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## District Updates

### Madison STEAM Academy

- The Madison STEAM Academy for the summer of 2020 will be launching later this month. The informational website is now live ([www.madisonpublicschools.org/steamacademy](http://www.madisonpublicschools.org/steamacademy)) and enrollment will be opened within the next few weeks. The STEAM Academy will be held at Madison High School from July 6<sup>th</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup> and will be open to students entering grades 3-12 during the 2020-2021 school year.

## School Updates

### Madison High School

- **Allison Nevias** (12<sup>th</sup> grade) has advanced to the Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The selection of some 7500 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 finalists is now in progress and will be completed in March.
- Stephen Hill ([speaksobriety.com](http://speaksobriety.com)) visited MHS on 1/29 and gave a captivating and direct presentation to all students in regard to the broad and long-lasting effects of drug abuse and addiction. He followed up with students on 2/5 during physical education classes.
- The **Student Council** sponsored “Valentines for Veterans” and “Valentines for Area Senior Citizens”, in which students distributed Valentine’s Day cards, greetings, and thanks.
- The **Key Club** participated in the 2019 Students Change Hunger ([studentschangehunger.org](http://studentschangehunger.org)) campaign. Through the campaign, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey received total donations of 35,748 lbs of food and \$6,266, which provided more than 35,012 meals to those in need. The MHS community provided a total of 2,493 lbs and \$1,916 during the campaign, which resulted in more than 3,674 meals to our neighbors in need and earned MHS the following awards:
  - Division 4 - Most Pounds Donated
  - All Divisions - 2nd Most Pounds Donated
  - All Divisions - Most Funds Donated
- Vocabulary.com announced the January 2020 results of the Vocabulary Bowl, a competition to see which schools can master the most words. Madison High School was named a New Jersey State Top 10 School, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> overall mastering a total of 15,965 words.
- Honors and AP Art students took a field trip to see the exhibit “Artistic License” at The Guggenheim Museum in NYC. Students got to explore the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright building while learning about the 6 contemporary artists who were featured. The Guggenheim has never had an artist curated exhibition, so this was an exciting show for students to experience. Students worked with a museum educator to deeply explore several of the works on display through discussion and activities.
- MHS students are taking part in The Memory Project, which invites high school art students to cultivate global kindness by creating portraits as special gifts for children around the world. These portraits help the children feel valued and important, show them that many people care about their well-being, and provide them with a special childhood memory that they can hold on to in the future. Students in Honors and AP Art Studio created pencil drawings and color paintings of a child living in poverty in Nigeria, and these works of art have been sent back to The Memory Project to be delivered in March. This special opportunity allowed art students to learn about a different part of the world and create something special for another young person. This project was made possible by a generous grant from the MMA.
- For their annual musical production, MHS will be bringing back the Broadway classic *Hello, Dolly!* to the stage. The school’s award-winning program follows last year’s “Rising Star Award” success with a show for the whole family! “Put On Your Sunday Clothes” and come out to reminisce some of your

favorite songs from way back when! Seating is assigned and tickets are limited, so buy yours online now. Shows will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, and March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm.

- **Mr. Coviello** and **Ms. Cleary's** Broadcast Journalism Class has entered the world of podcasts! Students' first wave of podcasts are now available on Spotify or through your Apple Podcast App by searching "Dodger Media."
- On 1/31, students of **Ms. DeTrolio's** AP Biology class traveled to the Liberty Science Center to observe an open heart surgery. Students had the chance to not only watch a live surgery but they also interacted with members of the surgical team. While the surgery took place at Morristown Medical Center, it was broadcast and viewed by students in a special room at the LSC called the "Cardiac Classroom." This room is equipped with a large floor to ceiling screen, stadium seating, and trained moderators who help to further explain to students what is taking place.
- On 2/5, **Poetry Out Loud** hosted its Regional competition at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, and 8 student champions from across Morris, Sussex, Essex, and Warren counties met to compete for the opportunity to advance to the State Competition. **Guilherme Pereira** (10<sup>th</sup> grade) was our champion from MHS and won our schoolwide competition in January. Each of the students in the Regional competition delivered powerful performances, and Gui masterfully recited "To Have Without Holding" by Marge Piercy, "To The Poor" by Anna Laetitia Barbauld, and "Zacuanpapalotls" by Brenda Cardenas.
- MHS officially launched a **DECA** chapter last year to help prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The New Jersey DECA North West Regional Competition 2020 took place on 1/8 at Ramapo College and over 30 MHS students participated in competitive events such as marketing, finance, and business administration. The students prepared for both an online business content test and in-person role plays. Students dressed sharply in business attire while gaining confidence and valuable experience. Five students earned High Score Awards at the competition:
  - **Tina Munter** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), 1st Place Role Play for Business Services Marketing Series
  - **Brendan Durkin** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), 1st Place Role Play for Principles of Business Management
  - **Alex Johnson** (11<sup>th</sup> grade), 2nd Place Individual Exam for Buying and Merchandising Management
  - **Lila Murcott** (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and **Carla Perett** (11<sup>th</sup> grade), 3rd Place Role Play for Buying and Merchandising Management
- Seven students also qualified to compete at the New Jersey DECA State Career Development Conference, which will take place in Atlantic City in March. Students qualify for the state competition based on a combination of their individual exam scores and their role play scores.
  - **Tina Munter** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Business Services Marketing Series
  - **Brendan Durkin** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Principles of Business Management & Administration
  - **Nick Walsh** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Principles of Business Management & Administration
  - **Anna Preston** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Principles of Marketing
  - **Henry Ticknor** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Principles of Marketing
  - **Danielle Cenicola** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Quick Serve Restaurant Management Series
  - **Jordyn Sterkel** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Quick Serve Restaurant Management Series
- MHS Guidance
  - On 1/21, Gloria Derteano from The College of Saint Elizabeth's presented in Spanish on the topic of Financial Aid. Ms. Derteano discussed how financial aid can help, what documents are needed, and how to work through the application process.
  - On 1/25, Guidance hosted a practice SAT/ACT offered by the Princeton Review to interested 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.
  - On 1/30, counselors hosted the annual 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night. Some key items discussed during the successful event were the scheduling process, testing options, and letters of recommendation.
  - Guidance is happy to announce that college acceptance letters have been rolling in for the Class of 2020. The list of schools includes: Boston College, Catholic, College of Charleston, Cornell, Duke, Elon, Franklin & Marshall, Hobart & William Smith, Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Villanova, William & Mary, and many others.

- MHS Athletics
  - New Jersey joined the nation in celebrating the many achievements of girls and women in sport, particularly throughout our state. **Megan Tierney** (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and Coach Jessica Rosella attended the statewide celebration on 2/9 at Seton Hall University.
  - **Paul Saurer** (12<sup>th</sup> grade), signed his National Letter of Intent on 2/5 to play football at Marist College.

#### Madison Junior School

- Dr. Caruso led an articulation between MJS and Harding Twp. English teachers. In the meeting, staff reviewed resources utilized in the classroom and students' experiences regarding instruction.
- Mural artist Caren Frost-Olmsted guided the completion of the MJS Mural Project. The mural represents the values and experiences that are most important to our school and our community. Special thank you to the Madison Education Foundation, MJS PTO, and Madison Music and Arts for supporting the mural. Additional thanks to all the parents who came in to assist with the mural and to Jamie Conroy for assisting us on a daily basis throughout the project.
- Meteorologist John Marshall visited MJS to provide an assembly to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students about weather. The assembly reinforced the sixth grade science curriculum. Special thanks to **Mrs. DeRosa** and **Ms. Donnelly** for coordinating the assembly and to the MEF for supporting the assembly.
- Dr. Caruso coordinated science department staff to visit Pearl R. Miller Middle School in Kinnelon to observe Next Generation Science Standards instruction. This is part of an ongoing effort to enhance NGSS teaching in our science classrooms.
- Elisabeth Bostwick returned to MJS to lead staff in training on Problem-Based Learning, Choice Boards, Classroom Culture, and Learning and Engagement Strategies. Her visit helped continue work being done on enhancing instruction related to student-centered learning. Special thanks to the MEF for supporting Ms. Bostwick's visits.

#### Central Avenue School

- The Wacky Science Assembly was held on 2/14 and students participated in wacky hands-on lessons while discovering how simple household items can be used in quirky & crazy science experiments.
- The International Families meeting was held on 2/2 at the Madison Community House. This group provides families from abroad support on topics such as academics, recreation, and local support systems.
- Family Bingo Night was held on 1/31 in coordination with the PTO.
- The ESL After School Program began in January with staff members **Mrs. Arosemena** and **Miss Buonocore** leading MHS students and others in supporting over 35 ELL's on topics including phonics, writing, reading, Foundations, and other foundational skills.
- The before school Social Skills Program began on 1/31 to assist students in grades K-2 on social skills to help develop friendships and enable them to find success in and out of the school.
- The before school Reading and Math Support program began in January for students in grades 1-4 to receive support on Foundations, sight words, reading strategies, math facts, math problem solving, and skills to tackle homework.

#### Kings Road School

- ESL teacher **Miss Bihuniak** facilitated an International Leadership Committee meeting with parents and staff focused on planning the KRS International Day, which will occur on March 24th.
- Students participated in a Day of Service project in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Students assembled "toilet kits" consisting of donations of soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, and lotion, and over 350 kits were assembled and delivered to Bridges in Summit for distribution to families in need. Prior to assembling the kits, the students participated in a discussion on the meaning of service in light of Dr. King's quote, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Students reflected on Dr. King's legacy and discussed the importance of giving back to those less fortunate. KRS students have also participated in a canned food drive, a winter coat drive, and a diaper drive this year to support those in need.

- Teachers are recognizing Black History Month by participating in classroom activities related to African Americans and their contributions. Resources were shared with staff to engage the students in discussions.
- STEAM teacher **Mr. Knevals** is planning the KRS 2020 STEAM Fair, which will take place on 3/25 and which will feature MHS students as judges for the projects.
- KRS Reading Specialist **Mrs. Sims** is planning the next One School, One Book program. With support from the KRS PTO, every KRS family will receive a book to read at home. In coordination, Mrs. Sims will conduct exciting book-related activities at school.
- The “Comfy Cougar” Reading Challenge is in full swing! In October, KRS students were split into 3 reading teams who will compete for a monthly prize based on who can read for as many minutes as possible at home. They are also working together to see if the teams can read for a combined 1,000,000 minutes by June. So far, KRS students have read for 336,659 minutes at home.
- KRS professionals recognized National Wear Red Day, which benefits the American Heart Association. **Nurse Moran** coordinated the event, in which staff wore red and provided a donation to the AHA to help support people to live longer, healthier lives free of cardiovascular diseases.
- KRS teachers convened to participate in professional development through Renaissance entitled Goal Setting and Progress Monitoring. STAR is a diagnostic tool teachers utilize to monitor students’ progress.

#### Torey J. Sabatini

- In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy, students in grades K-5 learned about the Bridges Program. The PTO and parent community supported this initiative and students raised over \$290 and donated hundreds of boxes of food and water containers. Our 5th Grade Peer Leaders were actively involved and spent an afternoon counting and sorting donated items.
- TJS students took on the fight against hunger in the first annual Souper Bowl. This schoolwide food drive benefitted the Interfaith Food Pantry. Students collected and donated a total of 5,508 lbs. of food!
- On 1/29 all K-5 students attended a PTO-sponsored cultural arts assembly program featuring Li Liu Acrobatics. In this mesmerizing one-woman acrobatic performance, Li Liu performed hand balancing, plate spinning, artistic cycling, ribbon dancing, foot juggling, and more. Students joined her to create an impromptu ribbon dance and tried their hand at plate spinning. Students learned about Chinese language and culture as Li Liu explained some of the rituals of Chinese New Year, taught the audience Chinese phrases, and encouraged them to think about what it might have been like to grow up in a different time and place.
- During the month of February, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin their annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade newsletter. We can’t wait to see what the students write about and publish in their newsletter!