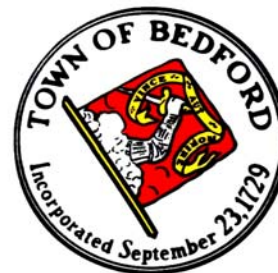


BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Fall, 2003

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Superintendent of Schools
781-275-7588

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Assistant Superintendent
781-275-7588
www.bedford.k12.ma.us

David Coelho
Director of Finance
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Save the Date...

JGMS

**Dedication and Open
House**

November 9, 2003

1:00 PM

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Superintendent's Office

Business Office

Special Education Office

97 McMahon Road

Bedford, MA 01730

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It is always a privilege for me to compile the first newsletter of the school year as we prepare to welcome our kindergarteners for the first time and to welcome back veteran scholars in grades 1-12. Adults who work in schools have the advantage of beginning anew each September inspired by the promise, energy and excitement that literally bounces onto our doorstep on that first Wednesday in September. In Bedford we feel particularly fortunate this fall to be working in a community that has planned well and, as a result, been able to weather the recent "rainy days" of the state budget shortfall without decimating programs and instituting onerous fees on the families of the children we serve. The collaborative efforts of the Bedford School Committee and town leaders have been and will continue to be instrumental in the development of budgets that are able to sustain the important work we do.

That work, you should know, begins in earnest during the summer months as the administrative team begins the preparation for the new school year with a two-day retreat graciously hosted by Middlesex Community College. The retreat is designed to build team commitment, review new policies and procedures, and prioritize the key system goals for the upcoming academic year. At the conclusion of the retreat, administrators receive a text selected to inspire and support our work. In 2003-2004 Bedford, like many of our neighboring districts, will focus administrative and faculty efforts on improving the achievement of all students by first understanding the *achievement gap* and the discrepancies we see in student achievement as we disaggregate student test data. The text we will use to support this work is Lorraine Monroe's 1997 publication, *Nothing's Impossible*. As founder of the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, Dr. Monroe set the stage for success with *all children* by establishing high expectations that have translated into high levels of achievement. Dr. Monroe's leadership style has been dubbed the "Monroe Doctrine" serving as an inspiration to educational leaders and parents throughout the nation. To complement Dr. Monroe's text, we have also adopted a children's book to underscore this year's theme. Those of you who remember the tenacious engine in *The Little Engine That Could* will appreciate why we have selected that to reinforce this year's theme.

Faculty summer work has also been extensive with numerous professional development and curriculum development initiatives. Later in the newsletter, you will see a more extensive description of some of the work completed by professional staff. The summer of 2003 has also been very productive on the facilities front with substantial progress on both building and capital projects. The John Glenn Middle School renovation is near completion and scheduled for its formal dedication on **Sunday, November 9th at 1:00 PM**. In July Central Office staff moved from the high school into our



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renovated space at the John Glenn Middle School. If you are in the vicinity, I would urge you to stop by to visit our new offices located in the area that previously housed the principal's office.

In terms of facilities, the needs of the high school continue to represent our most significant challenge. While funding from the Capital Budget has been instrumental in allowing us to make progress in terms of some of the facility deficits cited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the accreditation agency for Massachusetts high schools, Bedford High School will continue to remain on "warning" status with NEASC until such a time as all the facility needs are addressed. The next step for addressing the needs of the high school will be completion of the Schematic Design, a task set to commence early in September. During the Schematic Design process, we will be working with the selected architect, Symmes Mani, and McKee to refine a design for the project presented at the 2003 Annual Town Meeting. A key goal for us this fall will be completion of the Schematic Design prior to the Annual Town Meeting in March 2004 when we expect to make a recommendation for "next steps" at the high school. It is my hope that we will have clarity from the Department of Education about the School Building Assistance (SBA) funding prior to the 2004 ATM.

In addition to significant facilities work, the summer also represents a prime hiring season for the schools. In September we will welcome 19 new teachers and two

new administrators. David Coelho, Director of Finance, replaced John Antonucci in March so he will be joining us for the start of his first full school year. Denise Rainis, long time Foreign Language Program Administrator, will assume the new part-time position as assistant principal at Bedford High School combining this with her program administrator responsibilities.

Key system goals for 2003-2004 include: the implementation of the **2011 Vision**, a process that began during the last school year; initiation of a **Strategic Planning** process for the system; completion of the **Schematic Design** for Bedford High School; and a system-wide focus on the **Achievement Gap**. In addition, we will continue efforts to improve **communication** with the community through the expansion of our webpage, continuation of superintendent's coffees at each of the schools, and the greater use of electronic communication with our families.

In closing, I want to thank you for your unwavering support of the Bedford Public Schools and our efforts to serve the children in a town that embodies the essence of "community."

Maureen LaCroix, Superintendent

Key System Goals 2003-2004

- Begin implementation of Vision 2011
- Complete Schematic Design for Bedford High School
- Initiate Strategic Planning Process
- Focus on Achievement Gap

Curriculum Highlights

The Bedford Schools continue to grow in the area of curriculum and professional development. Under the guidance of program administrators and directors, and curriculum coordinators in elementary and middle schools, faculty are engaged in adopting their teaching to changes in technology and the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Their work seeks to meet the needs of all learners with an emphasis on students' pride in their accomplishments with high expectations for the quality of their work.

The year-long endeavor of professional development begins with the establishment of system-wide goals in July. The outlining of the goals and objectives for the district is an inclusive process in which each department generates their plans to the Administrative Team. Objectives include all areas of the curriculum with consideration for budgetary and resource opportunities through federal, state and local grants. Initiatives for creative program development are encouraged as evidenced by this year's receipt of additional grant funding for training in environmental studies, mental health support, literacy and technology use.

At the primary level, teachers implemented a full kindergarten program on phonemic awareness. Davis School children learned the sound syllable associations needed for building a healthy reading foundation through the use of puppets representing alphabetical sounds. The New

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Sound program will expand to grade one in September and students are already demonstrating growth under the new program.

Also at the K-5 level, a Math Vertical Team (MVT), under the leadership of Sarah Dorer, elementary curriculum coordinator, examined the Everyday Math program. The MVT developed grade level assessments to better identify students at an earlier age who evidence a need for additional work in numeracy. At the same time, a recommendation was made for full faculty training in math content instruction. This professional training will begin in September and compliments the ongoing training for all new teachers through the EDCO collaborative. In this organization, Bedford teachers join colleagues from several neighboring communities in content area training in a wide variety of subject areas.

Elementary science focused on the use of science instruction kits at all grade levels. Elementary science coordinator, Lynne Newman, acquired over \$5000 in grant funds from the Bedford Business Education Alliance (BBEA) for the purchase of grade level kits. Work in this area will continue in the fall as teachers develop unit

assessments geared to maintaining consistency in instruction.

Davis School's WETT project received grant funding from the BBEA, Audobon Society and Toyota Foundation. Cattail Corner, the wetlands area on the Davis School grounds, has become a classroom site for students, teachers, and the community at-large. Its dedication in the Spring proved the strength of the vision of staff members, Anita Petrocelli, Kim Marino and Terry Kuhlmann. Plans to further communicate the importance of the project continue. In the upcoming year, a newsletter, the *Cattail Quarterly*, will highlight student work for us all.

Lane and Davis teachers collaborated over the past year in a review of student work, portfolio development and rubrics based assessment. Several teachers sought training in the instruction of a guided reading program that will expand in the upcoming year. Linda Volpicelli, elementary language arts curriculum coordinator and Susan Rozen, K-12 Reading Program Director facilitated this work with their departments. Their work

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JGMS Construction Project

It has been a busy summer at the John Glenn Middle School, as the \$20.1 million renovation and addition moves towards completion. During the summer months the cafeteria, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, and central office wing have been under construction. All of those areas are expected to be substantially complete for the start of the school year.

Facilities Summer Projects

The Bedford Facilities Department is winding up a very busy summer having completed multiple in-house projects while simultaneously attending to routine maintenance. At Bedford High School space was reclaimed as the operations of the Superintendent, Business and Special Education departments moved to a central location at the John Glenn Middle School. Significant high school projects include:

- Conversion of central office space at Bedford High School to classroom and office space. Changes included the conversion of the superintendent's office to a science department office and small group instruction space for the instructional technology specialist.
- Restoration of a conference room in the former central office workroom.
- Reclamation of a full sized classroom for health classes in the former business office.
- Establishment of office space for the School Resource Officer in the former science department office.
- Reorganization of Special Education Department space in the guidance office for the school adjustment counselor and the program administrator.
- Installation of new lockers in the boys' and girls' locker rooms.

Facilities Department personnel also played a key role in the move of central office from the high school to the middle school. This involved moving all of the financial, personnel, and special education files. All of this was accomplished alongside the ongoing work on the John Glenn Middle School and the routine cleaning and maintenance that is always a key component of the summer routine.



"What a teacher feels and thinks about the children in front of her makes all the difference in how much those children learn."

Lorraine Monroe

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL SCHEMATIC DESIGN

At Annual Town Meeting in March 2003, we received \$400,000 in capital funds to complete the Schematic Design for Bedford High School. Voters at ATM approved the schematic design monies to further develop Option B2 (estimated cost—\$34.2M) for the addition/renovation of Bedford High School.

Following the favorable vote of ATM, the school department issued an RFP, interviewed selected architectural firms and ultimately recommended Symmes, Maini, and McKee (SMMA) to the Bedford School Committee. SMMA prepared the Feasibility Study and, as a result, is very familiar with the goals of the high school project. The high school's **warning status** from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) continues to be a key driver in moving this project forward in a timely fashion. Critical goals developed during the Feasibility Study will drive the work of the Schematic Design Committee. Key project goals include:

1. Meets all Accreditation Issues
2. Meets Educational Curriculum
3. Meets Projected Enrollment
4. Upgrades all Building Infrastructure Systems
5. Upgrades building to meet ADA Accessibility Regulations
6. Improves Traffic and Parking Conditions
7. Improves Internal Circulation to the Gymnasium and Cafeteria
8. Creates optimal Library Expansion
9. Creates optimal Administration/Public Entrance Relationship
10. Cost Effective Solution
11. Enhances Recent Investments

The Schematic Design Committee will work with SMMA to meet these goals and further develop the selected option for the addition/renovation.

Timeline:

The committee will present the results of the Schematic Design Study to the 2004 Annual Town Meeting.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

New Faces

Chris Aufiero—Athletic Director
Nicole Barrila—Grade 3 Teacher, Lane School
Barbara Barnett—Spanish Teacher, Bedford High School
Stefan Battle—Guidance Counselor, John Glenn Middle School
Nicola Bazie—Guidance Counselor, Bedford High School
Bill Berlino—English Teacher, Bedford High School
Susan Collins—Instructional Technology Specialist, Bedford High School and Davis School
Alison Daniels—Special Education, Lane School
Marcia Hall—Grade 1 Teacher, Davis School
Kimberly Henoch—Latin Teacher, Bedford High School
Simon McCaffery—Replacement Guidance Counselor, Bedford High School
Lynda McGraw—English Teacher, John Glenn Middle School
Elizabeth Reichle—Spanish Teacher, Bedford High School
James Sunderland—Social Studies Teacher, Bedford High School
Regina Porter—8 Reading Teacher—John Glenn Middle School
Lisa Rainen—Gifted and Talented/Differentiated Instruction Teacher—John Glenn Middle School
David McCoy—.6 Occupational Education Teacher—John Glenn Middle School

To Be Announced

.2 Spanish Teacher—Bedford High School
English Teacher—Bedford High School

School Resource Officer

In September the schools will officially welcome Officer Jeff Wardwell aboard as a School Resource Officer (SRO). Last spring Police Chief Jim Hicks secured a federal grant for the addition of an SRO position designed to support families and to serve as a bridge between the police and school department. Officer Wardwell's primary assignments will be at the middle and high schools; however, he will be available for special events at both Lane and Davis.

New Assignments

Ann Kelleway—Kindergarten Teacher, Davis School
Pam Brown—Kindergarten Teacher, Davis School
Beth Kirn—Special Education Teacher, Lane School
Janet Tortora—Instructional Technology Teacher, Lane School
Janet Barry—Team Chairperson, Davis School

Retirees

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of these teachers much success in their future endeavors as they retire.

Nancy Haynes—Instructional Technology Teacher, Lane School
Dorothy O'Malley—Guidance Counselor, Bedford High School
Robert Petrillo—Athletic Director, Bedford High School
Patricia Ranney—Kindergarten Teacher, Davis School

Denise Rainis
Assistant Principal
Bedford High School



Mrs. Denise Rainis has recently been appointed .6 Assistant Principal at Bedford High School. Mrs. Rainis began her career in Bedford in 1976. She has taught Foreign Language at the John Glenn Middle School and at Bedford High School. Mrs. Rainis was appointed the Program Director of the Foreign Language Department in 1995. In addition to her new duties as Assistant Principal, Mrs. Rainis will continue to serve as the Program Director for the Foreign Language Department.

Mrs. Rainis received her B.A. in French from Emmanuel College and her M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Rivier College.

We wish her much success as she embarks on this new phase of her career.

David Coelho
Director of Finance



We are pleased to announce that David Coelho assumed the position of Director of Finance in March 2003. David came to us from the Massachusetts Service Alliance where he served as Director of Administration and Finance. David has worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the Director of Administration and Budget, Director of Administration and Finance, Senior

Budget/Financial Analyst, and Fiscal Policy Analyst. David also worked for the Town of Dover as the Assistant to the Town Administrator in the Office of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Coelho received his B.A. in Government, History and Economics from Clark University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University.

Other New Faces in
Central Office

Fran McGrath
Administrative Assistant to
the Superintendent



Bev Marklis
Personnel Assistant



Cynn timer Vatter
Secretary to the Director
of Special Education



Josh Eriksen
Financial Analyst



Coffees with
Dr. LaCroix

The Superintendent's Coffees provide an opportunity for parents and others in the community to meet with Central Office Administrators in an informal setting.

Coffee Dates:

Wednesday, September 24th at 9:00 AM in the Lane School Multi-Purpose Room

Friday, November 7th at 7:30 AM in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the John Glenn Middle School

Tuesday, January 20th at 7:30 AM at Bedford High School in the Conference Room

Thursday, March 11th at 9:30 AM at Davis School in the Cafeteria

Hopefully one of these coffees will fit into your busy schedule. The administrative team looks forward to these opportunities for dialogue with parents and interested citizens.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2003-2004

<u>September 2003</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
3	Opening Day of School, Grades K-12		
3,4,5,9,10	Kindergarten Orientation	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
3,4,5,8,9,10	Grade 1 Orientation	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
9	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
11	First Day of Kindergarten & Grade 1	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
18	Back to School Night/Davis	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	7-8:30 PM
20	Bedford Day		
23	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
24	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DIS-MISSAL		
25	Back to School Night/Davis	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	7-8:30 PM
26-28	Madrigal Weekend, Lincoln, NH	Bedford High School	
<u>October</u>			
1	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DIS-MISSAL		
2	Back to School Night—Grade 3 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
9	Back to School Night—Bedford High School	Bedford High School	6:30-9:00 PM
10	FULL DAY WORKSHOP—NO SCHOOL		
13	COLUMBUS DAY—NO SCHOOL		
14	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
16	Open House—John Glenn Middle School	John Glenn Middle School	7-9:15 PM
22	POMS Fall Sampler Meeting/Concert	Bedford High School	6:30 PM
23	Back to School Night Grade 4 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
25	Alumni Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
28	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
30	Back to School Night Grade 5 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM

November

1	Air Force Band of Liberty Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
2	Flavors of Bedford (varied performances)	Renaissance Hotel	3:00—5:00 PM
5	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
7	Dance	John Glenn Middle School	7:30 PM
11	VETERANS' DAY—NO SCHOOL		
18	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
19	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
20	JGMS Vocal Concert		7:00 PM
21	Tournament of Plays	Bedford High School	TBA
25	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
26	THANKSGIVING RECESS—EARLY DISMISSAL		

December

2	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
3	Parent Conferences—Bedford High School	Bedford High School	4-8:00 PM
3	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
4	Fall Athletic Awards	Bedford High School	TBA
5-6	Madrigal Dinner	Bedford High School	6:00 PM
9	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
10	BHS Band/Orchestra Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
16	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
17	JGMS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
18	BHS Vocal Groups Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
24-1/4/04	VACATION—NO SCHOOL		

January 2004

5	Schools Reopen		
6	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
13	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
14	Wind Ensemble Recitals	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
15	Open House—Grade 3	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
16	WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL		
19	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO SCHOOL		
20	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

22	Open House—Grade 4	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
23	Dance	John Glenn Middle School	7:30 PM
27	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
28	Winter Concert—Lane School	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
29	Open House—Grade 5	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
31	Junior/Senior Semi-Formal	TBA	TBA

February

4	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
10	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
12	Middle School Vocal Showcase		7:00 PM
16-20	WINTER VACATION		
24	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
24	Grade 8 Parents Night	Bedford High School	TBA

March

3	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
5	Dance	John Glenn Middle School	7:30 PM
9	School Committee Meeting	Roxbury	7:30 PM
10	Winter Athletic Awards	Bedford High School	TBA
11 & 18	Celebrations of Learning	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	TBA
17-20	High School Musical	Bedford High School	
18	5th Grade Orientation/Curriculum Night	John Glenn Middle School	7-8:30 PM
23	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
24	Annual Town Meeting	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
29	WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL		
27-29	Middle School Musical	JGMS Auditorium	7:30 PM

April

1-3	Middle School Musical	John Glenn Middle School	
8	Strings Vertical Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
9	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
13	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
14	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
15	Band Vertical Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
19-23	Music Department Trip to Florida		
19-23	SPRING VACATION		

27	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose room	7:30 PM
28	Wind Ensemble Recitals	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
<u>May</u>			
5	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DIS-MISSAL		
7	Dance	John Glenn Middle School	7:30 PM
7-9	K-12 Art Show	Bedford High School	TBA
11	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
14	Bedford High School Dance Showcase	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
15	Junior Prom	TBA	TBA
19	BHS Vocal Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
20	5th Grade Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
24	Senior Awards Night	Bedford High School	TBA
25	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
25-28	JGMS Washington, D.C. Trip		
26	BHS Band/Orchestra Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
27	CSF Awards Reception	TBA	7:00 PM
31	MEMORIAL DAY—NO SCHOOL		
<u>June</u>			
1	Senior Prom	TBA	TBA
2	Lane Band/Orchestra/Choral Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
2	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DIS-MISSAL		
3	Graduation	Bedford High School	6:15 PM
8	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
8	Spring Athletic Awards Night	Bedford High School	TBA
9	JGMS Band/Orchestra Spring Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
10	JGMS Recognition Night	John Glenn Middle School	7:30 PM
14	JGMS Vocal Showcase	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
15	POMS/Music Department Awards	TBA	7:00 PM
16	8th Grade Moving On Ceremony	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
22	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

NOTE: Only events that have been scheduled to date appear. If you wish further information about events not listed, please call the school involved.

Special Education

Bedford's Special Education Department works cooperatively with regular education teachers and school administrators to maximize the learning potential of all students with special needs. Each of our schools continually strives to expand its ability to meet the diverse needs of children in the regular classroom. When academic difficulties continue to persist after pre-referral strategies have been tried, a request for a Team Evaluation may be appropriate.

The Evaluation Team, which includes the classroom teacher, specialists and parents, conducts assessments relevant to the student's specific area(s) of difficulty. This process is guided by the mandates of the Massachusetts Department of Education as well as the dictates of the Federal Law (I.D.E. A.). The Team's responsibility is to determine whether the student is eligible for Special Education services and identify what services and/or classroom modifications will support the student's success in school.

The Evaluation Team develops an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for those students who meet the Massachusetts Department of Education eligibility criteria. Based upon the Team's recommendations, the Bedford Special Education Department provides services in identified areas of deficit, which can include learning disabilities, speech and language, fine and gross motor control, daily functional living skills and social/emotional adjustment. In keeping with Bedford's long established policy on inclusion, services are provided within the context of the regular classroom whenever possible. There is a small percentage of identified special needs students who require specialized instruction in a separate setting. For these students with low incidence disorders, the Evaluation Team may recommend placement in a private 766 school or in a Collaborative program.

MCAS Spring 2004 Test Schedule

Grade	Content Area	March 22-April 2	March 30	May 13	May 17- 28
3	Reading	*			
4	ELA Composition		*	Make-Up	
	ELA Language & Literature				*
	Mathematics				*
5	Science & Technology/ Engineering				*
6	Mathematics				*
7	ELA Composition		*	Make-Up	
	ELA Language & Literature				*
8	Mathematics & Science & Technology/Engineering				*
9	ELA Composition		*	Make-Up	
	ELA Language & Literature				*
	Mathematics				*

Notes:

- Recommended dates for Grade 3 Reading Test: March 23-25, 2004
- Grade 10 History & Social Science Question Tryout: Dates TBA
- HS Science and Technology/Engineering Discipline-Specific Pilot: Dates TBA
- English Proficiency Assessments:
 - Reading & Writing Components: Dates TBA
 - MELA-O Component: Dates TBA

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The public is encouraged to attend meetings of the Bedford School Committee.

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: John Glenn Middle School Multi-Purpose Room

Dates: Monthly—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Emergency School Closing

POLICY

The Bedford Public Schools will close only in emergency situations when weather or highway conditions make



travel to the schools hazardous or when power or heating failures occur. Parents are urged to exercise their personal judgment concerning the wisdom of sending their children to school on stormy days when schools are in session. Schools are closed in staggered order: High School, Middle School, Lane School, and Davis School.

LOCAL SIGNALS

The Bedford Fire Department will sound the fire horn signal 2-2-2 at 6:45

a.m. which signifies that the High School and Middle School are closed for the day. The same signal will be sounded at 7:15 a.m. when the elementary schools, Grades K-5, are canceled for the day.

RADIO AND TV ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radio stations cooperating with the schools in making no-school announcements include the following:

AM Stations: WBZ-103; WBUR; WRKO-680. FM Stations: WMJX-106.7; WBUR-90.9, WBZ Channel 4; WCVB-TV Channel 5; WHDH-TV Channel 7; WFXT-Fox 25.

Occasionally, the telephone lines become so jammed with calls from school officials to radio stations, that this fact makes it advisable to try more than one of the stations listed above.

Please do not call the Police or Fire Departments and jam their telephone lines as they should be kept open for emergencies.

EARLY RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Occasionally a severe, unexpected storm may necessitate a decision to close schools early. This has not happened very often in the past, but can cause anxiety for families without a plan for this possibility. Students whose parents work or are not usually at home during the day should have an alternate home in the neighborhood to go to until their parents return. Decisions to close early in these situations are made on short notice, and there is not time to locate and inform parents. For that reason, students should be sure of their alternate homes before the storm season arrives. Please be sure to maintain current emergency contact information with your building principal.

Policy Notification on Statement Regarding Title IX, Chapter 622

It is the policy of the Bedford Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, color, national origin, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1978, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Title IX Coordinator for the Bedford Public Schools is the Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Vicki Simms, 275-7588. Inquiries may

also be directed to the Department of Education; or to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Boston. Inquiries regarding compliance with regard to Section 504 may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, Vicki Simms, at 781-275-7588 or to Section 504 Coordinators:

Lt. Eleazer Davis School
Ethel Furst
781-275-6804

Lt. Job Lane School
Thomas Nolan

781-275-7606

John Glenn Middle School
Thomas Campbell
781-275-3201

Bedford High School
Jonathan Sills
781-275-1700

Harassment complaints should be reported to the Building Principal or the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent.

Health Services

Health Services are provided by Board of Health Nurses assigned to each school as follows:

Nancy Thorsen, RN—High School
275-1700 ext. #141
Carol Eaton, RN—Middle School
275-3165
Kathy Donati, RN—Lane School
275-7606
Tracy Cotton, RN—Davis School
275-6804 ext. #3
Kathy Webster, RN—p/t @ all schools

School nurses welcome health inquiries and discussions regarding any health issue or concern.

School Physician services are provided via Dr. Toby Nathan's office with Mary Levenstein, PNP as primary contacts.

Physical Examination Reports:

There are two types of physical examination reports required in school.

The first type of examination report is the comprehensive physical exam. Documentation of comprehensive physical exams must be provided to the school nurse for each student upon entrance to kindergarten, and again during the 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades. Apart from being a state mandate, school nurses need a copy of comprehensive physical exam reports in order to remain up to date with students' health history records, i.e. new diagnoses or immunizations.

The second type of examination report is the sports physical exam. Documentation of sports physical exams must be current and dated within a year of participation. This is a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) requirement and it is strictly enforced. Please forward all sports physicals to the school nurse. Sports physical exams are a specialty

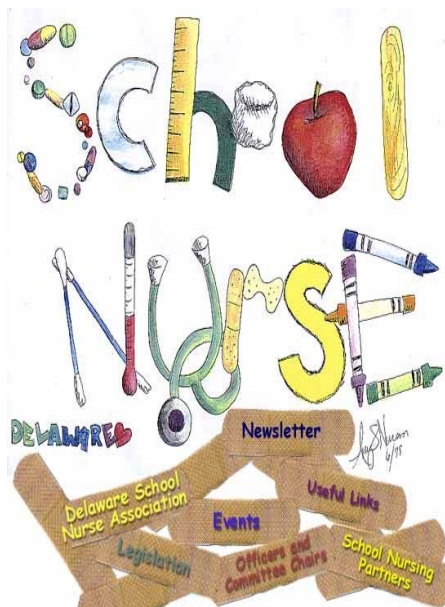
exam involving specific issues including, as an example, "*range of motion*".

We encourage students and student athletes to have their private physician perform the required examinations. The best time to have an examination is at the end of the school year or during the summer.

A sports physical exam form has been prepared and can be obtained by asking the school nurse. Parents of 6th and 9th grade students can take note that the form as supplied by the school nurse, when completed and returned to the school nurse, can satisfy both requirements for that year.

Health Insurance Information:

If you do not have health insurance or need financial assistance for health care services there are two publicly funded programs (MassHealth and Children's Medical Security Plan). To obtain additional information, please call MassHealth at 1-888-665-9993.



Local Initiatives that Enhance School Programs

Bedford Business Education Alliance (BBEA):

As suggested in the title, the BBEA is a partnership between business and schools which supports innovation and the awarding of teacher grants. During the 2002-2003 school year, the BBEA contributed \$33,354 to school programs. The contact person for the BBEA is Barbara Davis. She can be reached at 781-271-1400, or visit the website at www.bbea.com.

Art-Link:

Art-Link, which has been supporting the visual arts in the schools since 1994, continued its work in offering teacher grants to classroom teachers and specialists for art related projects. This year grants went to Ms. Whitney Davis at the high school for materials for mural painting and to Mr. Venkatesh at the high school for math/art related posters in his classroom. Art-Link also contributed to the tile project and cleaning of the Multi-cultural Banner Project wall hangings at the Lane School; and funded one scholarship to a graduating senior. With the help of dozens of volunteers, Art-Link helped prepare and display the art for the annual All-School Arts Festival. Contact person for Art-Link is Susanna Natti.

Bedford Elementary Schools Together (BEST):

BEST was formed by the Davis and Lane Schools' parents organizations to support these schools and their programs. This year BEST's contributions were many and varied. They donated approximately \$50,000 to the schools which provided enrichment programs, sponsored events, Good Cheer and Hospitality, school improvements, grade level grants, guest speakers and the All Night Graduation

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Party at BHS. The contact person this year is Ann Marie Bernardon.

Middle School Association (MSA):

The Middle School Association (MSA) is proud to support our teachers, administration, students and schools in a number of ways through our parent volunteer committees such as Enrichment, Newsletter, Student Directory, Dance Committee, Eighth Grade Moving-On Committee, Library Committee, Bedford Day Committee, and Grants. This year the MSA provided grants in the following areas: Project READ materials, Science Fair supplies, a Venture Program laptop, books for a literature flex, materials for a Fishing Flex through the Art and Science Departments. The MSA also provides appreciation lunches and activities for the teachers, welcoming gifts for new staff, scholarships for the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC, campership at Bedford Summer Adventure Camp, textbooks for lighter backpacks, welcoming events for incoming 5th grade orientation evenings. The contacts of the MSA are Ellen Mazel and Cathy Jarvis.

School Lunch Program

School Lunch Pricing

The cost of lunch is \$1.35 for elementary students and \$1.50 for middle and high school students. All meals include entrée, fruit and/or vegetable, juice, milk and bread item. In addition, a la carte milk is sold daily at all schools at a cost of \$.40 per carton.

Every household is eligible to apply for free or reduced price meals. Applications are sent home with each student during the first week of school. Reduced price meals at all levels are \$.40.

Cash is accepted at all locations except for Davis School. Davis offers a prepayment debit card system only. The card will be used for lunches and a la carte milk. For more information concerning the debit card system, please call the School Lunch Office at 781-275-3201 ext. 6501 or the main office at Davis School at 781-275-6804.

Both the High School and Middle School offer many different a la carte items and menu alternatives, including a "super lunch", which consists of double portions on any two menu items at a price of \$2.50. Lane Elementary School also offers a "super lunch" for \$2.35.

Nutritional Information

Following federal regulations for the National School Lunch Program, the Bedford Public Schools Food Services offers a complete, balanced lunch to all students daily and does not deep fry any of its food. We offer a variety of fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables. Any concern about food allergies can be discussed and researched to determine high risk foods.



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will continue with an after school study group in-service offering for elementary staff.

With the approval of the new Massachusetts Social Studies Framework, the K-12 Social Studies Department sought to examine the alignment of their curriculum to the new state document. Bedford developed and presented to the School Committee in April, a full program review outlining plans for program revision. This is the first step in a multiple year process, maintaining existing programming in Native American studies, Ancient Civilizations and early American History. In September, grade 4 teachers will pilot a new text and adopt their lessons on geography as a part of the overall K-12 plan.

At the middle level all curriculum areas met on a regular basis to develop grade level course descriptions. Parents will receive brochures explaining their child's studies and the goals for each course. This work, facilitated by middle level curriculum coordinators, Joe Casey (S.S.), Marge Eickel (ELA), Heather Haines (Math) and Brad Smithson (Science), is now articulated to Bedford High School's course offerings. As this work continues, rubrics and course assessments will further define the expectations and quality of student performance at each level.

In response to a district goal to examine teaching strategies that meet learning needs of all students, over 35 Bedford K-12 faculty participated in course work on Differentiated Instruction. The professional training continued in June with a new cohort of teachers seeking to develop lessons that promote instruction for all. Consultant, Peg Mongiello, of Teachers²¹ began the new group's training in June.

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Bedford High School faculty began a rigorous examination of course standards in an effort to better define course level expectations. Program Administrators discussed with their departments the specific expectations of each course offered at BHS. As they responded to the NEASC accreditation report, their work involved a review of student work. In September, a continued study of course expectations is planned using the Association of Curriculum Development's (ASCD) model *Understanding By Design*. UBD requires teachers to look at course outcomes with an emphasis on lesson design and the creation of lessons geared to a wider range of student ability.

Professional development continues through the use of technology as well. Dr. DeRusha, Director of Research and Technology K-12, successfully trained four new MEET teams. This is the third year in which school-based teams investigate the use of up-to-date technology in their classrooms. AlphaSmarts, science probeware, SMARTBoards, and laptop labs provide the hardware for exciting teaching. Bedford students from primary grades to high school are exposed to the richness of web quests and research data through the use of tech-

nology.

The future of technology use was presented to the School Committee in May as Dr. DeRusha reported on the year long work of the Vision 2011 Committee. This committee consisting of faculty, parents, community members and School Committee representatives, developed a vision statement and goals for directing technology integration in the upcoming years. This document is available on the district web page. (www.bedford.k12.ma.us).

Program development and standards based instruction were focus areas for the music, art, occupational education and world languages departments as well. Program Directors of these areas maintain an emphasis on technology use and effective instructional practices. Clear curriculum objectives and assessments provide the articulation of course offerings such that Bedford students may develop their talents in an ever-growing international climate. One outstanding resource, acquired last year, is the World Language lab at BHS. Through the use of digital technology students experience the real-life world in which second language training extends

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Workshops and Parent Conferences

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE ORIENTATION

First day of Kindergarten and First Grade is Thursday, September 11th

September 3,4,5,9,10	Kindergarten Orientation
September 3,4,5,8,9,10	First Grade Orientation

FULL-DAY TEACHER WORKSHOPS

October 10 (Wednesday), January 16 (Wednesday), March 29 (Monday)

WORKSHOP DAYS—EARLY DISMISSAL-PARENT CONFERENCES

September 24	February 4	May 5
October 1	March 3	June 2
November 5, 19	April 9, 14	
December 3		

PARENT CONFERENCES: (times vary)

- Davis School 11//5; 11/19; 3/3
- Lane School 11/29; 12/3; 4/14



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their view on the world.

In addition to MEET teams, in-service study groups and training in math content instruction and differentiated instruction, faculty will participate in on-line computer courses offered by Harvard University and ASCD. Additional offerings from partnerships in the Teachers as Scholars, Primary Source, and EMI (Empowering Multi-cultural Awareness), maintain Bedford's high quality professional development package.

Under the direction of the Department of Education's new licensure requirements, Bedford stands prepared to provide ample opportunities for credentialing of both professional and para-professional staff. News of further curriculum work will be made available via the Bedford Schools' web page and building newsletters. We anticipate a strong year ahead and look forward to sharing our work with you.

REPORT CARD FOR THE BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



In April, as part of the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* reporting requirements, Bedford released its first annual report card. The report in its entirety can be found on our webpage (www.bedford.k12.ma.us). For this newsletter, we have included a section from the high school report which addresses student achievement as measured by the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT: I & II) and Advanced Placement Exams. The following charts will give you a sense of typical results for Bedford High School students.

Student Achievement:

Class of 2002

Size of Class	146
Percentage Continuing Education.	87%
Four Year Colleges	78%
Two Year Colleges	9%
Other	13%

SAT Mean Scores Class of 2002

Verbal:	559
Mathematics:	570

National Merit Scholarship Program:

Class of 2000: 7 Letters of Commendation, 6 Semi-Finalists
 Class of 2001: 11 Letters of Commendation, 5 Semi-Finalists
 Class of 2002: 10 Letters of Commendation, 3 Semi-Finalists

SAT II Test Scores:

Class of 2002

Test	Mean Score
Writing	629
Literature	622
U.S. History	618
Mathematics Level IC	637
Mathematics Level IIC	697
Physics	682
French	580
Spanish	560

Advanced Placement Test Scores Class of 2002

53 students took 76 AP exams in 12 subjects. Scores 3-5 qualify the student to be considered for advanced placement in college.

<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Score</u>
16	30	5
21	39	4
11	21	3
4	8	2

BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Bedford, MA 01730

TELEPHONES

If you wish to contact:	Call:	High School Principal - Jonathan Sills	781-275-1700
Superintendent of Schools - Maureen LaCroix	781-275-7588	Director of Special Education - Barbara Koren	781-275-5296
Assistant Superintendent - Vicki Simms	781-275-7588	Director of Research and Technology - Henry DeRusha	781-275-1700
Director of Finance - David Coelho	781-275-7708	Director of Adult Education - Mary Hurley	781-275-1700 Ext. 100 781-275-8659
Davis School Principal - Ethel Furst	781-275-6804	After 4 p.m. the main switchboard of the High School is shut down. The following information will enable you to make contact with the appropriate staff member at that time:	
Lane School Principal - Thomas Nolan	781-275-7606	High School Office	781-275-1700 Ext. 114
		High School Receiving Room	781-275-1702
		Director of Athletics	781-275-1700 Ext. 131
Middle School Principal - Thomas Campbell	781-275-3201	These numbers apply only to the High. All other schools can be reached by calling their regular numbers	

You can reach us on the web....www.bedford.k12.ma.us