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## **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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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. Kechula**.
  - 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.
  - And many of our providers 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](#)

### **State of the Schools Address**

- Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Ross, and Dr. Santora delivered the State of the Schools address to staff and the community in two forums on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The State of the Schools presentation addressed assessment data, rankings information, and survey responses gathered throughout the year. It can be [found here](#).

### **Curriculum and Hybrid Learning Work**

- Mr. Ross held two staff forums to discuss the state of curriculum work and teaching frameworks for the 2020-2021 school year. Over 90 staff members joined the sessions to discuss hybrid learning models for planning and instruction. Summer work will focus on ensuring that unit designs and resources are designed to support our circumstances in the fall.

### **Madison STEAM Academy**

- The Madison STEAM Academy has gone virtual and seats are still available. The hybrid learning program has been reduced in price to only \$125 per course per week and more information can be found [at the program website](#).

### **Virtual Summer Music Program**

- The Madison Virtual Summer Arts Program will run with two sessions of lessons available and a variety of lesson packs available based on student interest. More information and a link to the registration page can be [found here](#).

## School Updates

### Madison High School

- The Virtual Day of Service was a big success. Activities included:
  - MHS Students reading to 20 different CAS classes
  - Student Council putting together a slideshow for seniors celebrating their future plans after high school
  - Madison Rocks Project where students placed painted rocks with inspirational messages throughout Madison
  - Fuel Boxes to Madison, Chatham & Florham Park DPWs, staff at Madison Pharmacy, employees at four area Senior Centers and many doctors, nurses, techs & staff across multiple units at Morristown Medical Center
  - The MHS Virtual Cabaret
  - A number of interviews on StoryCorps and more...
- **Ms. Rankel** started an Investment Club for students during Distance Learning. 37 students joined and the winning team turned \$100,000 into \$113,576.52 in less than six weeks.
- In lieu of our annual 8th grade move up day, our Student Ambassador Club started a [YouTube channel](#) in collaboration with our Media Specialist, **Ms. Thomas**, and Assistant Principal in charge of Extracurricular Activities, **Mr. Jensen**. Within this channel are:
  - Videos with information about specific clubs offered at the high school
  - Videos of answers to questions that were submitted by eighth grade students
  - A virtual, walking tour of the building with voiceover descriptions by Student Ambassadors
- All 8th graders were also provided our [Extracurricular Activity Brochure](#) that contains a description of every club offered at the high school.

### Madison Junior School

- MJS hosted a fifth to sixth grade parent orientation on May 27. Team Leaders **Mr. Finkelstein** and **Mrs. Brennan**, provided a programmatic overview of the sixth grade experience at MJS. Asst. Principal **Ms. Phillips** along with our guidance counselors, **Mrs. Siso** and **Mrs. Marotta**, provided an overview of scheduling and services offered at MJS. **Dr. Caruso** provided an overview of the mission at MJS.
- We congratulate and are proud of our students' achievements. An Awards Ceremony acknowledging the accomplishments of our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students was posted publicly on June 12.
- We look forward to celebrating Promotion with our students and families. Virtual promotion will be celebrated on June 19 at 10:30 am, with a car parade occurring from 1:00-3:00 pm. Thank you to the PTO for supporting our eighth grade activities!
- The Trivia Team coordinated a Trivia Night where they worked with Madison Families through a grant to deliver 100 pizzas to Madison families. The Trivia Night has been a fun event that Madison families look forward to. Thank you to the Trivia Team.
- **Mrs. Bessin** created summer resources for parents. She has been instrumental during the distance learning model in providing resources to staff and parents. The resources can be [found here](#).

### Central Avenue School

- A virtual orientation for incoming kindergarten families was shared on June 3. Parents and students received a video orientation and welcome to CAS packet.
- Fifth-graders successfully completed their More than Madison projects and produced Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on Flipgrid. A wonderful job to the fifth-grade teachers who brought this to life using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Fifth-grade recognition throughout the month of June continues. Daily shout-outs, slide show, clap out, virtual promotion, and pictures!
- **Dr. Klurfield**, Library-Media Specialist, has developed a summer reading program for students to encourage reading at home. Students are encouraged to join his Google Classroom and participate in the summer reading bingo!

- **Ms. Jackson**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, was recognized at the June 2nd BOE meeting as CAS Teacher of the Year. **Mrs. Pedicini** was recognized as CAS Educational Support Professional of the Year. We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of these two very dedicated educators.
- Virtual Field Day on June 4th was a huge success! Students and families completed 10 different physical activities and reported their scores.
- Pick-up and drop-off of materials continues and has been a time consuming task, but we are thankful for **Mr. Florez** and **Mrs. Barretti** for all their work!
- Kindergarten and 1st grade have had their end of year celebrations that celebrated their work throughout the year. Students shared via Zoom work samples and created their own class slide shows of the year in remembrance!
- 5th Grade students pieced together a song for their 5th grade slideshow. It was organized by the music and chorus teacher, **Mrs. Chairino**.

### Kings Road School

- More Than Madison - KRS Fifth Grade Students completed and presented their More Than Madison research projects. The students were introduced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Every student selected a goal to research and created a Google slides or Flipgrid Public Service Announcement presentation focusing on the following information:
  - What the problem is.
  - Who or what is affected by the problem.
  - The causes of the problem.
  - The effects of the issue.
  - What is being done to fix the problem
  - How we, as citizens of Madison, can help.
  - Congratulations to our KRS fifth grade researchers for their excellent work!
- Alice in Wonderland Musical - Congratulations to the student performers in the KRS Alice in Wonderland musical! Under the direction of **Miss Ward**, the students performed the musical performances from their homes.
- Fifth Grade Celebrations - We will really miss the KRS fifth graders! There were two events last week to celebrate them. On June 11th, there was a ZOOM ceremony and on June 12th a drive-by event at the Madison High School. There was also a video created for the fifth graders. Congratulations to the KRS Fifth Graders of 2020!!!
- KRS Summer Reading Program - Media Specialist **Mr. Paradiso** and Reading Specialist **Mrs. Sims** planned an engaging, fun, summer reading program for the students. A Summer Reading Google Classroom was created as a place for information and sharing. Students were asked to join the Summer Reading Google Classroom with code r6wv66d!
- First Grade Tradition - Long live Camp Skeeter! First Graders at KRS kept the tradition alive while enjoying a day at camp this Friday. The children listened to campfire stories and made up their own during Morning Meeting together, practiced adding three numbers while shopping at the camp store, and had fun with a camp scavenger hunt. To end the day, they enjoyed s'mores for an afternoon Zoom snack hour. Everyone was a happy camper!
- Packing-Up for Summer/ Return of Items - Thank you to KRS Secretary **Mrs. Guzewicz** and custodians **Mr. Cecala**, **Mrs. Matthew**, and **Mr. Albanese**, for scheduling, moving, and distributing the students' items. The items were distributed to the families during the last two weeks of school. Thank you to the teachers for bagging the students' belongings, and packing their classrooms while wearing masks and gloves.
- Teacher of the Year, fifth grade teacher **Mrs. Sullivan** and Educational Services Professional of the Year **Mrs. Kelleher** were recognized for their accomplishments and dedication at the June 2nd Board of Education meeting. They will also be recognized at the June 11th Fifth Grade Zoom Ceremony.
- KRS Morning announcements - Approximately sixty KRS Morning Announcements were recorded using Screencastify. Included in the morning announcements were state of the day, guidance reminders, health

tips, birthdays, fifth grade student highlights, a book highlight of the day, fun facts, students sharing the new things they learned, and shout outs.

- Kindergarten and New First Grade Orientation - Usually, the KRS orientation for families is conducted in May at KRS. In lieu of the school gathering, **Dr. Koop** created a video that was sent to the new families. The families will receive additional information throughout the summer.

#### Torey J. Sabatini

- Our school climate committee successfully planned and implemented 3 family trivia nights. Themes varied each week such as all about Torey J., Disney, and Superheroes. The PTO sponsored prizes for each family including TJS gear.
- At TJS we designated the week of June 1-5 as our Week of Gratitude. Students were provided with a choice board and engaged in various gratitude activities over the course of the week. Activities included painting gratitude rocks, writing notes to healthcare workers, and making paper gratitude links and chains to name a few!
- A virtual orientation for incoming kindergarten families was shared on June 5. Parents and students received a virtual tour of TJS and an informative presentation with pertinent school-related information.
- Congratulations to **Ms. Ward** and the students who participated in the Alice and Wonderland musical. Various songs were compiled into videos that were shared with families and students alike!
- Fifth-graders successfully completed their More than Madison projects and produced Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on Flipgrid. A wonderful job to the fifth-grade teachers who brought this to life using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Our fifth-graders are being celebrated in many ways! From daily shout-outs in the principal morning announcements to reading buddy virtual messages via Flipgrid, to a Zoom Recognition Ceremony where students receive awards and a drive-by car celebration at MHS. We will certainly miss this fifth-grade class and are happy to celebrate their great accomplishments.
- **Mr. Thompson**, Art Teacher, distributed blank ceiling tiles to fifth-grade students who will be designing and painting them for their final art project. We can't wait to display these ceiling tiles in our building in the fall!
- **Mr. Paradiso**, Library-Media Specialist, has developed a summer reading program for students to encourage reading at home. Students are encouraged to join his Google Classroom and participate in the summer reading bingo!
- Pick-up of student belongings/return of school-issued items was a seamless endeavor during the last week of school. Thank you to TJS Secretary, **Mrs. Empson**, for helping to coordinate, custodians **Mr. Keelty**, **Mr. Ricci**, and **Mr. Denegri**, and teachers **Ms. D'Amico** and **Mr. Thompson** for all helping to distribute student items. Thank you must also be extended to all the teachers for gathering their student's materials while closing up their classrooms for the summer.
- **Mrs. Waryha**, kindergarten teacher, was recognized at the June 2nd BOE meeting as TJS Teacher of the Year. School nurse, **Mrs. Crescas**, was also recognized as TJS Educational Support Professional of the Year. We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of these two very dedicated educators.