

MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee:

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Lynn Cavicchi, Vice Chair
Linda Fernando
Lauren Scher
Jenn Walsh

Teresa Murphy, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Connolly, Assistant Superintendent
Edward Donoghue, Assistant Superintendent
Bernadette Conroy, Director of Special Education



It is with great honor that I serve as the Superintendent of Schools and provide this report to the Mansfield community. Our citizens have a tradition of enthusiastic support for their school system and

your efforts have helped to bring tremendous success to our schools this past year.

The 2017-18 school year brought a change of leadership to the department. Some members of the leadership team came from positions outside of the school district, while others were familiar faces who transitioned from positions within our system. Edward Donoghue (Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations), Matthew Jacques (Director of Facilities), and Jocelyn LeMaire (Human Resources Director) have brought an outside perspective and fresh ideas to our school district. We also promoted from within for two key positions: Michael Connolly became the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, while Mary Watkins, who was formerly his Associate Principal, took the helm as Principal of Mansfield High School. This healthy balance of hiring from outside the schools while also developing our own strong leaders has resulted in a seamless transition of the new administration team.

This year we began providing full-day kindergarten at no charge to families at the Robinson School. The academic and social benefits of a full-day kindergarten program are documented and it is a program that we've been working toward for several years. Eliminating the

tuition for families is an investment by our Town that provides equity to all children.

Academically, our students continue to excel in many areas. Our high school is justifiably proud of achieving Level 1 status as designated by the state for their outstanding performance on last spring's MCAS tests in English Language Arts, Math and Science. This accomplishment is due to the cumulative efforts of our students as well as that of our faculty and staff.

We believe that our schools share responsibility with our students' families to foster the positive development of our young citizens in this global society. An autumn event at the Jordan/Jackson School illustrates the passionate and committed young citizens of our community. The 5th-grade students read the book, *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park. They read about a young girl in South Sudan whose education takes a back seat because she must make several long walking trips for drinking water every day. That situation struck a chord with our 5th-graders and the 271 students held a walk-a-thon to raise funds for safe and accessible drinking water in South Sudan. Two children partnered to walk a mile carrying a gallon of water. Through this effort, the 5th-graders raised over \$12,000.00 to benefit *Water for South Sudan* and demonstrated an understanding and empathy for children who live in communities a world away from our own.

District Snap Shot

The beautiful campus setting on East Street affords our staff and students with opportunities for cross-grade level partnerships. High school students provide elementary students with enriching experiences in the classroom. Some classrooms partner with foreign language students, science and arts. The older students enjoy coming back to the schools and serving as excellent role models for our younger students. In addition, the young students look forward to in-district field trips such as the holiday concert in the high school auditorium and the spring art show held in the high school lobby. Finally, the proximity of the schools allows for collaboration as teacher leaders from various grade levels meet monthly to discuss curriculum and programming.

School district enrollment continues to decline slightly, and the projections indicate this will be a continuing trend over the next ten years. The enrollment, as of December 2017, is 3,879

students; this is a decrease of 75 students from last year's population of 3,954. The table below provides the enrollment by school:

School	Grades	Enrollment (12/17)
Mansfield High School	9-12	1,312
Qualters Middle School	6-8	944
Jordan/Jackson	3-5	793
Robinson	K-2	724
Roland Green	Pre-K	106

To address the issue of declining enrollment, the district has responded in a fiscally appropriate manner by reducing and/or shifting resources. For example, QMS enrollment warranted a reduction of staffing positions. The school's leadership team took that challenge as an opportunity to create a new master schedule that eliminated three teams, which allowed for a slight reduction in staffing. But, in the process, they were also able to expand curricular offerings. Students have new and expanded offerings in literacy, current events, chorus, artistic design and science and engineering. Students also have increased access to visual and performing arts, health, computers and foreign language.

Mansfield High School continues to send a very high number of its graduates on to postsecondary education. For the class of 2017, 93% of our graduates attended college, 80% attended four-year colleges and 13% went on to two-year schools. Military service was chosen by 3%, while 2% are pursuing a GAP year and 2% are seeking employment.

Twelve of our high school graduates were National Merit Commended Scholars. Several students achieved AP Scholar status from both the junior and senior classes: (Scholars: 45, Scholars with Honors: 17, and Scholars with Distinction: 22.)

Mansfield High School continues to be recognized by *Boston Magazine's* "Best Public Schools in Boston, Top 50" for 2017.

The Jordan/Jackson School Community Garden was recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources as a model for a learning space.



District Goals and Initiatives

We are in the third year of implementation of the goals set by the district's leadership team and School Committee. The goals include:

- 1. Expanding offerings:** Examine, evaluate and expand our non-core and core offerings/programming to provide diverse educational opportunities for students to meet individual needs and allow them greater ownership of their learning.
- 2. Teaching all students:** To create and implement a culture of unified and shared instructional practices that advance the belief that we share the responsibility for teaching all students utilizing strategies that include authentic, relevant, student-centered research-based tools.

These goals serve as the foundation for the individual school improvement plans, which are created by the School Councils at each school.

Operating Budget, Capital Improvements and Donations

In the development of our annual budget, the district strategic goals and the individual school improvement plans are the guiding documents used throughout the budget process. The district practices zero-based budgeting, where each line item of the budget is built beginning at zero and is developed based on the needs of the schools.

In collaboration with the Town officials, including John Stanbrook and Mike Ahern, the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen, the School Department was able to identify and prioritize long-term capital needs with the assistance of a consulting firm contracted to study all our school facilities. The findings of this

study were included in the long-term capital plan for the Town as well as the schools.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Capital Improvements Committee and the voters at Town Meeting for the funding of the following capital projects which have been completed, or are in the process of being completed, during the past year:

- Instructional Technology including iPads, Chromebooks, interactive whiteboards and laptops
- WiFi at Robinson School
- MHS electrical panels
- Food Service equipment
- MHS bleachers
- Special Education bus
- QMS 6th-grade lockers

In addition to funding from the Operating Budget and Capital Improvements, the schools have benefitted from the generous donations from supportive parent groups:

Girls softball donated a batting cage which was installed last spring on their East Street Field.

Mansfield Youth Lacrosse families donated a Lacrosse Wall that is installed near the field hockey field. This is a tool that provides a place for the athletes to practice their skills.

The Fitness and Weight Room received a substantial renovation over the summer and opened in September. The redesigned space is both spacious and bright; and is laid out to allow for better movement and flow. The renovation was generously funded through the support of Mansfield All-Sports Boosters.

QMS Parent Advisory Council and the Mansfield Elementary Schools Association continue to support our effort to increase instructional technology to enhance the learning experiences of the students. Chromebooks and iPads were purchased through these organizations' generous donations.

There is a beautiful new addition to the track and football field. Heroes Corner includes flags from the five branches of the military, a POW/MIA flag, and a United States flag. This project is the result of the vision, planning, and generous support of the Mansfield Gridiron Club and honors those who proudly serve or who served our nation.



Selected Highlights

Winter/Spring 2017

Mansfield Public Schools established a partnership with the Anti-Defamation League, which will include a two-year training program for high school and middle school staff and students to increase awareness and cultural sensitivity.

In world language this past spring, students taking the "Grand Concours" National French Contest earned 5 gold medals, 4 silver medals, and 4 bronze medals; students taking the Spanish National Exam earned 6 gold medals, 8 silver medals and 22 bronze medals.

Social Studies students from MHS submitted entries into the regional National History Day Competition in the spring. A MHS senior advanced to the state contest with his documentary on *Tinker v. Des Moines*, and, ultimately advanced to win the national contest. As a result, this student was named a National Endowment of the Humanities Scholar and won a substantial cash prize. His documentary is now featured on the National History Day website as an example to inspire other students.

In performing arts, the Junior Varsity Color Guard won the New England Championship. At the same event, Varsity Color Guard received 3rd place and the Percussion Ensemble placed First Runner Up. In April, the Percussion Ensemble competed in the Percussion World Championship in Dayton, Ohio. The Drama program received multiple METG award nominations for their production of the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

In the spring of 2017, the QMS Performing Arts Department sent band and orchestra students on the annual Great East Festival field trip in June.

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Both the band and orchestra received gold medal rating at the festival.

The QMS Percussion Ensemble received a silver medal rating at the New England Scholastic Band Association annual show held at Mansfield High School.

In visual arts, MHS students displayed their artwork at the Patriot Place Gallery and at HarborOne Bank. The District-wide Art Show was a resounding success and was widely attended. Food trucks were provided by the QMS PAC and music was provided by the Tri-M Music Honor Society Coffee House.

The new "Art in Action" class at MHS allowed students to create exciting and varied projects inspired by content from their academic classes. Projects created in the spring include a full-size (non-functional) guillotine inspired by study of the French Revolution in World History, and a cell phone speaker shaped like a flamethrower inspired by reading *Fahrenheit 451* in English.

In partnership with the local YMCA, third-grade students participated in Nutrition Detectives, a program developed to help children decipher a food nutrition label and the importance of reading the fine print. The YMCA also partners with our school for the Walk to School program. Through our collaboration efforts with the YMCA and Safe Routes to School, students, families, members of our staff and Mansfield Community volunteers take part in the walks and contribute to the success of the events.

Summer/Fall 2017

Professional Development sessions for teachers were well attended again this year with over 200 participating as either instructors or learners. Many topic areas were addressed in these sessions:

- Teachers collaborated to create new courses at QMS and MHS.
- To meet the needs of all students, Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) teams in each school came together to revise their processes.
- There were multiple workshops that addressed technology including several

that focused on G Suite. The district is in its second-year of implementing Google tools for education.

- Jordan/Jackson teachers, representing all three grade levels worked together to give the school science lab a complete makeover. It is in this space that students not only explore the work around them in a hands-on manner, but they engage in the design process to find ways to make positive impacts on it.

The CHAMPS (Continued Hours at Mansfield Public Schools) program directed by Shawna Leary continues to grow in numbers of students who participate. Two programs of note include the Summer Institutes for Students which is an enrichment program run by CHAMPS for children K-8. This five-week program is offered in July at the Jordan/Jackson and Qualters Schools. Last summer over 1,000 students were enrolled in one or more of the 100 courses offered in Math, Science, Language Arts, Technology, Arts and Crafts, Sports and more. In addition to courses taught by CHAMPS teachers and counselors, Camp Invention was sponsored by CHAMPS for a week during the summer. Camp Invention is a popular STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program created by the National Inventors Hall of Fame. In addition to the Summer Institutes, CHAMPS provides before- and after-school child care. This program continues to expand and currently serves 260 students.

Health and Physical Education at MHS added compression CPR to the 9th-grade health program to provide students additional life and career-readiness skills.

MPS was awarded the Game Change Grant. This grant is funded through the New England Patriots and the Attorney General's Office of Massachusetts to address the complex issues surrounding teen dating violence and unhealthy relationships. MHS sent two school psychologists for two days of intensive advisor training and trained student leaders who are now able to bring the message to end teen dating violence directly to their peers.

The Community Garden at Jordan/Jackson continues to grow. Students designed and executed a Butterfly Garden addition to our outdoor learning environment. In collaboration with community members, students designed a space that they hope will increase the population of

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pollinators in our community. This is in addition to the recently added bird feeders from last year. Representatives from Keep Mansfield Beautiful continue to serve as our consultants and provide various donations to keep our Community Garden thriving. The students' learning experience is enriched by their ability to contribute over 150 pounds of vegetables being donated to the Mansfield Food Pantry.



Build Our Kids' Success Program (BOKS) is a before-school program that provides an educational and physical series of sessions to activate students' thinking and increase awareness of the importance of staying healthy physically and mentally. Through the support of volunteers from Toyota Distribution Center of Mansfield and donations from Shaws' Supermarket, the program has supported over 100 students.

In World Language, 69 MHS students were inducted into the National Spanish Honor Society and 22 into the National French Honor Society.

The sixth-grade teachers at QMS have partnered with the Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (CASE) at Bridgewater State University to offer two exciting opportunities for students; BSU Observatory Night and BSU City Lab.

The 7th-grade science teams visited the New England Patriots Hall of Fame where students have the opportunity to explore interactive math and science exhibits as they relate to football.

Eighth-grade students are "head-starting" rare endangered, Blandings turtles in science classrooms in cooperation with the Massachusetts Wildlife and Grassroots Conservation.

The MHS Math Team continues to hold membership in the New England Mathematics League (NEML) and the Southeastern Massachusetts Mathematics League (SMML). At

the November 2017 meet, MHS Mathletes placed a strong second just behind Sharon High School.

The Marching Band placed third in the New England Scholastic Band Association Fall Marching Band Finals and received the award for "Best Drum Major."

The Marching Band competed at MetLife Stadium for the US Bands National Championship in November and placed ninth.

MHS Drama students performed *Peter and the Starcatcher* for the fall play. The play provided on-stage roles for over 20 students and called for a wooden ship to be built for the set.

In Business Tech, MHS students took advantage of STEM opportunities, MASSCue programming and Business Club. Ten girls attended the Statewide STEM Summit for girls at Regis College and 25 students went to the STEM Symposium at AutoDesk.

Athletics Spring and Fall 2017



Our high school varsity athletic teams continue to enjoy success. The following is a report of our athletic teams for both the spring and fall teams of 2017.

Baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis and girls tennis all qualified for the MIAA state tournament.

Boys track and field won the Hockomock League and the Hockomock League meet, and participated in class and state meets.

Girls track and field participated in the class and all state meet.

MHS Athletics earned the following awards for the 2016-17 school year: MIAA Sportsmanship Award, and the Val Mascato Award for "Best Athletic Program" in the Hockomock League.

The following teams earned a spot in the MIAA tournament: Football, Field Hockey, Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country and Cheerleading.

The Athletic Department has added Unified Sports Interscholastic Track and Field for Spring 2018.

Collaborate to Achieve

A recurring theme throughout this report and throughout the work that is accomplished daily in our schools is *Collaborate to Achieve*. Whether it be students working together to problem solve or to create, or teams of teachers planning units of study, or a teacher teaming in a classroom with a paraprofessional, or parent groups planning events, or members of our community contributing to programs, it is our belief that the more we collaborate, the higher the level of achievement for our students.

We are grateful for the ongoing efforts of the active parent groups that make a difference in each of our schools. School councils and parent advisory councils including the Special Education (SEPA) and the Roland Green Parent Groups, QMS PAC, Mansfield Elementary Schools Association (MESA), as well as the parent groups that support athletic, performing arts and other extracurricular activities and events, enrich the school and work experiences of our students, faculty and staff.

We would like to acknowledge in a special way our municipal colleagues:

Jordan/Jackson students enjoy getting to know our senior citizens and sharing their passion for music, art and laughter. Students take a "field trip" to the Council on Aging twice during the school year, while the seniors visit the Jordan/Jackson School for a winter concert in January.

Mansfield Firefighters and Mansfield Police Officers have excellent relationships with students and staff in all the schools. During the first months of school, Police Officers provided school safety training to our staff. The *4 L's Training* (Locate, Lockdown, Leave, Live) has increased knowledge and awareness and has resulted in improved school safety. The Mansfield Fire Department continues its tradition of providing grade-specific lessons so that our students learn life-saving skills.

With the many facility improvements that have taken place over the past year, we have relied on the support of our colleagues in the DPW. Their guidance has resulted in the successful completion of projects.

The Mansfield Public Library creates enriching afterschool literacy experiences and activities for youth of all ages. Parks and Recreation provides

wholesome and fun events that our students and their families look forward to every year. From the Highway Department that clears the roads of snow so that our students can travel safely to school, to the Water Department field trips enjoyed by many classes, to the Electric Department that allows the students to Touch-a-Truck at field days, the students and teachers benefit from the generosity of the other Departments in Mansfield.

Our community plays an important role in the continued success of our schools. We thank the many local businesses, civic organizations and individual contributors for their ongoing support to our schools and students. Together with our committed and dedicated teachers and staff, you help us to create schools that provide a well-rounded education for students. They need to be ready for a future that we can't yet envision. It is certainly an exciting time to be a part of the Mansfield Public Schools!

I would like to close this report on a personal note. As one who began my own educational journey as a first-grade student at Roland Green and is a graduate of Mansfield High, I am honored to serve as the superintendent of the school department. This district is an asset to Mansfield and I invite you to participate with YOUR schools. The students' performing arts productions are excellent entertainment. The visual arts displayed throughout the schools are of such a high quality—art that will make you think and feel. Come on over to your athletic fields—there's no better place to be on a sunny spring day than watching some games. We have students who would benefit from mentors and children who love to read to caring adults. We welcome you to see the wonderful educational opportunities that we offer to the students of Mansfield.

