



District Updates

Celebrating Women's History Month

Madison Public Schools is celebrating Women's History Month throughout March. Here is a sampling of the many activities taking place in recognition of the contributions and achievements of women throughout history:

- At MHS, humanities classes are examining women's rights movements and social reform, the roles played by women during WWII, and literature by female authors of the 20th century, among other topics. Business classes are examining the lives of female entrepreneurs and the challenges faced by women in the workplace. The Women's Cybersecurity and Coding Club is researching women who have contributed to the field, which will be incorporated into enrichment sessions being planned for MJS students. The Visual and Performing Arts department is working on a project to highlight famous women artists and displaying them in the front of the building.



- At MJS, daily announcements by the Spectrum club highlight noteworthy LGBTQ+ advocates for students to learn about. Students will be exploring pioneering female inventors, scientists, and mathematicians in their science classes and ELA classes are examining how gender roles are expressed in the core literature of certain courses and encouraging students to select books by female authors during book clubs. In world languages, students are exploring the roles and experiences of women in other countries and students in PE classes are learning about inspirational females in sport. MJS Creates is exploring a few female-inspired cross-curricular projects in the visual arts and design fields.
- In grades K-5, important women in history are being highlighted during morning announcements, and each grade level is women in literature in line with their curriculum through history, biography, and fiction.

School Updates

Madison High School

- MHS Key Club members packed 300 cold weather kits and clothing items to be distributed by Bridges, an organization that helps the homeless in NJ and NYC. Special thanks to the Student Wish List Project for organizing online donations!
- MHS DECA participated in the first ever Virtual NJ State Career Development Conference this week. Congratulations to **Robert Elefante** (11th grade), a NJ State Finalist in Finance Operations Research!

- Grade 9 English classes have incorporated a number of new texts into their curriculum this year including Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*, Nic Stone's *Dear Martin*, and Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. In an effort to enhance the classroom experience and the discussions surrounding these books, the school community has been invited to hear Bryan Stevenson speak in a livestream presentation sponsored by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield on March 22nd at 7:30 pm. The event is available at no charge and registration is available at <https://tewnj.org/bryanstevenson>. Please note, the presentation is non-religious in nature.
- 11th grade students have been invited to participate in the Rotary Club of Madison's annual *Laws of Life* essay contest. This contest aims to encourage students to explore core values such as honesty, perseverance, and compassion. The top three essays will be awarded \$800 prizes.
- Students participated in the Mathematical Association of America's American Mathematics Competitions (AMC), which serves as a pathway to the American Mathematical Olympiad. The AMC 10/12 this past month winners are listed below.
 - AMC 12: First: **Henry Marinovic**; Second: **Skylar Walters**; Third: **Ross Matos**
 - AMC 10: First: **Ryan Poole**; Second: **Yeongjin Kwon**; Third: **Karen Wu**
 - Henry and Skylar's scores were high enough to qualify them to participate in the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME) on March 10th. Congratulations to all top scoring students!
- 11th and 12th grade Physical Education classes will experience a presentation by Matthew Bocchi regarding his road to recovery from drug addiction and opioid abuse.
- Italian students worked on a project for which they had to create their own authentic Italian menus. Students studied authentic websites in the target language that contained authentic Italian recipes and other related items.
- Honors French IV classes worked on projects entitled « Un petit problème ». The goal of the project was to educate and inform their peers about an existing social problem within the context of France, one other Francophone nation, and their own culture.
- MHS Guidance
 - Recognizing that the transition to HS is a monumental step in the eyes of a young person, the Guidance Department believes it is imperative to provide parents and guardians with effective information to help support their child as they approach the HS. To help guide this process, the school distributed resources and a timeline of important deadlines to 8th grade families to assist with upcoming scheduling meetings.
 - 11th graders were given the opportunity to take an in-person SAT on March 3rd and a second assessment will be hosted on March 24th. There will also be an opportunity for an in-person ACT test on April 21st.
 - On March 10th, the Guidance Department hosted two virtual financial aid presentations with Principia Prep. 10th and 11th grade families were invited to the "High School Aid Prep Program" and 12th grade families were invited to attend a webinar that followed up from information that had been previously shared in the fall.
- MHS Athletics
 - Boys Ice Hockey finished in 1st place in the Halvorsen Division with an 8-0 conference record (12-2 overall). The team earned the #1 seed in the Halvorsen Cup and they beat Roxbury 5-0 on March 4th to win the Cup. Congrats to the team!
 - Boys Basketball finished in 1st place in the Liberty Division with a 6-1 conference record (10-3 overall) and earned the conference championship. They were also one of only six programs (out of 26) in Morris County to not have a shutdown throughout the season.

Madison Junior School

- On February 26th, six 8th grade students represented MJS at Drew University's annual Jr. Model UN Assembly. **Macey Arnold, Cassie Jennings, Caitlyn Jobe, Evelyn Juliano, Meredith McKeever**, and **Nina Todano** joined over 20 other district delegations to virtually present and debate positions on topics such as clean water rights, access to good health care, and reducing

inequalities. The MJS teams won awards for Best Delegation, Best Position Paper, and Outstanding Position Paper.

- MJS hosted its first ever virtual Bingo Night with over 100 participants. Student council advisors **Ms. Siso** and **Mr. Sabatino** hosted the evening along with several student council members. A variety of bingo games were played and prizes generously provided by the MJS PTO were awarded through the night. A big thanks to the advisors and the PTO for making this fun family night happen!
- MJS will welcome motivational speaker David Flood to speak on March 16th and 17th. The talk, generously supported by the Madison Education Foundation (MEF) and the MJS PTO, will explore dignity, respect, compassion, character, attitude, tolerance, understanding, leadership, and other core values. Mr. Flood, who is a hospice volunteer and works with special needs children, balances humor with empathy and role playing to discuss students' attitudes and making good choices. The assemblies will be held in person and will be available to remote students as well.
- Students on the MJS Green Team worked with advisors **Ms. Dalessio** and **Ms. Fowler** to create the Hasbro Toy Collection Program. The Green Team is collecting used and broken plastic toys to be recycled through Terracycle and the Hasbro Toy Recycling Program. Collection boxes have been placed at all district schools, the YMCA, and local vendors and will be available until March 19th. The program and its results will be presented by MJS students during the Madison Environmental Commission's Green Vision Forum on March 24th.

Central Avenue School

- CAS celebrated Read Across America from March 1-5. Teachers highlighted books throughout the week, began the week with Drop Everything and Read, and ended the week with read alouds that featured a wide array of authors and books. Students also shared their favorite books and authors via a Principal Flipgrid!
- CAS had a virtual assembly on March 10th entitled the [Funny Magic Show!](#) Thank you to the CAS PTO for supporting this and other assemblies!
- CAS celebrated the 100th day of school on February 19th.
- The CAS Book Fair is taking place from March 15th through March 26th.
- CAS continues to collect bottle caps for the "Bottle Caps to Benches" project in collaboration with the Borough of Madison. Coordinated by **Mrs. Mantone**, students have been working for the past two years on this project, which will be presented by CAS students during the Green Vision Forum on March 24th.

Kings Road School

- KRS Reading Specialist **Mrs. Sims** and Media Specialist **Ms. Bessin** planned great activities for the KRS Read Across America week of March 1st. Activities included two DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) times daily, highlighted authors of the day, and included a day when students dressed as their favorite book characters. Ms. Bessin created a resource for the KRS families to access videos and information about the highlighted authors. Please follow [this link](#) for information about the KRS Read Across America Week and for links to resources.
- The second KRS trivia night was conducted on the night of February 26th.
- Congratulations to **Andon Morley** (4th grade), who won the KRS Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament on February 26th. This community-building activity, organized by Counselor **Mr. Levine**, was a 3-week bonanza that included every student in the school.
- The KRS vision committee continued work on reviewing student survey data to guide the development of the KRS mission statement, vision, and core values. The committee will also determine how to communicate and display the mission/vision/core values upon completion.
- Activities were conducted in classrooms focused on celebrating the 100th day of school.
- STEAM teacher **Ms. Berger** led an e-waste collection for the KRS community. The drive highlighted that while e-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills it accounts for over 70% of its overall toxic waste. Students helped create e-waste collection flyers and counted the

different types of donations. The results of the initiative will be shared by KRS students during the Green Vision Forum on March 24th.

- The first KRS Virtual International Day is scheduled for March 22nd. ESL teacher **Ms. Bihuniak** is taking the lead on planning for this exciting and important day.
- K-5 teachers will conduct parent/teacher conferences during the evening of March 22nd and in the afternoon of March 23rd.
- Second trimester report cards will be available for viewing in Genesis on March 26th.

Torey J. Sabatini

- On February 5th, 5th grade students experienced a virtual assembly on The American Revolution through Kit's Interactive Theatre and Virtual Shows. Students enjoyed the assembly and loved seeing their teachers included in the video as well!
- On February 10th, 3rd grade students experienced a virtual field trip to the Liberty Science Center where they got to see fossils up close over Zoom. Students observed fossils, determined their makeup, and helped organize them by the geologic time periods during which different species lived.
- On February 12th, 2nd grade students experienced a virtual assembly through Kit's Interactive Theatre and Virtual Shows. 2nd graders have been learning about Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, and Fables in their current reading unit and were thrilled to participate in an assembly that tied into their current unit of study.
- Kindergarteners and 1st graders had an exciting 100th Day of School celebration! It was a fun day celebrating our students being 100 days brighter.
- TJS Media Specialist, **Mrs. Thomas**, planned meaningful activities for the Read Across America week of March 1st. Activities included Drop Everything and Read, a day for students to dress as their favorite book characters, and several spirit days. The week also included a literary-themed trivia night on March 4th and nightly bedtime stories recorded by TJS teachers and staff throughout the entire week! Mrs. Thomas also collected "I Can Read Anywhere!" photos from students encouraging a love for reading in school and at home.
- The TJS Virtual Book Fair will run from March 1st to March 14th.
- 2nd graders are participating in the Green Vision Forum this year! Students are creating a cookbook of recipes that include native plants from Madison. Students have made connections to their science unit of study and their writing unit of study on persuasive letters. After the creation of the cookbook, students wrote letters to Madison eateries to persuade them to include recipes with native plants on their menus. The cookbook will be published online and will be shared with various Madison restaurants! Thank you to the TJS Green Team and **Ms. D'Amico** for spearheading this research project for our students!