Welcome Back

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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES

Greetings!

Welcome back to a new, and unconventional school year.
I am proud to be part of such a dynamic and dedicated team, single-mindedly focused on the well being and education of our students. Whether your children are in person, hybrid, or distance learning there is no doubt excitement about returning to learn.
Each of us want nothing but the best experience for your children.
You will find some great news in this newsletter. We intend to publish “Good News Newsletters” on a semi-regular basis. It is so important to all of us in the school to share these wonderful happenings with you. Please read and see the great things happening in our schools. You will rarely find policy or procedure updates in these publications but there will be no lack of bragging about the amazing things our faculty and students are doing together.
Thank you for trusting us with your children!

Best ~ Beth
CONGRATULATIONS TO NSHS SPECIAL OLYMPICS!

NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS WITH INCLUSION

Special Olympics Massachusetts announced that Newton South High School, a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, is receiving national banner recognition for its efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for students with and without disabilities. Newton South High School received this honor as a result of meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy and respect.

WE ARE a nationally recognized Special Olympics Unified Champion School!

- bragging by Michael Thurm, Assistant Principal for Student Services, F.A. Day Middle School

F.A. DAY OFF AND RUNNING
Jim O'Donnell is an amazing and dedicated special educator in our Reflections Program. Jim uses technology to set up three access points to the classroom for the students participating from home: one to give the perspective of the class, one focused on the teacher which can also serve as a screen share of what he is projecting on the board in class, and a third where a teaching assistant can provide 1:1 assistance through a breakout room a student can enter called the "I need help view" if a student participating remotely feels stuck.
INDEPENDENCE AND FRESH AIR ARE TWO BENEFITS OF O&M DURING THIS PANDEMIC!

O&M IS ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY - A RELATED SERVICE THAT IS ON SOME STUDENTS’ IEPS IF THEY HAVE A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT OR BLINDNESS. ORIENTATION IS, "WHERE AM I?" AND MOBILITY IS, "HOW, AND WHAT TOOLS DO I USE TO GET WHERE I NEED TO GO?".

Meet Julia, a 16 year old sophomore at NNHS who is traveling a route along Commonwealth Ave. Julia, during an English class this week, raised her hand to answer a question on "Identity" and explained that her long cane is an important part of her identity as it keeps her safe and makes her more independent! Way to go, Julia!

Also, meet Henry, a curious 8 year-old at Cabot Elementary, who is learning that his cane alerts him to bumps in the sidewalk and allows him to focus more on his surroundings while walking. His cane also "knows the way" to his favorite bakery near his home!

If you see Marcy Kammer, our district’s Orientation and Mobility Specialist, out and about in the community, please say hello. She works with students from preschool through post-graduate on skills in school, neighborhood and business communities. Because of the nature of O&M, Marcy is pleased to be able to work with both hybrid and DLA students in the safety of the outdoors.

Marcy B. Kammer, M. Ed.Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments