



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

Hello HW Community,

This has been an amazing week! I have had the good fortune to be in all of our schools at least once and many twice. The high level of energy in each building is unique while also a great measure of the fantastic work that is being done in our schools. Today there was a live band playing in front of the HS as everyone came into school. Moments like this are the unique parts of “school” that we all remember.

Last night all of our principals presented their school improvement plans to the school committee. Check out the plans on each school's website. While most of the plans are directly aligned to the district goals, there are some school unique goals as well. Thank you to our principals and the members of their respective school councils for the development of the school improvement plans.

Snow day test

What? Snow day? Yes, snow day. On **Friday, October 15th at 4:00 PM**, I will send out an automated email and text message to test our inclement weather message system. If you do not receive an email and text message, please update your information in the Aspen student information system.

DEI Committee

We are in the process of executing a contract with Equity JourneyPartners for our DEI work. The DEI committee has been selected and the first meeting will be next week when the Professional Development Committee and the DEI Committee will work together to finalize their draft schedule of the work and professional development to be completed throughout this year. We will also be engaging in an equity audit

Portrait of the Graduate

I want to thank everyone who joined us for the Portrait of the Graduate process on Wednesday evening. We had a great session about a vision of the future and discussion about the changing landscape that will impact the future work lives of our children.

Website Redesign:

We have begun the process of a website redesign. The project will take between 4-5 months to properly transition and recreate a more robust, fully searchable website that is up-to-date and more easily updatable.



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Elementary

DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) for all students K-5. These assessments are being administered over the next week. Results will be used to plan for instruction and intervention. Grades 3-5 teachers are also administering Words Their Way spelling inventories. We are looking at these assessments in a different way, really diving into syllable types and word study which links directly our reading foundational skills PD.

Harvard Reading Program

Our elementary schools will be participating in [The Harvard Crimson Reading Program](#) is an easy, fun and interactive way for students to celebrate their reading accomplishments! Harvard student-athletes will kick-off the initiative by visiting participating classrooms this month. Throughout the program, kids will complete reading level appropriate assignments for a chance to be part of an unforgettable experience at a Harvard Football Game. ALL schools and students participating in the Reading Program will be invited to participate in a parade into the stadium.

Introducing the Theatre Teacher and Ferrini Dramatics Center Manager

I am thrilled to welcome A.J. Lease to the High School Faculty as the Theatre Teacher and Ferrini Dramatics Center Manager. A.J. teaches Public Speaking, Media Production, Theatre 1, Theatre Tech and Design, and is thrilled to be part of the Fall Musical Team as the Fight Choreographer and Music Coordinator (the students will be performing *The Fantasticks*). He is also looking forward to taking "Theatre Workshop," the HWRHS's Theatre Program, back to the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild Festival and Boston Playwrights' Young Playwright Festival this Spring! Previously, A.J. spent the last eight years teaching in Lexington in the High School, both Middle Schools, as well as at the Lexington Christian Academy. He lives in Billerica with his wife, Megan, and their mini-aussiepoo named Reese. A.J.'s favorite quote, "Trust the Process", comes from the 76ers motto and he believes that it sums up a lot about life and teaching too. Stay tuned and check out more information about the program here: <https://sites.google.com/hwschools.net/generalstw/home>

I hope you are finding the communication worthwhile and informative. I also hope you can join us for one of the meet and greets next week. On Monday, we will send out specific information related to each.

Have a great weekend!

Eric

Eric Tracy
Interim Superintendent



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Twitter: [@etracyhw](https://twitter.com/etracyhw)

Instagram: [@etracy_hw_super](https://www.instagram.com/etracy_hw_super)

Weblog: <https://hwsuperintendent.wordpress.com/>

The weekly Covid data is listed below.

COVID Dashboard

HWRSD New COVID-19 Positive Cases for the week of 9/25/21 - 10/1/21

HWRSD COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing Rates

Pools For Week	Positive Pools	Total Pools	Cumulative Number Positive Pools
9/25/21	1	122	2

HWRSD Vaccination Rates:

School	Students Vaccinated	Staff Vaccinated
High School	81.45%	91.01%
Middle School	59.21%	98.15%
Buker	N/A	95.35%
Cutler	N/A	84.00%
Winthrop	N/A	95.45%