



Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023

The *Tuesday Takeaway* is a weekly e-newsletter distributed to all Mapleton staff. This quick-hit-style newsletter contains the news you need for the week ahead!



Congratulations, Ms. Danielle Cerna!

This morning at Trailside Academy, Ms. Danielle Cerna and her sixth-grade class got a special visit from the Colorado Department of Education's Patty Gleason, who presented Ms. Cerna with an honorary award and a check for \$1,200 for being named one of the top finalists for Teacher of the Year!

Each year, the Colorado Department of Education selects only seven finalists of the more than 60,000 teachers in Colorado for their award.

Ms. Cerna was named one of the top three finalists for her dedication to teaching, her passion for education, and for making her classroom a great place to learn for all. Along with her personal awards, she earned the entire school an ice cream party sponsored by Blue Bell Ice Cream.

Congratulations on this incredible achievement and thank you for helping Mapleton students achieve their dreams!

New attendance policy provides structured approach to improving student attendance and chronic absenteeism

In November, Mapleton's Board of Education voted unanimously to approve a new [Student Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism policy, JH/JHB](#).

The new policy, [available here](#), combines policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses, and policy JHB, Truancy, and outlines Mapleton's structured approach to promoting school attendance and combating chronic absenteeism.



From 2021-22 to 2022-23, Mapleton's attendance rate dropped from 90.2% to 89.0%. Those numbers may not appear jarring at first, but **a 1.2% drop is the equivalent of every Mapleton student missing two additional days of school!**

As the state's chronic absenteeism rate declines, **the percentage of students missing ten or more days in Mapleton is up from 39.1% in 2021-22 to 42.7% in 2022-23.**

Mapleton's current daily attendance rate is around 90%. With the introduction of the new attendance policy, the launch of positive attendance strategies, and robust monitoring and interventions for chronic absenteeism and truancy, the district hopes to **celebrate a consistent daily attendance rating of 95% come January.**

The revised policy affirms Mapleton's unwavering commitment to consistent school attendance. Through early detection, parent/guardian collaboration, strategic interventions, and a commitment to providing resources necessary to support regular attendance, Mapleton seeks to achieve the highest possible attendance rates, ensuring that all students have equitable access to the educational opportunities affording to them.

Please take a moment to [review the updated Student Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism policy](#). **Key highlights of the updated policy, including requirements and definitions, are below:**

Attendance Requirements: Colorado Compulsory Attendance Laws are limited to students ages 6-17. **This policy applies to all students enrolled in Mapleton Public Schools regardless of age, Preschool – 12th grade.**

Excused Absences are absences for which students have been granted permission to be out of school. They include, but are not limited to:

- Illness or injury of the student
- Family emergencies or death in the family
- Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours
- Religious observances
- Court appearances
- School-sponsored events or activities
- Other absences as approved by the school administrator.

Unexcused Absences are absences not approved by the school administration. They include, but are not limited to:

- Truancy or skipping school without valid cause.
- Absences without notification from parents/guardians.

- Absences that do not meet the criteria for an excused absence regardless of parent or guardian permission.
- Vacation or travel.

Truancy is defined as the accumulation of four unexcused absences within any calendar month during the school year or the accumulation of ten unexcused absences over the course of the entire school year, including both full-day and partial-day absences.

Chronic Absenteeism is defined as a student missing 10% or more of the school days (an average of 2 days per month or 17 days over the course of the academic year) for any reason, excused or unexcused.

Make-up Work: Students with excused absences shall be allowed to make up work missed and shall receive full credit for the work completed subject to reasonable deadlines. **Students identified with chronic absenteeism may be required to repeat a course or entire academic year to learn content and or earn credit.**

[Learn more](#) about how you can help build a habit of good attendance at your school.

Enrollment 2024-25

Mapleton is gearing up for another great enrollment season! **This year, the priority placement window is Wednesday, Jan. 17 through Thursday, Feb. 8.** Please help us encourage new and current families interested in selecting a new school for the 2024-25 school year to do so during the priority placement window for their best chances of being placed in their first choice school.



Please note the following upcoming enrollment events:

Preschool and Kindergarten Discovery Fairs

To help families learn more about preschool and kindergarten in Mapleton, the district is hosting two Discovery Fairs. At the Discovery Fairs, families can learn more about Mapleton's schools, meet school directors and teachers, and receive enrollment assistance.

- **Wednesday, January 17, 5-7 p.m., Skyview Campus (8990 York St., Thornton, 80229)**
- **Wednesday, Jan. 24, 4-6 p.m., John Dewey Student Center on the Global Campus (7480 Broadway, Bldg. 2, Denver, 80221)**

Mapleton 8th graders! Get ready for Highway to High School!

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, 8th graders will be invited to visit the Skyview Campus to attend the Highway to High School Showcase. At the event, 8th graders will have a chance to meet students and teachers from Mapleton's high schools and learn more about school programs, CTE pathways, and the high school experience in Mapleton. The goal of the event is to help 8th graders identify the school they would like to attend for 9th grade.

Please see the schedule below.

Explore PK-8

Departure: 8:45 a.m.

Return: 10:00 a.m.

Monterey Community School

Departure: 9:45 a.m.

Return: 11:00 a.m.

Trailside Academy

Departure: 10:30 a.m.

Return: 12:00 p.m.

Achieve Academy

Departure: 11:30 a.m.

Return: 1:00 p.m.

Meadow Community School

Departure: 12:30 p.m.

Return: 1:45 p.m.

Clayton Partnership School: 1:45-2:35 p.m. (walk)

School Tours

All schools are hosting tours during January and February to help families choose the best Mapleton school for them. View the [school tour calendar](#).



Don't forget Ugly Sweater Day is this Thursday, Dec. 14!

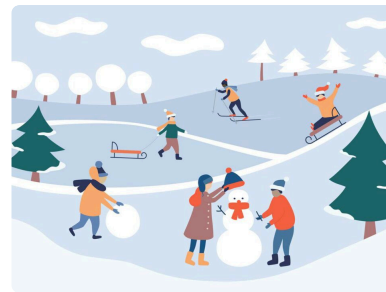
It is almost time to break out those ugly sweaters for Mapleton's annual ugly sweater celebration this **Thursday, Dec. 14!** Staff members wearing an ugly sweater are also invited to wear jeans. Please note that your ugly sweater does not have to be a holiday sweater. All ugly sweaters are welcomed and encouraged.

Send photos of your ugly sweater and the ugly sweaters in your building to communications@mapleton.us.

Winter Break is almost here! Here are the dates you need to know

As you MIGHT be aware, Winter Break is almost here, so we wanted to share some important dates with you. This year, Winter Break for schools runs from Wednesday, Dec. 20 to Wednesday, Jan. 3.

The Performing Arts School on Broadway students and staff will return to their school building in January! To prepare for this exciting move, the **Administration Building will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 20, and Thursday, Dec. 21.** Staff will be available from remote locations. The Administration Office will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2.



If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Talent Management team directly, hr@mapleton.us. You can also view and access your [Employee Calendar here](#).



Thank you for sending us your latest round of "High Fives!"

We love seeing the "High Fives" come in. Keep them coming!

As you know, these are a great way to thank your teammates for the ways they help Mapleton. We compile them every week and feature them in Tuesday Takeaway every week.

If you know someone who deserves a "High Five," submit your appreciation using [this form](#).

Sergio Panelo, Safety

"Sergio is very proactive and is a HUGE help to the areas that I serve and support in my daily duties, which includes managing high school students. He also donated slightly used lunch support equipment to that team. Thank you."

Submitted by Gregory Loper

Nikki Robinson, Achieve Academy

"Nikki is such a wonderful teammate and a fantastic teacher. She shows such compassion and caring for her students while still pushing them academically. She's a wonderful addition to the Achieve team!"

Submitted by Sadie Albrecht

Michelle Sepulveda, Achieve Academy

"Michelle has persevered through incredibly difficult situations this year with dignity, grace, and strength. She is such a solid support for our students and a wonderful teammate as well."

Submitted by Sadie Albrecht

Becka Jessie, Global Leadership Academy

"Becka does such a phenomenal job meeting the diverse needs of all the teachers and students that she works with. She is so hard-working and just an amazing person to be around. We are so lucky to have her at Achieve!"

Submitted by Sadie Albrecht

Molly Pevler, Mapleton Online

"Thanks for your support with my reading instruction. Your knowledge of reading is superb. Thanks for finding the time to support your students and support me and my students. I couldn't have asked for a better teammate."

Submitted by Jessica Schafer

Garrett Gabalis, Welby Community School

"Garrett is Mr. Get-It-Done! I am grateful that you are always happy to support the staff in any way you can. Our students love you and really benefit from the relationships you've built and the SEL and behavior management you use in your interactions. Thanks so much for being here for us!"

Submitted by Jesse Masterson

Melissa Berry and AJ Staniszewski, Global Intermediate Academy

"GIA is so fortunate to have two of the best directors. They both genuinely care for our students, staff, and families. They are the perfect balance of kindness, understanding, and fun while holding us all accountable and pushing us to be the best educators we can be. We're very thankful for them!"

Submitted by Anonymous

Submit a High Five!

Two talented Mapleton music students selected for All-State ensembles

Two Mapleton high school music students have been selected to join the top groups in the state for their specialties and will perform with them early next year. Jerran B., a tuba player and York International School senior, was named to the 2024 All-Colorado Honor Band. Bella N., a singer and Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts (MESA) junior, earned a place in the 2024 Colorado All-State Choir.

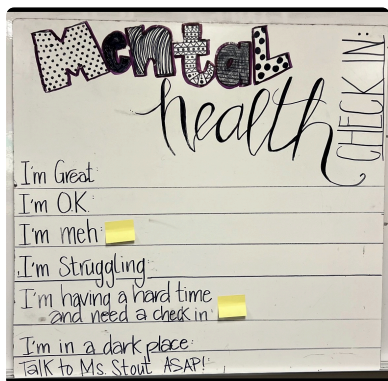


[Read more about their amazing honor!](#)

Clayton students collect used eyeglasses for kids who need them

Fourth grade students at Clayton Partnership School are completing a community service project by collecting used eyeglasses to send to the Sight Learning Foundation, an international nonprofit that provides eyeglasses to students who need them but cannot afford them. In class, the students learned that 13 million children around the world need glasses but lack the financial means to obtain them. Sight Learning travels to other countries to give children free eye exams, and to match them with glasses that have the needed prescriptions!

The Clayton students created posters to hang around their school and are busy collecting glasses from family and friends. Their goal is to collect at least 100 pairs of glasses by Tuesday, Dec. 19. If you would like to support our project, you can send pairs of used eyeglasses to Lisa Furlong at Clayton!



Meadow Community School uses mental health check-in chart for middle schoolers

Meadow Community School is using a “mental health check-in” chart with its middle school students to discreetly open conversations about their social and emotional wellbeing. The wall chart has seven columns that indicate different levels of how a student might feel during the day. If a student wants to talk with their teacher, they write their name on a small, folded post-it note and anonymously place it in one of the columns, one that might

read “I’m struggling,” for instance.

Eventually, their teacher will look at the student’s name and find time to tactfully take them aside to discuss what is on their mind. Meadow eighth grade English teacher Jeannine Stout said her students come to her with a variety of personal issues, but mostly their own negative self-talk at the moment. If a personal issue is serious enough, teachers will see that students get the proper help. Stout said students have told her how much they appreciated the chart.

“This gives them a way to talk to us without feeling exposed, where they don’t have to keep their feelings inside,” she said. “We want to let them know our mission is to keep them safe and that we have their backs, and try to help them resolve their problems before they get too bad.”

Teaching and Learning

Cognitive Abilities testing for grades 2 and 6 begins Feb. 1, 2024

Mapleton will administer the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for all second and sixth grade students in February as part of our annual universal screening for the gifted and talented program. Any other referred K-12 students are invited to participate as well, as long as this is coordinated through each school’s gifted and talented leads.

The CogAT teacher training will take place on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 4:30-6 p.m., at the Broadway Administration Building’s Trail Ridge Training Center. The student testing window is open from Feb.

It is the district's expectation that all second and sixth grade classroom teachers will be the primary test administrators for their classes because they know their students best and how to maintain positive classroom management. All training session participants will receive extra duty pay for their attendance. For any questions, please contact [Brad Russell](#), Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, ext. 1905.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 20- Wednesday, Jan. 3 - Winter Break - No school for students

Thursday, Jan. 4 - Teacher Work Day - No school for students

Friday, Jan. 5 - Collaborative Day - No school for students

Monday, Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)



Tuesday Takeaway Call for Submissions

Let's brag about it! Is something happening in your school that you would love to highlight or "show off?" We know you are awesome, so let's celebrate it! Please submit a paragraph and pictures detailing your good news to communications@mapleton.us.

Email: communications@mapleton.us

Website: <https://www.mapleton.us/>

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