

SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

August 28, 2026

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Welcome Back to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Once again, I want to welcome everyone back to South Hadley Public Schools for the 2026-2027 school year! We had a wonderful first week, and it was exciting to see our schools come back to life.

Our staff returned on Monday and spent three days participating in professional development, collaborating with colleagues, and preparing classrooms and learning spaces for the year ahead. I am grateful for the time, energy, and care our staff put into getting ready to welcome our students back. Yesterday, we officially welcomed our students in 1st - 12th grade back to school, and it was wonderful to see so many excited faces throughout the district. Seeing students reconnect with classmates, meet their teachers, and begin settling into their classrooms was a great way to start the year.

I hope that every student and family had a positive first day back. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to working together to make the 2026-2027 school year a successful and memorable one for our entire South Hadley community.

Welcome back, Tigers!



The start of a new school year brings new routines, schedules, and plenty of moving pieces. There may be a few bumps along the way—a bus arriving later than expected, a schedule adjustment, or an unexpected change. We appreciate everyone's patience, understanding, and kindness as we settle into the new school year together.

Welcome Tigers!!!

As we begin a new school year, we're pleased to welcome educators, administrators, and staff members who will be part of our schools and classrooms. We're grateful to have their experience, energy, and expertise contributing to our schools as we look forward to a successful year together.

South Hadley High School

Josh Adams - Special Ed. Teacher
Susan Brassard - Vocational Director
Gary Duranko - Physics & Engineering Teacher
John Guptill - Paraprofessional
Ian Healy - Custodian
Darleen Hostetler - Guidance Admin. Assistant
Emre Olgun - Science Teacher

Michael E. Smith Middle School

Charles Allard - Social Studies Teacher
Mary Ann Carrasquillo-DeJesus - Spanish Teacher
Karrisa Fabin - Writing & Digital Literacy Teacher
Claire Folini - Special Ed. Teacher
Olivia Hadla - Physical Ed. Teacher
Anna Hadro - Family Consumer Science Teacher
Megan Mohoney - Music Teacher
Paul Samlall - Custodian
Joe Sinasky - Special Ed. Teacher
Heather Stimage-Norwood - AP of Culture & Climate
Caitlin Woods - Science Teacher



Mosier Elementary School

Jackie Currier - Grade 3 Longterm Sub
Jacquimar DeJesus - Paraprofessional
Kelly Fay - Assistant Principal
Kaitlyn Hyde - Adjustment Counselor
Tilly LaRochelle - Educational Therapy Assistant
Melissa Luce - Educational Therapy Assistant
Joanys Marciano Alejandro - Educational Therapy Assistant
Riley McLaughlin - Reading Specialist
Nikki Moriarty - Special Ed. Teacher
Megan Morissette - Educational Therapy Assistant
Edna Wilson - Special Ed. Teacher

Henry J. Skala School

Paige Alexander - 1st Grade Teacher
Jessica Gao - Special Ed. Teacher
Ashley Lapierre - Kindergarten Teacher

District

Nilda Albelo - Transportation
Emily Anderson - Psychology Intern
Luciana Baez - Transportation
Rebecca LaBonte - Float Nurse
Wleh Rogers-Stanley - Transportation
Tracy Wanzo - Admin. Asst. of Student Services



🐾 **Many Hands.** 🐾
Shared Purpose.
Stronger Together.



Supporting the Student Behind the Athlete

The MIAA Student Advisory Committee created the video “Still That Same Kid” as an important reminder of the role parents and spectators play in the student-athlete experience. Positive encouragement and support can have a lasting impact on our students, both during competition and beyond. We encourage families and fans to take a few minutes to watch this important message as we support our South Hadley student-athletes throughout the year. [[Watch “Still That Same Kid”](#)]



Community Conversations

Community members are invited to join Superintendent Jennifer Voyik for a series of informal community conversations throughout the year. These gatherings offer an opportunity to connect, ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about South Hadley Public Schools.

[View the full schedule and find a time that works for you.](#)

Upholding the Rights of All Students

South Hadley Public Schools is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for every student and family, regardless of immigration or citizenship status. Families are not required to provide proof of citizenship or immigration status when enrolling their children in school.

We encourage families to review the information [HERE](#) to learn more about your rights, protections, and available resources.

Help Inform Our Policy Process

The School Committee recently reviewed proposed changes to [Policy JFBB – School Choice](#) and [Policy DGA – Authorized Signatures](#). We invite community members to review the proposed policies and share their feedback by emailing policies@shschools.com before September 2. Community input helps inform the policy process and is greatly appreciated.



A First Responder's Story: 25 Years After 9/11

The South Hadley Public Library invites the community to a special virtual program marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11, featuring first responder Mr. Bonanno sharing reflections from his time at Ground Zero. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)



[Click
here for
4th grade
band
info](#)

Early Literacy Screening

Families of students in grades K–3 have received information about this year's early literacy screening assessments. [The letter](#) outlines what to expect and the upcoming assessment schedule as we work together to support our students' reading growth.

Mosier Elementary School Building Project Update

The School Building Committee met virtually on August 26 as work continues on the Mosier Elementary School Building Project. The project has now entered the schematic design phase, with the team focusing on costs, traffic, utilities, and building systems.

The committee also discussed energy options, including mixed-fuel and all-electric systems, solar generation, utility credits, and long-term operating costs. A final decision was tabled until September 9 so the committee can review additional cost and utility information.

We are excited to see the project continuing to move forward as we work toward our MSBA submission this fall. Learn more [HERE](#).

Next SBC Meeting: Wednesday, September 9 at 5:30 PM at Mosier Elementary School

Upcoming Dates

August 31:

Community Conversations
2:30pm SH Public Library

September 1:

No School – Town Election

September 2:

School Committee Meeting
7pm (Hybrid) SH COA & Zoom

September 3:

First Day of Kindergarten

September 7:

No School – Labor Day

September 8:

First Day of Preschool

September 16:

School Committee Meeting
7pm (Hybrid) SH COA & Zoom

September 17:

SHHS Open House 6-8pm

September 24:

HJSS Open House 530-7pm

September 28:

Mosier Open House 430-6pm
MESMS Open House 530-7pm

