



Melrose Public Schools Administrative Offices

360 LYNN FELLS PARKWAY, MELROSE, MA 02176

Telephone: (781) 662-2000 V/TTY
FAX: (781) 979-2285

JOSEPH F. CASEY
Superintendent of Schools
Email: jcasey@melrose.mec.edu

GREGORY ZAMMUTO
Business Manager
Email: gzammuto@melrose.mec.edu

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Dear Families,

With the holidays fast approaching, a question has come up that we want to clarify regarding giving gifts to teachers.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A prohibits Municipal employees -- which includes public school teachers -- from accepting any gift valued at \$50 or more. The purpose of this law is to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties, to foster integrity in public service and to promote the public's trust and confidence in that service by placing restrictions on what municipal employees may do as part of their jobs. The \$50 limit pertains to gifts either from an individual or from many individuals as part of a collective class gift.

We understand that this may affect the well-intended plans of room parents who seek to pool their resources to buy a single larger gift for their classroom teachers. However, we must ask that everyone abide by this law.

For those who wish to recognize the hard work of our teachers and staff during this holiday season, a personal thank you note or homemade gift may be an option for some families. Parents may also choose to donate materials to their child's school to benefit all students.

Thank you for understanding as we work to comply with this law. As always, please contact your school principal or contact me directly at 781-979-2294 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Casey

Joseph F. Casey
Superintendent of Schools