

Malden Photovoice 2025

A project of Cambridge Health Alliance's Youth
Initiatives Department of Community Health



About Malden Photovoice



Jaypixworx Polaroid Workshop at AAMARP Gallery, Jan 7, 2025

Malden Youth Photovoice is an initiative of the Cambridge Health Alliance's Department of Community Health, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling Services.

During the 2024 - 2025 school year, Malden High School students met weekly after school to explore issues related to youth problem gambling, and prevention strategies. They also gained advocacy and photography skills while learning about health disparities and equity, the historical role and power of youth voice, and healthy risk-taking.

This program seeks to empower youth by providing problem gambling education and supporting youth in expressing their own prevention message through photography.

This year the group Call to Action focuses on advocating for safe, enjoyable, and better quality food for all students that meets their nutritional needs and will help them thrive in the classroom.

**For more information: YouthInitiatives@challiance.org
<https://challiance.org/community-health/youth-initiatives>**

Paris



This is a photo of the Malden High School monument. I took this photo because there is so much depth behind it. To citizens of Malden, it represents diversity, community, and unity. It also serves as a reminder that we must uphold this and keep respect among each other as a community.

This is a photo of a lunch line. I took this photo to show how it is excessively long. It shows how there is a long wait for certain food options which can be difficult to obtain due to the short lunch periods, there should be more lunch options or lines in order to fulfill everyone's dietary needs.



Jenayah

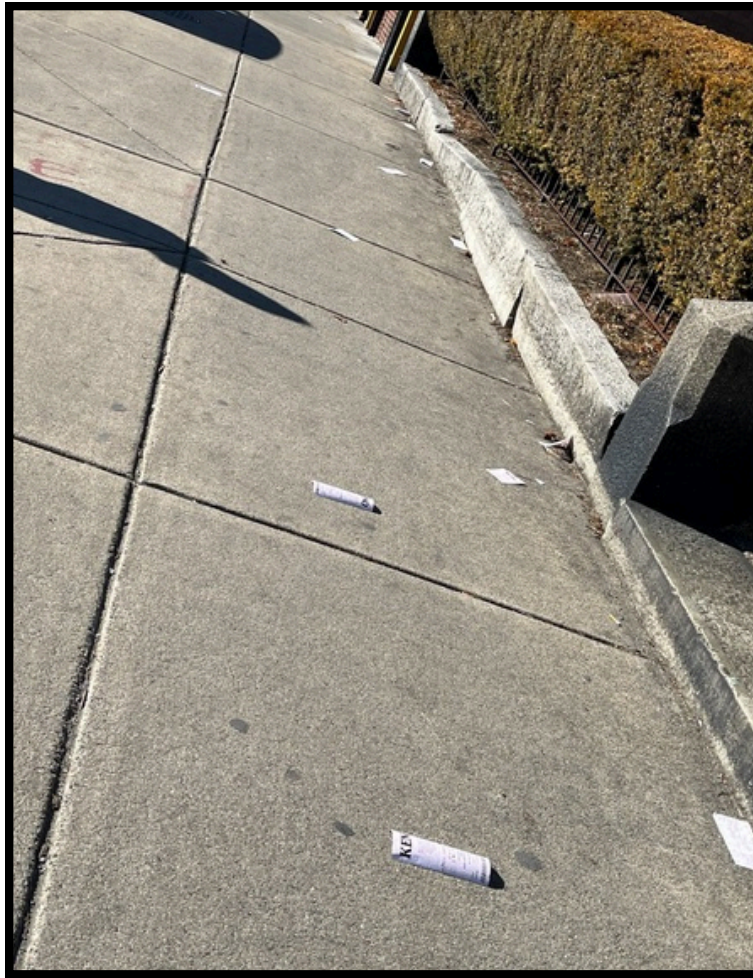


This is a picture of a tree and some grass on “the Northern Strand Community Trail” otherwise known as the bike path. In the photo you can see it is a very clear nice day and the greenery in specific was very vibrant that day. I took this photo to show the beauty of Malden, especially in spots of nature. It also shows a sense of community as this spot is a popular one in Malden, and how beautiful a peace of community in Malden can look like. It shows how nice Malden can be when it’s litter free and away from the gambling addiction.

I was walking home when I noticed some litter on the ground. Within the litter I found the lottery ticket on the snow. I often see trash on the ground around my school and on my walk home. I took this picture because I think it’s important to spread awareness of litter and the derivation it cause our earth, as well as show the addiction of gambling across our community. This shows how common and normalized gambling is, as it is easily found in places like the streets.



Nely.



The image shows a messy scene in front of a store where kids often hang out after school. A pile of crumpled lottery ticket receipts are scattered across the ground. Some are stuck to the pavement. The bright colors of the tickets clash with the dirt and debris making the area look neglected. It's clear that this mess has been left behind, giving off the impression that the community doesn't care about keeping the space clean. The sight of these discarded tickets might make parents worry about the environment that their kids are growing up in. It is highlighting a potential lack of responsibility in the area.

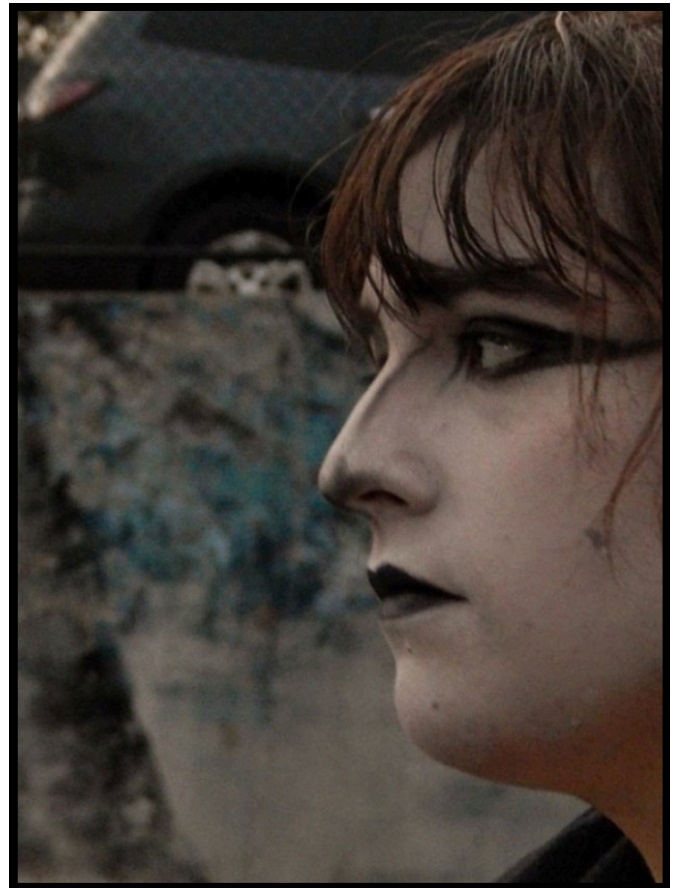
Hazel



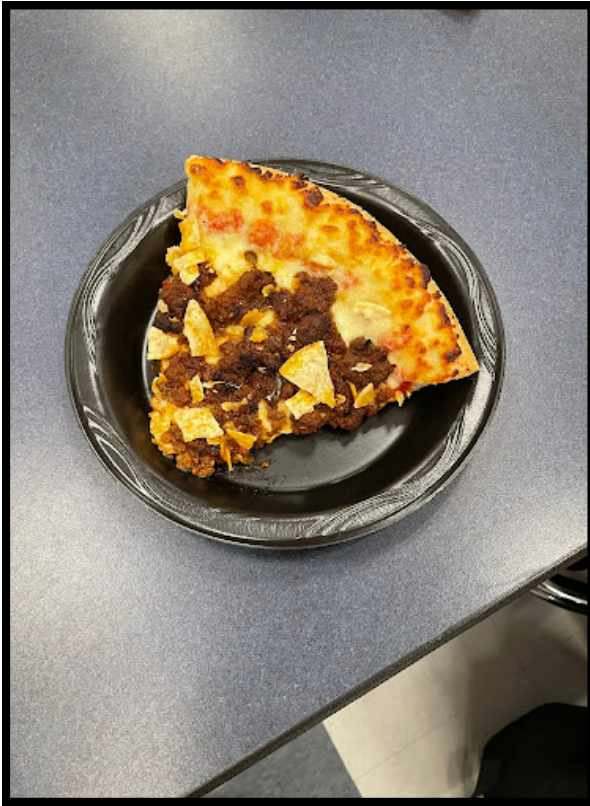
I took this photo on December 5th, 2024 in the cafeteria at Malden High School. This is a plate of shepherd's pie with green beans. Not only is there water filling the plate A by-product of the green beans, but the green beans are brown and not fresh. This type of food isn't nutritious or energizing.

Lunch like this leaves kids feeling sluggish for the rest of the day. It also misses an opportunity to give kids nutrients they may not be able to get at home.

This is a photo of my friend, Cass in front of a Where the Wild Things Are Mural. I took this photo in the ELC parking lot, where I usually take my dog to play so she can run. I thought about the lesson of the book, that even when you're angry or sad you still deserve love.



Kyla



I took this photo in the school cafeteria. It is a piece of pizza with burnt beef and tortilla chips on top. I took this photo because it looks really gross and shows the unhealthy food the cafe has. This will make the students sick and unable to learn. I wish the cafeteria would provide healthier and more nutritious options to better energize and engage students in class.

I took this photo of a tree outside my house. It looked very pretty with its black branches against the blue sky. This is important to highlight because this is one of the only trees left on my street. A lot of the other ones have been cut down for various reasons. There is very minimal effort to replace these trees and most of the time they aren't replaced. I hope that the city can plant multiple trees in place of other ones because they take a long time to grow and are vital for the community.



Yarrah-Lynn



“I took this picture in cafeteria B, a burned chicken. It tasted and smelled burned. This issue should be fixed due to its impact to our community. According to the act of diligence of the food cooked, students refused to eat and all of their energy decreased due to the lack of nutrients. And this problem is a reoccurring one because it happened twice in four days.

Selina



I took this photo on March 10th in the Malden High school cafeteria. Many different foods are on display, but most of them are all fast food with fries or chicken. When a tray is removed, a greasy stain is left behind, showing the oiliness and unhealthiness of the food. I took a photo of this because it offers an explanation as to why many students don't get lunch or often don't finish it all. My community of youth are usually not energized or full at the end of lunch due to these menu options. This choice of foods also offers an explanation for higher obesity rates in the country or community. If we replace these unhealthy foods with better things, people will be happy to eat and leave the cafeteria refreshed.



This is a plate of Raising Canes that I took on January 25, 2025. This was taken in Back Bay, Prudential Center. I was sitting down in an extremely crowded restaurant. I was unable to find an open table so I had to sit on a small bench between two large groups of people. My mom was upset I was going out by myself. She was worried that something bad would happen, so I showed her this photo to show I was safe and was even able to get food. This photo also shows that my community is seen as dangerous enough to scare parents. Why should they have to worry for their kids this much? This also tells me about how I am growing up and need to show I am responsible enough to venture alone. This experience also showed that the space in the restaurant and the community outside of it was filled with many problems. Overcrowding of stores and crime rates are all things that need to be improved.

Vin

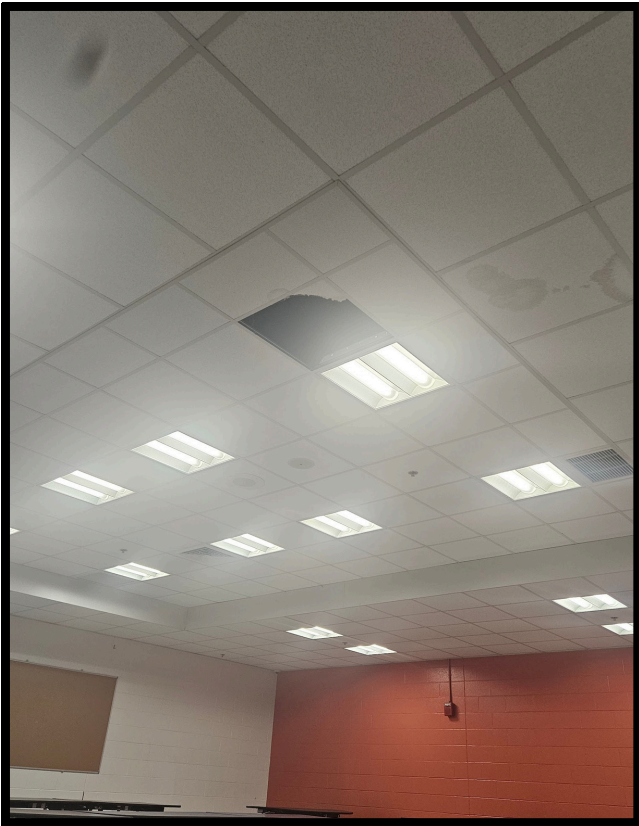


This image captures a backstage view of Chinese Culture Connection Lunar New Years Celebration event with performance. The stage is decorated with red lanterns and Chinese characters in the backdrop as dancers are on stage in traditional outfits. This illustrates the need for community, and how special it is that Malden is so diverse, allowing the celebration of various cultures.

Pictured here is Malden High School's lunch on December 3rd, 2024, being Teriyaki beef and broccoli. It is one of the various lunch items Malden High School Offers and is part of the regular food rotation at the school. However, in an unpredictable manner, there is a small insect/ bug on the teriyaki beef, which brings to question the quality of public school food's quality. I among other students, rely on the free lunch the school provides as one of our main meals when we are the hungriest in the school day. When our food isn't the best quality or is unsanitary, we lose a crucial meal of the day.



Destiny.



I took this photo in the Malden High school cafeteria. This is right above one of the tables where kids of the school dine. I took this photo because I believe it is important for kids, especially in schools, to feel comfortable and safe. Not every child has the privilege of a safe home environment. And unfortunately, this is not the only place in school where holes or brown water cracks have occurred on ceilings. Why should we have students and staff members go around buckets on stairs to get their education/do their job?

No matter how large the public school is, it seems to not get the funding it needs in order to provide kids with the best education possible. We have schools getting new areas to play in while the ones who are just a few years away from their future can't have the luxury of safety in their schools. It feels like we're forgetting these high school students are still developing; with their environment playing a role in it.



Haley.



The Heart of the Community

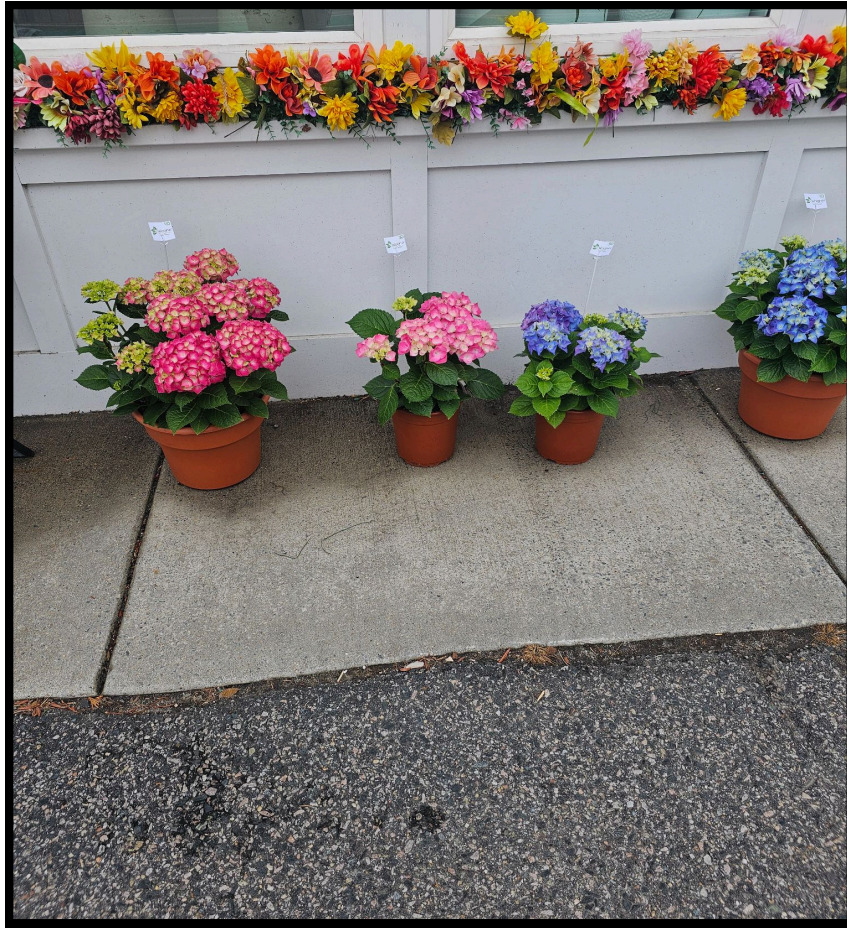
This image shows Malden City Hall, where all the decisions regarding our city are made. It is the heart of our community, where people's voices are heard, leaders are made, and civic spirits thrive. Here, ideas spark, voices rise, and the community connects. It is good to appreciate those who are a part of our community and their actions to help it.



Tickets Made of False Realities

This photo was taken on December 14. While out with family, in a restaurant, I noticed that there were scratch tickets on a table. I took a photo and laid them out to better show just how many there were and that they had already been scratched. Scratch tickets/cards are addictive to many individuals because the idea of winning based on merely scratching a piece of paper to have a chance of gaining money is exciting. As shown in the photo, there are many scratch tickets in hopes of earning more money than the ones used to purchase these tickets. Around Malden, there are many tickets found on sidewalks, stores, restaurants, etc showing the failed attempts, yet things like advertisements are encouraging people to continue this addictive habit.

Naisha



When you take a band of flowers while walking on the street, you might think of them as a beautiful symbol of community. Each flower represents an individual, unique in color and shape, yet together they create a vibrant tapestry. Just like a community, these flowers thrive in diverse conditions, supporting one another and blooming together. The fragrance they emit can evoke feelings of warmth and togetherness, reminding you of the connections and relationships that bind people together. This band of flowers, with its rich variety, mirrors the strength and beauty found in a united community.

Samaelle



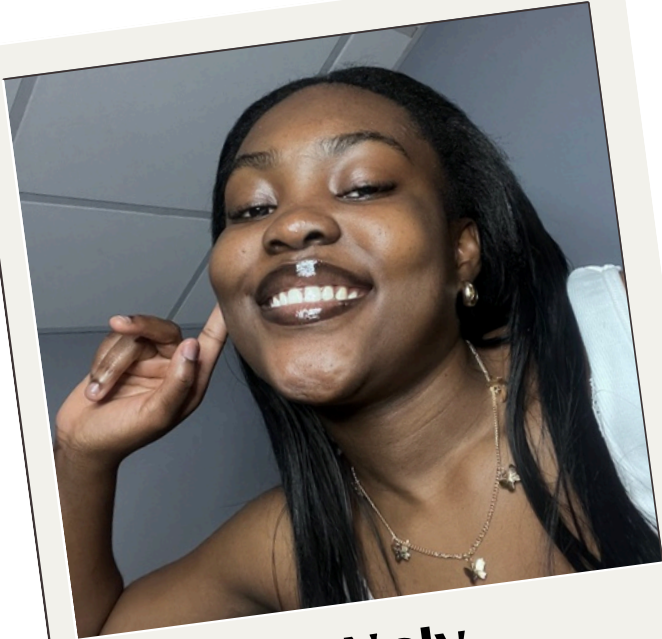
This food was taken in a restaurant called April's restaurant by me when I was out with my colleagues. It was a Saturday afternoon. It was pasta and shrimp with sauce, this food was so delicious and the restaurant was clean and had nice music, people were nice, respectful and friendly. I loved this photo because this place gave me a great happy memory and I think a food is not just about food, but we have to feel the taste, it must be clean and let us feel good. If eating food gives us bad feelings whether it's taste or place, this food will do us more harm than good.

sara



I took this picture at a convenience store near my house in my neighborhood. This is close to young people and adult who live in this area. Gambling can destroy a lot of families especially with local stores that receive more attention.

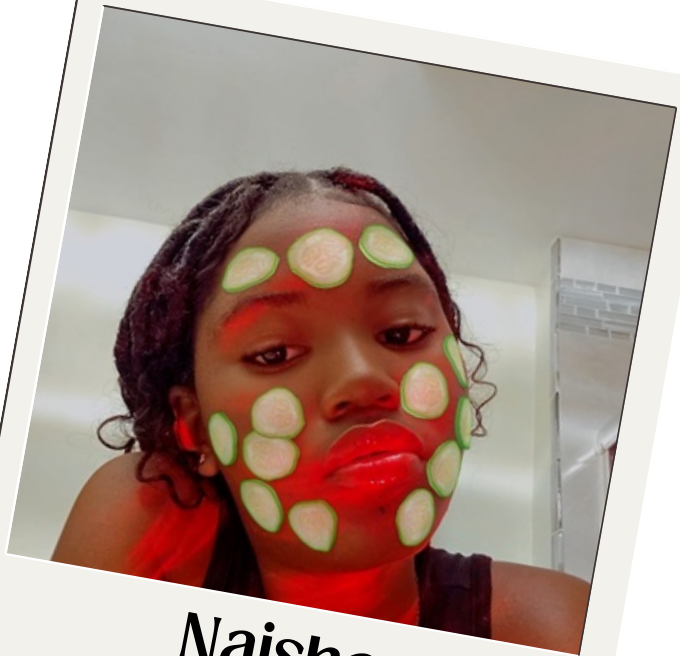
Meet Malden Photovoice Youth!



Nely

My name is Nely Monessa Charles. I am a 17 year old girl, soon to be 18 years in October. I live in Boston. I like reading non-fiction books in my free time. I am passionate about food, I like eating so much. I speak two languages and I learned one. My favorite color is black, and one thing about me: I'm very funny!

My name is Naisha and I am a senior at Malden High School and 18 years old. I travel to Boston in 2023. I like cooking in my free time. My favorite thing to do is play games.



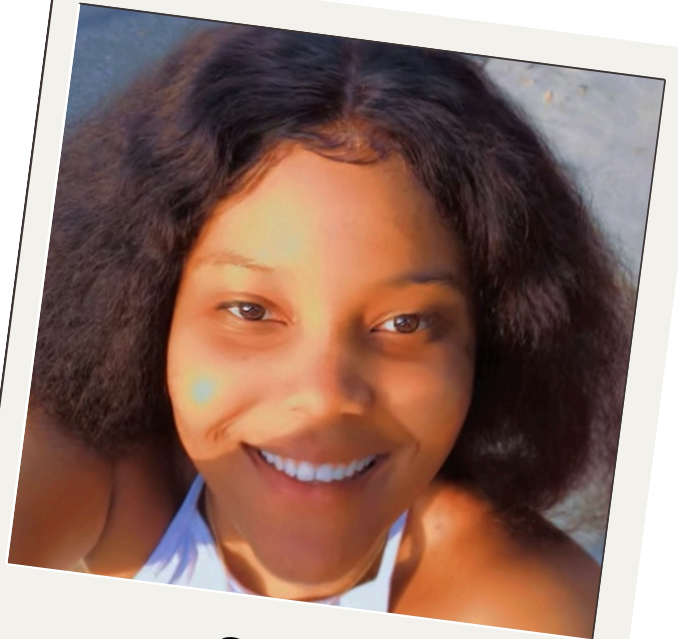
Naisha



Paris

Hi, my name is Paris. I am a senior at Malden High School. I've lived in Malden all my life and one thing I love to do is take walks around the city with my friends.

My name is Sarah Dasque
I'm 15 years old I'm a
Sophomore in Malden High
School my pronoun is She
/ Her my favorite hobby is
listening to music.



Sarah



Yarrah

My name is Yarrah-lynn, I'm 16 years old and born and raised in Haiti. My surroundings said that I am a dreamer. I dream big and I work hard to achieve my goals. My passions are kids and books. I love helping youth improve their skills. And reading is my favorite activity because it makes me travel to different worlds.

My name is Samaelle, I'm Haitian and I am 16 years old. I am a student in Malden High School. I like to read Webtoon and stay home. I'm funny and like to make people laugh, even if my english is not very good. I have good grades and teachers like me. I like business, everything about buying and selling, or computers makes me excited. This is my dream: to open my own business. That's me :)



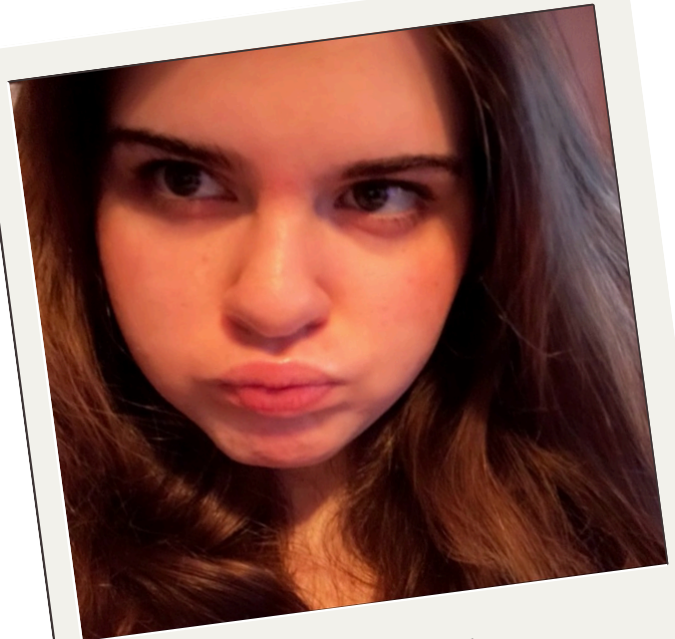
Samaelle



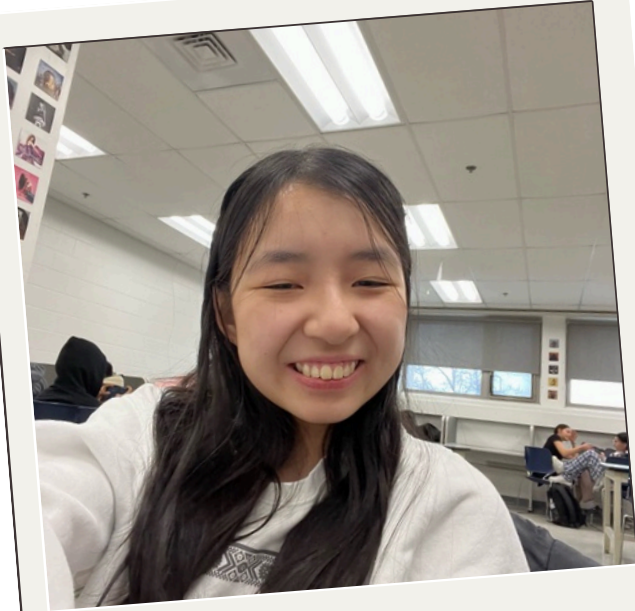
Kyla

Hi, my name is Kyla Farrow! I'm 14 and in the 9th grade! I love photography and I hope to be a sports photographer someday! I am a competitive dancer and have been dancing for many years! In my free time I like to read, dance, sing, and act!

My name is Hazel, most people call me Finn! My favorite subject in school is history. Apart from taking photos I love to paint, especially portraits of my friends. My favorite song is Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell and If I'm not at school I'm probably at Dunkin!



Hazel



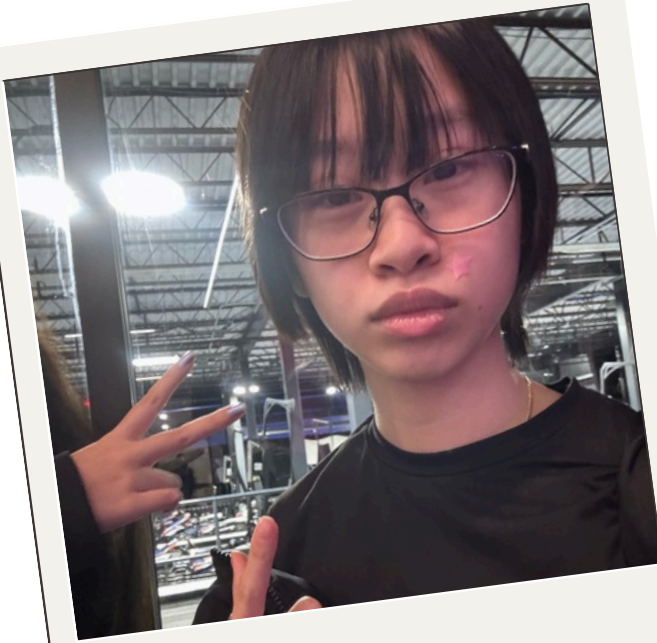
Selina

My name is Selina Lin, and I am a ninth-grade student at Malden High School. In my free time, I enjoy playing video games, drawing, painting, and eating sweets. My favorite foods are tiramisu and brownies. After school, I may go to Dunkin or Gong-Cha since coffee and boba are my favorite drinks. I am also a member of the organization GMAACC.

Hi! My name is Jenayah and I am a Junior at Malden high. I enjoy playing piano, photography, watching my favorite shows, and listening to music. Fun fact about me is I am 3 years older than my uncle who is still in middle school.



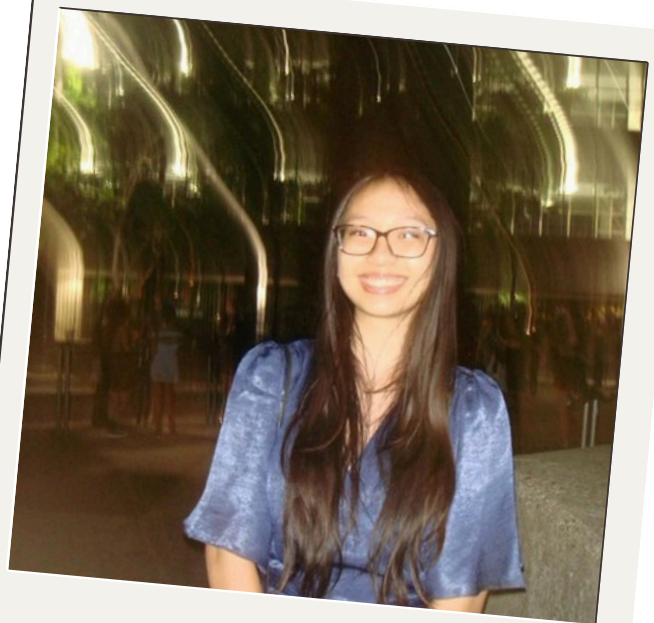
Jenayah



Vin

Hi all! I'm Vin, and am a junior at Malden High School. I love going to concerts and collecting trinkets.

Hello, my name is Haley Le. I am currently a junior. I enjoy being surrounded by friends and family. One fact about me is that I would say that I am creative and adaptive.

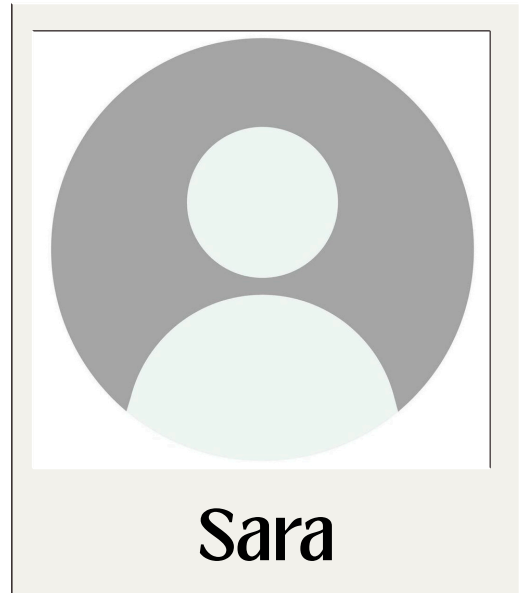


Haley



Destiny

A Senior at Malden High School! Participated in this program sophomore year and wanted to again!



Sara

Was a Freshman at Malden High School that recently moved to Canada.

Special Thank Yous!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the partners who make this project possible:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling, Massachusetts Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, Cambridge Health Alliance Community Health Department, Marie Motley and the Malden Public Schools, Cambridge Reprographics, and the parents and caregivers of youth participants!

As well as a big thank you and congratulations to the youth: Kyla Farrow, Selina Lin, Hazel Queen, Jenayah Moreno, Destiny Gatrey, Sarah Dasque, Vivian Chau, Hayley Le, Paris Benoit, Nely Charles, Yarra-Lynn Etienne, Naisha Desir, Sara Auguste

Resources!

◆ CHA Behavioral Health Center, Malden

195 Canal Street Malden, MA 02148

24 Hour Access Line: 833-222-2030

www.challiance.org

◆ Bread of Life: Malden

54 Eastern Ave. Malden, MA 02148

<https://www.breadoflifemalden.org/> | Volunteering:

Eileen.Mullen@BreadofLifeMalden.org

781-397-0404

◆ Malden YMCA Food Market

99 Dartmouth Street Malden, MA 02148

(781) 324-7680

<https://mv-ymca.org/food-security>

◆ Malden Community Fridge

Pleasant St opp, Russell St, Malden, MA 02148

(781) 322-6057

◆ CHA Malden Teen Health Center

Malden High School, 77 Salem St (behind CVS)

781-338-0101

◆ Office of Problem Gambling Services

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-problem-gambling-services>

◆ Gambling Helpline:

<https://helplinema.org/problemgambling/>

1-800-327-5050

◆ Additional Information on the Risk of Gambling for Teens:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/teens-gambling-its-a-risk>

