

## **Dear Danvers School Community:**

Today marks the end of our first full week of school! It is so nice to see our students and staff settling into their learning routines. In these beginning days our teachers and staff are working to get to know their students and starting the important work of relationship building. Our collective goal for the school year is to foster a sense of belonging for all our students. I want to thank the Danvers faculty and staff for their hard work in planning for these important first days of school!

## **Town Events This Week**

### **Danvers 1st Annual Latinx Heritage Month Celebration**

The Town of Danvers is kicking off Latinx Heritage Month (September 15th - October 15th) with a celebration to recognize the achievements and contributions of Latinx, Hispanic, and Caribbean people. The event will take place **tomorrow from 11 am to 2 pm at the Peabody Institute lawn**. A schedule or activities can be found [here](#).

Danvers will hold a "**community conversation**" aimed at bringing residents together to "process, reflect and connect" after a group of 10 people in masks unfurled an antisemitic banner referencing 9-11 on the Route 114 bridge on Saturday. **The gathering will be Monday at 6 pm on the lawn at the Peabody Institute Library**. Officials said some chairs will be provided and that residents can also bring their own. *The rain location will be inside Danvers High School.*

## **Transportation Department**

As we've started school, we want to thank our bus and van families for their patience as our transportation companies work through staffing shortages and navigating the road construction in Danvers. At Danvers High School, we've had to add students to other routes when there is a driver out sick. These added students often result in a late bus arrival at the elementary schools. Our companies are working diligently to recruit and hire drivers for our bus routes.

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## Technology Department

The Technology Department is working to ensure that every student in Danvers receives their Chromebook for the school year. Below are a few reminders to keep this process moving smoothly.

**Chromebook Insurance:** A reminder that each student's \$35 annual Chromebook Insurance fee is due. If you have not yet paid this fee, you can do so through [eFunds](#) or by check payable to Danvers Public Schools. Please contact your Principal with any questions.

**Chromebook Repairs:** If you and/or your student notice an issue with your Chromebook, please let us know as soon as possible. Elementary students can notify their classroom teacher. Middle school students can bring their device to the Technology Office on the first floor. High school students can visit the Library.

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## Food Services Department

Don't forget...**Massachusetts has extended universal free meals for all students for the 2022-2023 school year!** One breakfast and one lunch is free per student per day.

### FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

Even though school meals are free, **parents are still encouraged to complete free and reduced lunch applications.** Free and reduced lunch applications help determine other benefits, like bus waivers, financial assistance and P-EBT benefits *along with grant funding for the school district.* If you think you may qualify, please complete an application online, through the Meal Magic Family Portal (<https://danvers.familyportal.cloud/>), or you can complete a hard copy of the application as found on our website. You will be notified by email of your child's status. **Only one application needs to be completed per family.**

### eFunds / Meal Magic Family Portal School Lunch Account Update

Food Services' Point-of-Sale system, Meal Magic, has updated and replaced their Send-Money-to-School interface with the new Family Portal payment interface. This update also required an update to eFunds for Schools, temporarily interfering with eFunds' ability to accurately reflect school lunch account statuses for the time being. We do not have an official date for when eFunds will be back up and running 100% for school lunch payments.

Until the eFunds update is complete, if you would like to add money to your student's lunch account or check its balance, please go to the [Meal Magic Family Portal](#). If you had a previous Send-Money-to-School account, you must click the "My Account" button and reset your passphrase. If you did not previously have an

account, you must click the "Register" button and follow the prompts to set up an account for your student(s).

We apologize for the inconvenience and disruption this has caused. Please reach out to Food Services if you have any questions or issues, 978-777-8925, x2388 or x2389.

## **Job Opportunities in the Danvers Public Schools**

The district is still hiring full and part time positions for teacher aides, cafeteria workers and long-term substitutes! If you are interested in working in our schools, please visit [SchoolSpring](#) to apply.

## **September School Committee**

The remainder of this newsletter provides a recap of the information from Monday night's Danvers School Committee meeting.

### **Information from the Superintendent and School Committee**

- Adam Federico acknowledged the loss of DHS sophomore, Dylan Herlihy, and he and the Committee extended their condolences to the Herlihy family.
- Jeff Kay announced that he will be moving out of Danvers and submitted his resignation to the School Committee pending the date of his move.

### **Information From The Student Representatives**

- Lillian Abel joined Reese MacDonald as the student representatives to the School Committee for the 2022-23 school year. They spent time focusing on their concern related to a lack of respect among students and bullying. They asked the committee for ways in which the situation can be improved. The committee commented on the issue and asked Interim Superintendent Wermers to provide an update on what is currently being done related to the issue. Chairman Crane asked that the Policy Committee look into this and Jeff Kay asked that a member of the School Committee be assigned to stay on top of this issue and report on it regularly.

### **Information From The Superintendent**

- **Danvers Pride Presentation** - Two DHS Freshmen presented about the Block Party they created and held at the end of the summer. This was their 8th grade civics project, which they carried through and executed just before the opening of the new school year. They raised over \$1,500, half of which was donated to the school tragedy in Uvalde Texas and the other half to make this an annual event in Danvers.
- **Safety Update** - Chief Lovell provided updates including that Sergeant Colella was promoted and is now in charge of the school resource officers (SROs) at the Danvers Public Schools. Chief Lovell talked about the Enhanced Lockdown training that School Resource Office Chase facilitated with all school personnel for the start of school. Chief Lovell also announced that the ***police department will hold a family forum on the enhanced lockdown procedures on September 29th at Holten-Richmond Middle School for parents and interested community members.***
- **Strategic Plan** -Mary Wermers and Lyn O'Neil provided an [Opening of Schools and Special Education Update](#). In addition, Lyn O'Neil provided a Summer Program update for special education students.
- **Superintendent Evaluation** - Mary Wermers presented her Student Learning and Professional Practice Goals to be used for her evaluation.

**[Superintendent Search Update](#)**: Robin Doherty and Alice Campbell outlined the process and deadlines related to the search for a new superintendent, which can be found in the link.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

- **[DEEP](#)**: The next DEEP meeting will be held on September 21st at 8:00am at Brookline Bank. The wine tasting is back and will be held on October 27th at Danversport. Tickets will be on sale soon.
- **[DanversCARES](#)**: The first meeting of the school year will be held on October 3rd at 9:15am at Danvers High School.
- **[Danvers Human Rights and Inclusion Committee](#)**: The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 15th.

### **Summary**

The next regular Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, October 17, 2022. It will be held at Danvers High School. The meeting is open to the public and may also be watched live on DCAT – Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 37. Previous School Committee meetings can be viewed at: <https://www.danverstv.org>.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the principal

of the school your child(ren) attends or contact the Central Office.

Best wishes,

Mary Wermers  
Interim Superintendent