



---

## **District Updates**

### **District Leaders Present at National Conference**

- Dr. Koop (Principal, KRS), Ms. Bosworth (Asst. Principal, MHS), and Ms. Snider (K-8 Instructional Coach, Special Areas) presented at the 5th Annual Women's Leadership Conference on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> sponsored by AASA, NJASA, and NJPSA/FEA.
- Dr. Koop's presentation was titled *Board of Education Members and School Leaders - Working Productively Together to Support Student Achievement*. Ms. Bosworth and Ms. Snider presented a session titled *Confronting Subtle Sexism in Our Schools*.
- Congratulations to these three leaders for representing Madison Public Schools so well!

### **Week of Respect**

- The national Week of Respect was observed from October 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. An overview of school activities is outlined below.
- At MHS, Peer Group Connections (PGC) members "Blued Out" C-Hallway and put up respect themed posters throughout the building. An announcement was presented on Monday to kick off the week. On Wednesday, students were encouraged to write positive messages on Post-It notes that were posted in the cafeteria. Friday, all staff and students were asked to wear blue.
- At MJS, Respect Week, School Safety Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week are being celebrated as a month long event. The MJS Conflict Resolution Team is working to promote the daily challenges faced in school through announcements and with posters. Some activities during the challenge this month include: Wear Blue to Stomp Out Bullying during Respect Week, Rainbow colored clothes during Peace Week, and Red to show support of a Drug Free Life during Red Ribbon Week. Additional items include leaving notes of compliments or thank you, daily announcements with quotes related to the themes, posters around the building with respect quotes, a large RESPECT themed display, daily acts of positivity to spread joy, music between classes depending on the theme of the week. During Red Ribbon Week students may sign a drug-free pledge and will also tie red ribbons around trees on the front lawn of school.
- At CAS, a wide range of events are occurring, including Bullying Prevention Day (wearing blue to stomp out bullying as part of October being World Bullying Prevention Month); Hey Day!! (Encouraging students and adults to say hello to those they don't already know); the CAS Anti-Bullying pledge; Post It!! Day (students are invited to write positive, affirming messages on a Post-It and put the Post-Its on a wall in the main hallway); and Kindness Challenge Weekend!! (students encouraged to commit random acts of kindness on Friday and throughout the weekend).
- At KRS, events included: Kindness and Respect Message Monday, Hey Day/Greeting Day, Respect Week Music Throughout the Day, Anti Bullying Pledge/No Place for Hate, and Kindness Trivia.
- At TJS, **Mrs. Bletcher** coordinated several activities that included a "Wear Blue to Stomp Out Bullying Day," the "Start with Hello!" school-wide initiative, a No-Place for Hate Pledge and Promise Day, as well as a "Put Bullying to Bed" Pajama themed day. Students also worked together during each of our lunch periods to create a school-wide Tree of Respect which is proudly displayed in our Jaguar Jungle.

## School Updates

### Madison High School

- Madison High School is proud to announce that it has received a prestigious [College Success Award](#) from GreatSchools.org, a leading nonprofit providing school information to parents and families. The annual recognition honors schools that excel at preparing students to enroll and succeed in college, as determined by available data in each state. MHS is among 1,838 high schools from 25 states, and one of 112 traditional public schools in New Jersey, that have demonstrated a successful track record of graduating students who enroll in two- or four-year college, are ready for college-level coursework, and persist on to their second year of college.
- On September 16<sup>th</sup>, MHS was notified of that 11 students have been named *Commended Students* in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. They placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Congratulations to the following students: **Elisabetta Araya, Rachel Bear, James Devine, Grayson Farrell, Jackson First, Mary Flynn, Connor Gilfillan, Nicholas Modi, Guilherme Pereira, Matthew Wagner, Meredith Weiner.**
- The MHS Key Club has been part of the Students Change Hunger Challenge for the past four years and will be participating once again this year. Last year, Key Club collected \$7,095 and 4,462 pounds of food, which totaled more than 25,000 nutritious meals, and was awarded *CFBNJ Division 5 Most Meals Donated, CFBNJ Fundraising Champion, and CFBNJ State Champion*. All students are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to Room A1. Bags should be labeled in order to receive service credit and the food will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry and the Community Food Bank in Hillside. For online giving for the fundraiser, please use the following link: <https://give.cfbnj.org/team/380633>.
- The MHS Back to School Night was held virtually on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Ms. Detrollo's** AP Biology students went to Loantaka Brook and Kitchell Pond on September 29<sup>th</sup> to conduct water testing. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, students visited Duke Farms to conduct an ecological scavenger hunt.
- On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Madison Dodge Marching Band took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Tournament of Bands competition in Metuchen. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, they took an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at the US Bands Yamaha Cup at MetLife Stadium. Madison hosted its annual Marching Band Competition, "Rose City Sounds," on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, Ms. Soulages's Spanish classes have been researching about a native Hispanic individual who has made contributions to the community. The selection of this individual is not limited to famous people, but can also include a family member or a Hispanic friend. Students presented these projects and pictures to their classmates.
- MHS Athletics
  - On September 25<sup>th</sup>, the MHS Football team participated in a national campaign called "GO GOLD" for Pediatric Cancer Awareness. MHS's mission was to "GO GOLD for JAKE". **Jake Mocko** is a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at MHS who is currently undergoing treatment for Grade IV Astrocytoma, a rare central nervous system cancer. The September 25<sup>th</sup> football game was dedicated to Jake and all funds raised during the game (totaling over \$4000) will be donated to his family to assist with his recovery.
- MHS Guidance
  - The Guidance team hosted Ninth Grade Parent Night on October 5<sup>th</sup>. This was an opportunity for parents to meet their child's guidance counselor virtually and learn more about the transition to high school.
  - The Guidance team hosted Virtual Financial Aid Night for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Financial advisor Ed Zamora provided information on: Changes to the financial aid process; changes to federal loans and loan forgiveness; the CARES

- Act; changes to state financial aid; the impact of early decision and early action on financial aid; and new deadlines for the college application process.
- All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who opt in will sit for the PSAT/NMSQT on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 9 and 12 will complete the ELA and Science sections of the NJDOE Start Strong Testing.

#### Madison Junior School

- The MJS PTO hosted its annual 6th Grade Social on October 8th. Students got to enjoy an ice cream truck, inflatable hippo, photo booth, DJ music, and crafts together. The gym and back field were also opened up for volleyball, basketball, kickball and a variety of field games. A fun night was had by all. Thank you to the PTO for hosting this MJS tradition!
- Morris County Vocational School District (MCVSD) will be hosting an assembly for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the end of October. Students will hear from a school representative about the MCVSD Academy programs that students can apply to during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students will have a chance at the end to ask questions.
- MJS students completed their first window of Star testing and will be taking the Start Strong tests in English, Math and Science (6<sup>th</sup> grade only) during the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The fall play has been cast and rehearsals have begun for the production of *Head Elf*. Students, including cast and crew, will work under the direction of **Mss. Jaclyn Layman** to prepare for performance dates the first weekend of December.
- The annual Fire Safety Assemblies will be hosted for all grades by the Madison Fire Department during Fire Prevention month in October. Captain Nunn and his team will work with all grades to keep students informed regarding fire safety and prevention.
- The first MJS PTO meeting was hosted October 6<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Hosted by the PTO Co-Presidents, parents learned how they can participate in the PTO and learned more about the special projects planned for the 2021-22 school year. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team leaders, **Ms. Brennan** and **Mr. Finkelstein**, also joined to share how the transition into 6<sup>th</sup> grade was going for new students and provided valuable information for our new families to MJS.
- MJS Student Council has started with preparation and campaigning for elections that will take place during the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>. Candidates will be hanging hallway posters and creating videos that will be shared in classrooms prior to voting. The Student Council is looking forward to getting back to some exciting events and activities for all the students including dances, socials, tournaments and food/clothing drives.

#### Central Avenue School

- The Blue Tiger Reading Challenge is gearing up! At the beginning of each month, every CAS student will be given a calendar to bring home. Each night on the calendar, they will write down how many minutes at home they read. Competing in this challenge is optional and this is not an extra homework assignment. The school has been split up into four teams, which will compete to see which team reads the most minutes each month. The winning team will receive a small prize each month. In addition to the teams competing, the school will be working together to see if all four teams can read a total of 1,000,000 minutes by the end of the school year. Progress to 1,000,000 minutes will be shown on a bulletin board inside of the Media Center.
- The CAS Back-to-School Night was held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Teachers conducted virtual sessions via Zoom that included in-depth reviews of academic programs, grade level expectations, and overviews of the school year. Prior to the event, the parents received a video from Principal **Mr. Liss**, a video message from Superintendent **Mr. Schwarz**, and videos from MMA, MEF, and PTO. Lastly, there were videos from special subject teachers.
- CAS is planning an outdoor Halloween parade which will take place on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Madison High School Band will lead the parade of CAS students and staff dressed in their spirited Halloween costumes.
- School Safety Week (School Violence Awareness Week) will occur the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- CAS picture days will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the Start Strong Testing in ELA and Math during the last week of September. This testing was required by the NJDOE in order to meet Federal accountability for the 2020-21 school year, when testing was canceled.
- CAS held bus drills on September 24<sup>th</sup> with all 500 students participating.
- **Mr. Liss** and several staff members attended a workshop given by Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D on October 6th. Dr. Elias is a Professor in the Psychology Department at Rutgers University and the Director of the Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab ([www.secdlab.org](http://www.secdlab.org)).
- CAS celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> through the following: daily announcements by students to recognize the accomplishments of famous Hispanics; delving into our [multicultural books](#) in the CAS Media Center; sharing favorite foods; sharing [digital books](#) with students!

#### Kings Road School

- A “Little Free Library” was installed on the KRS school grounds. An “unveiling” and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the Start Strong Testing in ELA and Math during the last week of September. This testing was required by the NJDOE in order to meet Federal accountability for the 2020-21 school year, when testing was canceled.
- In addition to the whole school Week of Respect activities, **Mr. Levine’s** guidance lesson for the week centers on “Start With Hello,” which is part of The Sandy Hook Promise. For more information, visit <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/start-with-hello/>
- **Ms. Thomas**, the KRS/TJS media specialist, will conduct library lessons focusing on friendship and kindness.
- The KRS Back-to-School Night (BTSN) was held on September 21<sup>st</sup> and the virtual event was well attended by parents. Teachers conducted virtual sessions, which included in-depth reviews of academic programs, grade level expectations, and overviews of the school year. Thank you to the parents for attending and to the teachers for their well planned and executed presentations. Prior to the event, the parents received a video from Principal **Dr. Koop**, a video message from Superintendent **Mr. Schwarz**, and a BTSN edition of Dr. Koop’s newsletter, which included important BTSN information, and videos from special subject teachers and the elementary interventionists.
- KRS is thrilled to be planning an outdoor Halloween parade that will take place on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The MHS Band will lead the parade of KRS students and staff dressed in their spirited Halloween costumes.
- During the September 27<sup>th</sup> faculty meeting, KRS educators collaborated in their Professional Learning Community (PLC) teams to analyze Star data and discuss MTSS interventions to support students’ academic needs.
- The KRS Data Team, the interventionists, and Dr. Koop met with grade level teams during the week of October 4<sup>th</sup> to review assessment data and review MTSS interventions within the classrooms.
- Pickleball is in the air at KRS! Thanks to school counselor **Mr. Levine**, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning “The fastest growing sport in America.” With funding from the KRS PTO and the National Pickleball Association, Mr. Levine purchased nets, paddles, and balls. Mr. Levine is holding Pickleball clinics after school for interested students. Younger students will soon be introduced to the great game of Pickleball as well.
- On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the first PTO meeting of the 2021-22 school year was held via Zoom. PTO Co-Presidents Ms. Bowning and Ms. Egan planned and facilitated an engaging meeting to include PTO school events, fundraisers, and a review of the many enriching experiences they have planned for the KRS students this year. Dr. Koop attended and expressed gratitude for the PTO, highlighted academic programs, and shared her excitement for the return of the Halloween parade.
- School Safety Week (School Violence Awareness Week) will occur the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Torey J. Sabatini

- On September 21<sup>st</sup>, US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona declared that Torey J. Sabatini Elementary was one of nine schools in NJ that was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. The school profile can be found at the [National Blue Ribbon Website](#).
- Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the Start Strong Testing in ELA and Math during the last week of September. This testing was required by the NJDOE in order to meet Federal accountability for the 2020-21 school year, when testing was canceled.
- Say cheese! Picture Day was on September 28<sup>th</sup>!
- Students and families contributed and donated to the PTO Coin Drive Fundraiser to help raise funds for the TJS Playground Initiative.
- The TJS virtual Back to School Night was held on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The agenda included video recorded presentations from Principal **Ms. Sing**, Superintendent **Mr. Schwarz**, special area teachers, and other important faculty and staff. In addition, all classroom teachers conducted two live Zoom sessions for parents and guardians. It was a wonderful evening for all in attendance! A separate ESL Program Parent Back to School Night was held on October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- All students participated in practice bus evacuation drills on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Principal **Ms. Sing** and several staff members attended an after school workshop given by Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D. on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Elias is a Professor in the Psychology Department at Rutgers University and the Director of the Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab ([www.secdlab.org](http://www.secdlab.org)).
- School Safety Week (School Violence Awareness Week) will occur during the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- As part of our “Mindfulness Matters” MEF Grant that TJS received, 10 staff members will be trained in mindfulness practices after school on October 21<sup>st</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>. The participants will then turn-key the training to all staff at our November faculty meetings and staff will be shown how to implement various tools and techniques within the classroom setting. We are excited about this wellness initiative!
- The first TJS Family Trivia Night is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Thank you to **Mrs. D’Amico** and **Mrs. Bletcher** for helping to coordinate this event!
- The Halloween Parade will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Festivities will occur throughout classrooms and we are looking forward to students and staff dressing up in costumes!