

TEWKSBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

139 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

Notice of Meeting - Public Session

DATE: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 6:00 PM

MEETING(s): Tewksbury School Committee

Regular School Committee Meeting #12

LOCATION: Tewksbury Memorial High School - Large Group Instruction Room (LGI-1)
320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

AGENDA - Regular School Committee Meeting - 6:00 PM

1. **Call To Order**
2. **Pledge Allegiance**
3. **Announcement***
4. **Recognitions**
 - a. Introduction of New TPS School Principals
 - b. 2025 Student Highlights Across the District
5. **Student Council Representative To The School Committee Report**
Maggie Kinnon - Report on TMHS News & Events
6. **Presentations**
None
7. **Citizens Forum***
8. **Approval Of Minutes - Vote**
 - a. April 16, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
9. **Submission And Payment Of Bills - Vote**
Payroll Period Ending, April 24, 2025, \$1,636,400.93
10. **Superintendent & Staff Reports**
11. **Correspondence & Informational Topics (Pg 3)**
12. **Consent Agenda (Pg 3)**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bridget Garabedian, Chair bgarabedian@teewksbury.k12.ma.us - Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Vice Chair kbiagioni-smith@teewksbury.k12.ma.us
Jamey Cutelis, Clerk jcutelis@teewksbury.k12.ma.us - Chris Moncada, Member cmoncada@teewksbury.k12.ma.us
Kaitlyn Anderson, Member kmanderson@teewksbury.k12.ma.us
Superintendent of Schools - Brenda Theriault-Regan bregan@teewksbury.k12.ma.us

13. School Committee Member Reports

Tewksbury SEPAC
Wellness Advisory Committee
Tewksbury School Facility Study Committee (TSFSC)
Policy Sub-Committee

14. Policy Changes, Proposals & Adoption

Informational Reading: Policies reviewed and recommended to revise - None

First Reading: Policies reviewed and recommended to revise - FYI

AC-R, Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation; **IKF**, Graduation Requirements;
JICK, Harassment of Students

Second and Final Reading: Policies reviewed and recommended to revise - Vote

AC, Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation; **ACA**, Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex; **ACAB**, Sexual Harassment; **ADDA**, Background Checks; **EFC**, Universal Free School Meals; **EFD**, School Nutrition Program Charge Policy; **JF**, School Admissions; **JLCB**, Immunization of Students; **JLCD**, Administering Medicines to Students; **JLCD-R**, Regulations for Medication Administration in the Tewksbury Public Schools; **JLCDA**, Delegation of Prescription Medications for Field Trips and Short Term Special School Events

First & Final Reading: Policy reviewed and recommended to approve with no changes - None

First & Final Reading: Policy reviewed and recommended to rescind - None

15. Old Business

- a. FY25 Quarterly Reports (Q3) - FYI
- b. 2025-26 School Committee Meeting Schedule - Vote
- c. School Committee Listening Session, K-12 Student Fees - FYI

16. New Business

- a. Valley Collaborative FY26 Board Member Appointment - Vote
- b. 2025-26 School Committee Assignments - Vote

17. School Committee Matters of Interest

18. Future School Committee Meeting Dates

- o May 21st; Tuesday, June 10th

19. Future Sub-Committee & Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

TSEPAC Business Meeting: May 15, 2025
Wellness Advisory Committee: June 4, 2025
Listening Sessions: May 8, 2025; May 13, 2025
Policy Subcommittee: May 13, 2025
Tewksbury School Facility Study Committee: TBD

20. Future Agenda Items

21. Executive Session - Non-Public Session

- o Approval of Executive Session Minutes
- o Collective Bargaining Pertaining to the TTA Bargaining Unit

The School Committee will not reconvene in open session after the Executive Session.

22. Adjournment

- a. Adjourn the Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting

***ANNOUNCEMENT:** The April 30, 2025 Regular School Committee Meeting will be televised and recorded and may be viewed live on Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 34 or YouTube.com/TewksburyTV. Under the Open Meeting Law, the public is permitted to make an audio or video recording of an open session at a public meeting. At this time, I would ask if anyone is recording tonight's meeting to please identify himself or herself.

***PUBLIC COMMENT:** Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. Large groups addressing the same topic are encouraged to consolidate their remarks and/or select a spokesperson to speak on the groups' behalf. If you require accommodations on the basis of a disability or require language interpretation assistance please notify the Superintendent's office in advance of the meeting date.

11. Correspondence & Informational Topics

- o Heath Brook New Doors & Shades
- o 2025 Teacher Appreciation Week: May 5th - May 9th
- o 41st 2025 Districtwide Art Show & Band & Chorus Concert - May 9th & 10th
- o Ryan Career Fair 2025 Attendees
- o TMHS College Fair 2025 Attendees
- o 2025-26 Patriot's Pen Essay Competition - Entry Form
- o 2025-26 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition - Entry Form

12. Consent Agenda

Personnel Items

New Hires - None

Reappointments - None

Retirements - Patricia Maia, Special Education Teacher at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective June 30, 2025

Appendix B 2024-2025 Co-Curricular Activities - None

Appendix B 2024-2025 TMHS Athletics - None

Acceptance of Grants - None

Raffles - None

Recognitions

Presentations

Tewksbury School Committee - April 16, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Introduction of the New TPS Principals

- Principal of the Heath Brook Elementary School
- Principal of the John Ryan Elementary School

2025 Student Highlights Across the District

- Wynn Middle School
 - Science Fair
 - Genius Hour
 - MA Music Educators Association Junior District Festival
 - Ryan Elementary School
 - Career Day
 - STEM Night
 - TMHS
 - Song from Little Mermaid
 - Center Elementary School
 - Song from Shrek
 - Dewing School
 - Student Highlights
 - Heath Brook School
 - Student Highlights
-

PRESENTATION

None

Team 8A Science Fair Project and Exhibition:

This weekend several John W. Wynn Middle School - Tewksbury students took their science projects to the MA Science & Engineering Fair at UMASS Lowell. Zia Shah, Claire Petrone, and Carter Fleming project "Leap Into Learning" earned a 1st place 🏆 in their category. Great job by all the participating students. Great job, scientists!

John W. Wynn Middle School - Tewksbury Team 8A hosted a Science Fair this week as well at the Wynn Middle School. What a hit! We would like to thank team 8A, especially Ms. Floria, for an amazing event. Thank you community for visiting the event to help make it a success.



2025 Massachusetts Music Educators Association Junior District Festival:

Congratulations to Wynn Middle School's Imani DaSilva, for being selected to play in the 1st violin section at the 2025 Massachusetts Music Educators Association Junior District Festival. Bravo! 🎻



8B - Genius Hour:

Team 8B students recently participated in the 3rd Annual Genius Hour Fair! They tackled the gargantuan task of designing and implementing—and then re-designing and re-implementing—their projects with dedication and creativity. Students had the opportunity to share their newfound knowledge with families, school administrators, and the wider school community.

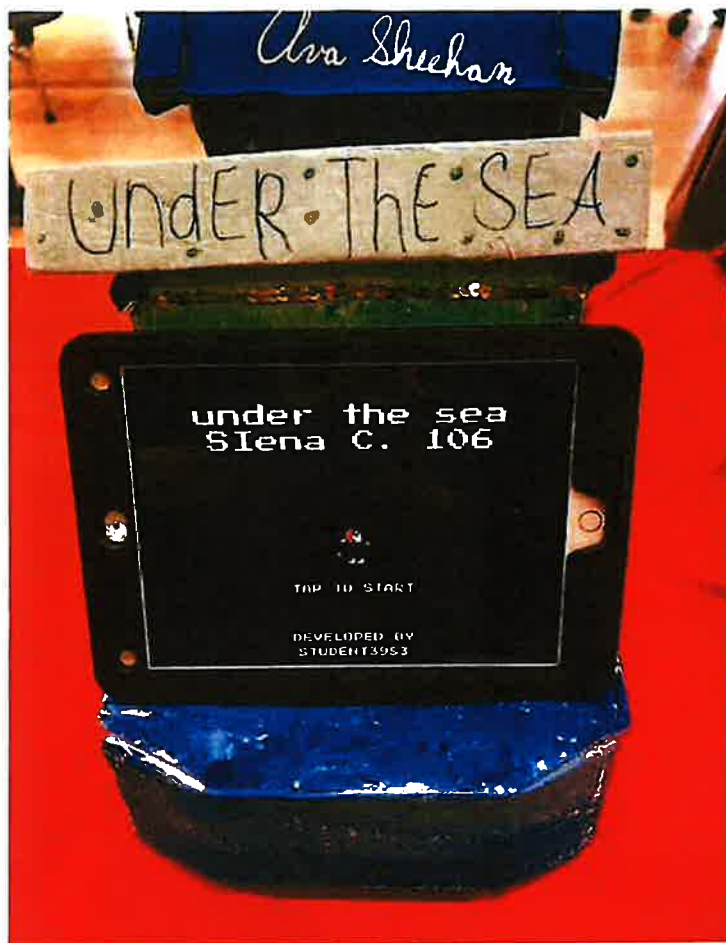
Because the project centers on student agency, the impact is especially powerful when students can present the results of their hard work in such an authentic and meaningful way. The 8B geniuses also took time to self-reflect on their projects and celebrate one another during a team award show.

Overall, the Genius Hour process was a fantastic showcase of our students' work and a strong indicator of the bright futures lying ahead for our Team 8B students!



Ryan School Spring 2025 in Pictures





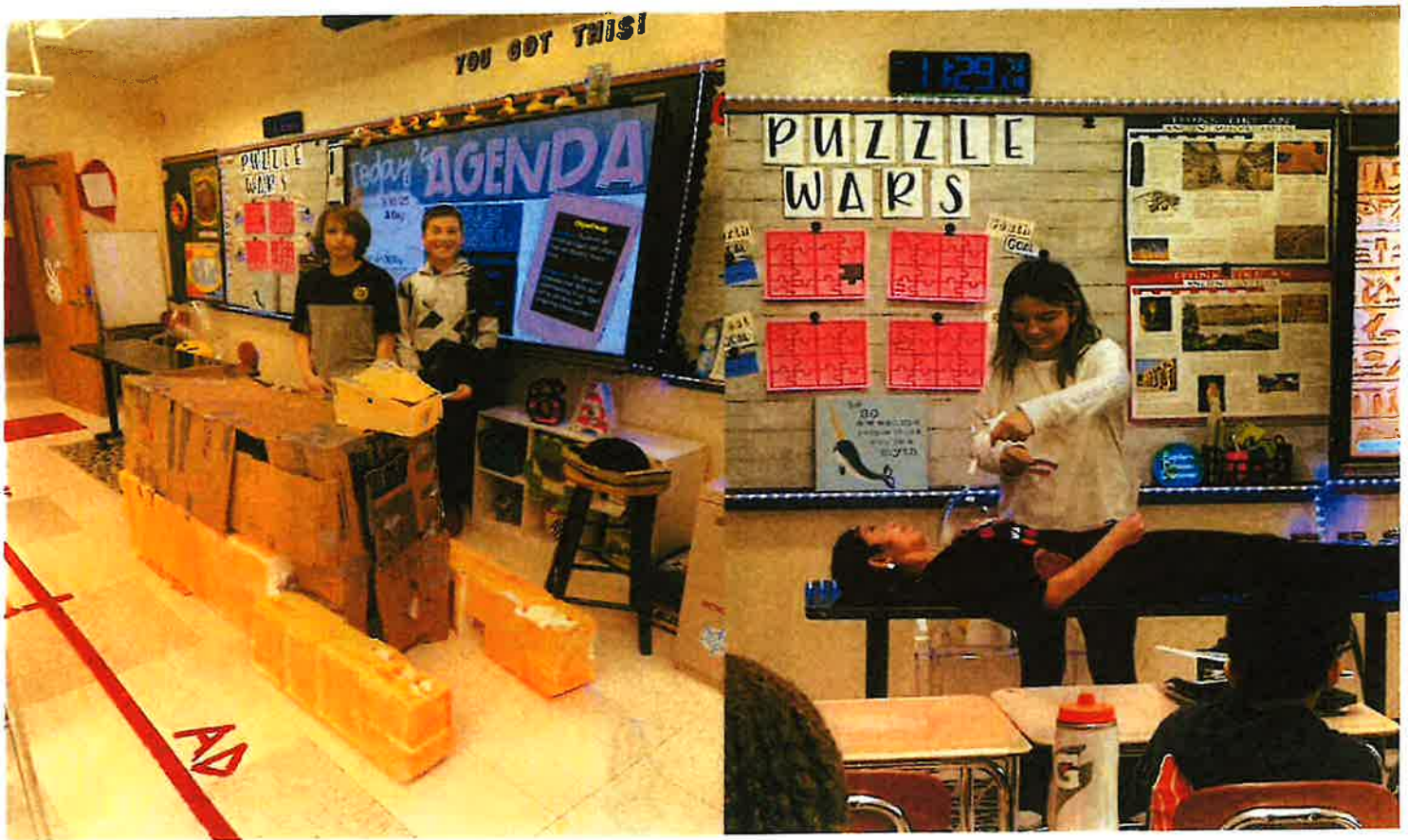






Ryan school students showcased their Bloxel video games created during their iSTEM class, at the CES STEAM night on April 10TH. The Computer Science unit focused on designing video games using block code. Students developed video games, had classmates test the games, and then made changes based on the feedback from their peers.





Students on Team 6A, in Mrs. Romano's class, worked on Student Choice Menu projects that focused on Ancient Egypt. They were able to pick from a variety of creative options to show what they learned. Giving students choice allowed them to take ownership of their learning, explore their interests, work at their skill level, and share their knowledge of Ancient Egypt in unique and meaningful ways.



Dewling School



Spring 2025



Preschool

Morning message - Students were given a model and prompt for the morning message. Some students are at the stage of writing a sentence while other students are working on drawing pictures about the "big idea," which happened to be insects in this picture.

SLP activity - Mrs. Gerenz spends time with each of our preschool classrooms once a week providing in-class speech and language support to all students.



Preschool

Reading Groups - Frog Street reading groups once a week. Students are working on book awareness and concepts about print. Even in our PreK classes, we have many students already reading!

Morning message - Students were given a model and prompt for the morning message. Some students are at the stage of writing a sentence while other students are working on drawing pictures about the "big idea," which happened to be insects in this picture.

Motor Group - Students had completed an obstacle course on scooters for motor groups with our physical therapist. Some students struggled in completing the course the week prior. When our class returned for week 2, modifications were made and two scooters were now connected. Students worked together to complete the course and all students were able to do this successfully with a partner.



Kindergarten

A kindergarten class read Duck Rabbit and used it to vote, graph, and compare. We then talked about describing words for each animal. The kids then drew and wrote their choice.

They also earned a board game day. The students were responsible for teaching their friends the rules. They did a great job sharing and turn taking.



Grade 1 Collaboration Focus

EL beaks writing--students read their writing to their groups and then collaboratively gave suggestions/editing



Kindergarten

To connect directly to our Kindergarten EL Module on Weather, the PAC invited NBC Meteorologist Tevin Wooten to present to us. It was a GREAT way to connect our learning to real life content. While he did not predict a snow day, he did predict some funny weather the next morning and shared some fun weather patterns to our K students.



Students discussed

characteristics of bi

use the POW/TIDE

write about the

characteristics.



Mrs. Smallidge and Ms. Cahill read an *Elephant and Piggie* book to Kindergarten students to celebrate Read Across America week.



EXAMPLE.COM

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Reading is Fun!

Mrs. Bosworth had the pleasure of reading to Dewing School Classes during Read Across America Week.

The students were all so attentive and participated in wonderful SEL based conversations.

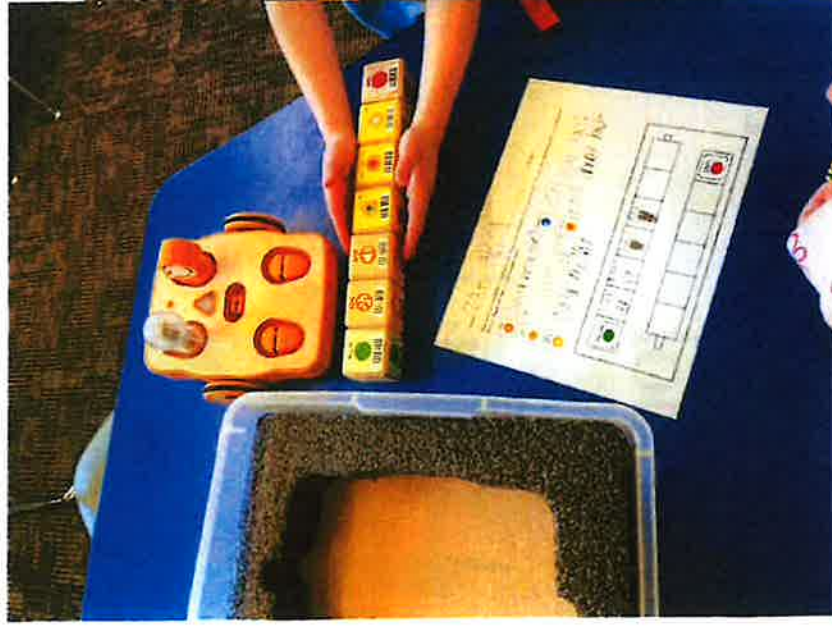


Working hard in all areas at the Dewing School



EXAMPLE.COM

First grade students in STEAM are writing their own programs using the KIBO robot.



Minutes

Payroll

TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Tewksbury, Massachusetts
4/24/2025

I move the School Department Payroll be approved and certified in the amounts and categories as shown for a total amount of **\$1,636,400.93**

GRANTS

\$2,958.56	Early Childhood Grant
\$0.00	IEP Stipend
\$11,492.39	Title I Grant
\$51.79	Title II Grant
\$0.00	Title III Grant
\$613.36	Title IV Grant
\$23,676.09	Special Ed 240 Grant
\$0.00	ASOST Grant
\$309.00	Innovation Pathways Grant
\$0.00	21st Century CLC Summer Enhancement Grant
\$1,864.31	SEL Grant
\$0.00	ESSER III Grant
\$0.00	21st Century Sped Enhancement
\$0.00	Yondr Grant
\$0.00	21st Century Grant
\$1,211.16	Project Lead the Way

REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

\$2,082.47	Facilities
\$727.61	Parking Fees
\$0.00	Advisor Stipend
\$0.00	TMHS Athletic Intramurals
\$0.00	WYNN Athletic Intramurals
\$0.00	Advisor Stipend- Ryan
\$0.00	AP Proctoring
\$338.96	Recreation
\$53,754.54	Lunch Program
\$0.00	Athletic Revolving
\$0.00	Adult Education Program
\$0.00	Community Education Recreation
\$26,173.92	Preschool
\$0.00	Kindergarten Revolving
\$0.00	School Rec Coverage
\$0.00	Circuit Breaker Account
\$0.00	Community Services Preschool Program
\$3,863.91	Alphabest

\$129,118.07 SUB TOTAL - NON LEA FUNDS

LEA FUNDS

\$1,507,282.86 2024-2025 School Department Account

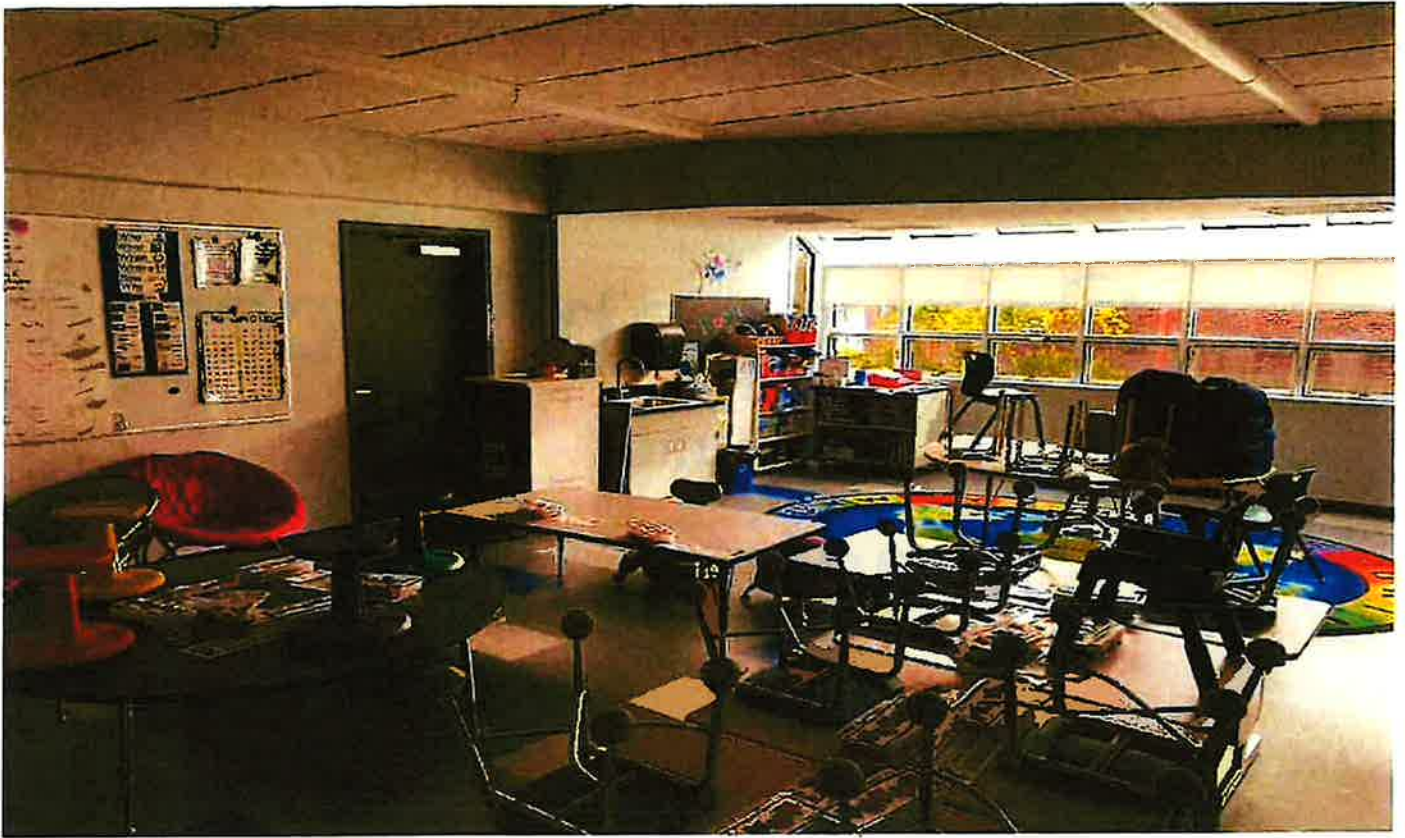
\$1,507,282.86 SUB TOTAL - LEA FUNDS

\$1,636,400.93 TOTAL

Superintendent/ Staff Reports

Correspondence
and
Informational Topics

Heath Brook School New Doors & Shades



Please join us in celebrating the exemplary student work that has been selected for the

41ST ANNUAL TEWKSBURY DISTRICT ART SHOW

All are welcome!

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

Tewksbury Memorial High School
Auditorium & Cafeteria

6:30 PM

TMHS Band & Chorus Concert

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Public showing of the art exhibit

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH

Tewksbury Memorial High School
Cafeteria

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Public showing of the art exhibit

****Please extend this invitation to your family and friends****

**41st Annual Fine & Performing
Arts Exhibition & Performance**

**TEWKSBURY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



ARTWORK BY JULIA MOURA

**TMHS 13th Annual
College Fair**

COLLEGE NAME	TABLE
Albertus Magnus College	1
Assumption University	2
Bates College	3
Brandeis University	4
Bridgewater State University	5
Colby Sawyer College	6
College of the Holy Cross	7
Dean College	8
Emerson College	9
Emmanuel College	10
Endicott College	11
Fitchburg State University	12
Framingham State University	13
High Point University	14
Husson University	15
Johnson & Wales University	16
Keene State	17
Lasell University	18
Long Island University	19
Mass College of Liberal Arts	20
Mass. Army National Guard	21
Massachusetts Maritime Academy	22
Merrimack College	23
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio	24
Middlesex Community College	25
N. E. Institute of Technology	26
Nashua Community College	27
National Aviation Academy	28
New England College	29
Nichols College	30
Northern Essex CC	31
Quinnipiac University	32
Regis College	33
Rivier University	34
Saint Anselm College	35
Salem State University	36
Salve Regina University	37
Simmons University	38
Southern New Hampshire University	39

Ryan School Career Fair Attendees

Name	Occupation
Jack Gilboy	Marketing Communications: Sports PR, Influencer & Ex
Gratia Gosselin	Financial Education Specialist
Erin Blinn	Registered Dietician
Zuzana Rintelova	HR Director
Lisa Mueller	Psychologist
David Ferreira	Firefighter
Rene White	Nurse Practitioner
Christina Truscello	Salon Owner
Kelly Boyle	Gym owner
Kevin Delaney	Electrical & Systems Contractor-Construction Professio
Jason Wagstaff	General Counsel (Attorney)
Adrianne johnson	Nurse
Nicole Mercer	Air Pollution Scientist
Chris Moncada	Guitar Luthier
Joy Macri	Graphic Designer
Kara Toomey	Healthcare Director/Respiratory Therapist
Jessica Puglia	Hairstylist
Jennifer Magary	College & Career Counselor
Ken Polk	Music Studios owner
Bryan Briggs	Electrician - Owner/Operator
Jacob Saad/Stephanie Casino	Community Services Officer (Police Officer)
Laura Wolfinger	UX/UI Designer
Chris Gunzburger	RN
Kristen Kelley	Proposal Manager
Danielle Evans and Valerie Taylor	Probation Officers

PATRIOT'S PEN



2025-2026 Theme

"How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2025

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme.

We invite you to join the more than 60,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (state) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National winners will receive at least \$500. **The first place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Homeschooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.

- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2025. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

The VFW Commander-in-Chief chooses the year's theme.

The 2025-2026 theme is:

"How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight Oct. 31, 2025.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2025-2026 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

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Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian
(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

• You must write your own essay.

• All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

• In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).

• The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

• At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

• ***I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules***

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants

No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:

Alternate Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:



Twisted X Brands
A Proud Sponsor

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2025-2026 Theme

“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2025

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. National winners will be notified of their scholarship & placement.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race or national origin) although the recording and typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link vfw.org/ContactUs and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2025. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

2025-2026 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's Name and Email (If applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on

For assistance contact:

816.968.2787

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:

Alternate Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:



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Consent Agenda

Policy

See Section #2