



Lexington Public Schools

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OUR SCHOOLS

This past Tuesday, Lexington's 6,200 students returned from summer vacation filling our schools with energy and excitement.

During the past two months, secretaries, custodians, maintenance staff, administrators, and numerous teachers worked very hard to get schools ready for students and faculty members. The time between the last and first day of school was extremely busy. New teachers were hired, buildings were cleaned and repaired, and many teachers were engaged in major curriculum projects and professional development.

This year, we hired seventy-nine teachers and administrators. Once again, the reputation of the Lexington Public Schools was a significant factor that helped us recruit extraordinary educators. For the first time in many years, we will provide all first and second year teachers a comprehensive induction and mentoring program.

Here are some of the exciting developments that occurred this summer:

- All kindergarten teachers attended a four-day institute on "Striving for Excellence in Full-Day Kindergarten." After almost nine years of discussing whether to offer full-day kindergarten, we are finally ready to implement a high quality full-day kindergarten program.
- Due to the generosity of the Lexington Education Foundation, fourteen teachers were selected as summer fellows and traveled to Kenya, Senegal, Peru, Greece, Barcelona, Istanbul, Ghana, New York, and Cleveland. Professional development focused on literacy, middle school curriculum, ELL, library skills, data analysis to improve student performance, and high school curriculum writing and content.
- Teachers and administrators, from all nine schools, attended the national conference on developing and sustaining Professional Learning Communities, which was held in Boston.
- The members of the mathematics, physical education/wellness, and science, technology & engineering curriculum committees continued their work writing curriculum and training for pilot units.

The new town-wide Public Facilities Department is now fully operational. Working with contractors, the department is responsible for nearly two million dollars of capital projects. For example, at Clarke, the out-of-date electric heating system is being replaced with a highly efficient natural gas system. This project will take two summers to complete. Some of the other summer work included painting at all schools, replacing sections of the roof at Estabrook and on the high school math building, installing new lockers in two schools, replacing obsolete kitchen equipment, repairing auditoriums and gymnasiums, and upgrading heating systems.

On behalf of everyone who works with Lexington children, we look forward to another exciting school year.

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