



District Updates

Teacher-Leadership Updates

- K-12 STEAM Coordinator (**Jason Erdreich**, MJS)
 - Jason visited the K-5 schools to help set up equipment and complete basic training on machines. He also hosted visitors from Lodi HS who were interested in seeing the spaces and learning more about the district programs. New course information is being developed and will be presented to the Board in January.
- K-12 Science Coordinator (**Carolyn Lieu**, MHS)
 - Carolyn continues her work on a number of different fronts and been assisting Kelly Bosworth to discuss new courses for next year, including Human Anatomy and Physiology.
- Elementary Instructional Coaches (**Shelly Emann** and **Kathleen Wallace**)
 - Shelly and Kathleen have been providing targeted supports for teachers in each building and visited Piscataway as part of a “coach swap” to learn about instructional coaching from a more established program.
- MPS Teaching and Learning Framework (TLF)
 - The TLF continues in full stride as the administration moves into round 2 of the observation cycle. Feedback from observers has focused on improving engagement the culture of learning, and assessment in classes at each level.
- NJ Teacher Leader Network (NJTLN)
 - The next NJTLN meeting will be held in February and the NJDOE has announced a Request for Information in order to gather information regarding districts’ perspectives on how to measure and evaluate teacher leadership. This process will likely result in the introduction of a new “Teacher Leader” endorsement, which will be available to any certificated staff member.

School Updates

Madison High School

- **Vanessa Morgenthaler**, MHS Student Assistance Counselor, has helped organize a program for our students and parents led by Michael DeLeon of Steered Straight. The program focuses on the dangers of vaping and marijuana use and is being funded by an anonymous donor. Mr. DeLeon will speak to MHS students on the morning of January 15th and Chatham Juniors/Seniors in the afternoon. In the evening, a joint program for parents will be held at Chatham HS. More information can be found at <https://www.steeredstraight.org/> (see *Vaping Me Crazy and Weed Between the Lines*) and for parents at: <https://www.steeredstraight.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Parent-Academy-web.pdf>
- Six clubs are currently being piloted for the 2018-19 school year. Based on their success, they will be recommended as official ECAs for the 19-20 school year. The clubs are:
 - Ping Pong Club
 - DECA
 - Yoga Club
 - Game Night
 - E-Sports
 - Anime Club
- The Alternate Physical Education Option (APEO) through Option 2 continues and 33 students have signed up to substitute their athletics participation for attendance in physical education classes during the winter window.

Madison Junior School

- MJS students showed off their entrepreneurial skills by developing products to sell at the TREP\$ Marketplace. Since September, **Kathy Siso** has worked with students to help create business plans in preparation for the event.
- To kick off fundraising for the MJS mural, the grade levels battled it out during a Penny Challenge during the lunch periods. Within a week, the students have raised over \$900 and 7th grade won a pajama party as the Penny Challenge champs.
- MJS Robotics participated in a state championship on December 9th. Madison was one of only 80 teams out of over 400 to compete and ended their season in the top 15%.
- Students performed the Snow White Variety Show at the end of November. The play was a success.
- MJS orchestra and chorus will have their first concerts of the year on December 13th and 17th.
- Students collected approximately 200 items including coats, scarves, gloves, and hats for charity through Student Council.

Central Avenue School

- The CAS chorus performed at Kirby and will perform at the New Jersey Festival Orchestra Winter Concert.
- The CAS winter concert, featuring band, orchestra, and chorus, will be held on December 11th!
- TransOptions led 4th grade students through a traffic town simulation.
- The Rotary Club visited CAS and gave each 3rd grade student a dictionary.
- CAS will have the Liberty Science Center and STEAM Assembly “Box of Light” visit on December 19th.
- CAS Kindergarten Sing will be on December 17th
- The first trimester report cards were available for viewing on December 14th.

Kings Road School

- On November 30th, Michael Lami spoke to students and teachers in two assemblies about integrity, respect, and perseverance. Mr. Lami is a graduate of West Point and attended Madison Public Schools through KRS.
- The KRS winter concerts were conducted on December 10th. One concert was presented to families and friends and the other concert was presented to students and staff.
- KRS families, students, and staff, will gather for two singalongs (K-2, 3-5) on December 18th.
- The first trimester report cards were available for viewing on December 14th.
- The KRS PTO is conducting a fundraiser to pay for new playground equipment and students voted for their favorites during the week of December 3rd. Guidance Counselor **Erica Tavaglione** brought pictures of the choices to every classroom so that the students could vote.

Torey J. Sabatini

- 3rd grade students participated in a Native American dance residency via funding from the MEF. Students will perform for parents the week of December 17th. The performance is an extension of the interdisciplinary unit of study on the Lenape.
- The 4th/5th Grade Band, Chorus, and Orchestra concert was held on December 12th.
- Open house/classroom visitations, 12/6
- The holiday singalong will be held on December 21st.
- The first trimester report cards were available for viewing on December 14th.
- Cultural Arts assembly, “The Human Jungle Gym,” grades K-5
- Kindergarten enrichment with the Great Swamp

Academic Department Updates

Business

- Business was really booming at MHS's Emerging Leaders Luncheon this past November! Organized by Madison's Chief Executive Council, students had the incredible opportunity to hear the story of Frutta Bowls, a business started by New Jersey native Brooke Gagliano. Check out the MHS Times for a full article on the event written by **Emma Danzo**.

Guidance

- The Guidance Department has/had events surrounding College Financing
 - On December 5th, the MHS Guidance Department sponsored its annual Financial Aid Night. Approximately 100 parents were in attendance.
 - On December 13th the MHS Guidance Counselors received training on the rules and regulations on Financial Aid for undocumented students.
 - On January 28th the MHS Guidance Department will host another Financial Aid Night, which will be presented entirely in Spanish.
- The Guidance Counselors are in the process of meeting with their 10th grade students to provide them with Naviance Student (Formerly Family Connection) training.
- PSAT Scores and test booklets will be returned prior to the holiday break.
- Two MHS counselors, **Phyllis Levy** and **Sarah Mazak**, hit the road in early December to visit two Long Island colleges, Hofstra University and Adelphi University.

Humanities

- **Steve Bernich**, **Mark DeBiase**, **Bob Grundfest**, and **Linda Wagner** attended the 26th annual New Jersey Council on History Education Conference at Princeton University on November 30th. Speakers included Richard White (Stanford) who discussed his new book on the Gilded Age, Libby O'Connell (WWI Centennial Commission) who presented on US food and agriculture policy during WWI and David Greenberg (Rutgers) whose lecture was entitled "The Politics of Authenticity in the Age of Spin".

Mathematics

- MJS and MHS students participated in the AMTNJ contest on December 12th. We are looking forward to the AMC 10/12 in February!
- Students at MJS recently participated in the AMC 8 Math Contest. We had a record high number of students participate this year!
- Math coach **Kathleen Wallace** organized a grade group meeting focused on different strategies (based on place value) for teaching division.

Science

- Last month, the MHS Astronomy class experienced the wonder of the night sky in the middle of the school day without leaving school! **Carolyn Lieu** and **Kevin Braine** brought the Star Lab, an inflatable planetarium, to the wrestling room. Their classes learned about the mythology of ancient Egyptian and Greek constellations and how to find them in the night sky. Astronomy is one of the four science electives offered by the Science Department and is a great opportunity for students to learn about space and the technology used to explore it.

Visual and Performing Arts

- Five winter concerts were held in December throughout the district, plus singalongs throughout the week!

World Language

- The testing for the Seal of Biliteracy is scheduled for January 24th for 70 eligible MHS students!