



District Updates

DECA Success

- In the first time competing at the state level, Madison High School's **Augustina Munter** (11th grade) placed 4th overall at the NJ State DECA competition. Her amazing results qualify her to compete at DECA Nationals 2019, which is being held in Orlando, Florida at the end of April. Congrats to Augustina and **Ms. Rankel** (MHS), the DECA Advisor!

Madison STEAM Academy Launches

- Registration for the newly revamped Madison STEAM Academy was opened to the public on March 12th. The STEAM Academy runs from July 8th to August 9th and comprises a wide array of programming divided into three age groups. The Academy, which will be in its second year, has been moved to MHS in order to expand offerings and provide students with more variation in their activities. More information about the summer camp, including course offerings and registration information, can be found on the district web site at: <https://www.madisonpublicschools.org/domain/703>.

Madison Green Forum

- The second annual Madison Green Vision Forum was held at Drew University on March 14th, with students from each district school presenting ideas on improving environmental awareness and reducing waste. Student projects included bottle cap recycling (CAS), reducing plastic shopping bags (KRS), eliminating plastic straws (TJS), promoting the use of reusable water bottles (MJS), and Project Aware's actions and plans for the future (MHS). A host of MPS administration and staff attended the events, including **Mrs. Koop**, **Mr. Liss**, **Ms. Mantone** (CAS), **Ms. Crescas** (TJS), and **Ms. Lieu** (MHS). Mayor Conley, Borough Council members, and other town officials also attended the event and discussed initiatives that could be implemented in the near future. The event culminated with Mayor Conley presenting the Madison Environmental Commission with an award from ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) in recognition for excellence in local programming and outreach.

Teacher-Leadership Updates

- K-12 STEAM Coordinator (**Mr. Erdreich**, MJS)
 - Mr. Erdreich has been leading efforts to increase interest in Technology, Engineering, and Design (TED) courses at MHS. He also helped finalize information for the summer STEAM Academy and has assisted in preparing TED budgets for grades K-12.
- K-12 Science Coordinator (**Ms. Lieu**, MHS)
 - Ms. Lieu has taken a lead role along with **Ms. Bosworth** on providing support for final plans surrounding the elementary gardens as planting season approaches.
- Elementary Instructional Coaches (**Ms. Emann** and **Ms. Wallace**)
 - The two instructional coaches continue their work with staff and have been instrumental in planning for next year. **Ms. Emann** recently facilitated a discussion about K-5 Literacy materials for 2019-20 and completed a proposal for a partnership with Drew University related to writing.
- MPS Teaching and Learning Framework (TLF)
 - The district has moved into round 3 of staff evaluation and will be surveying teachers and administrators on the strengths of the TLF and areas that need additional support for 2019-20.
- NJ Teacher Leader Network (NJTLN)
 - **Mr. Ross** and **Ms. Sanches** (MHS) attended the NJTLN spring convening to review the proposed regulations for the new "Teacher Leader" endorsement through NJDOE. The meeting featured representatives from 8 districts, who discussed the value of teacher leadership in empowering staff, allowing for distributive leadership, and promoting a positive culture.

School Updates

Madison High School

- **Nyah Sinha** (11th grade) was awarded 1st place in New Jersey out of 1500 entries in the InvestWrite national essay competition. InvestWrite is a national essay competition that bridges classroom learning in mathematics, social studies, and language arts with the practical research and knowledge required for long-term personal financial planning, enhancing students' ability across important academic and life skills. The competition serves as a culminating activity for participants in the SIFMA Foundation's Stock Market Game program.
- The following students earned honors for their performances during the Harvard Model Congress:
 - **Heather McCulloch** (12th grade), Best Senator Award for outstanding performance in Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs
 - **Julia Sales** (12th grade), Honorable mention for outstanding performance in Supreme Court
 - **Sean Bennett** (12th grade), Honorable mention for outstanding performance in Supreme Court
- MHS Guidance
 - School Counselor **Ms. O'Brien** recently visited the campuses and admissions offices of Barnard College and Columbia University.
 - **Mr. Levine** and Assistant Superintendent **Mr. Ross** attended a panel presentation with the Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont Repollet on *Defining the Diploma: The 21st Century High School Diploma*.
 - Meetings with all 8th grade students at MJS and HTS to review course offerings for next year will be held in the coming weeks. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.
- *Scholarship Snapshot, Volume 2*, which provides 12th grade students with a list of available scholarships, is now available in the Guidance office. These scholarships are also available on the Naviance portal.
- *Conversations with Counselors: The College Application Process* will be held on March 13th at 5:00 pm in the MHS Media Center.

Madison Junior School

- **Sarah Kate Preston** and **Scott Sullivan** were recognized as district winners in the Elks Lodge essay writing contest. They will both proceed to the state competition.
- Congratulations to the staff and crew of *The Secret Garden*. The students performed two flawless shows. Special thanks is given to **Mrs. Chiarino** and **Mrs. Brady** for working with the students throughout the year and to **Mr. Erdreich** for assisting with the set design. Thank you as well to Mrs. Marinovich, Mrs. Conroy, and our amazing parent volunteers for assisting with the show!

Central Avenue School

- In honor of Read Across America, CAS completed a Reading Train, a Float Contest, and have infused fun reading themes into classroom activities. Students designed floats based on a Dr. Seuss book and the floats were displayed in the library. The CAS Book Fair will take place on March 25th and 26th.
- The CAS STEAM Fair will be held on March 28th.
- Several CAS staff members underwent CPR training to meet the Janet's Law guidelines.
- Students had an assembly from Meteorologist John Marshall on March 15th.
- On March 20th, 3rd grade students will have an assembly on the Lenape in conjunction with their Social Studies unit.
- CAS staff took part in Data Meetings for the 3rd time on March 22nd. This meeting focused on the effectiveness of interventions and on informing instructional practices in preparation for the third trimester. Many non-tenured teachers were given the opportunity to visit colleagues' classrooms to gain ideas in instructional best practices.
- Glow Fit Night, an evening of physical activity, healthy living, and family fun, was held at CAS on March 15th.

- CAS is looking for Legos to improve a newly-installed Lego wall in the gym. The wall will provide students with a break during PE class, will help injured students improve their fine motor skills, and will also act as a reward or break for students when needed.

Kings Road School

- On February 28th, select students in 4th grade participated in NAEP testing. The NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) is a congressionally mandated assessment administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, which is a center in the U.S. Department of Education.
- On March 14th, KRS Principal **Ms. Koop** will present at the 2019 AASA/NJASA/NJPSA Women's Leadership Conference. Her presentation is entitled *Empowering Our Future Women Leaders*.
- The Math Edition of the KRS newsletter can be found here: <https://www.smores.com/57ay3>
- The KRS data team is in the midst of visiting grade level teams to analyze student assessment data in order to update and plan interventions to support students.
- Students and their families are reading *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies as part of the *One School, One Book* program. Corresponding activities have been planned by reading specialist **Mrs. Sims**, who works with students twice a week during lunch to ask questions about the book and award prizes.
- Several KRS staff members completed a CPR course after school on March 4th to meet the guidelines of Janet's Law.
- On March 11th, KRS hosted an author's visit with Matthew de la Pena.
- On March 20th, KRS will hold its first International Day, in which KRS volunteer families will conduct presentations about their cultures. The day is being planned by ESL teacher **Mrs. Stockdale** and Spanish teacher **Ms. Spooner**.
- On March 21st, an ensemble of 4th and 5th grade students will perform *The Little Mermaid* with both a day performance for students and an evening performance for families and friends. The musical is directed by **Ms. Ward** with assistance by **Ms. Fine**.

Torey J. Sabatini

- The annual TJS musical, *The Little Mermaid*, was presented on March 8th.
- On March 11th, TJS hosted an author's visit with Matthew de la Pena. Matt is the 2016 winner of the prestigious Newbery Award for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children and is a #1 New York Times best-selling author. The author's information can be found at <http://mattdelapena.com>.
- On March 11th, the PTO hosted *A Night Under the Stars*, during which members of the Pearl Observatory visited TJS to teach about space. Several telescopes were set up outside on the TJS field and a pop-up planetarium was created in the Jaguar Jungle.
- Curriculum Night was held on March 13th, with parents able to visit classrooms and discuss instructional programs.

Academic Department Updates

Humanities

- Lisa Anderson, Associate Professor of the Liberal Arts and History at The Juilliard School, will present at the second Gilder Lehrman “Teaching Literacy Through History” seminar on March 21st. The seminar topic is “Alternative Narratives in World War I: African Americans, Immigrants, and Women,” which coincides with centennial explorations of the Great War. Sincere thanks goes to the Kirby Foundation and Gilder Lehrman for making arrangements to fully fund this professional experience for the staff.
- The Humanities Department is pleased to announce continued support from Rotary International for the annual “Laws of Life” essay contest, which will launch the week of March 25th. Students in 11th grade will craft essays based on a guiding maxim, which often serves as a jumpstart for the college application process. Generous cash prizes are supported by our friends from Rotary International.

Technology, Engineering, and Design

- The Television & Video Teacher Convocation will be held on March 28th. To date, over 30 teachers from schools around northern New Jersey have responded that they will be in attendance.
- The Madison Public Library will hold MakerDay on March 23rd. Representatives from the district promoted programs at the event last year and it was a huge success.
- MJS will be hosting a Family Maker Night on March 28th.

Visual and Performing Arts

- *Bright Star* was performed at MHS from March 14th through 16th. The production involved over 100 students on stage and behind the scenes. The musical was directed by Mr. Blake Spence and MHS Chorus Teacher **Mr. Malloy**.
- The All-City Band and Orchestra Concert, performed by the district’s top 5th and 6th grade instrumentalists, will be performed at MJS on April 3rd at 7:30 pm.
- Tickets for the annual *Dessert and Jazz* celebration are now on sale. The event, which will be held on March 30th at 6:30 pm, features cabaret performances by many talented MHS students and showcases by the MHS jazz bands, the MHS jazz chorus, and the MJS jazz band. *Dessert and Jazz* is a fundraiser for Madison Music & Arts.

World Language

- On February 28th, the World Language Department held its *International Gala* in the MHS cafeteria. Over 400 students participated and food from a wide variety of cultures was represented along with 13 music acts perform numbers in a foreign language. Prior to the gala, approximately 50 students were inducted into the World Language National Honor Society during a ceremony in the MHS media center.