



District Updates

Welcome Back to School!

- Students arrived back to school on August 30th and the district is incredibly proud of the hard work that has made this a smooth reopening:
 - The amazing **Facilities Department**, under the guidance of **Mr. Eschmann** and **Ms. Mancuso**, who prepared the buildings for the safe return of our staff and students.
 - The incredible **Technology Department**, under the leadership of **Mr. Lapierre**, who spent the summer updating district infrastructure, preparing computers for new students and staff, and troubleshooting classroom setups to ensure ease of implementation.
 - The **principals and assistant principals**, who spent countless hours planning each aspect of the reopening strategy on behalf of their staff and students.
 - The **central office staff**, who kept the district operating through their hard work and planning.
 - **Staff, Board members**, and **parents** who volunteered their time to participate in the District Restart Committee and the District Goal Workgroups.
 - Our fantastic partners at the **PTO's**, **MMA**, and **MEF**, who continually dedicate their time and funds to supporting district efforts.
- To help prepare for the new school year, the district relied heavily on the work of teacher leaders who worked throughout the summer to serve students, developed curriculum, and presented professional development sessions for their colleagues:
 - The countless district staff involved in the summer ESY Program, ESL Summer Program, STEAM Academy, and other academic support initiatives
 - **Ms. Bessin** (MHS/MJS) and **Ms. D'Amico** (TJS), who led adult learning sessions during new staff orientation on Google Classroom
 - The teachers who have developed the new MPS Literacy Framework for K-5 ELA
 - The many staff members who wrote new courses or revised existing curriculum documents
 - The wide range of staff, including Instructional Coaches **Ms. Emann** and **Ms. Smith**, who led training sessions during the Staff Inservice.

September 11, 2001 Remembered

- The district held a variety of remembrances and activities related to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Students in each of the schools grappled with the events of the day in an age-appropriate way, through readings, discussions of the global effects of the events, and videos and analyses surrounding the attacks.
- At Madison High School, Library Media Specialist **Ms. Bessin** led the creation of a 9/11 Memorial Poster Exhibition, in which a series of posters designed by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum were displayed in the school. Many teachers used the exhibition to help guide lessons surrounding the day and events, including World History teachers, who used the poster to teach the concept of worldview, one of the essential topics in the curriculum.
- A moment of silence was observed at the MHS Football game prior to the singing of the National Anthem. The moment followed a dedication that addressed the events of the day and the memory of those who were affected by them.

School Updates

Madison High School

- Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. This pool represents less than one percent of U.S. High School Seniors and includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. MHS is proud to announce that **Artha Abeyasinghe** and **Skylar Walters** were both named Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- Approximately 32,000 students from across the country earn academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs. These National Recognition Programs grant students from traditionally underrepresented subgroups with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and can help connect students with universities across the country. These students have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams. Congratulations to the following students!
 - **Aren Hill** (11th Grade) has been designated as a College Board National African American Recognition Program Scholar.
 - **Carson Pacheco** (12th Grade) has been designated as a College Board National Indigenous Recognition Program Scholar.
 - **Carson Pacheco** (12th Grade), **Dante Izzo** (11th Grade), **David Amieva** (12th Grade), **Elisabetta Araya** (12th Grade), **Guilherme Medeiros Costa Pereira** (12th Grade), **Joaquin Izzo** (11th Grade), **Marcella Rindfleish** (12th Grade), and **Nicole Cornehl Lima** (12th Grade) have been designated as College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars.
- The Interact Club was honored on September 13th by Mayor Conley and the Madison Borough Council with a Proclamation recognizing the ongoing Madison Ends Hunger Food Donation Pickup Service. Club members recruited over 80 Madison families to donate food on a bi-monthly schedule. Over the past year, the club has collected over 1700 bags of groceries and over \$3800 in donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry.
- MHS is continuing its dual-credit opportunity with Fairleigh Dickinson University through FDU's Middle College Program for students enrolled in the MHS Honors Entrepreneurship class. Students who wish to pursue the opportunity will receive three credits from FDU for completing the course with a "C" or better and covering the cost of the course at \$89/credit.
- MHS is also continuing its dual-credit opportunity with Kean University for our students enrolled in the MHS Holocaust & Genocide class. Students who wish to pursue the opportunity will receive three credits from Kean for successfully completing the course, enrolling as a non-matriculated student at Kean, and covering the cost of the course at \$100/credit.
- The MHS Back to School Night will be held virtually on September 22nd.
- MHS Guidance
 - Guidance has begun to process transcript requests for all college applicants.
 - From September 13th to November 17th MHS will host a total of 118 college representative visits, with 97 in-person and 21 virtual.
 - 12th Grade Information Night took place September 13th and critical information about the college application process was shared with families. Financial Aid Night will occur on October 6th for all 12th grade families.
 - 9th Grade Parent Night will occur on September 29th and families will be able to meet in small groups with guidance counselors to ask questions about their child's transition to high school.
 - The PSAT/NMSQT will be offered on October 13th to 10th and 11th grade students. The SAT will be offered on October 28th to 11th and 12th grade students.

Madison Junior School

- MJS ran its Summer Title I Program for students entering 7th and 8th grade from July 19th to August 12th. The program focused on reinforcing English, reading, math, and social studies skills, and allowed students to make connections with teachers and peers and hone their skills before the start of school.
- On August 17th, MJS Student Council members led new students and incoming 6th graders on student tours. Students got a sneak peek into the areas that make MJS unique and special. Thank you to **Ms. Siso** and **Mr. Sabatino**, the MJS Student Council Advisors, for organizing this great day.
- Several clubs are kicking off the year with their welcome meetings during the second and third weeks of September. Conflict Resolution, Madison Makers, and Games & Hobbies welcomed new members and began their plans for a great school year together.
- On October 6th, the MJS PTO will be holding its first meeting of the year via Zoom. All MJS families are invited to attend the meeting virtually and 6th grade families are especially encouraged to join to hear from Team Leaders **Mr. Finkelstein** and **Ms. Brennan** as they share information about the transition into middle school and answer questions from families.
- The MJS Back to School Night will be held virtually on September 23rd. Teachers will host the meetings from their classrooms in an effort to give families at home a true sense of their child's learning day. Pre-recorded messages from world language and departmental specials teams will also be shared.

Central Avenue School

- CAS hosted New Family Orientation on August 19th. New families were provided with an overview of the school and a tour of the building.
- CAS recognized Patriot Day by engaging in activities such read alouds; wearing red, white, and blue; interacting with Scholastic news lessons; and doing crafts in the early grades.
- Back to School Night will take place on September 30th. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the teacher and gain insight on the curricula and classroom routines.
- On August 25th, the CAS Meet and Greet took place. Students and families were able to meet their classroom teacher prior to the start of school.
- **Mr. Liss** met with each class during September to engage the students in a discussion about the 2021-2022 Code of Conduct. The students and Mr. Liss discussed the school's character education traits, internet/computer protocols, school safety, and various other procedures.

Kings Road School

- The KRS Meet and Greets took place outside on the school grounds on August 25th. During the event, students and families were able to meet their new teacher prior to the first day of school.
- As a way to welcome new KRS families, school tours were conducted by KRS Counselor **Mr. Levine** before the opening of the school year.
- KRS will host its Back to School Night on September 21st. Parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher and learn about the grade level programs, routines and curricula.
- The first outdoor assembly for students was held on September 10th, with Simon the Magician performing magic tricks and talked about the importance of reading to learn new information. Thank you to the KRS PTO for providing the "Fun Friday" experience for the KRS students.
- School Pictures are scheduled for September 14th and 15th
- **Dr. Koop** will join **Mr. Levine** during September class guidance lessons to engage them in creating the KRS 2021-2022 Code of Conduct. Providing the students with an opportunity to establish their own school rules empowers them as contributing KRS citizens.
- Thank you to the KRS teachers and staff for making the start of the 2021-2022 school year a successful and happy experience for the KRS students and their families!
- Age-appropriate activities were conducted in the classrooms on September 10th in recognition of Patriot Day.

Torey J. Sabatini

- On August 25th, new Torey J. families were invited to an outdoor meet and greet and popsicles were provided on behalf of the PTO. Families received school tours with our school counselor and other special area teachers.
- The TJS Meet and Greets took place outside on the school grounds on August 25th. During the event, students and families were able to meet their new teacher prior to the first day of school. This event helped ease first day jitters!
- TJS recognized Patriot Day on September 10th by engaging in activities such as read alouds, Scholastic news lessons, and crafts in the early grades.
- **Ms. Sing** and **Mrs. Bletcher** reviewed the Code of Conduct with each grade level as it is important for us to revisit and establish rules and procedures that help make Torey J. a safe, respectful, and inclusive school community.
- TJS students will experience its first outdoor assembly on September 22nd. Two performances will be scheduled with the organization RockRoots. Performers will take a historical, political, and geographical riff through American pop music with this unique live celebration of the history of rock and roll. From African rhythms, Delta blues, swing, R&B, and country through Elvis, Motown, the Beatles, Hendrix, disco, and world beat, four talented musicians of RockRoots will play with authority and joy while sharing the tremendous educational and musical power of this uniquely American cultural history.
- TJS School Picture Day is planned for Tuesday, September 28th. Smile!
- The TJS virtual Back to School Night will be held on September 29th. Parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher via Zoom and learn about the grade level programs, routines, and curricula.