



Mapleton Public School

# The Learning Link

Parent & Family Newsletter



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**September 2021**

The *Learning Link* is Mapleton's monthly family newsletter. Do you have a story idea or a suggestion for our next issue? We'd love to hear from you! Email [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).

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## News from Mapleton Public Schools



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### Welcome back, Mountain Lions!

On Tuesday, Aug. 10, the Monterey community was welcomed back to school with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. After a full year of designing, digging, and building, Monterey now has a new gym and art room, safer bus loops and drop-off areas, renovated and expanded classrooms and hallways, and an inclusive playground. Monterey's much-needed renovations were made possible by generous community support and a grant from the Building Excellence Schools Today program.

[Take a virtual tour](#) of the newly renovated Monterey Community School.

The earthmovers are not done yet! Thanks to a grant from Adams County Open Space, the open space behind Monterey is being transformed into Rainbow Park, and will feature tennis courts, a walking path, outdoor seating, exercise equipment, and play structures. Rainbow Park will open to the community later this year.

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### **Continued response to the pandemic**

Mapleton Families,

As we welcomed our students back this past month, we continue to be successful in assuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community. We were hopeful that we would be able to enjoy more 'post-pandemic practices this school year, however, as we begin to see new and breakthrough cases in our community, we now need to reinstate some of what allowed us to be successful last year. Keeping our classrooms open while avoiding "rolling to remote" is a priority for our schools.

We learned last year to avoid the 'Three Cs" that include:

1. Crowded places with many people.
2. Close-contact settings, especially where people have close-range conversations.
3. Confined and enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

The risk is higher in places where these "Three Cs" overlap, such as school assemblies, school cafeterias, and other indoor gathering spaces.

In addition to physically distancing, we will continue to use the air purifying systems in each classroom and across the school environments. Proper handwashing and assuring the availability of hand sanitizer will also be practiced.

**Your child's school will begin reimplementing and revising strategies to help us maintain our engaging learning environments.** We thank you for your flexibility and for talking to your child about the importance of wearing a mask, physically distancing, and washing their hands as we manage this minor adjustment.

We have enjoyed the opportunity to keep students in classrooms as much as possible, however, we know COVID has a way of evolving in unpredictable and often undesirable

ways. This year, in compliance with the CDPHE guidance, if we experience an “outbreak” with five or more individuals in a class testing positive with COVID, that class will need to ‘roll to remote’ for up to 10 days. If your child participates in sports or performing arts, the threshold for quarantining is only one person testing positive for COVID - requiring the entire team or group to quarantine for at least 5 days. Our schools are prepared to move quickly and smoothly between the in-person setting to an intermittent online setting.

Additional ways we can all continue to do our part to keep Mapleton healthy:

#### **Masks:**

Thank you for following Tri-County’s Public Health Order requiring masks in school settings. Please send your child to school with their own mask. **Although we are currently able to provide some disposal masks, they may not fit as well as necessary and our supply is dwindling. Thank you for helping us reduce both the cost and the waste by sending your child to school with their own mask.**

#### **Covid screening and testing sites:**

CDPHE is providing all K-12 schools in Colorado with free and voluntary COVID-19 screening for the 2021-22 school year. The weekly rapid antigen testing will be available to all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status or presence of symptoms. The tests will be provided by Mobile Health, and the [CDPHE is offering financial incentives for student participants!](#) If you would like for your child to be offered the opportunity to participate in this voluntary, routine COVID screening, please ask your school director for a link to the online consent form.

#### **Vaccination clinics:**

We strongly encourage the COVID vaccines for all eligible employees and students. 9 Health is hosting a series of vaccination clinics at the Skyview Campus this year. To view the schedule and reserve your vaccine, [visit our webpage](#). For additional vaccination information, visit [www.covid19.colorado.gov](http://www.covid19.colorado.gov).

Sincerely,

Charlotte Ciancio

Superintendent of Schools

**Reserve your vaccine!**



**Let's keep the conversation going!**

**Community Conversation - Monday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m.**

Mapleton is pleased to announce the first virtual [Community Conversation](#) of the new school year!

Last year, our virtual conversations helped us to stay connected, engaged and informed as a community. This year, we hope to continue to explore what Mapleton looks like now and design Mapleton's bright future together.

The event will be hosted by our Board of Education and Superintendent Charlotte Ciano.

Join us on **Monday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m.**, as we host our first virtual town hall meeting of

the year to discuss:

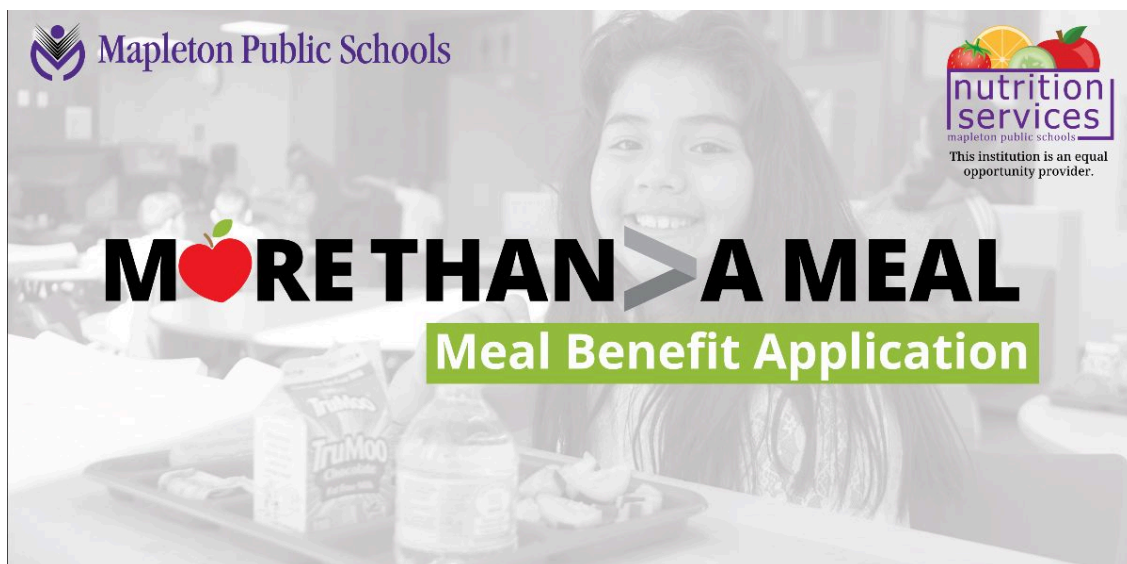
- Our continued response to the pandemic
- Upcoming events and opportunities with the Mapleton Education Foundation
- The grand opening of the Mapleton Arts Center (MAC)
- Final Four – Construction updates

Pre-register today and we will send you a Zoom link and reminder right before the virtual town hall. The event will also be live-streamed on Mapleton's Facebook page.

Help drive the conversation by asking your questions today!

Email [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).

**Join the conversation! Register today!**



### **More than a Meal**

Mapleton knows well-nourished students have better attendance, are more attentive in the classroom, and have more energy to give their very best during the school day. The USDA has extended the School Nutrition Program for the 2021-22 school year, meaning once again all Mapleton students will have access to free breakfast and lunch every school day.

[Find out what's for lunch today!](#)

But we still need your help! With the **More than a Meal** campaign, we are hoping to encourage 100 percent of our families to complete the Meal Benefit Application. **Why?** Because the Meal Benefit Application is worth so much more than just a meal!

When you complete your family's [Meal Benefit Application](#), you are ensuring your child's school receives funds for:

- Classroom resources (from books to technology to teachers!)
- Before and after school enrichment activities
- Health and wellness services

### **How can you help?**

You can help by filling out a meal application form! You can find a [meal application online](#), or you can ask your child's school for a paper application.

Once you submit an application, you will receive a notice in the mail as to whether your child/children can receive free or reduced-price meals. **Every form counts!**

If you qualify for meal benefits, your family is eligible to receive discounted internet services, phone services, utilities, and more. You may also receive funds from the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program (P-EBT) to purchase food for your children.

Completing an application takes less than 10 minutes and application information remains private and confidential. Only one form per household is needed, and a new form must be submitted every school year. Please contact Mapleton's Nutrition Services Department, 303.853.1117, or email [Foodservice@mapleton.us](mailto:Foodservice@mapleton.us) for more information

**Submit your application!**

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### **2021 Homecoming update**

To continue to prioritize the health and safety of our community, we have unfortunately made the difficult decision to postpone some of our homecoming traditions this school year.

### **Postponed events include:**

- District parade
- Tailgating and festivities prior to the game

Friday, Oct. 8, will be a full day of school, as noted on the district calendar.

The homecoming football game will be held on Friday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m., under the lights at DiTirro Stadium. All students and staff can attend the game for free. Masks are not required for spectators, however are highly encouraged.



### **The MEF gala is going hybrid!**

This year, we are inviting you to support the work of the Mapleton Education Foundation based on your comfort level. Our unique hybrid gala offers three ways for you to help make dreams come true in Mapleton!

**Join us in person:** We are looking forward to an in-person event at the Westin Hotel in Westminster. Enjoy company, cocktails and browse our silent auction items starting at 5:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., we invite you to indulge in a catered dinner and prepare for the program and live auction. All guests will be required to wear a mask when not at their table.

**Host a home watch party:** In-person or at home, your support will make dreams come true for Mapleton students. Your ticket purchase will include a special dinner basket with wine and food pairings to make your at-home event special and spectacular. You will also be registered to participate in the silent auction, so you don't miss out on any of the fun or

great gifts! You will receive a link to watch the program remotely, which will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Baskets are available for singles, couples, or parties of 8.

**Enjoy the program and Silent Auction:** Support the Mapleton Education Foundation by participating in our silent auction and enjoying the program remotely from 7-8 p.m.

Since its founding in 1992, the Foundation has played a key role in the success of Mapleton's small-by-design schools of choice. Each year, the Foundation supports more than 200 students in achieving their post-secondary dreams. This year, the gala will support opportunities that inspire imagination encourage play in learning, and help develop a love of creativity and innovation in all students.

[Learn more!](#)



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