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SPORTS, 1B

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BACK TO SCHOOL



From left, Nicole Jones, Selin Aktas and Sue Lambert, all first grade teachers at the King Elementary School in Framingham, hold a team planning session inside a classroom on Aug. 25. Today is the first day of classes for Framingham Public Schools. To view more photos of King Elementary teachers getting ready for class, visit our gallery at metrowestdailynews.com or milforddailynews.com. ART ILLMAN/DAILY NEWS AND WICKED LOCAL STAFF

Nearly 25% less students get a bus this year

Norman Miller
The MetroWest Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Classes for Marlborough Public Schools start on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and far fewer students will be getting there by bus compared to previous years.

The school district said fewer students are eligible to be bused this year after officials reduced the number of buses it contracts for from 33 to 25, according to Communications Director Esmerelda Silva.

Silva said 2,040 Marlborough students will be bused to school this year, nearly 25% less than the 2,700 transported during the 2024-25 school year.

“Our district decided to restructure its transportation program to include walking zones starting this school year,” she said. “In collaboration with Safe Streets to School (a federal program that aims to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school), we established walking zones extending up to one mile from our elementary schools and one and a half miles from our middle and high schools.”

To view the new walking routes, visit www.mps-edu.org/transportation.

School officials say costs led to reduction in buses provided

The school district’s decision to lower the number of buses provided is

See **SCHOOL BUSES**, Page 2A



Marlborough Public Schools has reduced the number of buses it contracts with to transport students to school, starting with the 2025-26 academic year. ART ILLMAN/DAILY NEWS AND WICKED LOCAL STAFF

Antisemitic graffiti found in Natick

What town officials had to say about the incident

Norman Miller
The MetroWest Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Natick Select Board on Monday issued an open letter to the community after antisemitic graffiti was discovered on signs along the Cochituate Rail Trail.

The swastika graffiti was first reported at 8 a.m. Monday. The Department of Public Works removed the vandalized signs, according to the Select Board.

In the letter, the board called the graffiti an “act of hatred and bias” against Natick’s Jewish community.

“We, as a community, are deeply saddened by this act of hate,” the Select

Board’s letter reads. “The Natick community draws its strength from our many passionate residents, our committed volunteers, and many community-based organizations that serve Natick. Our Jewish community, in Natick, has faced a series of hateful attacks in recent years and our local Jewish neighbors deserve our care and support.”

In April 2023, a swastika was found painted on the pavement near the West Natick MBTA station. In March 2022, an antisemitic slur was found on bathroom walls at Natick High School.

Police are investigating antisemitic graffiti

Deputy Police Chief Brian Lauzon said the department’s civil rights investigator will investigate the incident.

“It is an active investigation in its earliest stages, so no police report is available at this time,” Lauzon told the Daily News.

According to the Select Board’s letter, the town will meet with local Jewish leaders to discuss how to address the incident.

“The Town of Natick, led by Select Board members, is committed to work with local Jewish leaders, to both actively listen and determine what action (s) best serve those in the crosshairs of hate,” the letter reads. “Today’s statement is a message of solidarity AND it also serves as a promise for action.”

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