

# Community Conversation

Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Monday, Feb. 7 | 6 – 7 p.m.

## Save My Spot



Scan the QR Code to  
register for the  
live stream!

We're gearing up to host our third virtual  
Community Conversation of the school year!

Sneak peek at the lineup:



**Your Voice | Tú Voz**  
Results from our parent,  
student, and staff survey!



**Final Four**  
Building better futures in  
Mapleton!



**Schools of Choice**  
Enrollment updates and  
more!



# Assessments are a classroom game changer in Mapleton

Win or lose, coaches and athletes know real game-changers are found in a thorough play-by-play review – the post-game analysis. And, when changes can't wait until after the game, coaches rely on in-game adjustments to improve their game plan.

Although they don't always have whistles and they may not be wearing jerseys, teachers, like coaches on the court or on the field, use similar evaluations – assessments – to identify strengths, address weaknesses, and design a stronger game plan for student success.

In Mapleton, a balanced system of assessments can help teachers make sound education decisions in every classroom and for each student. Assessments help teachers answer important questions in real-time, including:

- What do we want students to know?
- How do we know if they learned it? Was the instruction effective?
- Do we need to adjust?

"Assessments allow teachers to know what students already know and what are their next steps in the learning," said Karla Gruenwald, Director of Data Driven Learning and Early Literacy. "Without assessments, teachers will never know if they are effective."

There are three main assessments- Formative, Interim/Benchmark, and Summative.

Formative assessments, like an in-game adjustment, are flexible, responsive and inform swift changes to instruction based on quick checks for understanding. Examples of formative assessments include quizzes, mid-unit exams and exit tickets.

Interim/Benchmark assessments,



much like a post-game analysis, are designed to assess student learning on standards within the school year and diagnose gaps in learning to guide future instruction. Examples of Interim/Benchmark assessments include MAP, quarterly interims, Acadience, and AimswebPlus.

Summative assessments are known as final exams or state assessments and provide data on the overall effectiveness of instruction.

In Karen Blair's third grade classroom at Trailside Academy, assessments are as common as pencils, pens, and paper.

"Assessments in my classroom are not always lengthy tests which occur at the end of a unit of study or even periodic, 'high stakes' standardized tests," said Ms. Blair. "I use many different forms of assessments – quizzes, exit tickets, quick checks – in addition to end of unit and standardized tests to help drive my instruction so I can accurately and timely address student needs." Ms. Blair uses quizzes to measure the understanding of a recently taught standard.

"Assessments also help me to measure the growth of my students throughout the unit of study instead of only at the end," said Ms. Blair. "Exit tickets are short one question assessments I give to my students daily to ensure that they master the standard (learning target) taught that day."

## Points of Pride



Mapleton is celebrating a **long-term upward trend of improved graduation rates!** Since 2012, the 4-year graduation rate has nearly doubled and is approaching the state average!



### Valley View Innovation School (PK-8) will open in August 2022

as a project-based learning school. The new school will feature 'immersion labs' to support deeper studies in engineering, music, robotics, science, and more! The school will also feature full and half day pre-school, as well as new safety and security features. The building was funded by the community-supported 2016 bond and a \$17M BEST grant. **Valley View will also feature one of the community's first all-inclusive playground, to provide outdoor play space for children of all abilities.** The playground was funded by an Adams County Open Space grant.



# Data driven, student focused

## Data-driven instruction, or DDI, is key to student success and understanding of material

The use of data to drive understanding, action and results is nothing new. Data allows you to examine a situation from every angle, giving you the opportunity to craft and execute a well-thought-out plan based on the information received.

So, what happens when data is incorporated into the classroom? Can using Data-Driven Instruction as an

educational method support teachers' instruction by helping them to know more about how and what their students are learning? In Mapleton, the clear answer is yes!

Data-Driven Instruction, or DDI, is an educational approach that relies on information to inform teaching and learning. Mapleton is currently in its second year of district wide DDI implementation. But, how exactly do Mapleton teachers use DDI?

"When using data to drive instruction, teachers are analyzing students thinking, processing and understanding of concepts and standards," said Karla Allenbach, Deputy Superintendent, School improvement and Leadership Development. "During regular and frequently scheduled collaborative planning times, teachers will review a common student work product looking for evidence of the student demonstrating understanding of a

specific concept/standard."

To start the DDI process, teachers first identify what is important for students to know and understand about a specific standard. Next, teachers identify what students should be able to show when they have mastered that standard. The use of DDI in classrooms allows teachers to pinpoint specific areas of instruction they should focus on for an individual student to be successful.

Academy High School incorporated DDI into their classrooms a few years ago and has not looked back since.

"Data-Driven Instruction provides students the success criteria in which grade level proficiency is measured, through the lens of the teaching learning cycle," said Ron Salazar, Director of Academy High School. "It provides teachers the foundational knowledge to plan, select, implement, analyze and adjust instruction to meet the needs of all students."



## Broadway is back!

### New PK-12 arts immersion track expands visual and performing arts opportunities

From self-expression and confidence, to empathy and academic achievement, the benefits of the arts in education are vast, valued, and relevant.

Mapleton is introducing a new PK-12 arts immersion track to offer extensive visual and performing arts opportunities to students. The track will begin in August 2022.

Welby Community School will continue to serve children from preschool to 6th grade and enhance their Expeditionary Learning approach by infusing the world of the arts. Colorado Academic standards will be mastered through with engaging artistic experiences, and student learning will be enriched through visual arts, music, dance and performing arts.

New next year, Mapleton will be opening a new 7-12 school of performing arts at the Mapleton Arts Center on Broadway. Students will have opportunities to master geometry through construction and set design, bring history to life on stage, study science through sound and music, and push their creativity through technical art. This will be a performing arts school and will stand alongside the existing Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts (MESA), located on the Skyview Campus, which focuses on the visual arts. From animation to advertising, photography to pottery, MESA students experience the visual arts in the delivery of all content standards. To learn more or enroll in any one of Mapleton's arts-focused schools, visit [www.mapleton.us](http://www.mapleton.us).





Mapleton Public Schools  
*Achieve Your Dreams*



Para ver en español visite:  
[www.mapleton.us/MapleLeaf](http://www.mapleton.us/MapleLeaf)

# Maple Leaf

Fall/Winter 2021

## ENROLL TODAY!

**DISCOVER**

**CHOOSE**

**SUCCEED**



[www.mapleton.us](http://www.mapleton.us) | 303.853.1780 |    

## Get ready to Discover, Choose, Succeed in Mapleton!

At Mapleton Public Schools, we believe school choice is the first step toward academic success. In Mapleton, there are no "neighborhood schools." You choose your school; we provide the transportation.

All Mapleton schools are small, safe, family-like learning environments where teachers discover what students already know and focus on what they need to learn. All schools are also small-by-design, meaning each school allows students to master content standards through a unique lens. School models include Expeditionary Learning (EL), International Baccalaureate, Big Picture, performing and visual arts, STEM, project-based learning, University Partnership, Young Adult, and online, to name a few.

In Mapleton, there is a school for every student. Which school will you choose? Start your journey at [www.mapleton.us](http://www.mapleton.us)!

**From the Superintendent**  
Charlotte Ciano

### School choice: The Mapleton Way



Our lives are shaped by the many choices we make every day. From what to wear, to where we live, our choices chart our path forward and have the power to change our path entirely!

School choice in Mapleton is supported by free transportation – an amazing equalizer. Simply put, you choose your school and we get you there, if the school is one mile away or seven miles away.

But how do you *choose* a school? I am asked that question a lot this time of year. You and your family can choose your school based on location. You can choose your school because your child is a budding engineering, or has a penchant for the performing arts. You can choose your school to keep all of your children on the same campus, or choose schools in all corners of the district.

For our students, school choice is about academic ownership and discovery. For our families, school choice is about having confidence in the education your child is receiving and taking comfort in knowing they are receiving the support and opportunities they need to achieve their dreams. Thank you for choosing Mapleton!