



District Updates

Teacher-Leadership Updates

- **K-12 STEAM Coordinator (Jason Erdreich, MJS)**
 - Jason continued his articulation with K-12 staff regarding programming for the current year, new courses for next year, and the summer STEAM Academy. He also hosted visitors from Harding who were interested in seeing the spaces and learning more about the district programs. New course information is being presented to the Board for approval in January.
- **K-12 Science Coordinator (Carolyn Lieu, MHS)**
 - Carolyn continues her work on the learning gardens in the district's K-5 schools and has been assisting the MHS administration on issues related to new courses and class coverage.
- **Elementary Instructional Coaches (Shelly Emann and Kathleen Wallace)**
 - Shelly and Kathleen have been working with individual teachers in each building and have been developing recommendations for next year. On January 25th they hosted two instructional coaches from Piscataway as part of a "coach swap" to learn about coaching from more experienced staff.
- **MPS Teaching and Learning Framework (TLF)**
 - Staff and administration continue to make progress in using the TLF as round 2 of the observation cycle continues. The recent focus of the TLF has been to improve the specificity of feedback provided to teachers in order to make improvements in instruction and the classroom environment.
- **NJ Teacher Leader Network (NJTLN)**
 - The next NJTLN meeting will be held in February and the NJDOE will report on the new assessment being developed for teachers who are interested in pursuing the endorsement. The new "Teacher Leader" endorsement may be offered through local universities and other providers beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

School Updates

Madison High School

- A total of 34 students are currently taking advantage of the Winter Alternative Physical Education Option (APEO). The APEO allows student-athletes who are in a season of sports or who have a significant athletics commitment outside of school to attend a study hall in lieu of attending physical education class.
- On January 7th, 14 students traveled to Ramapo College to compete in DECA's Northwest District competition. This was the first appearance in competition for the MHS team, as the group was just formed this year. In spite of the lack of experience in the events, MHS had 5 qualifiers to the state competition in Atlantic City in March. Congratulations to DECA advisor Christine Rankel and to the qualifying students:
 - **Caroline Harting**
 - **Melanie Finn**
 - **Logan Sabol**
 - **Jordyn Sterkel**
 - **Augustina Munter**
- On January 11th, the MHS Student Council held its annual Faculty Night Live featuring staff members from the high school.
- The latest issue of the MHS Times has been published and can be found at: <https://goo.gl/69j5FC>.
- The January edition of the Student Council Shoutout can be found at: <https://goo.gl/PLe1z2>.
- The MHS Winter Band Concert was held on January 23rd.

Madison Junior School

- Seventh grade students will be piloting an application called Studyo, which allows students to keep track of their homework assignments online rather through the student handbook. Studyo came to the district through a generous grant by the Madison Education Foundation.
- On January 16th, students in the band and jazz ensemble performed their winter concert.
- On January 23rd, teachers from the MJS and Harding Art and Music departments will be working together to articulate programming and instructional approaches.
- Students in 6th grade are currently researching the civil rights movement in their social studies class and are reading *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* in their ELA classes in coordination with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day remembrances.

Central Avenue School

- CAS hosted an Amazing Grace assembly on January 17th in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The event featured stories of people who interacted with Dr. King at historic moments during the Civil Rights Era. In addition to the assembly, students and teachers throughout the school participated in activities to recognize the contributions and positive impact and legacy of Dr. King.
- *The Jungle Book* musical involving 5th grade students took place on January 18th.
- The PTO and grade level teachers completed presentations to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students for the STEM Fair, which will be held in March. Students have begun to research what they will present and will form collaborative teams that will work together throughout the project period. Students selected topics in consultation their teachers, their peers, the CAS STEM teacher **Joanne Walch**, and Media Specialist **Pam Klurfield**.
- The CAS Family Bingo night will be January 25th!

Students in our Rockin' Readers Club completed their Reader's Theater! A link to the event can be found here: <https://goo.gl/ux7sDZ>

Kings Road School

- The KRS makerspace is up and running! STEM teacher **Jason Knevals** is working closely with STEAM Coordinator **Jason Erdreich** to create makerspace stations focused on making, learning, exploring, and sharing. Students are beginning to utilize the makerspace and are contributing ideas about how to improve the space.
- The planning for the *One School One Book* program has begun. The KRS team is in the process of selecting a book that will be read by all of the students and adults in the KRS community. Activities related to the book will be conducted during select school days.
- In early December, KRS students voted to select their favorite piece of new playground equipment. The PTO is busy fundraising for the equipment and has great hopes to raise the funding necessary. Thanks to the PTO for their commitment to improve the outdoor play area better for the students!
- Guidance Counselor **Erica Tavaglione** is working on her implementation of a character education and anti-bullying program called *Second Step*. The program was funded by a generous grant from the Madison Education Foundation and materials will be distributed in the coming weeks.
- In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., KRS hosted schoolwide and classroom-based activities designed to recognize the contributions and positive impact of Dr. King.

Torey J. Sabatini

- To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., TJS students will participate in a "TJS Gives Back" day of service. Students will produce sustainable lunches packed in decorated lunch bags for the BRIDGES outreach, which will distribute them to people in need. The goal is for each participating TJS student to prepare at least one bagged lunch, which would provide about 350 lunches for the participants.
- TJS is hosting its third annual "Souper Bowl," which benefits the Interfaith Food Pantry

Academic Department Updates

Athletics

- **Sophia Haralampoudis** will be the MHS representative for the National Girls and Women in Sports Day. New Jersey will again join the nation in celebrating the many achievements of girls and women in sports, and particularly in our state. The statewide celebration will be held at Seton Hall University on February 3rd and will include an awards luncheon in which outstanding female athletes in high school and college will receive recognition from the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport.
- **Dave Hansen**, the MHS Varsity Ice Hockey Coach recently earned his 200th career victory. Congratulations to Coach Hansen!

Guidance

- On January 28th, the MHS Guidance Department hosted a Spanish-language Financial Aid night to families from MHS and from neighboring districts.
- The 11th Grade Information Night will be held on January 31st. Students and parents are invited to come to learn more about scheduling and post-secondary and college planning.
- The 10th Grade Information Night will be held on February 27th. Along with other information presented, the event will feature Gina DiDomenico, from the Morris County Vocational School District, who will speak about the various shared-time programs offered by MCVSD.
- The Guidance Department will be sponsoring a two-part workshop entitled “Conversations with Counselors: College Admissions for First Timers,” which is designed to introduce parents to the steps, issues, and policies regarding college admissions.
 - The first, scheduled for February 14th, will focus on understanding the college planning and research process. Topics will include the college planning timeline, resources for generating a college list, and the basics of financial aid and standardized tests.
 - The second, scheduled for March 13th, will focus on understanding the college application process. Topics will include a grade-by-grade “to-do” timeline, elements of the application, the process of developing an application, and information about admission decisions.

Humanities

- Humanities teachers in Grades 6-12 delivered a variety of MLK Day during the week leading up to the national holiday on 1/21/19.

Mathematics

- The Mathematics department finalized its program evaluation process at MHS and developed a number of new courses and class changes that will be recommended for the 2019-20 school year.

Visual and Performing Arts

- MJS Winter Band Concert on 1/16, MHS Winter Band Concert on 1/23

World Language

- Over 70 students in 11th grade participated tested as part of the Seal of Biliteracy program on January 24th. This is the first year MHS students have participated in the award program, which is given by a school, school district, or state in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The vision of the program is to help students recognize the value of their academic success and see the tangible benefits of being bilingual.
- Students in the Honors Italian classes had the special opportunity to attend a dress rehearsal of *Don Giovanni* at the Metropolitan Opera in NYC on January 28th.