



**Chad Mazza, Assistant Superintendent of Operations**

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To: The Honorable School Committee  
RE: Monthly OST Update

November 6, 2023

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide the Committee with updates on OST programming, we will begin with a comparison of Community Schools staffing, enrollment and waitlists for each school. Here are the highlights:

- Staffing has increased at all levels with three new Lead Teachers, two new Assistant Teachers and four new High School Interns.
- We are still seeking Lead Teachers and High School Interns at Kennedy. We hired a new Lead Teacher at Argenziano. However, this site was already understaffed. We need an additional lead teacher to create another group.
  - Four families requested to be removed from the waitlist because they enrolled in other district programs or non-district affiliated programs.
  - Sixteen families have enrolled in other programs, but want to remain on the CS waitlist. This was revealed via a survey to waitlisted families.
- The drop in ESCS numbers is a result of students now attending El Sistema.
- We are recruiting additional partners for Kennedy as well.

### Community Schools Programming

|                     | September | Current |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| <b>Staffing</b>     |           |         |
| Lead Teachers       | 40        | 43      |
| Assistant Teachers  | 11        | 13      |
| High School Interns | 23        | 27      |
| <b>Enrollment</b>   |           |         |
| AFA                 | 89        | 91      |
| Brown               | 105       | 105     |
| Capuano             | 60        | 63      |
| East Somerville     | 155       | 145     |
| Healey              | 78        | 79      |
| Kennedy             | 120       | 121     |
| West Somerville     | 96        | 96      |
| Winter Hill         | 89        | 88      |

| <b>Waitlist</b> |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|
| AFA             | 29 | 25 |
| Brown           | 10 | 10 |
| Capuano         | 16 | 13 |
| East Somerville | 2  | 5  |
| Healey          | 4  | 4  |
| Kennedy         | 28 | 28 |
| West Somerville | 4  | 4  |
| Winter Hill     | 3  | 3  |

### **Additional OST Programs Funded by the Mayor's \$500,000 Investment**

Additional programs were put in place to offset the Community Schools waitlist at Argenziano and will be offered in three sessions. Programming is as follows:

| <b>School(s)</b> | <b>Club Name</b>                 | <b>Provider</b>        | <b>Day(s)</b> | <b>Time</b>             | <b>Grade</b> | <b>Start and End Date</b> |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Argenziano       | Piano                            | Village Music          | Thursday      | 2:35-3:35               | K-2          | November 2-December 15    |
| Argenziano       | Piano                            | Village Music          | Thursday      | 2:35-3:35               | 3-5          | November 2-December 15    |
| Argenziano       | Guitar                           | Village Music          | Friday        | 2:35-3:35               | K-2          | November 9-December 15    |
| Argenziano       | Dungeons and Dragons             | Danger Wizard          | Tuesday       | 2:35-3:35               | 3-5          | October 20-December 15    |
| Healey           | Environmental Leadership Program | Farrington Nature Linc | Wednesday     | 2:45-4:45<br>12:00-4:45 | 5<br>6-8     | October 11-December 13    |

- **Piano and Guitar through Village Music School**  
These classes give children the joy of playing guitar and piano, and The Village Music School methodology has beginners learning to play a tune in the first lesson.
- **Danger Wizards**  
New and experienced Dungeons and Dragons players alike are guided through the steps of making a character, learning how to play and exploring the world of their heroes' shared story at the table.

- **Farrington Nature Linc**  
Students will grow their personal relationship with the natural world through hands-on, outdoor education. Time spent connecting with nature is positively associated with physical and mental health benefits. Students will gain an introduction to leadership and environmental justice, and engage in actionable opportunities to contribute to positive changes in the community. They will also develop their identity as individuals and leaders through belonging in a supportive, inclusive group.

### **Upcoming OST Programs Funded by the Mayor's \$500,000 Investment**

Additional programming:

- **Pretzel Kids Yoga**  
Students will learn yoga and mindfulness skills. Classes are engaging, playful and fun. Games like Freeze Dance and Yoga Sculpture will be played, and lessons will conclude with Owl Breath and a visualization exercise to help students practice relaxation and mindfulness.
- **Spanish is Fun**  
Will lead you through vocabulary-building activities, music, and games. Students will begin to develop confidence talking, reading and writing in Spanish. Come to play games with the parachute with this hands-on learning class. Are you ready to be Bilingual? Spanish is the second most important language in the world!
- **Loop (STEM programming)**  
Loop is a social-driven hi-tech incubator that invests in people and works towards transforming people from passive tech consumers into engage creators. Loop combines technological education with modern education using special personalized education concepts and methods, and is offered to the Loopers as a "life incubator." The participants and members of Loop, regardless of their ages, are called Loopers.
- **Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE)**  
A contemporary dance company deeply rooted in Haitian-folkloric culture that celebrates, nurtures, and empowers a global community. We accomplish this through professional performances, teaching, and fostering healing and the joy of movement in people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to contribute to a socially just world.
- **Early Release Days 2024-2025**  
We are in the process of creating systems and structures for programming on early release Wednesdays. We will update the School Committee monthly on progress.