



The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, May 7

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 to our 2023-24 Awards for Excellence recipients!

On Friday, May 3, nearly 250 people attended Mapleton's 41st Annual Awards for Excellence event. This event honors the outstanding contributions of our staff, retirees, and new Quarter Century Club members.

The Awards for Excellence is based on a person's contribution toward the mission of Mapleton Public Schools, which "guarantees students achieve their dreams." All nominees are nominated by a colleague, student, or community member. The Awards for Excellence selection committee includes winners from the 2022-23 Awards for Excellence.

This year, we are pleased to honor:

Cara Algrim, Classified Employee of the Year

Cara is a part of Adventure Elementary's ILC team and is described as the "heart of Adventure" by her colleagues.

Meagan Ackerman, Licensed Employee of the Year

Meagan is also a part of the Adventure family, and her colleagues say that her commitment to student success has left an indelible mark on the district community.

Brad Russell, Administrator of the Year

Brad is the Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, and his colleagues shared that his “tireless efforts to promote excellence and innovation have had a lasting impact on the professional growth and development of our staff.”

Edgar Torres, Rookie of the Year

Edgar is the Director at Academy High School. His colleagues shared that he “works to ensure that our students experience academic success, personal growth, and the ability to pursue their interests by consistently engaging the staff in professional development for strategies to enhance testing scores and reduce failure rates.”

Classified Employee of the Year	Licensed Employee of the Year
 Cara Algrim	 Meagan Ackerman
Administrator of the Year	Rookie of the Year
 Brad Russell	 Edgar Torres



Happy Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week!

Mapleton Public Schools is joining school districts nationwide in recognizing this week, May 6-10, as **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week**. The Board of Education issued a proclamation encouraging everyone to observe the week by taking time to recognize and acknowledge the impact of educators and support staff on the lives of our students.

Celebrate Mapleton's irreplaceable teachers and staff by sending

us a short paragraph, video, or picture of the irreplaceable in your life! We will feature these messages of appreciation and gratitude on our website, in our newsletters, and on social media throughout the month of May.

Email your thoughts to communications@mapleton.us.

School Nurse Day is this Wednesday, May 8

Don't forget to wish our nurses a happy National School Nurse Day on Wednesday, May 8. The day was established in 1972 to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting.

Mapleton has four dedicated Nurse Consultants from the Children's Hospital Colorado School Health Team who are led by our Lead District Nurse, Monica Ycaza MSN, RN. All nurses support Mapleton's 16 health assistants and health offices that serve students with chronic, acute and emergent needs.



The nurses provide consultation, medication administration, and complex care within the school setting so students can thrive and learn. The team helps maintain safety through activities like staff training, screenings and immunizations and bridges resources for student between hospitals, clinics, mental health, and other community partners.

Thank you so much for keeping our students healthy!



School Lunch Hero Day was last Friday

Last Friday was School Lunch Hero Day for our dedicated Nutrition Staff. This is a day to celebrate all school nutrition professionals, who work tirelessly to ensure all the meals they serve meet rigorous nutrition standards, are appealing to students, and reflect the culture of their communities.

We talked to Lindsay Hull, Mapleton's Nutrition Services Director, to learn a little more about her team and the lunches they make.

Lindsay, how many lunches does your team prepare every year?

"They make about 700,000 lunches every year for students at all 19 of our brick-and-mortar schools. That's about 4,000 a day – and that's after they make breakfasts!"

What are some of our students' favorite meals?

"I would have to say our popcorn penne alfredo is pretty popular. So are the nachos, chicken and waffles, and orange chicken with rice. And we can't forget about our popcorn chicken bowl or

chicken wings!"

How do you ensure the meals meet nutritional standards and dietary needs while still appealing to students?

"It's a fine balance. Our priority is to provide excellent customer service, so we strive to provide options that kids find appealing and meet their personal needs. As we create and test new ideas, we ensure that those items meet the requirements and fit in with the other options we provide. And we try to add new menu items every year to keep things fresh."

How do school lunch heroes contribute to the well-being and academic success of students?

"Numerous studies have been linked to students performing better when they've eaten. The meal pattern regulations must be met, and they are strict standards. Students who eat breakfast with us get a start on their day by fueling their bodies so they can fuel their minds. Students who eat breakfast have improved attendance, behavior, academic performance, and academic achievement. Then, students who eat lunch with us will find a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables on our salad bar, three entrée choices for grades K-8, and five entrée choices for grades 9-12 every day, so they can go back to learning. We prioritize sourcing clean label ingredients where possible, which further enhances the quality of the food we offer."

What do your staff like most about their jobs?

"They love serving the kids healthy meals and seeing smiles on their faces when they come through the line."

What do you hope students and the community understand or appreciate about the work that you and your team do?

"The food is made with love, most importantly. We also strive to offer local fresh food where we can, offer variety, salad bars, provide scratch-cooked options, and chef-driven meals, all on a budget! Also, we genuinely love what we do and are passionate about child nutrition."

Thank you, Lindsay, and thank you to all Mapleton Nutrition Staff for all your hard work.

Open enrollment window is open through Tuesday, May 14

Open enrollment is in full swing! Be sure to review and select your benefits by Tuesday, May 14.

Open enrollment is the annual period in which benefit-eligible employees may:

- Review benefits to ensure plans are meeting their needs.
- Enroll in coverage.
- Change plans.
- Add/drop dependents.
- Drop coverage.



All changes made during open enrollment are effective July 1, 2024.

Please review the information below carefully for important information about open enrollment.

Enrollment: Whether you plan to make changes to your benefits or continue with the same benefits, you **must** log onto the [employee portal](#) to review and approve your plans. The Employee Portal is open now. **More information about rates and updated iVisions links are available on Mapleton's [Benefits page](#).**

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) – ACTION IS REQUIRED EVERY YEAR

- [FSAs](#) require an active election each year. If you wish to participate you must make your election during open enrollment for the plan year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
- Healthcare Flexible Spending annual maximum of \$3,200
- Maximum healthcare flexible spending carryover amount to 2025 is \$640
- Dependent Care Flexible Spending annual maximum of \$5,000 or \$2,500 if married, filing separately.

AFLAC

- Aflac Group products include:
 - Accident Insurance
 - Critical Illness
 - Hospital Indemnity
- [Visit Aflac to learn more about Mapleton's group products.](#)

VSP: 2024-25 New Enhancements added to the vision benefits.

- Frame allowance is \$150 for both plans.
- [Enhanced Featured Frame](#) for both plans Additional \$50 for featured frame brands.
- [VSP LightCare](#) members can use both their frame and lens benefit toward non-prescription sunglasses or non-prescription blue-light filtering glasses.
- VSP Option 2: Choose your upgrade frame allowance increase to \$250.

Benefit Enrollment Assistance

- **Employee Portal:** If you need help accessing your Employee Portal (username, password), please contact the Help Desk at 303.853.1057 or helpdesk@mapleton.us
- **Benefits election:** If you need assistance electing/changing your benefits, or accessing a computer, please contact **Robin DeCarlo, Benefits Specialist**, at decarlor@mapleton.us, **303.853.1004 to arrange an appointment.**

Requests for Sick Leave Pay-Out are now available in Frontline Central

Licensed staff: Requests for Sick Leave Pay-Out are now available in Frontline Central. To access the Sick Leave Pay-Out request form, please follow the instructions below.

1. Log into your Frontline Central account.
2. Go to **My Forms**, then **Forms I Can Start**.
3. Scroll to the **Licensed Sick Leave Pay Out Request Form**
4. Click on **Start this Form** to complete

Per the guidelines of the 2023-24 MEA Agreement, Article 17, the Board and Association recognize the importance of instructional continuity to long-term academic success for students. To promote this goal, teachers can submit for payment up to five (5) unused sick leave days at the end of the school year using the following table:

DAYS USED RATE

- 0-1: \$180.00/day
- 2-3: \$160.00/day

Payout is to be in June of each year. Teachers must carry forward a minimum of five (5) sick leave days into the next academic year.

*Days donated to the sick bank do not count as a use of leave days for the purposes of buyback.

You may access the MEA Agreement here: [MEA Agreement](#)

You may also access and review your available leave balances in the employee access portal at the following link: [iVisions Portal](#).

All requests must be completed in Frontline Central by **4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024**.

Approved payouts will be included in your direct deposit paycheck on June 30, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact [Sarah Martinez](#), ext. 1148.

Just a few more days to take the Employee Experience Survey!

Mapleton Public Schools is dedicated to creating a positive experience for all whom we serve. Our partners at Studer Education are providing an opportunity for you to share feedback anonymously using the link below.

Your feedback is important and will contribute to our understanding of your needs and expectations, aid in identifying areas for improvement, and ultimately enhance employee engagement and well-being within our organization.

Please take a few minutes to complete the Employee Experience Survey at this link:

[Mapleton– Employee Experience Survey](#)

The survey will be open through this Friday, May 10.

Your feedback will be used to celebrate our success and to create action plans for improvement. Your input is valuable. Thank you for your commitment to Mapleton Public Schools!



Mapleton Public Schools

Join Us!

Please join us to say "See you Later" to Superintendent Charlotte Ciano! Light refreshments will be served, great memories will be shared, and eras will be celebrated! We hope to see you there!

Thursday

May 30

2:30-4:30 p.m.



at the Mapleton Arts Center
7480 Broadway, Bldg 4, Denver, CO 80221

Help us say "See you later" to Superintendent Ciano!

After serving as Superintendent of Mapleton Public Schools for nearly 24 years, Superintendent Charlotte Ciano will retire in June 2024. Join us for a special community event celebrating her time, work, and legacy in Mapleton. All are welcome!

Our Senior Spotlight series continues this week

We are publishing stories on one senior from each of our high schools ahead of graduation for our Senior Spotlight series. You can [read the profiles we've published so far here](#). Today, we meet Billy N., from Academy High School.

Billy is a determined young man who excelled academically, athletically, and in community service. He leaves an indelible mark on his school and peers. As he prepares to graduate and embark on his next chapter at the University of Colorado Boulder, Billy's unwavering spirit and ambition promise a future filled with boundless possibilities.



Skyview Boys and Girls Track and Field Teams win Colorado League Championships

Congratulations to our Skyview Wolverines Boys and Girls Track and Field teams for winning their respective Colorado League Championships last week at Skyview's George DiTirro Stadium! That marks a dominant seven consecutive league championships for the boys and four for the girls.



The League meet was the first time Skyview has hosted a meet since 1995 and the first time we've hosted teams since renovating the stadium in 2017. If you'd like to catch more track and field action, the teams' Last Chance Meet will be held at Roosevelt High School, on Saturday, May 11. Then the CHSAA State Championship will be held May 16-18.

Way to go, Wolverines!



Thank you for this week's High Fives!

Wow! We received 17 High Fives in the past week, eight from Preschool on Poze. Thank you so much for submitting them. We know they are lovely to receive.

Do you know someone who deserves a "High Five"? Submit your appreciation using [this form](#).

Tara McMachen, Dominik Martinez, Joseph Barrientos, Melanie

Garcia, John McCafferty; Operations

"Huge thanks to Tara, Dominik, Joe, Mel, and John for their effort in completing some electrical and facilities work in the basement of the Admin Building. I really appreciate their quick turnaround, attention to detail, and stellar customer focus. You are all fantastic teammates and I am honored to be able to work with you!"

Connie Io, Monterey Community School

"I wanted to take a moment to highlight the exceptional leadership and approachability that Connie has demonstrated in her role. She has consistently shown herself to be a compassionate and understanding leader who takes the time to address issues and identify the underlying causes. Her commitment to finding solutions and resolving problems has earned her the respect and admiration she deserves."

Submitted by Anonymous

John McCafferty, Operations

"John goes above and beyond in his role as HVAC Technician and takes on additional tasks whenever he can help the Maintenance Department succeed. His commitment to helping his colleagues succeed is commendable and he is an asset to Mapleton Public Schools."

Submitted by Anonymous

Hannah Winters, Academy High School

"Hannah - you are a gem! Every time I reach out to you for help, you provide rock solid information or resources. It is so "Gneiss" to work with such a well rounded science educator... I will never take you for granite. YOU ROCK!"

Submitted by Mellissa Pfaff

Bobbie Kuminka, Clayton Partnership School

"Bobbie made time to meet after school to share strategies and best practices from her classroom. She and her teammate have incredible student data, and the time they took to share was invaluable. Thank you for your support of all of Mapleton's students!"

Submitted by Liz Mourer

Katie Meier, Clayton Partnership School

"Katie has been an amazing resource for our team this school year. She made time to meet after school to share strategies and best practices from her classroom. She and her teammate have incredible student data and the time they took to share was invaluable. Thank you for your support of all of Mapleton's students!"

Submitted by Liz Mourer

Glenn Omoto, Technology

"Thanks for all you do! You're always here to support our team and we really appreciate it."

Submitted by Azucena Mira

Alma Quezada, Preschool on Poze

"Thank you for always working so hard and being available for our Care Team, as well as your classroom crew. You always volunteer to step in early to open or help support when we are short in the afternoon! Kids love you and you work so hard and are never frustrated! Thanks for going above and beyond for our crew and for the staff too! I appreciate you more than I can say!"

Submitted by Ryan Fiore

Realene Olson, Preschool on Poze

"Thank you for all the support with our our team. You always have the answers when people need something and are willing to work with them whether it is CST, MTSS, Behavior, or just to provide a listening ear. You work so well with all the families and staff here. You are always prepared and ready to go. Thank you for all the hard work with Flex, as well as all programming. I appreciate you so much! "

Submitted by Ryan Fiore

Alma Quezada, Preschool on Poze

"Thank you, Alma, for the support you give to our students and staff here at POP! You always go the extra mile to make sure things are in place and run smoothly."

Submitted by Gena Rivera

Allison Stockman, Preschool on Poze

"Thanks for all your hard work this year, not only with helping with your caseload, but then jumping in and helping to support our Flex classroom. You have been such an invaluable member of our crew this year. Thanks for everything! I appreciate it more than you will ever know."

Submitted by Ryan Fiore

Jennifer Rivera, Preschool on Poze

"Thank you for always being a great team member and making sure our staff has a smile or kind words. You always show that you care! :-)"

Submitted by Gena Rivera

Nestor Justiano, Preschool on Poze

"Thanks for always making sure our building is clean and ready for our students. You are here first thing in the morning to ensure that when kids arrive they have a building ready to greet them. I appreciate all you do for our families, students, and staff. The kids love you and you always take time out of your day to talk to them. Thanks for all you do!"

Submitted by Ryan Fiore

Classified Staff at Preschool on Poze

"We couldn't do it without you! Every one of you helps make our school run smoothly. You are a big support for our students and families. I greatly appreciate you all!"

Submitted by Gena Rivera

Norma Caballero, Preschool on Poze

"Thank you for helping to keep our building clean. You always ask if there is anything that is needed. You always know how to make staff smile and work hard to help keep this place spotless. (I also love your homemade jerky). Thanks for all you do for us at PoP! "

Submitted by Ryan Fiore

Suzy Ott, Integrated Services

I want to give the biggest thank you to Suzy for being so amazing while I work through a back injury. From the beginning of it all, without fail, she jumped in to support and help me where she could, always checking up on me, and bringing me things like mail and packages so I wouldn't have to carry heavy boxes. Suzy is absolutely the type of person who deserves more than just a high-five. Her level of care is unmatched and I am so happy every day to be working with someone like her."

Submitted by Karina Riscos

Doug Rundle, Welby Community School

"It's been great to watch my daughter grow this year in Mr. Rundle's class. He is a fantastic educator who cares about students' education as well as their social emotional development. Thank you for a great year!"

Submitted by Christine Conkey

Submit a High Five!

Mapleton Education Foundation



Register for MEF's Topgolf event by next Wednesday, May 15

Start the summer off swinging at the third annual Mapleton Legacy Association Topgolf Event on Thursday, May 23, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Thornton. Proceeds will benefit the Foundation's Legacy Scholarship.

The festivities will kick off with a Tee-Party Welcome from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., allowing ample time for mingling before our golf session

from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. You can participate as a golfer or spectator, either individually or as a team of up to six. Or you can even sponsor a bay. Golfer tickets are just \$55, and spectator tickets are \$35. Heavy appetizers will be provided, and a cash bar will be available.

Visit the [Mapleton Education Foundation website](https://www.mapletoneducationfoundation.org) to learn more and register for this event. The registration deadline is next Wednesday, May 15.

Teaching and Learning

Seal of Biliteracy Honorees

We are pleased to announce that Mapleton Public Schools has seven seniors this year graduating with the Seal of Biliteracy credential on their diplomas. The Seal of Biliteracy is a signal to colleges and employers that a student has attained college-level biliteracy in two or more languages.

Class of 2024 Seal of Biliteracy Honorees:

Natalia Chavez, York International School

Mireya Peñaloza de la Paz, York International School

Valerie Valdivia, York International School

Derek Marquez, York International School
Alliton Flores Sanchez, York International School
Judith Perez Escobar, Mapleton Online
Leslye Saldivar Quintana, Mapleton Online

Additionally, did you know the Advanced Placement Spanish test is not the only way Mapleton students can demonstrate proficiency in a world language? This year, two students used a Colorado Department of Education (CDE)-approved world language test called the AAPPL (Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) to show their knowledge of their heritage language. In fact, there are several CDE-approved exams in a variety of languages our students can access.

Are you or your students curious about the Seal of Biliteracy? Here is some information, including a full list of approved world language exams from CDE:

https://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/high-school-diploma-endorsement-for-biliteracy

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 1-Wednesday, May 15 - Open enrollment benefit window open

Wednesday, May 8 - Choir Concert - Intermediate/Advanced Zero Hour classes, 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, May 9 - Band Concert - Zero Hour classes, 7-9 p.m.

Monday, May 13 - Collaborative Day - No school for students

Wednesday, May 15 - Band Concert - Beginners/High School Jazz Band, 6-9 p.m.

Thursday, May 16 - Choir Concert - Beginners/7th Grade Zero Hour, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, May 18 - Graduation, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21 - DAAC meeting - 4:30-6 p.m.

Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day - District closed

Thursday, May 30 - Last day of school - 2-hour early dismissal

Monday, June 3-Friday, June 7 - GT Summer Camp, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., daily



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/>

Location: [7350 Broadway, Denver, CO 80221, USA](#)

Phone: [303.853.1000](tel:303.853.1000)

Facebook: facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools

Twitter: [@mapletonschools](https://twitter.com/mapletonschools)



Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters