



District Updates

Remote Learning Continues!

- The district's response to remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic continues to improve. Since virtual instruction began on March 18th, the district has worked collaboratively with staff, students, and parents to gauge needs and adjust expectations accordingly.
- We are proud to celebrate the continued leadership across the district:
 - Instructional staff and related services providers throughout the district have been working diligently to explore new technologies as the transition to distance learning continues.
 - Our administrators and instructional coaches **Ms. Emann**, **Ms. Smith**, and **Ms. Snider** have helped lead planning and have been gathering resources for staff and students.
 - Our technology department has been supporting families through tech support and device distribution under the leadership of **Mr. Lapierre**.
 - Our facilities staff has been busily caring for our buildings and moving forward with new projects under the guidance of **Mr. Zulla**.
 - Our food services staff has been supporting families in need through daily lunch distribution.
 - Our parents have provided ongoing feedback encouragement to ensure that staff feel supported.
 - Our music teachers created a virtual performance of "All you need is Love" by the Beatles [here](#)
 - And many of our software providers have provided free access and tech support during this challenging time!
- Plans for remote learning, as well as community messages from **Mr. Schwarz**, have been placed on a special page on the district website. Please follow the links below for more information.
 - [Extended Closure Main Page](#)
 - [District Remote Learning Plan](#)
 - [Links to School-Based Plans](#)
 - [Parent Resources for Student Health and Wellness](#)
 - Additional Resources
 - [MPS Extended Closure FAQ](#)
 - [Communications from Mr. Schwarz](#)
 - [Technology Resources](#)

Profile of the Graduate Updates and Sessions

- Mr. Schwarz and Mr. Ross co-hosted a Profile of the Graduate vision-setting session on 5/6 as part of a Superintendent's Coffee event. The Profile work is being undertaken among all stakeholder groups in MPS and seeks to define the ideal characteristics and attributes of a graduate of Madison Public Schools.

Supporting the Social-Emotional Needs of Students Session

- On May 7th, the Department of Special Services, along with CarePlus of NJ and Project Community Pride, hosted a parent forum titled "Supporting the Social-Emotional Needs of Students." The presentation, which was based on parent feedback, centered on best practices pertaining to bolstering positive communication at home, setting appropriate boundaries, and engaging in family activities that did not involve screen time. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask the panel specific questions regarding their concerns. The event was well attended and positive feedback has been received.

Community Curriculum Forums

- Mr. Ross held a second Community Curriculum Forum on 4/15, focused on STEM. Accompanying him in the presentation was **Ms. Smith**, K-8 Humanities Coach, and **Mr. Erdreich**, MJS Technology Teacher and K-12 STEM Coordinator. The Community Curriculum Forums serve as a way for the community to engage with district leaders on K-12 content programming in order to better understand the district's approach to teaching and learning.

Teacher Appreciation Week

- MPS celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week from May 4th to May 8th. Students, administration, parents, and the PTO completed a variety of events and outreach for staff throughout the week!

School Nurse Day

- MPS celebrated School Nurse's Day on May 6th – thank you to our incredible nurses for all they do!

Madison High School Improves in the Rankings

- Madison High School has been recognized as a top general high school and also a top STEM high school in the country by *US News and World Report*. Information about the rankings and the district's success can be found [here](#).

MPS Staff Support Frontline Workers

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - **Mr. Erdreich** (MJS Technology Teacher) and **Mr. Garrera** (MHS Technology Teacher) have produced over 6,500 3D-printed personal protective equipment (PPE) items so far and have donated them to local hospitals and front line workers along with STEM teachers from Livingston and Chatham. An article has been published by MadisonTAP [here](#) and by the NJ School Boards Association [here](#).
 - World language teachers from MJS assisted with Mr. Erdreich to create bilingual PPE for front-line workers.
 - MJS Students helped **Mr. Erdreich** designed a new face shield called the “Easy Shield” or “E Shield” that could be manufactured quickly on a small classroom 3D printer. Their design has been featured by Onshape, a design program used to create 3D models and Lulzbot, a 3D printer manufacturer, all working to help provide PPE to those in need.
- MJS and MHS students are helping a FLAG (Front Line Appreciation Group) led by Gina McGuire of MHS to deliver supplies, food, and good cheer to those in need.
- Madison Music students continue to play their instruments outside every Thursday at 3:00 pm

MEF 5K Virtual

- The MEF 5K will be virtual this year! See more info at www.mefnj.org

Virtual Summer Music Program

- Plans are in the works for a virtual summer music program for students in grades 4-12.

School Updates

Madison High School

- Senior **Allison Nevias**, MHS's National Merit Finalist for 2020, was a recipient of a College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Allison will be attending Vanderbilt University in the fall.
- **Adam Sher** (11th grade) was accepted into the NJ Governor's School Science Program this summer.
- 20 MHS 11th graders have met the requirements to enter the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program after taking the 2019 PSAT/NMSQT. These students are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants and in September about 16,000 will be named National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists (representing the top scorers in each state) and the other 34,000 will be named Commended Students. Semifinalists will then be eligible to continue in the competition for about 7600 Merit Scholarship awards to be offered in 2021. The students are:
 - **Anne Bolt, Daniel Boyer, Tess Callaghan, Jonathan Cho, Thomas Dailey, Sofia Danzo, Ted Downing, William Hagerstrom, Patrick Hanley, Sadie Hoberman, Madeline Huang, Alex Johnson, Henry Marinovic, Ross Matos, Aidan Niceberg, Emily Ruina, Michael Scheier, Adam Sher, Cecilia Smith, and Alexander Tauber.**

- MHS qualified for the National Championship for the Girls Go CyberStart 2020 competition. Led by **Ms. Bosworth** and with help from **Ms. Krysa**, Juniors Madeline Huang and Shannon McGratty will lead a team of four on May 20th competing for \$400 individual and \$250 school prizes. [Information here.](#)
- The MHS Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held virtually on May 14th at 4:00 pm.
- The Madison High School World Language Department inducted 30 students in a Virtual Ceremony into World Language Honor Societies on May 7th. The program can be viewed here: [2020 World Language Honor Society Ceremony](#)
- **Ms. Rankel** has developed an Investment Club during Distance Learning that allows any student at MHS to learn about the stock market and manage investments through the Stock Market Game used in the Personal Finance class.
- MHS Athletics held the first-ever National Signing Day on May 1st. The event celebrated our 17 college-bound student-athletes and their families, and over 200 individuals attended the event virtually. The recorded event can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jlpg_tSYIYk

Madison Junior School

- The 8th edition of Family Trivia Night will take place this week. Trivia Night occurs every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Thank you to the MJS Staff for putting together these nights for our families!
- Seventh grade students led by Mr. Lih released their first edition of “Some Good News” (SGN) that included interviews and stories about what is happening around town. The video highlighted positive movements happening in Madison to help others. Thank you to all who contributed.
- Students and families continue to participate in theme days, which are highlighted through MJS’s Instagram account mjs_grammars. Some past theme days include Tag a Friend Thursday and favorite outdoor spaces.

Central Avenue School

- Students completed ecards for teachers, class coordinators planned class videos, the PTO organized the delivery of gifts and praise, and parents completed song parodies for staff!
- Music teacher **Ms. Chiarino** and **Ms. Jackson** continue to work with 5th graders on their song.
- **Mr. Izsa** and **Mr. Yendrick** are currently planning a virtual field day.
- Social skills groups and lunch bunch groups are still happening with **Mr. Shugrue** and **Mrs. Nesheiwat**
- Art teacher **Mrs. Linder** created and shared videos to demonstrate how to draw and create art projects.
- The fifth grade teachers conducted a kick-off to introduce the students to the exciting More Than Madison fifth grade project.
- CAS, led by **Mr. Shugrue**, is planning a Look for the Good campaign based on gratitude.
- Buddy classes teamed up to do Flipgrid shares.
- 5th grade shout outs are occurring each day through the Principal’s message.
- Poetry Fridays, Yoga Thursdays, Green Team, and so much more continues during Remote Learning!

Kings Road School

- Teacher Appreciation Week - Approximately 420 Google Forms were completed by parents and students, to send thank you messages to the teachers. Dr. Koop distributed the messages to the teachers during the week. The KRS PTO gave every staff member a special sign, candy, and a gift card.
- Music teacher **Ms. Ward** is continuing virtual chorus and musical practices.
- **Mr. Levine** conducts afternoon Enrichment Hours. Activities range from Virtual Spelling Bee Competitions to the Creative Writing Roundtable.
- **Mr. Abbondandolo** creates and shares exercise videos featuring Mr. A. and his nephews.
- Guidance counselor **Mr. Levine** hosts Zoom lunch and juggling sessions for students, and records instructional videos about how to perform juggling tricks alongside his son Jackson.
- During **Dr. Koop’s** morning announcements, 3 fifth graders are highlighted daily.
- Dr. Koop posts “Moments of Gratitude” on the KRS Instagram (kingsroadschool) and Twitter (@krsprincipal) accounts.
- Art teacher **Mr. Thompson** created and shared videos to demonstrate how to draw and create art projects.

- The fifth grade teachers conducted a kick-off to introduce the students to the exciting More Than Madison fifth grade project.
- **Mr. Abbondandolo** is planning a Virtual Field Day on May 21, 2020.

Torey J. Sabatini

- During the month of April, all first and fifth-grade reading buddy pairs participated in a special Zoom call where our fifth-graders read a book of their choosing to their first-grade buddy. Thank you to all the special area teachers for helping to host these Zoom calls. Students were beyond thrilled to see their reading buddies virtually!
- Students participated in National Volunteer Week and different activities were shared daily to encourage volunteerism from home.
- Fifth-graders wrote thank you letters to the health care workers at Morristown Hospital. Thank you to Ms. Larson for helping to deliver these cards. The health care workers were thrilled and sent photos back to our students!
- Each week Physical Education teacher, **Mr. Gerenstein**, puts out a new TJS Workout of the Week (WOW). These videos are shared with students, parents, and staff to encourage additional ways to exercise at home.
- Fifth-grade teachers successfully launched the More Than Madison project virtually.
- School counselor, **Mrs. Bletcher**, hosts Lunch Groups via Zoom for specific grade levels on a daily basis.
- Our School Climate Committee met and planned our first ever Virtual Staff Talent Show on 5/8/20 - staff members sent videos of their unique talents, many included various family members. We had over 30 staff entries in the talent show! Thank you to Ms. D'Amico for editing together all staff entries into a school-wide video! A school-wide countdown to reveal the Staff Talent Show occurred during daily principal morning announcements. Students will get the chance to vote their favorites in 3 categories: Most Creative, Funniest, Best Dance Moves. As a culmination, students will have Virtual Dance Parties by grade levels during the week of 5/11/20.
- Our School Climate Committee is also planning a Kahoot Trivia Game and Week of Gratitude.
- During the month of May, fifth-grade students are receiving special shout-outs in Mrs. Sing's morning video announcements as a way to celebrate them during their last few weeks at TJS.