



District Updates

NAMM Best Community for Music Education

- Madison was named a national “Best Community for Music Education” by the NAMM Foundation for the 7th consecutive year. The designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Districts recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.
- This year’s application focused heavily on the impact of COVID-19 on music programs and MPS is proud of the staff and students who worked tirelessly to preserve the arts during this pandemic. A complete list of districts who received recognition can be [found here](#).



MPS Joins Digital Promise’s Data Equity Cohort

- The district has been invited to join Digital Promise’s [Data Equity Cohort](#), which is a professional learning community focused on identifying equity gaps and creating a plan to use data to promote more equitable outcomes. The detailed work involves an equity audit, a data interoperability self-assessment, and collaborative inquiry around existing inequities and data gaps to guide in the design of effective interventions for students who need additional opportunities.
- As part of the program, the district will receive a variety of technical supports, tools, and resources, plus peer consultations, personalized workshops, and funding to engage stakeholders and improve the implementation of data interoperability actions.

STEAM Academy Registration is Open!

- MPS is proud to announce the exciting continuation of the Madison STEAM Academy. The updated summer offering will run from June 28th through August 6th and has both full-day and half-day course offerings, along with virtual and in-person selections available.
- Information about the program can be found at the [2021 Madison STEAM Academy](#) website.

MEC’s Green Vision Forum

- MPS students from across all five schools participated in the Madison Environmental Commission’s Green Vision Forum on March 24th. The event featured MPS students plus other groups and students were provided support and feedback from Madison Mayor Conley as well as a number of members of the borough council.
- A list of the projects completed by MPS students can be [found here](#) and additional information was released in the MEC’s [most recent newsletter](#).

MPS Celebrates National Green Week

- National Green Week is an annual event that empowers schools to engage in lessons, projects, or activities focused on sustainability. Madison Public Schools will be celebrating this week from April 19th to the 23rd to coincide with Earth Day on April 22nd. Specific information be found within each school’s updates.

School Updates

Madison High School

- **Skylar Walters** (11th grade) was accepted into this summer's New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences (NJGSS) at Drew University. The NJGSS broadens scholars' appreciation and knowledge of science through exposure to a range of scientific topics and scientists. The program introduces scholars to a hands-on research experience in a student's area of interest through a series of courses, laboratories, projects, lectures, and other activities centered on math and science. Students benefit from working with professors in Drew University's strong undergraduate science program, and they learn about possible career paths from the faculty and from some of New Jersey's leading industrial, governmental, and academic representatives.
- **Helen Simmons** (12th grade) was awarded a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Scholarship on April 15th, which will pay for her tuition at the University of Pittsburgh plus leadership training over the next four years. Upon graduation, Helen will be a 2nd Lieutenant Officer in the US Marine Corps. Helen was one of only six students in New Jersey to earn the scholarship.
- Congratulations to **Meredith Weiner** (11th grade) who was selected as one of nine percussion students in Morris County to be named Music Student of the Month by the Mayo Performing Arts Center. Meredith was selected due to her strong commitment to and excellence in the performing arts.
- The World Language National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on April 15th. Students eligible must have completed a level four or five world language course with at least an A- final average and must be currently enrolled in a level five or AP level world language course. The ceremony was limited to students and live streamed and recorded for parents to view. Congratulations to the following students:
 - Chinese: Christopher Kouh, Justin Lee, Matthew Lee, Brandon Ng, Skylar Walters
 - French: Elisabetta Araya, Zoe Baumann, Cyrus Bowen, Anya Hadim, Niamh Kane, Lauren Massey, Jessica Murray, Emma Torkelson
 - Italian: Artha Abeysinghe, Charlotte Sullivan
 - Spanish: David Amieva, Andrew Cimino, Nicole Cornehl Lima, Hallie Davidson, Ava DeFilippis, Jonathan DeSimone, Connor Gilfillan, Isabela Giraldo, Anya Hadim, Bridget Hanley, Brian Meder, Arhan Menon, Charlotte Mirzaian, Nicholas Modi, Sanaya Mody, Jordan Oppermann, Guiherme Pereira, Vivian Summerlin, Madeline Sutton, Connor Wasik, Rachel Wasserman, Meredith Weiner
- For National Green Week, MHS students and staff will participate in a variety of activities outlined on this [flyer](#). Exciting events include Earth Fest 2021, with live music performed by MHS students and dedicated walk and bike to school days.
- The Madison High School Interact Club collected donations for their Spring Basket Making Project to support children at the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter and Homeless Solutions.
- 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 was invited to hear Bryan Stevenson speak in a livestream presentation sponsored by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield on March 22nd.
- This year the MHS Investment Club had over 50 members compete in a competitive stock market game from October 28th to April 9th. The winning team of **PJ Giglio** (11th grade) and **Jack Stuart** (11th grade) made over \$45,000 on an initial \$100,000 investment! Full results are below.
 - 1st. **PJ Giglio and Jack Stuart** (11th grade)
 - 2nd. **Cyrus Bowen** (12th grade)
 - 3rd. **Gavin Martins** (12th grade)
 - 4th. **Michael Delavan** (9th grade)
 - 5th. **Jordan Axler, Justin Dickson, Tommy Bland** (9th grade)

- 6th. **Andreas Panagos, Arman Tektas** (9th grade)
- 7th. **Sam DeRosa, Niamh Kane** (11th grade)
- 8th. **Brandon Detgen, Finn Keane, and Jack Lukasavage** (9th grade)
- 9th. **Shane Faraher** (11th grade), **Dylan Mohsen** and **Aidan Stewart** (12th grade)
- 10th. **Jordan Oppermann** (11th grade)
- On Wednesday, April 14th, AP Biology and Anatomy & Physiology students participated in a virtual *Meet the Surgeon; Heart Transplant* trip through the Liberty Science Center.
- MHS Theater presents *The Drowsy Chaperone* at 12 pm and 3 pm on April 17th, 18th, and 24th. The show will be presented outdoors.
- The MHS orchestra concert will be held at 7 pm on May 5th, with limited indoor seating. The band and chorus concert will be held at 6:30 pm on May 12th outdoors in front of MHS.
- MHS Guidance
 - MHS will offer a second, in-school SAT opportunity for current 11th grade students on Wednesday, March 24th.
 - MHS will host an optional, in-school ACT opportunity for current 11th grade students on Wednesday, April 21st. This ACT is a digital test and will not include the essay section. Students will be required to test using their school Chromebook only.
 - Guidance is currently tracking senior commitments. May 1st is National Decision Day and May 3rd is Ivy League Decision Day. The department is also processing scholarships and awards for students and contacting those that have been selected for specific opportunities.
 - Guidance put forth two names for this summer's Boys State program and one female name for this summer's Girls State program. This is paid for by outside organizations.
 - MHS has established an AP testing scheduling that will best meet the needs of all our students and give them the most opportunity for success. You can find this year's testing schedule at [this link](#).
 - MHS Guidance Counselors have begun scheduling meetings with 9th grade students and will begin meeting with 8th grade students from MJS and Harding shortly. Virtual presentations for all 8th grade students to discuss MHS electives will be held via Zoom.
- MHS Athletics
 - Coach **Mr. Cecala** was named Boys Ice Hockey Coach of the Year within the Halvorsen Division of the MCSSIHL.
 - With a 61-15 victory over Mountain Lakes, the MHS Wrestling Team captured the Independence Conference Championship for the second time in three years. The team also hosted its first-ever outdoor match against Millburn on April 17th.

Madison Junior School

- MJS and the PTO hosted the Spring Book Fair from April 12th to the 21st. MJS Media Specialist **Karen Bessin** provided a socially-distanced event where students browsed and shopped for new books to read.
- The MJS Counseling office hosted [Coming Up for AIR](#) mental health education presentations for all 8th graders on April 14th and 15th.
- For National Green Week, students in a variety of disciplines will be exploring environmental themes and advisory lessons will be focused on recycling, carbon footprints, water conservation, and Earth Day. Students in MJS CREATES will complete real-world design challenges such as posted design competitions and media campaigns centered on promoting recycling.
- Ten students from MJS participated in the NJCGTP *Workshop on the Arts* through the submission of a performance video in their particular discipline. The students selected to participate were **Steffany Cortes** (6th grade); **Daania Fakhra, Elizabeth McManus, Katie Varga,** and **Delilah Rowe** (7th grade); and **Anuthra Abeysinghe, Amanda Daniels, Elizabeth Kandziolka, Ellie Kerouac,** and **Helen Kilman** (8th grade).

- A fun MJS Trivia Night was hosted for the community on March 24th with pizza deliveries made by teachers to winning contestants. The next MJS Trivia Night will be held on April 28th with teacher pizza deliveries to take place on May 4th!
- The MJS musical *Peter Pan, Jr.* will be held at 5 pm on April 30th and May 1st, outdoors on the lawn in front of MJS.
- The MJS orchestra concert will be held at 7 pm on May 19th, with limited indoor seating. The band and chorus concert will be held at 6 pm on June 2nd outdoors in front of MHS.
- Parent/Teacher conferences were held the afternoon of March 22nd and the evening of March 23rd.
- Students completed window #3 of the Star Assessments in reading and math.

Central Avenue School

- **Charlie Bruno** (2nd grade) was selected as a winner of the *To the Moon and Beyond STEAM Challenge*, presented by the NJ Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs. In honor of NASA's Artemis program to return to the moon in 2024, students in grades K-2 had to choose one item that symbolized the USA in the 21st century to be left on the moon. Students worked outside of the school day to research toys made in the USA and created a 30-second video explaining how that toy represents the USA and why it should be left on the moon. Charlie's choice of the American Girl Doll was selected as a symbol that no matter who you are, you can do anything. Charlie's entry was one of three winners selected out of over 200 entries. Congratulations Charlie!
- Numerous classes have begun work on the Hidden Figures of Madison Project!
- All CAS Classes participated in the spring planting of the school garden. Students completed the planting during their snack breaks and will harvest at the end of the spring season!
- 3rd grade students will have an assembly on the Lenape people on April 13th!
- The CAS musical *Seussical Kids* will be held at 5 pm on May 21st outdoors in front of the school.
- The CAS PTO ran a Spring Book Fair from March 15th through March 28th! Parent/Teacher conferences were held the evening of March 22nd and the afternoon of March 23rd.
- Second trimester report cards were available in Genesis for parent review on March 26th.
- Students completed window #3 of the Star Assessments in reading, early literacy, and math.

Kings Road School

- The KRS Fun Committee is holding a cereal food drive with the goal of collecting 750 cereal boxes to donate to The Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown. Students, parents, and community members are welcome to drop off cereal boxes any time before May 21st. Music Teacher **Ms. Ward** produced [this trailer video](#) to introduce and build excitement about this fun service project.
- March 22nd to March 26th represented International Spirit Week at KRS. ESL Teacher **Ms. Bihuniak** planned an array of activities to celebrate the international diversity within the KRS community. Among other events, KRS families were invited to share their cultural traditions by posting videos on Flipgrid for other KRS families to view.
- For National Green Week, students will be reading stories about the environment, flowers and gardening, and endangered species, and will learn about Earth Day. Throughout the week, morning announcements will include "green facts" and videos related to environmental issues.
- Counselor **Mr. Levine** and Principal **Dr. Koop** will visit selected classrooms to discuss the Hidden Figures of Madison Project and conduct related activities.
- Students completed window #3 of the Star Assessments in reading, early literacy, and math.
- KRS students exceeded the set goal of 15,000 minutes during the KRS Read-A-Thon by reading an amazing total of 28,596 minutes. Congratulations to our KRS readers!
- **Dr. Koop** and a group of KRS teachers have formed a book club and are reading *Courageous Conversations About Race* by Glenn E. Singleton. The group meets weekly to engage in discussions about the content of the book and deliberate on how its lessons can be applied to the school and district.

- The KRS musical *Jungle Book Kids* will be held at 5 pm on May 5th outdoors in the back of the school.
- Parent/Teacher conferences were held the evening of March 22nd and the afternoon of March 23rd.
- Second trimester report cards were available in Genesis for parent review on March 26th.

Torey J. Sabatini

- National Green Week events at TJS are outlined on [this fun flyer](#)! The week is designed to engage students in lessons focused on sustainability and to empower students to take a more proactive and green approach that will ultimately help make a difference in the larger community. To start the week, students will be encouraged to bring in healthy green vegetables for snack as well as reusable water bottles. Our families are also going to be encouraged to walk or bike to school! Students will engage in recycling and earth day lessons and will participate in school-wide assemblies to learn about the SIMS Recycling Center and/or a NJ Watershed. Posters will also be designed by students during art class that will be displayed on our classroom garbage and recycling bins.
- K-5 students competed in a school-wide Typing Challenge! Over the course of 3 weeks, classes battled it out “March Madness” style, to become the school-wide typing champions. In grades K-2, **Ms. Jimenez’s** class took home the gold and typed 334 minutes in the final round! **Ms. Caruso’s** class beat out the competition in grades 3-5 by typing 1,259 minutes in the final round! As a school, TJS students typed over 36,000 minutes! The students really enjoyed this challenge and have asked that it become a yearly event. Thank you to **Ms. D’Amico** for coordinating this technology event.
- During the week of April 26th, the TJS school community will be engaging in an “Only One YOU” art installation project. Students will be engaging with the texts *Only One You* by Linda Kranz and *Happy Dreamer* by Peter Reynolds and will be designing and painting a river rock that will be included in a permanent rock garden at the entrance to Torey J. Thank you to the TJS PTO and **Mr. Thompson** for helping to coordinate this event as well as to Antonio Rega Estate Landscaping for the donation of river rocks! Through this project, we hope students recognize that they are each a unique part of our larger school community.
- The TJS musical *Jungle Book Kids* will be held at 5 pm on May 13th outdoors in the back of the school.
- Parent/Teacher conferences were held the evening of March 22nd and the afternoon of March 23rd.
- Second trimester report cards were available in Genesis for parent review on March 26th.
- Students completed window #3 of the Star Assessments in reading, early literacy, and math.