



District Updates

NAMM Best Community for Music Education

- Madison was named a national “Best Community for Music Education” by the NAMM Foundation for the 8th consecutive year. The designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Districts that have been recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.
- This year Madison joins 738 districts across the country out of 14,000 eligible districts in receiving the prestigious award. The complete list of districts can be [found here](#).



MEC’s Green Vision Forum and Green Week Celebrations

- All Madison schools participated in the Madison Environmental Commission’s Green Vision Forum on March 31st. Members of each school’s “Green Team” presented on the school-based projects alongside members of the environmental club from Drew University. Special thanks to the MEC leadership for including the schools, staff and students in this incredible event!
- MPS also celebrated Green Week during the last week of April. At MHS, the Project Aware Environmental Club presented *Recycling Plastic is Not Enough*, which aimed to alter the approach to improve recycling efforts in the district. Project Aware students collected plastic bottles from around MHS and presented an art display along with informational flyers in the cafeteria. The goal of the display was to raise awareness about how most plastic (approx 86%) is not actually recycled when discarded in recycle bins, but instead ends up in landfills and in the ocean. The MHS green vision solution is to encourage our community to use reusable bottles instead. More details can be found within the [video presentation](#) made by club members **Kathryn McElvany (11th grade)** and **Catalina Martello (10th grade)**. Each school celebrated green week/green month in its own exciting way throughout the district.

STEAM Academy Registration is Open!

- MPS is proud to announce the exciting return of the Madison STEAM Academy. The exciting summer offering will run from June 27th through August 5th and has both full-day and half-day course offerings, extended day options, and a wide range of new courses available. Information about the program can be found at the [2022 Madison STEAM Academy website](#).

School Updates

Madison High School

- Congratulations to **Artha Abeysinghe** for being named the Class of 2022 valedictorian and **Skylar Walters** for being named the Class of 2022 salutatorian. Artha will be attending Princeton University in the fall while Skylar will be attending Brown University.
- Congratulations to senior **Skylar Walters** who was selected as one of 620 semifinalists to advance to the final round of the 2022 US Presidential Scholars competition. Skylar was selected from nearly 3.7 million graduating high school seniors and over 5000 students who were identified as candidates in the program. Up to 161 students in the country are recognized as US Presidential Scholars. Those earning the distinction will be honored during a National Recognition Program in June and are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

- On March 13th, six MHS students shaved their heads for the 10th annual Madison, NJ chapter of St. Baldrick's Foundation. **Nolan Flanagan (9th grade)**, **Alex Patel (9th grade)**, **Devan Patel (11th grade)**, **Kyle Piechnik (10th grade)**, **Michael McGuire (12th grade)**, and **Eric Selquist (11th grade)** shaved their heads to raise funds for research grants for childhood cancer and to stand in solidarity with children going through treatments for cancer. Over the last ten years, the Madison chapter has raised over \$600,000 for St. Baldrick's and childhood cancer research.
- On April 1st, MHS students and staff spent the night in the dark outdoor courtyard, on cold ground, with no comforts of home. The group endured the uncomfortable conditions to raise funds and awareness for Covenant House, a shelter in Newark, focused on helping homeless youth get off the streets. The group raised over \$15,000! [Click here](#) for a picture of the group before they went outside.
- The MHS Gender Sexuality Alliance organized a Day of Silence on April 8th. Over 150 students and staff participated in the event. The National Day of Silence is a National Youth Movement protesting the silence faced by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people and their allies in schools. The Day of Silence is a day where participants choose not to speak for the entire day. The deliberate silence of each participant echoes that silence which is caused by harassment, prejudice, bullying, and discrimination in our Nation. Participants broke their silence with a gathering in the courtyard that afternoon.
- Kizito D. Kalima, founder of the [Peace Center for Forgiveness & Reconciliation](#), spoke to students enrolled in **Mr. Bernich's** Holocaust & Genocide class on April 12th. Mr. Kalima is an advocate for Genocide survivors and spoke about his escape from imprisonment and torture in Rwanda.
- On April 5th, the MHS Theatre Program received nominations for our 2021 productions in the Montclair State University Theatre Night Awards program. Last year's musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, received 8 nominations:
 - Outstanding Production of an Outdoors Musical
 - Outstanding Performance, Actor, Outdoors Musical: **Gavin McGinn (12th grade)**
 - Outstanding Performance, Actor, Outdoors Musical: **Sterling Hart (12th grade)**
 - Outstanding Performance, Actress, Outdoor Musical: **Kyra Longenecker (12th grade)**
 - Outstanding Performance, Actress, Outdoors Musical: **Lily Bias (11th grade)**
 - Outstanding Ensemble of an Outdoors Musical
 - Outstanding Choreography of a Musical - **Ms. Jaquie Radcliff**
 - Outstanding Educational Impact and Community Outreach

This year's Fall play, *Murder on the Orient Express*, also received 8 nominations:

- Outstanding Production of a Period Dramatic Play
- Outstanding Performance, Actor, Period Dramatic Play: **Aidan McCullough (12th grade)**
- Outstanding Performance, Actor, Period Dramatic Play: **Gui Pereira (12th grade)**
- Outstanding Performance, Actress, Period Dramatic Play: **Avery Benjamin (11th grade)**
- Outstanding Performance, Actress, Period Dramatic Play: **Erin Scheier (11th grade)**
- Outstanding Ensemble in a Period Dramatic Play
- Outstanding Makeup and Hair Design: **Ms. Jaquie Radcliff**
- Outstanding Scenic Design

In addition, **Kyra Longenecker (12th grade)** was named this year's recipient of the Eugenie Coladarci scholarship presented by Morris Arts to a Morris County student who has exhibited artistic excellence in dance, drama, visual arts, or music and plans to pursue post-secondary studies in the fine or performing arts. Her sister, **Mia Longenecker (10th grade)**, was the third place recipient of the Joseph Curka Award for Young Playwrights at the 20th Annual Young Playwright's Competition for her short play "Burning Conversations." Her work was performed by professional actors of "The Theatre Project" on March 28th. Congratulations to all!

- AP/Honors Studio art students created portraits for children in Sierra Leone who are experiencing hardships as part of "[The Memory Project](#)." Students learned about the country of Sierra Leone and also shading and color mixing techniques for portraits. Students sent these portraits as gifts to

the children in Sierra Leone. We are so fortunate to participate in this project every year thanks to a generous grant from the MMA. [Click here](#) to see the group's work.

- Congratulations to **Elise Hart (11th grade)** who had a piece of art selected for the Morris Museum's Fresh Perspective High School Art Show. This piece was only one of 50 selected from local high schools. [Click here](#) to see Elise with her painting.
- On April 19th, 31 students were inducted into the World Language Honor Society. Eligible students must have completed a level four world language course with at least an A- final average and must currently have an A- average in a level five or AP world language course. Congrats to the following 11th and 12th grade students:
 - Chinese:
 - **Aren Hill, Saatvik Sharma, Mark Su**
 - French:
 - **Marina Gobbi, Elise Hart, Jacob Jordan, Sasha Knoll, Orla Maxwell, Josephine Walker, Elisabeth Wielandy**
 - Italian:
 - **Benjamin Colao, Henrik Hamilton, Evan Katz, Christopher Piacenti, Alexandra Reigle**
 - Spanish:
 - **Amanda Beneventano, Anabel Brush, Shea Byam, Ruari Callaghan, Kay Chase, Melanie Davidson, Catherine Gregory, Isabella Guarino, Todd Hanson, Doyle Keane (12th grade), Yan Yan Li, Gavin Mock, Charlotte Preston (12th grade), Erin Scheier, James Weller**
- MHS Athletics
 - Congratulations to **Artha Abeysinghe (12th grade)** who received the NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award. This award recognizes the graduating senior who excels academically, participates in varsity sports, exhibits school and community citizenship and service.
 - To add to his all conference and county accolades, **Drew Stack (12th grade)** was named Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference Basketball Player of the Year. Congrats Drew!
 - Congratulations to the MHS Wrestling team for finishing their season with a record of 12 wins and 8 losses and winning the Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference Independence Division. The following players earned All-Division honors within the Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference Independence Division:
 - 1st Team All-Conference:
 - **Beckett Cheddar (11th grade), Anthony Collins (11th grade), Carlos Dominguez (11th grade), Michael McGuire (12th grade), Thomas Packie (11th grade), Julian Moszczynski (12th grade)**
 - 2nd Team All-Conference:
 - **Indio Pluchino (12th grade), Connor Gilfillan (12th grade), AJ Wilson (12th grade)**
 - All Conference Honorable Mention:
 - **Grayson Farrell (12th grade)**

Madison Junior School

- MJS is currently celebrating its second week of "One Book One School." Through an MEF Grant students got to pick the book of their choice from the *Track* Series by Jason Reynolds. Celebrations during the week include a finish the book video competition, Souls 4 Souls Shoe Drive, advisory activities, morning announcements, and awards for avid readers of the series.
- MJS and the PTO hosted the Spring Book Fair from March 30th through April 1st. MJS Media Specialist **Ms. Bessin** provided another great literacy event where students browsed and shopped for enjoyable new books to read.
- MJS Counseling hosted "Coming Up for Air" presentations for all 8th graders on April 18th and 19th. A parent presentation was also given on the evening of April 18th. The "Coming Up for

AIR” student presentation is mental health education geared towards students in middle school and high school.

- Throughout April, students completed the Star Assessment in reading and math for the third time this school year. Reports will be mailed home by mid-May.

Central Avenue School

- CAS celebrated International Day on April 22nd. The CAS students and staff enjoyed presentations by CAS community members and students learned about more than 10 different countries!
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were conducted on April 11th and 12th.
- The CAS Book Fair was held on April 11th and 12th and CAS families enjoyed a wonderful book fair thanks to the CAS PTO.
- CAS 5th graders will attend an orientation at MJS to prepare for their transition to 6th grade on April 25th, from 9-11 am. Thank you to MJS for planning such an important event.
- Students in grades K-5 will complete the Star Assessments in reading and math by the end of April. Parents and guardians will receive the parent Star assessment reports in May.
- Students in grades 3-5 will complete the NJSLA tests for ELA on May 2nd and 3rd and for Math on May 9th, 10th, and 11th. Students in 5th grade will complete the NJSLA Science Test from May 25th, 26th, and 27th.
- CAS/TJS/KRS Band, Chorus, and Student Poets, will perform at the Madison Arbor Day celebration the morning of Saturday, May 7th, at the Madison Train Station.
- On April 14th, students enjoyed previewing and celebrating over 100 multicultural books! Thank you to the MEF for supporting this amazing grant!
- The MHS Women’s Cybersecurity and Coding Club taught three lessons to CAS students after school on April 6th, 13th, and 20th. Students learned about Python, coding and variables, and how to code their own chat bots!
- On April 28th, students in grades 3-5 will participate in the **CAS STEAM Fair!** Students will present to judges and parents will have the opportunity to see all the projects that our students have been working so hard on for the last few months
- On April 13th, CAS students had a fantastic [STEM assembly](#)! Thank you to the CAS PTO for organizing this great assembly!

Kings Road School

- On April 19th, KRS students in grades 2-5 enjoyed presentations by visiting author [Maria Scrivan](#).
- KRS students and staff enjoyed presentations by KRS community members during outdoor International Days. Thank you to ESL Teacher **Ms. Bihuniak** for coordinating two wonderful educational days!
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were conducted on April 11th and 12th.
- On April 11th and 12th KRS students enjoyed a wonderful book fair thanks to the KRS PTO.
- The KRS community is once again participating in the “One School, One Book” program by reading *Dog Days* by Karen English. Thank you to Reading Specialist **Ms. Sims** for coordinating a reading-focused community activity.
- KRS 5th graders will attend an orientation at MJS to prepare for their transition to 6th grade on April 25th, from 9-11 am. Thank you to MJS for planning such an important event.
- Students in grades K-5 will complete the Star Assessments in reading and math by the end of April. Parents and guardians will receive the parent Star assessment reports in May.
- Students in grades 3-5 will complete the NJSLA tests for ELA on May 2nd and 3rd and for Math on May 9th, 10th, and 11th. Students in 5th grade will complete the NJSLA Science Test from May 25th, 26th, and 27th.
- On May 5th, participating 4th and 5th grade KRS students will present the musical *Frozen*, under the direction of Music teacher **Ms. McEachern**.

- CAS/TJS/KRS Band, Chorus, and Student Poets, will perform at the Madison Arbor Day celebration the morning of Saturday, May 7th, at the Madison Train Station.
- On May 12th at 7 pm the KRS band, chorus, and orchestra ensembles will perform at MJS under the direction of **Ms. McEachern** (chorus), **Ms. Quinlan** (orchestra), and **Mr. Rossi** (band).
- The KRS STEAM Fair will be held on May 23rd from 5:30-6:30 pm. Students are currently busy creating their projects and will convene together to share their research and experiments with their peers and families.
- The KRS Family Reading Night will be held on May 19th at 6:30 pm, and KRS teachers and Madison VIPs will read a selection of books to the KRS families.

Torey J. Sabatini

- The second TJS book fair of the year occurred during the week of April 4th. TJS students enjoyed selecting and shopping for books thanks to the PTO!
- 4th grade students were hard at work in their biography reading and writing units of study. Their work culminated in a “Night at the Museum,” which was a wonderful parent evening event that occurred on April 5th and allowed students to share their speeches with families. Thank you to our 4th grade team of educators (**Ms. Kennedy**, **Mr. Stricchiola**, **Ms. Gambino**, and **Ms. Babich**) for helping coordinate this event.
- The Prismatic Magic Light Show was held on April 8th. TJS students enjoyed a fabulous light show thanks to the generosity of the PTO.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were conducted on April 11th and April 12th.
- In celebration of Poetry Month during April, TJS invited poet and author Janet Wong to present three assemblies for students on April 20th. The presentations were interactive and filled with developing a love and appreciation for poetry. Thank you to the PTO, MEF, and **Ms. Thomas** for helping to bring Janet to TJS.
- TJS 5th graders will attend an orientation at MJS to prepare for their transition to 6th grade on April 25th, from 9-11 am. Thank you to MJS for planning such an important event.
- Students in grades K-5 will complete the Star Assessments in reading and math by the end of April. Parents and guardians will receive the parent Star assessment reports in May.
- On May 5th, participating 4th and 5th grade TJS students will present the musical *Frozen*, under the direction of Music teacher **Ms. McEachern**.
- Students in grades 3-5 will complete the NJSLA tests for ELA on May 2nd and 3rd and for Math on May 9th, 10th, and 11th. Students in 5th grade will complete the NJSLA Science Test from May 25th, 26th, and 27th.
- CAS/TJS/KRS Band, Chorus, and Student Poets, will perform at the Madison Arbor Day celebration the morning of Saturday, May 7th, at the Madison Train Station.
- Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated during the week of May 2nd.
- On May 12th at 7 pm the TJS band, chorus, and orchestra ensembles will perform at MJS under the direction of **Ms. McEachern** (chorus), **Ms. Quinlan** (orchestra), and **Ms. Adkins** (band).
- The PTO-Sponsored Science Fair will be held on May 18th at 6:30 pm. Students are currently busy creating their projects and will convene together to share their research and experiments with their peers and families.
- On May 20th, students will engage in a fun day of activities and events to celebrate and recognize our school’s great accomplishment of being named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the US Department of Education.
- The first TJS Family Reading Night will be held on May 26th. We look forward to a fun reading night in jammies with TJS families!