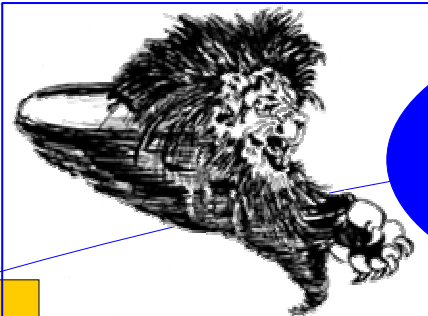


# Tornado Times 2008-2009



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MHS was founded in 1857 and celebrated its 100th anniversary last October.

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Tuesday, September 2, 2008

## Welcome to Malden High School

*Malden High School, in partnership with our extended community, promotes academic excellence, personal growth, and civic responsibility for all students.*

Weekly message...

The foundation has been set...the challenging and rewarding work now begins.

It almost feels like we have two school openings this year. Staff development days, freshmen orientation, welcome back day, or whatever we called last Thursday; all of them served to prepare us for the start of the year. In many ways the foundations that were laid last week will serve us well as we move through the school year.

The tone set by you in your classrooms last week was professional and warm. Many of us hope that the returning students come back this year with a clearer sense of purpose. The freshmen appear to be serious about their work but these are only first impressions. The days ahead will be fraught with obstacles. That's okay. It's our reaction to the challenges that will set us apart from other high schools.

The progress we make this year will be directly related to what happens in your classroom. Make no mistake about it. **You** are the difference; your detailed daily preparation, use of high level strategies, and your ability to assess students and make instructional adjustments will define your teaching. Your teaching is what makes this a good school, moving to great!

Thanks for the hard work and support.

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- Notes of interest:
- Thank you for your cooperation during ID picture day. A make-up day will be held this week. Students and staff who did not get a picture taken last week will be asked to report to the Jenkins Auditorium on Thursday.
  - A "Sunshine Fund" was established at MHS many years ago to defray the costs of flowers, cards, meals, gifts et al for teachers and staff in times of celebration and in mourning. See Judi Sullivan in the Boyle House office if you would like to contribute.
  - Recycling Bins are available-contact Kathy Maglio in B429.
  - Fall athletic coaches are invited to join us for the Fall Athletic Meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 7:00 pm in Cafeteria B.
  - We communicate by email throughout the school and district. At a minimum you should check your school email at the beginning of the school day and at the end of the school day. Please contact a member of the BTS with any questions. Thank you.
  - The Fine Arts Club is hosting its 2nd annual Giant Flea Market Saturday, September 20 from 8AM-3PM. If anyone is interested in selling items to raise money for their clubs, please contact Maryann Seager to save a spot. Spaces are free but limited.
  - School-to-career students can assist in offices and classrooms, and can be an asset to teachers and administrators. Please contact a house principal or guidance counselor for more info.

## Students in service to others...

- **Jennifer Delacey** is the Tri-Chair of the Greater Boston Student Advisory Council.
- **Catlin Abber** is a Massachusetts State Student Advisory Council Delegate. On August 5th the pair attended the Massachusetts State Student Advisory Council Conference at Endicott College. At the conference the students heard about

Governor Patrick's Readiness Project and also attended a question and answer session with new Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester. The students also attended skills seminars in leadership development. Congratulations to two of our many students involved in activities related to making schools better.

- **Bread of Life...** many of our students volunteer at this local food pantry on Main Street Malden.

*Former MHS student-athlete Breno Giacomini called to let us know he made the roster of the Green Bay Packers.*

### From the notes of Sid Smith, Superintendent of Schools...

**Favorite Strategies:** Developing independent, motivated, accountable learners

The following ideas are very important to me:

- Students need to be deeply engaged in their lessons, motivated about their daily work and accountable for good work every day.
- Students need to become independent learners as well as knowledgeable about the content we teach.
- Social interaction among students, focused on the content they're expected to learn, is an essential element of the learning process.
- It's important for our students to think deeply about content and make that thinking visible every day. This thinking includes the knowledge (and misconceptions) they develop about content, as well as the thoughts, ideas and questions they have in response to the content.
- Students need to learn and apply the strategies that help them build comprehension and understanding in every class they participate in.

Please welcome  
**Teresa Murano** to our  
faculty. Teresa joins

*Important reminders:*  
1. Please do not allow any student out of your room without a signed (not initialed) agenda book.  
2. House studies and directed studies should be places of serious school business. No student in this school should ever have "nothing to do".

*Fall Sports begin this week. Go and support your colleagues and students! Schedules are on the web.*

## Studies from the Harvard Graduate School of Education

Each year a group of Harvard graduate students take an inside look at the culture of Malden High School, in areas from curriculum and instruction to the college application process. This past year the different cohorts of graduate students made some interesting findings and recommendations. Their full reports will be available online soon. In the meantime I thought

I would list a few of the more interesting comments from the **College Success** study.

- **Finding # 1;** At least 60% of 2004 and 2005 MHS graduates enrolled in college and of those that enrolled 82% persisted into their second year.
- **Finding # 2;** 87% of MHS graduates who enrolled in

college attend schools in Massachusetts.

- **Finding # 3;** College enrollment rates vary by race/ethnicity. College persistence rates do not vary by race/ethnicity.

## College Preview

In July, a group of eighteen Malden High School students attended a week-long Harvard Graduate School of Education sponsored program called College Preview. The MHS students included Alyssa Poon, Andrew Infante, Angela Han, Ariana DellaGatta, Christian Brewer, Danny Bitew, Dario Sava, Jennifer Delacey, Kelly Bourgea, Kethia Mathieu,

Ketena Joseph, Laura Metellus, Marie Gedeon, Michael Ngo, Sahil Sagar, Stephanie Tran, Trisha Cornet, and Victor Banor.

The diverse group of students came together on the Harvard campus to participate in classes ranging from the college admissions process and poetry to debate and negotiation; the classes were conducted by Harvard and Boston College profes-

sors, deans and faculty. The students also attended workshops on Tai Chi and meditation. The students came away from the experience inspired, motivated, and with a clearer set of personal goals.

The graduation ceremony included the dramatic personal stories of our students told through poetry.

## MHS Expectations as developed for the NEASC process:

### Students will be able to:

- Read critically for understanding
- Listen critically for understanding
- Write for a variety of purposes
- Communicate clearly through speaking
- Apply critical thinking skills for reasoning and problem-solving
- Utilize technology to conduct research, to support critical think-

ing, and to present information

- Work collaboratively with peers and Malden High School staff
- Develop personal interests and goals within a course of study

*Check out the Malden High School web site. Beth Horwitz has added some features and the pages are filled with important information.*