AI into their classrooms while strictly following the **Medfield Public Schools Guidelines for PK-12 Student and Faculty use of Artificial Intelligence**.

Key highlights include:

- **NotebookLM:** Some teachers are using this "walled garden" research assistant to have students use AI when analyzing specific, teacher-selected documents. This allows students to use AI in a powerful way while doing so in a safe, bounded environment.
- **Gemini Gems:** Other educators are building customized AI experiences called Gems to innovate curriculum development and instruction. Teacher-created Gems are now being used to enhance teacher's guides, develop practice sets, or create interactive learning activities.

To ensure this momentum continues, Medfield's Technology Integrationists continue to provide ongoing, job-embedded support. These specialists work alongside teachers in

their classrooms and during planning periods to refine AI use, vet new tools for data privacy compliance and impactful learning, and facilitate thoughtful experimentation.

As DLD 2026 demonstrates, Medfield Public Schools remains committed to a balanced approach that thoughtfully integrates modern digital tools with impactful face-to-face learning. We look forward to seeing how these AI resources, used with care and intention, continue to enrich the classroom experience.



Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations

Summer Projects

As we approach the end of the school year, our facilities team has been hard at work preparing campus grounds for upcoming events, including **graduation on May 30, 2026**. Graduation is a special milestone, and we extend our very best wishes to all graduating seniors as they prepare for the next chapter of their journey. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and look forward to celebrating this exciting moment with them.

In addition to graduation preparations, the facilities crew is already planning for several important summer improvement projects that will begin once school is out. These projects are part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining safe, functional, and welcoming learning environments for students and staff. Some of the larger projects scheduled for this summer include:

- Replacing the carpet in the High School Auditorium
- Refinishing/reducing and updating the upper-level floor in the High School café
- Replacing five rooftop HVAC units (RTUs) at the High School
- Repaving the Wheelock parking lot

These upgrades will help improve the functionality, safety, and overall experience of our facilities for students, staff, and visitors.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our schools. The success of our district is made possible through the partnership of our families, staff, residents, and community members. We are grateful for your trust, support, and shared commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for our students.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

May 21

Medfield High School Senior Recognition Night
Medfield High School Auditorium
7:00 pm

May 25

Memorial Day - No School

May 26

4th Grade Spring Band Concert
Medfield High School Auditorium
6:30 pm

May 26

5th Grade Spring Band Concert
Medfield High School Auditorium
7:30 pm

May 28

Senior Walk
10:00 am

May 28

Memorial School Art Show
5:00 pm

May 28

Dale Street Spring Orchestra Concert
Medfield High School Auditorium
7:30 pm

March 29

Wheelock Community Day
9:30 am

May 30

Medfield High School Graduation
1:00 pm

June 2

Incoming Grade 2 PIN
5:30 pm
Wheelock School

June 3

Blake Art Show and Ice Cream Social
Blake Middle School
5:30 pm

June 4

School Committee Meeting
Medfield High School LMC
6:00 pm

June 4

MHS Evening of Excellence
6:30 pm

June 11

School Committee Meeting
Medfield High School LMC
6:00 pm

June 16

Grade 5 Celebration
Dale Street School
9:30 am

June 17

Transition Day

June 18

Last Day of School
Early Release - All Schools

**[CLICK HERE](#) FOR FULL EVENT
CALENDAR**
