Medfield Central Office Insights - Issue 21 November 2026

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Jeffrey J. Marsden - Superintendent

2026 MCAS Results: Celebrating Excellence and Continuous Growth

Building on our recognition from DESE in the 2025 MCAS results, our students continued to demonstrate strong academic achievement across all grade levels in 2026. Across many tested subjects in Grades 3 through 10, Medfield earned top statewide scores among approximately **300 Massachusetts school districts.**

While we are proud of these accomplishments, we recognize that MCAS results are one measure of student success. We use these data to inform curriculum decisions, refine instructional practices, identify areas for improvement, and enhance learning opportunities for all students.

Standout Statewide Achievements

Medfield High School: High School Science students **achieved the highest performance in Massachusetts (1st)**, with 88% of students meeting or exceeding expectations, compared to 41% statewide. Grade 10 ELA (79%) and Math (80%) also performed among the **top 25 in the Commonwealth.**

Blake Middle School: Students demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, with four assessments placing among the **top 10 statewide**: Grade 7 ELA (4th), Grade 8 Civics (4th), Grade 8 Science (6th), and Grade 7 Math (10th). Grade 6 ELA also performed among the **top 25 in Massachusetts.**

Wheelock and Dale: Students demonstrated strong academic performance across multiple grade levels, highlighted by Grade 4 Math placing 6th statewide. Grade 3 Math (11th), Grade 3 ELA (13th), Grade 5 Math (21st), and Grade 4 ELA (23rd)

Click **here** to view Dr. Power's 11/12/2026 2026 MCAS Results Presentation to the Medfield School Committee.



School Cancellations, Delays, Dismissals

We will utilize the ParentSquare notification system to inform families if school is closed, delayed, or dismissed early. ***IMPORTANT- NEW THIS YEAR: The Smart Alert notification you receive will be a text message first. If that text message is not opened, a phone call will be sent as a notification. If the text is opened, NO phone call will be sent to your phone number.***

In addition to the ParentSquare, the announcement will appear on:

- Television Stations: Boston 25, WBZ 4, WCVB 5, and WHDH 7
- Our website: **www.medfield.net**

Please remember that there will be times when school is not cancelled, delayed, or dismissed early and the weather is still inclement. Those days will feature slower travel for buses and cars, but will not necessarily require a change in the normal schedule.

Important: If you feel it is unsafe for travel, you always have the option to keep your child home.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy the time with family and friends.

Mary Bruhl - Director of Student Services



One Team, One Goal, All Heart

Blake Middle School just finished up another successful Unified Bocce season. Twelve students participated and practiced twice a week for 5 weeks. The team played scrimmages with each other at Blake and even dabbled in another sport with two floor hockey matches in Walpole. The team enjoyed the games so much that the District is looking into a short floor hockey season after basketball.

As a culminating event, the team joined the Unified Jamboree at Ashland Middle School. Students from Concord, Northborough, Ashland and Medfield competed at this tournament. It allowed each school to play multiple matches with a final awards ceremony celebrating all of the athletes. At the end, students were given time to make small speeches to the fans about what the season meant for them.

The coaches' focus this year was to think about the game within the game. That game may be trying a new sport, improving their bocce skills, riding the van for the first time or taking a chance at something new. All of the students achieved a new goal and the season was a resounding success.

Christine Power - Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment



A Look Inside Our Grade 6 Math Pilot

This school year, all Grade 6 mathematics classrooms are piloting *Kiddom Illustrative Mathematics (IM360)*. Following a two year curriculum review that began in Fall 2024, teachers selected this program to strengthen students' conceptual understanding, align with state standards, and build a smoother transition from elementary school into middle school math.

Our elementary schools have used *Illustrative Mathematics 360* with great success for the past four years, and *Kiddom IM360* allows the district to extend that same problem based, student centered approach into sixth grade. Moving beyond a procedural approach to mathematics, *IM360* enables students to experience concepts, explain their reasoning, and build a deeper understanding of how math works. This approach is supported by the additional practice problem sets and classroom tools that the Kiddom curriculum provides.

To help teachers successfully launch this curriculum, our Grade 6 mathematics faculty began with dedicated summer training in August, prior to the start of the school year. Training continued during a November 9th inservice professional development day, which helped Blake 6th Grade Math teachers build on their knowledge in many ways. The day started with Blake teachers visiting Dale Street School to watch the curriculum in action. Because our elementary teachers are well established with the *IM360* approach, Grade 6 teachers saw lessons implemented with skill and learned practical instructional strategies directly from their peers. We are deeply appreciative of our 4th grade faculty for welcoming their middle school colleagues and sharing their experience.

After classroom visits, the team took part in a two hour interactive training with an *IM360* facilitator to deepen their instructional practices. The day ended with deep reflection on what they had learned and an opportunity to apply those insights in planning future lessons.

This pilot represents an important step forward in creating a cohesive, supportive math experience for our students as they transition from elementary to middle school.

Thanks to our amazing 6th grade students and teachers for their continued support of this pilot curriculum.

Kristyn DeDonato - Director of Finance and Operations

Capital Improvements – Investing in Our Schools



At its November 6, 2026 meeting, the Capital Budget Committee approved the FY28 Municipal Building Stabilization Fund request, which includes several improvements to our school buildings and grounds. The request will now move forward to the Warrant Committee for review. One of the most notable projects is the replacement of the turf field lighting, with the requested funding bring offset by the $100,000 Fair Share Earmark in the FY27 State Budget. We are thankful for the Medfield legislative delegation for supporting this grant. We are also continuing to work on capital requests for technology improvements. We look forward to these much-needed investments as we continue to maintain and enhance our school facilities and technology resources for our students, staff, and community.



FY28 Budget Planning

The Medfield Warrant Committee has provided preliminary budget guidance of a 3.6% increase to the FY28 school budget. While working within this guidance will be challenging, we remain committed to developing a thoughtful and fiscally responsible budget. Having completed our meetings with principals, department heads, and directors, we are now carefully reviewing requests, priorities and recommendations. Our focus remains on balancing available resources with the educational needs of our students. We look forward to presenting the Initial FY28 Draft School Budget at the December 17, 2026, School Committee meeting.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving Recess - No School

December 4
11th/12th Grade Winter Semi-Formal
Medfield HS
7:00 PM

December 8
MHS National Honor Society Induction
MHS Auditorium
6:00 PM

December 9
Teacher Professional Development
Early Release - All Schools

December 15
MHS Chorus Concert
MHS Auditorium
7:00 PM

December 16
Blake Middle School Winter Concert
MHS Auditorium
7:00 PM

December 17
School Committee Meeting
Medfield High School Library Media Center
6:00 pm

December 17
Dale Street Band Concert
MHS Auditorium
6:30 PM

December 23

Early Release - All Schools

December 24 - January 31
No School - Winter Break

January 1
No School - New Years Day

January 4
School Re-Opens

CLICK HERE FOR FULL EVENT CALENDAR

Inclusivity - Respect - Responsibility - Continuous Growth