

MAX Courage Essay Contest Winners!

nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 1:42:21 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: salemwoodgk-8@maldenps.org SalemwoodGK-8, tsippel@maldenps.org Timothy Sippel, gchristenson@maldenps.org Gary Christenson, pmacdonald@maldenps.org Pamela Macdonald, kbhasin@maldenps.org Komal Bhasin, jspadafora@maldenps.org Jennifer Spadafora

Good Afternoon,

Every year, the Grade 6 ELA classes at Salemwood participate in an essay contest sponsored by the MAX Courage Foundation. The foundation was created in memory of Max Warburg by his parents. Max was a young man who exemplified the true meaning of courage throughout his battle with Leukemia.

As part of the unit, students engage in a curriculum that introduces them to Max's story. They explore different types of courage, reflect on what courage means in their own lives, and read personal narratives written by sixth-grade students from around the world. This learning experience prepares students to write their own narrative essay about what courage means to them.

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If you see these ladies around the school, please share your excitement and joy with them!

Sincerely,

Amanda Maffeo and Nicole McCarthy

<https://maxcourage.org/>

--

Nicole McCarthy (Precourt), M.Ed.
Grade 6 Student Support
Salemwood School
781-388-0647

kmcgourthy@maldenps.org McGourthy, Kathleen

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 1:55:35 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole
Cc: salemwoodgk-8@maldenps.org SalemwoodGK-8, tsippel@maldenps.org Timothy Sippel, gchristenson@maldenps.org Gary Christenson, pmacdonald@maldenps.org Pamela Macdonald, kbhasin@maldenps.org Komal Bhasin, jspadafora@maldenps.org Jennifer Spadafora

Congrats to you all! That's amazing!

Kathleen

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Grade 6 Student Support
Salemwood School
781-388-0647

--

Kathleen McGourthy
Grade 5 Foundational ESL Teacher
Salemwood School

Twitter

@Salemwood5

Malden English Learner Resources website

<https://sites.google.com/a/maldenps.org/maldenells/>

nmartinello@maldenps.org Martinello, Natalya

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 2:00:04 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

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thank you for sharing this Nicole :]

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Nicole McCarthy (Precourt), M.Ed.
Grade 6 Student Support
Salemwood School
781-388-0647

kbhasin@malDENPS.org Bhasin, Komal

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 2:39:19 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: tsippel@malDENPS.org Timothy Sippel, tmeagher@malDENPS.org Tess Meagher

Perhaps to recognize at school cmte?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **McCarthy, Nicole** <nmccarthy@malDENPS.org>

Date: Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 1:42 PM

Subject: MAX Courage Essay Contest Winners!

To: SalemwoodGK-8 <salemwoodgk-8@malDENPS.org>, Timothy Sippel <tsippel@malDENPS.org>, Gary Christenson <gchristenson@malDENPS.org>, Pamela Macdonald <pmacdonald@malDENPS.org>, Komal Bhasin <kbhasin@malDENPS.org>, Jennifer Spadafora <jspadafora@malDENPS.org>

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Nicole McCarthy (Precourt), M.Ed.
Grade 6 Student Support
Salemwood School
781-388-0647

tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:21:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Cc: gchristenson@maldenps.org Gary Christenson, pmacdonald@maldenps.org Pamela Macdonald, kbhasin@maldenps.org Komal Bhasin, jspadafora@maldenps.org Jennifer Spadafora, vhuynh@maldenps.org Van Huynh

Dear Nicole and Amanda,

This is wonderful news! Congratulations!!!

I would love to extend my congratulations to both students in person the next time I am on campus.

Go Salemwood Sharks!

Tim

--

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Malden Public Schools

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Grade 6 Student Support

Salemwood School

781-388-0647

nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:08:52 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: nmartinello@maldenps.org Martinello, Natalya



I forgot your number at school but I saw your note and I ❤️ you too!!! Text you tomorrow!

Nicole McCarthy (Precourt), M.Ed.
Grade 6 Student Support
Salemwood School
781-388-0647

On Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM Martinello, Natalya <nmartinello@malDENPS.org> wrote:
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Nicole McCarthy (Precourt), M.Ed.
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nmccarthy@malDENPS.org McCarthy, Nicole

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 9:28:43 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: tsippel@malDENPS.org Timothy Sippel, gchristenson@malDENPS.org Gary Christenson, pmacdonald@malDENPS.org Pamela Macdonald, kbhasin@malDENPS.org Komal Bhasin, jspadafora@malDENPS.org Jennifer Spadafora, vhuyinh@malDENPS.org Van Huynh, lmccgonagle@malDENPS.org Lauren McGonagle

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the educators (myself and Amanda Maffeo) who are responsible for the leading of this program here at Salemwood.

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Attachments:

IMG_1823.PNG 430k

IMG_1824.PNG 1.1M

tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy
 To: tmeagher@maldenps.org Tess Meagher
 Cc: kbhasin@maldenps.org Komal Bhasin

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 3:08:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

See message below...

--

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
 Superintendent of Schools
 Malden Public Schools

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **McCarthy, Nicole** <nmccarthy@maldenps.org>
 Date: Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 9:28 AM
 Subject: Re: MAX Courage Essay Contest Winners!
 To: Timothy Sippel <tsippel@maldenps.org>, Gary Christenson <gchristenson@maldenps.org>, Pamela Macdonald <pmacdonald@maldenps.org>, Komal Bhasin <kbhasin@maldenps.org>, Jennifer Spadafora <jspadafora@maldenps.org>, Van Huynh <vhuyh@maldenps.org>, Lauren McGonagle <lmcgonagle@maldenps.org>

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<https://maxcourage.org/>

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Salemwood School
781-388-0647

Attachments:

IMG_1823.PNG 430k

IMG_1824.PNG 1.1M

kbhasin@maldenps.org Bhasin, Komal
To: tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy
Cc: tmeagher@maldenps.org Tess Meagher

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:53:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time

I think perhaps they don't fully understand that ppl send us stuff for socials all the time and the way this operates is that we send a draft of what should be posted and it's posted. However, I think the best response is a phone call or in person meeting in which their hard work is recognized, appreciated and if appropriate they receive an apology. Perhaps we could offer to publicize the May luncheon while recognizing the staff members who led the work.

Let me know how I can support.

Thanks,
kb

On Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 3:08 PM Sippel, Timothy <tsippel@maldenps.org> wrote:
See message below...

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Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Malden Public Schools

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tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 9:02:38 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Cc: gchristenson@maldenps.org Gary Christenson, pmacdonald@maldenps.org Pamela Macdonald, kbhasin@maldenps.org Komal Bhasin, jspadafora@maldenps.org Jennifer Spadafora, vhuynh@maldenps.org Van Huynh, lmcgonagle@maldenps.org Lauren McGonagle, alangston@maldenps.org Ariana Langston

Dear Nicole,

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I would love to debrief this with you and Amanda by phone (or in person if you would prefer). Ariana Langston will reach out to find a mutually convenient time as soon as possible.

Thank you again for all that you do!

Tim

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Superintendent of Schools
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Grade 6 Student Support
Salemwood School
781-388-0647

alangston@maldenps.org Langston, Ariana
To: nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:20:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Good morning,

I would be happy to help coordinate a time for you and Amanda to connect with Dr. Sippel. I did not have her email, I apologize. Please let me know if you would like to meet in person or virtually. We have these times available...

Thursday April 9th at 1:30 p.m.
Monday April 13th at 2:30 p.m.
Thursday April 16th - after 2 p.m.

Ariana

nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7:46:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy, alangston@maldenps.org Ariana Langston

Thank you for your thoughtful response and recognizing the work behind this opportunity for our students. I appreciate the willingness to discuss this further. My intention in raising this concern was to ensure our district communications reflect the same standards of accreditation that we work hard to teach our students each day while accurately recognizing the staff contributions behind these opportunities. Amanda and I are certainly not the only staff members doing this kind of work. I am happy to talk on the phone or meet if my input would be helpful in identifying how the district can do better in situations like this. Tomorrow Thurs 4/9 I have an IEP meeting at the time given. Either Monday 4/13 at 2:30 or Thursday 4/16 after 2:30 would work.
Thank you
Nicole

On Mon, Apr 6, 2026 at 9:02 AM Sippel, Timothy <tsippel@maldenps.org> wrote:

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I appreciate your attention to this matter and welcome further conversation.

Thank you,
Nicole

On Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 1:42 PM McCarthy, Nicole <nmccarthy@maldenps.org> wrote:
Good Afternoon,

Every year, the Grade 6 ELA classes at Salemwood participate in an essay contest sponsored by the MAX Courage Foundation. The foundation was created in memory of Max Warburg by his parents. Max was a young man who exemplified the true meaning of courage throughout his battle with Leukemia.

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<https://maxcourage.org/>

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nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 9:50:53 AM Eastern Daylight
Time

To: alangston@maldenps.org Langston, Ariana

7812584838

On Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 9:50 AM Langston, Ariana <alangston@maldenps.org> wrote:
Great!

I will add you to the Superintendent's calendar for Monday 4/13. May I have the best number to reach you?

On Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 7:46 AM McCarthy, Nicole <nmccarthy@maidenps.org> wrote:

Thank you for your thoughtful response and recognizing the work behind this opportunity for our students. I appreciate the willingness to discuss this further. My intention in raising this concern was to ensure our district communications reflect the same standards of accreditation that we work hard to teach our students each day while accurately recognizing the staff contributions behind these opportunities. Amanda and I are certainly not the only staff members doing this kind of work. I am happy to talk on the phone or meet if my input would be helpful in identifying how the district can do better in situations like this.

Tomorrow Thurs 4/9 I have an IEP meeting at the time given. Either Monday 4/13 at 2:30 or Thursday 4/16 after 2:30 would work.

Thank you
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On Mon, Apr 6, 2026 at 9:02 AM Sippel, Timothy <tsippel@maidenps.org> wrote:

Dear Nicole,

We truly appreciate everything you and Amanda have done to create this opportunity for your students, and we are thrilled that their learning is being recognized by an external organization. I regret our efforts to pass along the good news you shared ended up impacting you negatively in any way.

I would love to debrief this with you and Amanda by phone (or in person if you would prefer). Ariana Langston will reach out to find a mutually convenient time as soon as possible.

Thank you again for all that you do!

Tim

--

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Malden Public Schools

On Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 9:28 AM McCarthy, Nicole <nmccarthy@maidenps.org> wrote:

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I am writing to follow up regarding a recent post on our District website and Facebook page recognizing the MAX Courage Essay Contest Winners.

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Ariana Langston
Executive Assistant to The Superintendent
Malden Public Schools
781-397-6100 Ex. 2201

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alangston@maldenps.org Langston, Ariana
To: nmccarthy@maldenps.org McCarthy, Nicole

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 9:49:38 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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Ariana Langston
Executive Assistant to The Superintendent

4/21/26, 4:11 PM

Google Vault - MAX Courage Essay Contest Winners!

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