



## District Updates

### MPS Educators of the Year

- The Madison Public Schools community selected its educators of the year. The selection process involves nominations and stakeholder input. We are extremely proud of all of our educators who were nominated and the following recipients for 2021!!
- MHS
  - **Mr. Monaco**, Mathematics Teacher (Teacher of the Year)
  - **Ms. Fastiggi**, School Nurse (Educational Support Professional of the Year)
- MJS
  - **Ms. Ferris**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher (Teacher of the Year)
  - **Ms. Bessin**, Media Specialist (Educational Services Provider of the Year!)
- CAS
  - **Ms. Trilling**, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher (Teacher of the Year)
  - **Ms. Esposito**, Teacher Assistant (Educational Services Provider of the Year)
- KRS
  - **Ms. Lembo**, Kindergarten Teacher (Teacher of the Year)
  - **Ms. Guzewicz**, School Secretary (Educational Services Professional of the Year)
- TJS
  - **Ms. Pelkey**, Kindergarten Teacher (Teacher of the Year)
  - **Ms. LoBrace**, Reading Specialist (Educational Services Professional of the Year)

### Board Innovation Award

- The Board [Innovation in Teaching](#) Award celebrates excellence in teaching and seeks to recognize staff members' unique contributions to the student experience that have helped pique curiosity, a love of learning, and a spirit of discovery. Congratulations to the winners, listed below!
- **Ms. Stockdale** (TJS) for spearheading the development and publication of bilingual books written by ESL students in grades K-5. The books, written both in English and the student's first language, have been published and are on display in each elementary library. The authors were also invited to an evening event with their families where they shared information about their books.
- **Ms. St. Jacques** (MJS) and **Mr. Erdreich** (MJS) for the creation of the MJS CREATES elective block. This multidisciplinary period made the most of the shortened school schedule this year and allowed students to explore their passions in a wide variety of areas.
- **Ms. DeTrollo** (MHS) for overcoming the challenges of social distancing by developing walking field trips and designing virtual field trips for her biology students. These experiences allowed students to engage with science phenomena in an authentic way despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

### MPS District Art Show

- The District Art Show was held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Elizabeth University. Over 500 pieces of artwork were placed on display from students in grades K-12 and many teachers and staff from throughout the district helped prepared in setting up the event. Special thanks to **Ms. Snider**, the K-8 Instructional Coach for Special Areas, for spearheading the planning!

### MPS Staff Workshop Proposal Accepted

- Congratulations to **Ms. Emann**, K-8 Instructional Coach for Humanities, whose proposed workshop *Tapping into Emotions as an Entry Point to Literary Interpretation* was accepted for the Paramus Summer Literacy Conference. The workshop will be taught each day of the conference and also provides Ms. Emann with free attendance at the conference.

### Madison/Harding Battle of the Books

- On June 10<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 participated in the first-even Madison/Harding Battle of the Books. After a rigorous in-district process, one team from each grade was selected to attend the battle to show how much they've learned and read throughout this program. The event was overseen by **Ms. Emann**, K-8 Instructional Coach for Humanities, and the amazing students who represented MPS are:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Lauren Crisostomo** (CAS), **Lily Doninger** (KRS), **Ruhann Mody** (KRS), **Grace Porio** (CAS), **Julia Roffelsen** (TJS)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Lavinia Everett** (TJS), **Nicholas Figueroa-Ortiz** (KRS), **Henry Moyad** (TJS), **Connor Orwig** (CAS)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: **Ben DeGarcia** (TJS), **Ryan Dunne** (CAS), **Rushil Patel** (KRS), **Luke Roffelsen** (TJS)

## School Updates

### Madison High School

- Students in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Day of Service on May 28<sup>th</sup>, which consisted of approximately 40 service projects that were held in person and virtual. Projects were completed at all five district schools and also throughout the community of Madison.
- AP Exams were successfully held throughout the month of May. The majority of Math, Science, and World Language Exams were completed in-person on paper while Humanities exams were generally conducted remotely.
- **Mr. Coviello's** class worked on a podcast series focusing on Asian American experiences through different generations of current students' families.
- AP/Honors Studio Art students created portraits for children in Afghanistan who are experiencing hardships as part of The Memory Project. Students learned about the country of Afghanistan and also shading and color mixing techniques for portraits. Students sent these portraits as gifts to the children in Afghanistan. MHS is so fortunate to participate in this project every year thanks to a generous grant from the MMA. To see a video of the children receiving their portraits, please [click this link](#).
- Over the last two years, MHS students involved in the Bridge to English Program at CAS have been assisting **Ms. Arosemena** with tutoring and support her ELL students. Thank you to the following students for their hard work and dedication: **Katelyn Amaral, Sofia Danzo, Cecilia Smith, Bridget Hanley, Riley Walker, Elisabetta Araya, Jessica Brazeau, Kayla Davis, Alexander (Sasha) Pogrebizhskiy, Tess Callaghan, Nicole Cornehl Lima, Clara Forte, Rose Walker, Lydia Persing, Marcy Rindfleish, Nicole Amaral, Kavish Arora, Corey Weber, Allison Lee, Claire Sales, Isabella Rojas, Ruari Callaghan, Sam Cohen, Owen Weller, Charlie Cripe, Athena Macagnano, Jamie Habib, Juliana Bangs, Gui Pereira.**

### Madison Junior School

- **Ms. Wallerstein** was selected as one of the top 15 Clinical Interns of 2021 in the state of NJ. She was honored in a ceremony along with her cooperating teacher, **Ms. DeRosa**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher.
- During the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers participated in Team Building Day! Students engaged in a variety of fun and competitive field day style activities and got the chance to take on a ninja-style obstacle course that was sponsored by the MJS PTO.

- June 9<sup>th</sup> was the series finale of our MJS Family Trivia Night. The MJS Trivia Team put together a blowout show to end this wonderful community event. Students, staff, and Madison families thank the MJS Trivia Team for the many hours of joy and laughter they have brought to Madison during the stellar run of this great monthly event.
- MJS celebrated its music program with the performance of its Orchestra, Band, and Chorus concerts. **Ms. McCormick** hosted an in-person, indoor concert for orchestra families; **Mr. Sabatino** and **Mr. Rossi** produced an outdoor concert event for band families; and **Ms. Ciolino** taped performances given by MJS chorus students and shared the results with our families via YouTube. Bravo to the MJS music department!
- During the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers hosted the annual Probability Carnival on the front lawn. The culmination of many weeks of planning, collaboration, and creating came together in a math celebration shared with students, staff, and families.
- MJS is pleased to announce the following students who participated in the NJ Gifted and Talented Consortium's *Workshop on the Arts*. MJS students who received additional accolades for their spectacular efforts are also noted below!
  - **Katie Varga** – Drama
  - **Ellie Kerouac** – Drama
  - **Daania Fakhar** – Visual Art (*Honorable Mention*)
  - **Amanda Daniels** – Visual Art
  - **Steffany Cortes** – Dance
  - **Elizabeth McManus** – Dance
  - **Anuthra Abeysinghe** – Instrumental Music (*Honorable Mention*)
  - **Helen Kilman** – Instrumental Music (*Grand Prize Winner*)
  - **Delilah Rowe** – Vocal Music (*Grand Prize Winner*)
  - **Elizabeth Kandziolka** – Vocal Music (*Honorable Mention*)

#### Central Avenue School

- The CAS STEAM Fair for grades 3-5 took place on May 27<sup>th</sup> on the CAS blacktop. Judges were present and students shared their presentations in small groups. Every student was given a medal to signify their work and use of the scientific method!
- The *You are a Gardener* assembly was held on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the MEF for this inspiring grant and program! The #PullYourWeeds Program is rooted in social emotional learning skills, growth mindset tools, self-empowerment, confidence building, conflict resolution skills and mindfulness, and is aimed at helping students and staff manage stress and big emotions.
- The MHS Robotics team presented to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The district's first Kindergarten Warm Up was held for incoming Kindergarten students on June 10<sup>th</sup> and during the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- International Weeks took place at CAS from May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of the projects included announcements from students about different nations, authentic family presentations on culture/traditions, and many other activities.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical took place on May 21<sup>st</sup> under the guidance of **Ms. Chiarino** and **Ms. Jackson**. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students did an outstanding job!
- CAS Field Week was held during the week of June 7<sup>th</sup> and engaged students in grades K-5 in several traditional field outdoor games/activities!
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, CAS third-grade and fourth-grade students participated in the high school "Day of Service" and saw presentations on Composting and Robotics!
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition ceremony is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>! 5<sup>th</sup> Grade activities include a magic show, kickball game, yearbook signing, Kona Ice, and clap-out on the last day of school.
- CAS had its last assembly of the year, an interactive virtual gaming show called *The Brain Show*, on June 10 and 11! Thank you to the PTO for their support in bringing such wonderful assemblies to CAS!

Kings Road School

- After receiving approximately 900 cereal box donations from KRS families and staff, the cereal boxes were lined-up like dominos for a BIG knockdown. News 12 was there to film the event and the reporter interviewed school counselor, **Mr. Levine**. KRS was featured that night on the News 12 broadcast. Everyone had a wonderful time!
- In lieu of a Field Day, KRS had a Field Week! Students in grades K-5 participated in field day related activities with physical education teacher **Mr. Abbondandolo** during the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The district's first Kindergarten Warm Up was held for incoming Kindergarten students on June 10<sup>th</sup> and during the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, KRS students participated in the high school "Day of Service" with some MHS students and the Seeing Eye Dog Organization. The students read aloud to the dogs and had a chance to practice all they learned in reading this year!
- The KRS Virtual STEAM Fair was held on June 11<sup>th</sup>. It was so exciting to hear the KRS student scientists present their projects and explain the results of their scientific research.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Wax Museum took place on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Students spent several weeks reading and writing about a famous person and were excited to present their speeches while dressed as the person they studied.
- Congratulations to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants of *Jungle Book Kids* directed by Music Teacher, **Ms. Ward** and Art Teacher, **Mr. Thompson**.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration was a memorable send off to the incredible KRS 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Highlights included a "5<sup>th</sup> grade song" and a special certificate for every student. Families attended a special breakfast and yearbooks were also distributed to each student moving on.
- The last day of school will feature a special "Fifth Grade Clap-Out" for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families. The "Clap Out" is a traditional ceremony where we all clap for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they walk down the KRS hill one last time.

Torey J. Sabatini

- In lieu of a Field Day, TJS had a Field Week! Students in grades K-5 participated in field day related activities with physical education teacher, **Mr. Gerenstein**, during the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade participants of *Jungle Book Kids* directed by Music Teacher **Ms. Ward** and Art Teacher **Mr. Thompson**.
- TJS families participated in our last Virtual Trivia Night of the year on May 20<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to **Ms. D'Amico** and **Mrs. Bletcher** for coordinating the events this year!
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, TJS third-grade students participated in the high school "Day of Service" with some MHS students and the Seeing Eye Dog Organization.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade students and parents participated in a First Grade Virtual Tea where students sang songs and read poems about important family members in their lives over Zoom. It was a memorable event for all!
- Torey J. has once again been certified as a 2020-2021 *No Place for Hate* by the Anti-Defamation League. Thank you to **Mrs. Bletcher**, school counselor, for her work and dedication to coordinate all of our school-wide events that qualify us to be considered as a No Place for Hate school.
- TJS students participated in a two-week school-wide Look for the Good Gratitude Campaign. Students shared gratitude daily on sticky notes, verbalized gratitude on "gratitude spots" in their classrooms and wrote inspiring letters and cards to those who have made an impact in their lives. With the assistance of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Peer Leaders and **Mrs. Bletcher**, as a school we created a gratitude wall to hang all of our sticky notes. Peer Leaders made daily gratitude announcements and a kick-off video that was included in **Principal Sing's** morning announcements. Kindness cards were also passed in classrooms, allowing students to highlight each other when expressing gratitude. It was a very special and impactful two-week program!
- The district's first Kindergarten Warm Up was held for incoming Kindergarten students on June 10<sup>th</sup> and during the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>.

- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition ceremony was a memorable send-off to the incredible TJS students. Highlights included a “5<sup>th</sup> grade song” and a special certificate for every student. During the last week of school, students will participate in a staff vs. student kickball game, which is a longstanding TJS tradition. A special 5th-grade breakfast/yearbook signing event will also occur in addition to a clap-out on the last day of school. The clap-out is a traditional ceremony where we all clap for the fifth graders as they run up the TJS hill towards the playground one last time!
- Many 5<sup>th</sup> grade students also participated in a “6th Grade Bootcamp” under the guidance of School Counselor **Mrs. Bletcher**. Four sessions covered first day jitters, organization and time management, reading a middle school class schedule, and how to use locks on lockers.