

APRIL 2023



MEDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STATE OF  
OUR SCHOOLS





# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## OUR SCHOOLS

Total Enrollment: 2521



### MEDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12  
Robert Parga, Principal  
Enrollment: 736



### BLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6-8  
Nathaniel Vaughn, Principal  
Enrollment: 584



### DALE STREET SCHOOL

Grades 4-5  
Stephen Grenham, Principal  
Enrollment: 389



### WHEELOCK SCHOOL

Grades 2-3  
Holli Caulfield, Principal  
Enrollment: 383

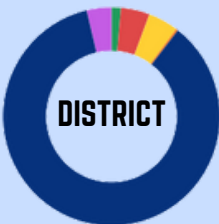


### MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Grades PreK-1  
Melissa Bilsborough, Principal  
Enrollment: 429

Data as of 3/1/23

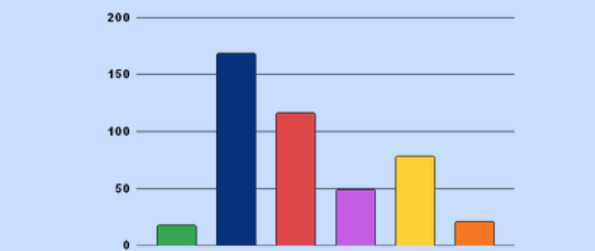
## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



RACE	% OF DISTRICT	% OF STATE
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1.4	9.4
ASIAN	4.3	7.3
HISPANIC	4.5	24.2
NATIVE AMERICAN	0.3	0.2
WHITE	85.8	54.4
NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0.1
MULTI-RACE, NON-HISPANIC	3.7	4.4

DESE data as of 10/1/22

## STAFFING REPORTS



Administrators	18
Classroom Teachers	168
Instructional Specialists/Special Education	116
Non-Clerical Staff	49
Teaching Assistants	78
Secretarial Staff	21

Data as of 1/20/23

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Medfield Public Schools will create a dynamic and collegial learning environment. Curriculum and instruction will guide students to achieve high standards and to meet the challenge of change. Through school, family, and community partnerships, students will be prepared to become responsible, sensitive, contributing citizens and lifelong learners.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Medfield Public Schools Community,



We are delighted to present the inaugural State of our Schools report for the years 2022-2023. This report showcases the outstanding work of our students, teachers, and staff, as well as our strong commitment to academic excellence and fiscal responsibility.

This report is particularly special as we highlight the contributions of our alumni and teachers, who have been instrumental in shaping our school district into the vibrant community it is today. Their dedication and hard work have helped us create a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters the growth and success of our students.

In addition to highlighting our alumni and teachers, we are proud to share our Fiscal Year 2024 financial data, which demonstrates our commitment to financial stability and transparency. We have worked diligently to allocate resources effectively to ensure that our students receive the highest quality education possible.

Our commitment to excellence in education is unwavering, and we are dedicated to providing our students with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to succeed in college and beyond. We are especially grateful for the continued support of the Medfield community.

The District would like to extend a special thank you to our Elementary Technology Integration Specialist, Marissa Foley, for her graphic design skills and leadership during this important project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Marsden  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## DID YOU KNOW?

In FY24, the District will fund 51 positions using grants, tuitions, and fees totaling over 4 million dollars. These positions are not included in the operating budget.

In the 2022-2023 school year, 72 Medfield High School students were named AP scholars and 24 were named AP Scholar with distinction.

Medfield High School has won 27 State Championships in 11 different sports since 1997.

120 Blake Middle School students are involved in the theater program.

At the Great East Festival, Gr. 7/8 Orchestra received a Gold rating, and Gr. 7/8 Band, Chorus, Jazz Choir and Jazz Band all received a Platinum rating.

Dale Street students create a daily newscast with special features to share with the whole school called the "Daily Dale."

Dale Street School was recognized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a "Commendation School for Improvement."

The Wheelock School Victory Garden is an organic garden run by parent and community volunteers under the supervision of a Master Gardener. Second graders plant crops in the fall and spring and return to harvest as third graders.

Wheelock 3rd graders participate in the Student Job Program. Jobs include: Flag Raisers, Morning Announcers, Library Helpers, various classroom helpers, and Lunch Room Helpers. Over 150 students have participated in the program this year.

Memorial's PTO and MCPE are working together to help raise funds to improve our existing playground to improve accessibility for all of our students.

1,374 students have participated in Full Day Kindergarten since the program began in 2014.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Leo Brehm  
2021-2024



Michelle Kirkby  
2022-2025



Timothy Knight  
2022-2025



Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke  
2020-2023



Jessica Reilly  
2020-2023

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR INCOMING MEMBERS: WILL HORNE & KRISTIN SIMONINI

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS



Mary Bruhl  
Director of  
Student Services



Michael LaFrancesca  
Director of  
Finance & Operations



Eoin O'Corcora  
Director of  
Technology



Christine Power  
Director of  
Instruction & Innovation



David Worthley  
Director of  
Social & Emotional Learning

# FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

## BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Dear Medfield Resident,

Enclosed is the School Committee's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which we respectfully ask you to approve at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on Monday, May 1. We hope that you find this information helpful as you evaluate the obligations that our schools must fulfill with our tax dollars.

The School Committee works closely with the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Operations to develop a fiscally responsible budget; aspiring to find balance between providing for the needs and expectations of educating our students in an excellent school district while also understanding the needs and concerns of each of us as taxpayers. To that end we also work with the Warrant Committee throughout its development to put forth a proposal that the town can support.

We are particularly grateful for the successful contract negotiations in 2022 with our unions (teachers, teacher assistants custodians, administrative assistants and cafeteria staff), especially in light of the significant difficulties other districts across the Commonwealth have experienced in post-pandemic labor negotiations. These Agreements allow the District to reliably anticipate the majority of its budget needs over the next 3 fiscal years. Many of the FTE (full time employee) payroll increases are a result of critical positions that were previously funded through the ESSER III Grant (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant) and now will be funded through the operating budget to provide the level of whole student focused academic and mental wellness support necessary for the long term growth and success of our community's students.

The District's budget in FY24 also reflects the significant stressors that affect our neighboring districts within the Tri-County area, as well as throughout the Commonwealth. Rising fuel and labor costs affect our ability to provide all forms of transportation for students, utility costs are predicted to more than double, and the increase of the rate of tuition for out of district placements will rise by 14% over FY 23. Most importantly, however, the effects of the complete societal disruption of the global COVID-19 will continue to reverberate across families everywhere, including in our own community, and rebuilding our academic and social emotional stability takes a level of resources that no one could have anticipated on the day that our schools and country shut down three years ago on March 14, 2020.

Yet, much as we saw in those first days, the larger community continues to come together through state and local partnerships to help mitigate some of these challenges: the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents is working with legislators to secure more direct state funding, and we are working closely with the Medfield Energy Committee to bring solar energy to many of our schools. As has been the case for over 350 years, working creatively together will help us all weather our challenges.

We invite you to visit [www.Medfield.tv](http://www.Medfield.tv) to view the recording of the FY24 budget hearing dated January 26, 2023, for Dr. Marsden's deep dive into the budget and budget process. In addition, the Medfield School Committee's full proposed budget, as well as previous years' presentations and actuals, may be found at [www.medfield.net](http://www.medfield.net), the District's home page.

With gratitude,  
The Medfield School Committee

# FY 2024

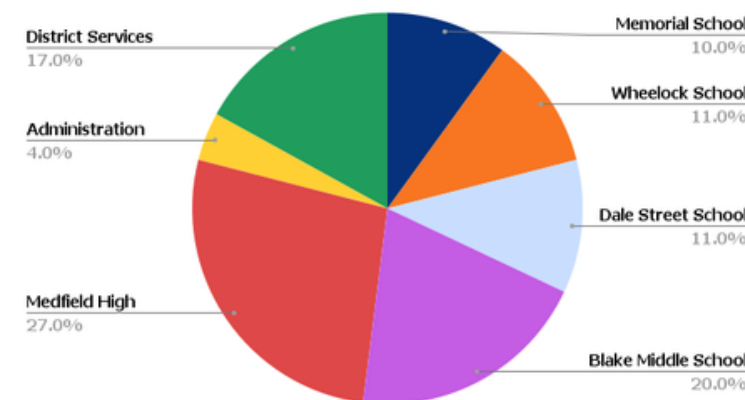
## BUDGET TOTAL

FY2023 Budget	\$39,506,948
FY2024 Request	\$41,176,784
Change (\$)	\$1,669,836
Change (%)	4.23%

## WHAT DOES A 4.23% INCREASE ACCOMPLISH?

- Maintains most of our current staff and programs
- Fulfills obligations to collective bargaining agreements:
  - Teacher-MTA Unit A
  - Teacher Assistants- MTA Unit B
  - Administrative Assistants
  - Custodians
  - Food Service
- Adds 2.0 positions that were funded by a federal grant (ESSER) in FY23
- Increases Utilities by \$169K
- Creates a PreK section at Wheelock
- Increases supplies by \$34K
- Utilizes federal grant (ESSER) funds to purchase a new PK-5 math program
- Increases bus transportation by \$257K
- Increases technology upgrades by \$25K

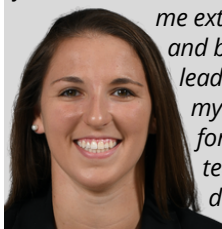
## BUDGET DISTRIBUTION



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

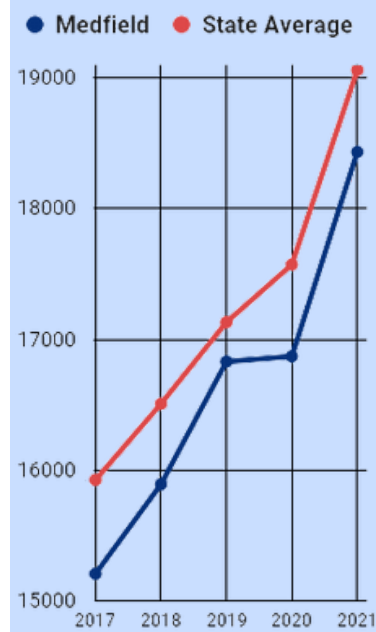
### MIMI BORKAN

University of New Hampshire  
Manager, Customer Success at Teamworks  
*"I am so thankful for my experiences at Medfield High School, and still feel the impact of my time at MHS regularly. I work in a customer-facing role for a sports technology company, which requires excellent communication skills and a problem-solver attitude. More than curriculum or content, MHS taught me to think outside the box, approach situations with creativity, and be solutions oriented. I am appreciative of the strong writing and analytical foundations cultivated at MHS, both of which served me extremely well in higher education and beyond. Themes of teamwork and leadership are consistently present in my professional life. I am so grateful for the coaches, administrators and teachers who fostered those skills during my years at MHS."*



TOWN	PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES
DOVER	\$25,842.02
WELLESLEY	\$24,183.11
DEDHAM	\$24,010.81
SHERBORN	\$21,626.57
NEEDHAM	\$21,146.56
WESTWOOD	\$20,499.76
NORWOOD	\$20,402.34
STATE AVERAGE	\$19,062.20
MILLIS	\$18,436.91
MEDFIELD	\$18,435.05
MEDWAY	\$17,973.38
WALPOLE	\$17,395.59

## PER PUPIL SPENDING



	FY2024 REQUEST	CHANGE (\$)	CHANGE (%)	INCREASE DUE TO:
MEDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	\$10,815,177	\$470,673	4.5%	• Utilities • Salaries
BLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$8,327,781	\$228,179	2.8%	• Utilities • Salaries
DALE STREET SCHOOL	\$4,727,015	\$297,362	6.7%	• Utilities • Salaries
WHEELOCK SCHOOL	\$4,438,481	\$255,809	6.1%	• Utilities • Salaries • Staffing Increase
MEMORIAL SCHOOL	\$4,156,421	\$285,958	7.4%	• Utilities • Salaries • Staffing Increase

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### CHRIS MCGRORY

Harvard University  
Psychology Research Assistant at the National Center for PTSD at the VA Boston  
*"I was nervous heading into college. I wasn't sure if I was ready. But I was wrong. Medfield Public Schools taught me how to prepare diligently, collaborate conscientiously, and, most importantly, ask for help when I needed it. On top of the material learned, I believe those intangible skills helped carry me through college in the classroom and on the baseball diamond. I will forever be indebted to the position Medfield put me in after graduation and the lifelong friends it gave me."*



FOR MORE BUDGET INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:  
[medfield.net/documents/budget/budget/fy2024/388846](http://medfield.net/documents/budget/budget/fy2024/388846)



## EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

### ANN CAREY

Ann Carey has been a Medfield educator for over 50 years! When Mrs. Carey graduated from Framingham State University she came to Medfield in 1971 as a second grade teacher at Ralph Wheelock School where she is still teaching second grade today.



*"I feel privileged to be spending my teaching career in just one community and with a talented and dedicated group of people. Having taught at both Wheelock and Memorial Schools, I have met families from across Medfield, and I love the connections I have made. Something I especially enjoy is when I have the opportunity to teach a student whose parent was also a second grade student in my class! I have told my young students over the years to always try their best and I will be so proud of them. We all learn in our own way and at our own rate. I remind them to be proud of themselves and their successes, and it is my hope that students hold this mindset as they go on in their school career. It is truly rewarding to be an educator in the Medfield Public Schools. I have been blessed to be a part of this strong community."*

### MICHAEL GOW

Michael Gow, having started his Medfield career in 1998 as a second grade teacher's aide at Wheelock while simultaneously working for the Medfield Afterschool Program, is now a 23 year veteran of Blake Middle School. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Superior in 1997 and his MAT from Bridgewater State University in 2009. Currently, Michael is a sixth grade cluster leader having served in this role for 15 years.

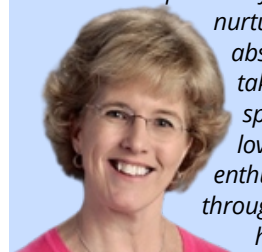
*"I take a constructivist approach to teaching. By doing so, I embrace student choice and student voice. Often times, students have the opportunity to choose their own path to learning new concepts. My most impactful social studies teacher growing up also had a constructivist mindset. They were the ones who inspired my love of history and geography. I hope to do the same for my students. The Medfield students, staff, and community members are highly invested in the education system of this town. I have been blown away by the generosity and care this community has for its schools."*



### PAULA GRACE

Paula Grace grew up in Medfield and graduated from Medfield High School in 1982. She earned her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Westfield State College and a Master's in Education from Lesley College. Paula has worked at Memorial School for over twenty-five years. She has taught kindergarten and first grade and worked in the Integrated Preschool program.

*"I am incredibly fortunate to have made a career out of my passion for working with young children. I often think of my enormous responsibility to parents who entrust me to nurture and care for their children in their absence. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly. I realize how precious and special every child is. I hope that my love for their children and my enthusiasm for teaching has come through to every parent and child I have had the privilege to work with."*



### KATHY THOMPSON

Kathy Thompson began her nursing career as a staff nurse on a surgical floor in Children's Hospital, and later as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Pediatric Urology. While home with small children, she finished her Master of Science Degree in Nursing, specializing in Maternal Child Health from Boston College School of Nursing and became a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She began volunteering in the Medfield Public Schools and was thrilled to be offered a position in 1997 as the Dale Street School Nurse, where she still works today. In 2005 she became the Nurse Leader for the district.

*"My mission as Nurse Leader has been to enhance the School Health Program through advocating for additional nursing positions, being involved at the state level with the MA Department of Public Health and through securing numerous grants to improve nursing services in Medfield. I feel that the pandemic allowed the school nurses to really shine. The weekly Pooled Testing Program in Medfield Schools became a national model and the nine vaccine clinics in the schools contributed to high vaccination rates in Medfield and were a huge part in keeping students healthy and schools open. My time in the Medfield Public Schools has been my dream job, both because of the extremely dedicated, caring, and talented professionals I have had the privilege of working with, but also for the chance to care for so many wonderful students and their families and to mentor many future nurses."*



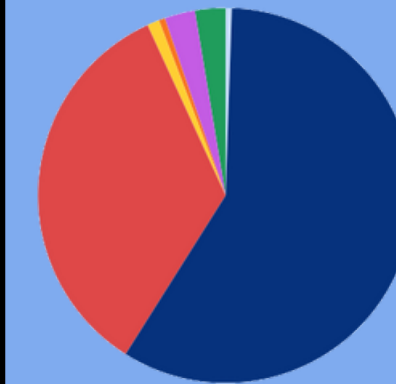
### MADELINE CHAMBERLAIN

Madeline Chamberlain has taught at Medfield High School for fifteen years. She received her BA in English Literature and Anthropology/Archaeology from McGill University and her MAT in English Language Arts from Tufts University. Madeline teaches junior and senior English.

*"When I returned from maternity leave in 2016, our assistant principal at the time greeted me by saying 'welcome home.' I often go back to this moment because, quite honestly, Medfield High School is my home. Every single one of my colleagues works tirelessly to help the students of our community grow into thoughtful and engaged world citizens. And it shows—our students are curious and compassionate critical thinkers and I am confident they will make our world a better place. I am proud to work here and am honored to be a part of the education of the young adults of Medfield."*



## CLASS OF 2022 COLLEGE MATRICULATION\*



4 Year Private College	58.4%
4 Year Public College	34.2%
Gap Year	2.6%
Work	2.6%
Apprenticeships	1.1%
2 Year College	<1%
Military	<1%

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### KABIR THATTE

UMASS Amherst

Director of Policy & Coalitions at DigDeep

*"Medfield provides a unique opportunity for students to experience all kinds of different academic and extracurricular pathways. During my time at Medfield High, I was able to perform with an award-winning jazz ensemble, act in & direct musicals and plays with the theatre society, compete in track & field, write for the literary magazine, and serve as a curator for the town's historical society. My time in the classroom-- particularly in my history, social studies, and government courses-- ignited my passion to work in public service. Thanks to the drive and lessons learned at Medfield High, I've been fortunate enough to serve at the U.S.*

*Department of the Treasury, work in political campaigns in over 30 states, direct the executive team at the Democratic National Committee, work on Capitol Hill, and provide counsel for large nonprofits and philanthropies. I now run government and external affairs for DigDeep - the leading WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) organization serving the 2.2 million+ Americans without access to running water or adequate sanitation in their homes."*



### DELANEY LAWSON

University of Pennsylvania

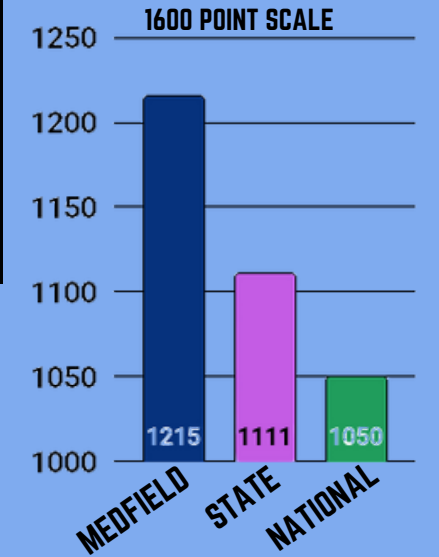
Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department

*"The academic curriculum, extracurricular sports/clubs and the faculty mentors at Medfield High School prepared me for both college and my career. Being a member of the basketball team, student council and many clubs, I learned time management, creativity and prioritization; all skills I use every day in my profession as a nurse. Medfield Public Schools also afforded me the opportunity to explore foreign languages and with my background in Spanish, I am able to communicate comfortably with ESL patients in the emergency department. The math and science teachers were incredible role models for me and helped me to hone in on what interested me in those fields. Additionally, guidance counselors encouraged me to shadow healthcare workers in the hospital setting to best prepare myself for interviews and my future career. I always felt supported by my teachers, coaches, and other faculty leaders at MHS because they take time to get to know their students on a personal level and act as a resource as they explore their interests for the future."*



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA\*

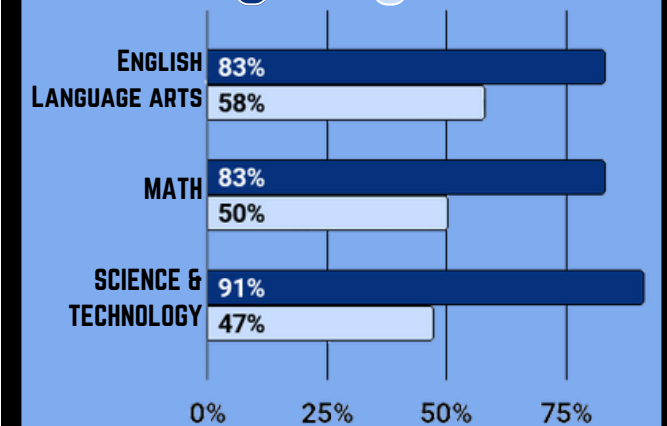
### MEAN SAT SCORE



### GR. 10 MCAS

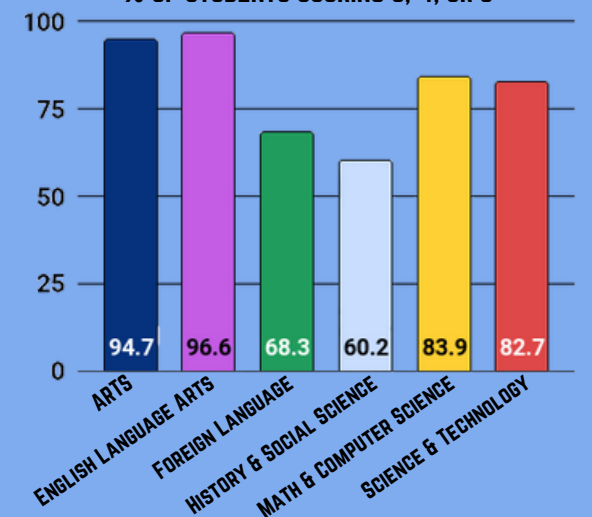
% OF STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

● MEDFIELD ● STATE



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST SCORES

% OF STUDENTS SCORING 3, 4, OR 5



\*Graphs reflect district and College Board data.