



District Updates

Phase 1 Return

The Phase 1 return to school is underway! We are proud to celebrate the incredibly hard work that has been done across the district to make this happen:

- The amazing facilities staff, under the guidance of **Mr. Eschmann** and **Ms. Mancuso**, who prepared the buildings for the safe return of our staff and students.
- The incredible technology department, under the leadership of **Mr. Lapierre**, who spent the summer troubleshooting and testing different solutions in preparation for the hybrid learning environment.
- The district administration, who spent countless hours planning each aspect of the reopening strategy on behalf of staff and students.
- Staff, Board members, and parents who volunteered their time to participate in the **District Restart Committee**, the **District Goal Workgroups**, and the **School Pandemic Teams**.
- **Mr. Erdreich** (MJS) and **Mr. Garrera** (MHS), who combined their efforts to produce over 700 face shields for staff members upon their return as well as hundreds of ear guards for the district.
- Our fantastic partners at the MMA, MEF, and PTO's, who dedicated their time and funds to supporting district efforts.

To help prepare for the new world of hybrid instruction and blended learning, the district relied heavily on the work of **teacher leaders** who developed modules, presented professional development sessions, and planned instructional frameworks:

- The K-5 teachers who wrote blended learning modules for ELA, math, science and social studies with the help of instructional coaches **Ms. Emann** and **Ms. Smith** alongside the tech support of **Ms. Sullivan**.
- The talented district teachers who led adult learning sessions during new staff orientation, optional PD days, and the inservice week:
 - **Ms. Bessin** (KRS/MJS) – *Differentiation and Feedback; Google Classroom*
 - **Ms. D'Amico** (TJS) – *Google Classroom; Top 10 Tech Tools*
 - **Ms. DeFresco** (MJS) – *Blended Learning; Differentiation & Feedback; Google Classroom*
 - **Mr. Erdreich** (MJS) – *Google Meet; Google Sites*
 - **Ms. Mack** (MJS) – *Digital Notebooks*
 - **Ms. Sullivan** (KRS) – *Google Classroom; Top 10 Tech Tools; Zoom and Screencastify*
 - **Ms. Young** (MJS) – *Digital Notebooks*
- The many curriculum writers who developed new documents or revisions to their classes
- **Ms. Bessin** (KRS/MJS), who collected resources related to the Amistad Commission, Holocaust/Genocide, LGBTQ+, and Disabilities mandates, as well as other topics related to diversity
- Various training sessions on core curricular programs (Foundations, Newsela, Math in Focus, ST Math, Schoolwide Fundamentals) led by instructional coaches **Ms. Emann** and **Ms. Smith**.
- Training organized by **Ms. Snider** on SMART Music and Music First, two premiere software programs designed to enhance teaching music virtually while also providing state-of-the-art recording functionality and assessment tools. These programs were funded in part by the MMA.

School Updates

Madison High School

- On September 9th, officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. This year Madison High School has three Semifinalists:
 - **Sadie Hoberman**
 - **Henry Marinovich**
 - **Adam Sher**
- Six seniors are enrolled in the full-year Senior Internship program, which has been expanded from last year. The students have been placed at the locations below and will be providing updates to the school on their progress. The Senior Internship program is overseen by **Mr. Monaco**.
 - Central Avenue School (2 placements)
 - Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
 - TAP Into Madison - [Click here for Graciella's first article!](#)
 - The Snooki Shop
 - Precision Sports Entertainment
- Upcoming events:
 - August 25-27: 9th Grade / New Student Tours and Q&A
 - September 24: Back to School Night (pre-recorded)
 - October 8: PTSO meeting.
- MHS Athletics
 - September 17: Meet the Coaches Night (Pre-recorded plus live team-specific Zoom meetings)
- MHS Guidance
 - September 21: Financial Aid Night (Live via Zoom)
 - October 1: Senior Information Night Q&A (Live via Zoom)

Madison Junior School

- On September 2, MJS held the 6th Grade Meet and Greet, where incoming MJS students could “put a face to a name” and make initial connections with the teachers they will be seeing each day.
- On September 15, the MJS administration hosted a “Coffee and Conversation” night via Zoom with the parent community. Ms. Phillips presented an update regarding the first week of classes and shared answers to many of the community’s most frequently asked questions. Time was also provided for parents to provide feedback and comments.
- On September 17, MJS held its Back to School Night, which included live teacher presentations hosted from the classrooms so that families at home could get a true sense of their child’s learning day. World language and special area teachers provided pre-recorded messages for the event.
- MJS CREATES has launched! CREATES provides students with an integrated cycle that incorporates technology, engineering, art, and music during an elective period for students in both the hybrid and the full-time remote model.

Central Avenue School

- CAS teachers greeted new and returning students and their families on the black-top by the main office entrance, with balloons and special areas set aside for every class. Chromebooks were also distributed to new students and families who needed a device.
- Mr. Liss is holding meetings with each grade level via Zoom to discuss the school's character traits and code of conduct.
- The CAS Back to School Night will be held virtually on September 24th.
- The CAS PTO has teamed up with McCool's for a fundraiser that will enable families to purchase Ice Cream Sundae Kits! Some of the proceeds will be put towards school initiatives.

Kings Road School

- The KRS meet and greets were held on August 31 and September 1. Teachers greeted the students and their families outside behind the school building, with balloons and special areas set aside for every class. Chromebooks were also distributed to new students' families who needed a device.
- The KRS Back to School Night will be held virtually on September 23rd.
- Guidance counselor **Mr. Levine** distributed Journals of Gratitude to every 4th grade student. The journals will be completed throughout the year. Funding was provided by the MEF.
- Nurse **Mrs. Moran** created and distributed an excellent video about wearing masks.
- **Mr. Levine** and **Dr. Koop** visited each classroom to collect ideas regarding the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct will be shared with the students, teachers, and families when completed.

Torey J. Sabatini

- The TJS meet and greets were held on August 31 and September 1. Teachers greeted the students and their families on the playground. There were balloons and Chromebooks were also distributed as needed.
- The first ever virtual TJS Back-to-School Night was held on September 16 and it was a great success! Live Zoom sessions were held with parents/guardians and classroom teachers. Special area teachers across the three elementary schools provided pre-recorded video introductions to their classes.
- On September 23, the TJS PTO will be sponsoring a Virtual Cultural Assembly through NJ Young Audiences called *123Andres* for students in grades K-2 and 3-5. Native Spanish speakers Andres and Christina of *123Andres* will explore our hemisphere in Spanish and English, as well as ASL.
- On September 24, the TJS PTO will host a Family Trivia Night / Make-Your-Own-Pizza Night. Thanks to the PTO for their efforts!