



District Updates

Phase 1 Continues

The Phase 1 return to school continues! We are so proud of our students, staff, and school leaders who have persevered during this challenging time to make this return happen. Special thanks as always to:

- The incredible technology department, under the leadership of **Mr. Lapierre**, and the facilities staff, under the guidance of **Mr. Eschmann**, who continue to plan, troubleshoot, and test different solutions for a safe and effective learning environment.
- The district administration and support staff, who continue to give themselves selflessly to ensure students, staff, and families feel supported throughout this time of transition.
- Staff, Board members, and parents who volunteer their time to participate in the stakeholder committees such as the District Restart Committee and the School Pandemic Teams.
- Our fantastic partners at the MMA, MEF, and PTO's, who dedicate their time and funds to supporting district efforts.

Mr. Erdreich Presents for NJSBA

- **Mr. Erdreich**, Technology, Engineering, and Design teacher at MJS, presented during a Facebook Live workshop hosted by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA). The event was part of the NJSBA's outreach about the importance of technology education and keeping hands-on learning alive in today's climate. The link to the recorded session is below: <https://www.facebook.com/njsba/videos/996658397522037>

Bridge to English Program (MHS/CAS)

- The Bridge to English Program connects MHS students with ESL students at CAS for academic and social support. Overseen by **Ms. Arosemena**, ESL Teacher at CAS, the program features tutors from MHS including **Katelyn Amaral, Elisabetta Araya, Juliana Bangs, Jessica Brazeau, Tess Callaghan, Sofia Danzo, and Cecilia Smith**. [Link to the program page](#).

Week of Respect

- The National Week of Respect occurred from October 5 to 9. Some highlights of activities from each building can be found in the school updates.

School Updates

Madison High School

- Week of Respect (October 5 to October 9)
 - Daily Quote (Diversity, Respect, etc)
 - Daily Challenge (Say 'hi' to someone new, Thank a teacher, etc) - Students were challenged to spread kindness daily by completing the following: making a new friend, complimenting a stranger, taking time to thank someone, helping someone with a chore, and waving to someone.
 - Social Media 'Blue Out' - Leaders (and any other interested students!) will post a picture of themselves wearing blue across social media platforms to increase awareness of the need for respect and diversity (including a blue mask!)
 - Wear Your Respect (PGC Leaders will have blue bead necklaces available before school for students to pick up and wear to demonstrate respect for others.

- [Pre-recorded videos](#) were created by our staff giving insight into their classrooms as an alternative to an in-person Back to School Night.
- On Tuesday, **Graciella Dressler** (12th grade) had her [second article published](#) on “TAP into Madison.” This article provides some interesting insight into a student’s perspective on the first month of school. Graciella is one of six seniors participating in the full year Senior Internship program at MHS.
- MHS is proud to announce that in addition to our three National Merit Semifinalists, we have an additional 17 seniors named Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. A full list of students can be found within the news section of the [MHS website](#).
- **MHS Athletics**
 - [Procedures and guidelines](#) for spectators that must be followed at all fall athletic events were released. In addition to social distancing, all spectators must be masked at any event they attend. We are excited to be able to give our students these opportunities to participate and we are currently working on ways to incorporate our music students into these events to give them an opportunity to perform.
- **MHS Guidance**
 - The Guidance Department hosted a Virtual Financial Aid Night on Monday the 21st. A [recording of the event](#) and other information from the presenter, Ed Zamora, can be found on the [Guidance Department website](#).
 - In lieu of an in-person 12th grade information night, **Ms. Internicola** and **Ms. Mascia** pre-recorded their [presentation discussing the college application process and the impact of COVID-19](#). A live Q&A will be held on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 pm for those who have specific follow up questions. The slideshow without the recording has been posted to the [Guidance Department website](#).
 - The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 to all 10th grade students and 11th graders who choose to participate.
 - There will be an additional Financial Aid Night on Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm with Colby McCarthy from Drew University.
 - Ninth Grade Parent Night will be held on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s guidance counselor and learn a little bit more about the transition to the high school. Details of the evening’s virtual schedule and Zoom links will be shared next week.
 - The Guidance Department has arranged for virtual visits with college representatives. These visits are for MHS students only and will occur between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Students can sign up through Naviance.

Madison Junior School

- Week of Respect (October 5 to October 9)
 - MJS celebrated Week of Respect during the week of October 5th by kicking off the October Daily Challenge which includes Week Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, Spirit Week, and Red Ribbon Week. MJS’ Conflict Resolution Team is working to promote the daily challenges in school in announcements and with posters. Some activities during the challenge this month include:
 - Wear Blue to Stomp Out Bullying, Orange to celebrate Unity Day, Purple for Peace Day, and Red to Be Happy and Drug Free.
 - Leave notes of compliments or thank you
 - Daily acts of positive to spread joy

- MJS Family Trivia Night returned September 30! The MJS Tricia Team put together another fun night of videos and trivia for our community. The next MJS Family Trivia Night will be held October 28 with a very spooky theme.
- Morris County Vocational School will be hosting a virtual webinar for all 8th-graders at the end of October. Students will hear from a school representative about the MCVSD Academy programs that students can apply to during 8th grade. Students will have a chance at the end of the webinar to ask questions.
- MJS students completed their first window of Star testing.
- The fall drama has begun calls for auditions for the virtual production of *Mirror Mirror*. Students will work remotely with director **Ms. Ward** to record a performance virtually and assemble it into a final performance video.
- MJS Art Club began September 28 with over 50 students joining. The first project will be for students to create an MJS logo inspired by the original retro MTV logo.
- MJS Student Council has started with preparation and campaigning for elections that will take place October 17. Candidates are hanging hallway posters and creating videos that will be shared in classrooms prior to the vote.
- Madison Makers kicked off its first meeting of the year on September 29th. Students discussed the “maker mentality,” which involves finding ways to apply interests and skills to make things rather than solely being consumers.

Central Avenue School

- Week of Respect (October 5 to October 9)
 - October 5 Wear Blue; Stories to be delivered virtually. One book, K,1,2; 3-5
 - October 6 Hey Day (Students wear name tags)
 - October 7 Student sign anti bullying pledge
 - October 8 Virtual notes of affirmation via Padlet
 - October 9 Random acts of kindness video.
- October 7th was the first Walk to School Day of the 2020-2021 school year. Students were encouraged to walk to school while maintaining social distancing. There was also a virtual component and students could log their information on the TransOptions app. There were also prizes and giveaways for students who walked or biked!
- Mr. Liss met with each grade-level via Zoom to review the school’s character traits and code of conduct!
- CAS wrapped up its first window of Star testing, running records, Math inventory, and other assessments.
- CAS opened up its outdoor classroom and classes have been coming to the garden to plant seeds for the fall harvest!
- CAS has its picture days on October 19, 20, and 21.
- CAS students continue to be recognized on the morning announcements for going above and beyond and meeting one of the pillars of the school’s character traits.

Kings Road School

- Week of Respect (October 5 to October 9)
 - October 5 Wear Blue; Stories to be delivered virtually. One book, K,1,2; 3-5
 - October 6 Hey Day (Students wear name tags)
 - October 7 Student sign anti bullying pledge
 - October 8 Virtual notes of affirmation via Padlet
 - October 9 Random acts of kindness video.
- KRS School Psychologist/Case Manager **Mrs. McCauley** convened with fifth grade boys and girls via Zoom separately to eat lunch and socialize.

- October 7th was the first Walk to School Day of the 2020-2021 school year. Students were encouraged to walk to school while maintaining social distancing. Stickers were distributed to the students. To celebrate our Walk to School Day students wore crazy socks on their feet that day.
- Guidance counselor **Mr. Levine**, STEAM teacher **Ms. Berger**, and the KRS PTO collaborated together to plan the first KRS Trivia Night.
- Safety Week will be recognized from October 26th to October 30th. Safety topics will be discussed with the students during the week.
- KRS/MJS Media Specialist **Mrs. Bessin** began the [KRS Virtual Library](#) in September for virtual book check out. Parents and learners may browse the virtual library and the [catalog](#) to request books by title or genre. The details of how the checkout will work are posted on the [Parent Corner](#) of the KRS Library webpage.
- Guidance Counselor **Mr. Levine** and Principal **Dr. Koop** answered questions during the October 6th PTO meeting.
- KRS students in grades K-5 completed the literacy and mathematics Star assessments.

Torey J. Sabatini

- Week of Respect (October 5 to October 9)
 - October 5 - Wearing blue to stomp out bullying
 - October 6 - Start with Hello! Initiative
 - October 7 - Virtual No Place for Hate Pledge and Promise Day
 - October 8 & 9 - Gratitude Day with a school-wide gratitude chain creation
 - October 9 - Put Bullying to Bed, Pajama Themed Day
- Weekly Lunch Bunch social groups are occurring outdoors in small groups for kindergarteners and first-graders on a sign-up basis with our school Counselor, **Mrs. Bletcher**.
- The PTO sponsored a Virtual Cultural Assembly for students in grades K-2 and 3-5 called 123Andres through NJ Young Audiences on Sept. 23. Native Spanish speakers Andres and Christina of 123Andres explored our hemisphere in Spanish and English, as well as ASL. Thank you to **John LaPierre**, **Mary Thomas**, and parent volunteer Belle Somers for coordinating the virtual event for our students.
- Our first Family Trivia Night/Make-your-own-Pizza Night at Home occurred on Sept. 24. Thank you to the TJS PTO for organizing this fundraising event and for School Climate Committee members, **Mrs. Bletcher** and **Ms. D'Amico** for coordinating it for the school.
- School Picture Day occurred in-person for the maroon and gold cohorts on October 1 and 2. Fully remote students were invited in the afternoon by appointment to have their picture taken as well.
- TJS has once again been recognized for being a No Place for Hate School through the ADL (Anti-Defamation League).
- The TJS Read-a-Thon fundraising event sponsored by the PTO begins on October 14.