



The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, Sept. 10

The *Tuesday Takeaway* is designed to be a quick-hit-style newsletter with stories most pertinent to employees at the top and stories including student celebrations toward the middle. If you scroll toward the bottom, you will find information relevant to specific employee groups, such as important updates from Teaching and Learning for teachers.

If you have an idea for a story, like one about your school, students, or department, [please send it our way!](#) We'll do our best to fit them in an upcoming issue.

[Past issues of the Takeaway are available on our website.](#)



Mapleton's Air Force JROTC Raider Squadron hosted its annual Patriot Day Observance Ceremony last Thursday, Sept. 5, at DiTirro Stadium, honoring first responders and civilians who died on 9/11, as well as current military personnel. Thornton Mayor Jan Kulmann and Mapleton's Lt. Col. (Ret.) William Arrington spoke on the unity the day brought. Cadets held formations, honored the POW/MIA Chair of Honor, and reflected on 9/11's impact.



Mapleton Public Schools



YOU BELONG HERE!

Attendance matters and we need your help this year. A few absences every month can add up to weeks of lost learning over the year. Missing school, whether for excused or unexcused reasons, disrupts a student's education.

Attendance Awareness Month

Data Release

The Colorado Department of Education released attendance data from 2023-24 school year earlier this month. In Mapleton, and throughout the state, attendance metrics show improvements in comparison to 2022-23, however there is still work to be done to address inconsistent attendance and chronic absenteeism.

- [Summary of 2023-24 trends](#)
- [2023-24 data spreadsheets - school and district information](#)

Attendance Matters Pro Tip: When speaking to students about school absences, it's important to approach the conversation with empathy, understanding, and a solution-oriented mindset. Here are a couple of tips to guide your approach:

1. Create a Safe and Non-Judgmental Environment

- **Show Empathy:** Start the conversation by expressing concern for their well-being. For example, "I've noticed you've been absent a few times recently, is everything okay?"
- **Avoid Accusations:** Focus on understanding the reasons for the absences, rather than blaming or reprimanding.

2. Listen Actively

- **Give Them Time to Speak:** Allow the student to explain their situation without interruption. Sometimes the reasons behind absenteeism are personal or complex, and students may need time to open up.
- **Show You're Listening:** Use active listening skills, such as nodding, asking clarifying questions, or summarizing.

- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Encourage the student to provide details by asking open-ended questions, such as “Can you tell me more about what’s been keeping you from school?”

Identifying and Addressing the Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism

To effectively address absenteeism in a student body, it's important to categorize the common reasons students miss school. These reasons typically fall into several broad categories. By understanding these categories, schools can identify which ones impact their specific students and develop targeted resources and interventions. See figure below.

Barriers	Aversion	Disengagement	Misconceptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic and acute illness • Family responsibilities or home situation • Trauma • Poor transportation • Housing and food insecurity • Inequitable access to needed services • System involvement • Lack of predictable schedules for learning • Lack of access to tech • Community violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Struggling academically and/or behaviorally • Unwelcoming school climate • Social and peer challenges • Anxiety • Biased disciplinary and suspension practices • Undiagnosed disability and/or disability accommodations • Caregivers had negative educational experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of challenging, culturally responsive instruction • Bored • No meaningful relationships to adults in the school (especially given staff shortages) • Lack of enrichment opportunities • Lack of academic and behavioral support • Failure to earn credits • Need to work conflicts with being in high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused • Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning • Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences • Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness • Attendance only matters in the older grades • Suspensions don't count as absence



www.attendanceworks.org

Attendance Spotlight: York International School makes good attendance a part of school culture

York International School has been chipping away in its mission to improve student attendance over the last few years and the results are showing. Like many schools across the nation, York saw a significant drop in attendance during the pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, the school's attendance rate was about 92-93%, right in line with the state average. But as the pandemic unfolded, attendance dropped dramatically into the 80% range, and students were more and more comfortable staying home.

The school responded by making good attendance part of its culture and it makes no secret that its goal is to have an average attendance rate of 95%. Attendance is brought up in newsletters, School Accountability Committee (SAC) meetings, school assemblies, and daily morning announcements. Every two weeks, York's Attendance Committee looks over attendance reports to identify students that are struggling to make it to class. Committee members decide which one of them will contact students, figure out why they can't make it to school and how they can support them, and bring their families into the conversations, if necessary. These students are also invited to fill out surveys explaining their attendance challenges, which can include real problems like lack of transportation.

The school also celebrates attendance success stories. Students who show improved or outstanding attendance are recognized and might be rewarded with fun incentives like ice cream treats or drawings for things like York Spirit Gear and the chance to become Principal for the Day.

Over the last couple years, York's attendance rate has climbed from about 89% to 92% as of now. The school's principal, Eriksen Van Etten, said they are committed to keep improving.

Do you want your school to the star of our next Attendance Spotlight? Let us know what you are doing to encourage students to be in school, on time, every day! Email

A quick update from last week's Attendance Awareness Star - Performing Arts School on Broadway

Chip chip hooray! The Performing Arts School on Broadway (PASB) is happy to share that their attendance campaign is off to a great start. All but one of the school's grade levels reached their goal of 90% attendance for last week, earning students in those grades bags of chips yesterday.

The school is so excited that they are raising the goal to 93% attendance this week to reach their next food reward. If the students keep up the good work, they will earn pizza parties.



Teaching for Tomorrow

Support Mapleton's Teacher Pathway program

Mapleton's *Teaching for Tomorrow* teacher prep pathway is kicking off the new school year with 30 enthusiastic teacher candidates from all Mapleton high schools! We're seeking 30 (or more!) dedicated teachers to volunteer as Candidate Support Teachers, helping to guide and inspire these future educators.

What's Involved?

Candidate Support Teachers will host a teacher candidate (a high school student) in their classroom twice a week for 1.5 to 2 hours each session. Rest assured, students in the program will be following a strict contract and will be closely supervised throughout the experience. Ideally, we would like 12-15 teachers from the Skyview Campus, 12-15 teachers from the Global Campus, and 4-5 teachers from York International School.

Why Participate?

While we are unable to offer a stipend, participating teachers will receive re-certification credit. This is a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the next generation of educators and contribute to the future of teaching.

How to Get Involved:

If you are interested in inspiring future Mapleton teachers, contact [Mary Jo Gonzales](#), Teaching for Tomorrow Coordinator, at ext. 3073.

Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts club hosting viewing of "A Million Miles Away" this Saturday, at the Mapleton Arts Center

Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts' UMAS y MECHA club is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a free viewing of the movie **"A Million Miles Away" this Saturday, Sept. 14, at 3 p.m., at the Mapleton Arts Center.** The film tells the inspiring true story of José Hernández and his path from a Mexican-American farm worker to becoming an engineer and an astronaut. It highlights his perseverance, family support, and determination as he embarks on a journey from humble beginnings to space.



UMAS y MECHA is a student organization that focuses on empowering Chicano, Latino, and other marginalized communities through education, cultural awareness, and activism, promoting cultural pride and unity among students. The club will have snacks and drinks available before the movie starts and guest speakers currently working in the aerospace field will speak at the end.

If you plan to attend, [you may RSVP here.](#)



Are you vote ready? All things voter registration!

National Voter Registration Day is next week, Tuesday, Sept. 17.

This is a nonpartisan day to create broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to reach tens of thousands of voters who may not register otherwise. So on that day, or any day between now and Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, please either [register to vote](#) or make sure your [voter registration is up to date](#). For instance, if you moved or changed your name since the last election, you would need to update your address in your

registration.

Need help? [Find my voter registration](#)

High school voter registration

Colorado allows and encourages pre-registration of all eligible voters beginning at the age of 16. Additional requirements to register include:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a Colorado resident for at least 22 days before the election
- Must not be serving a sentence of confinement or detention for a felony conviction (Note: Those on probation or parole **are eligible** to vote.)

Learn more - [High school voter registration](#)

Mapleton's first "I voted" sticker design contest!

Mapleton is excited to announce the district's first "I voted" sticker design contest!

We are inviting aspiring artists and creative creators grades K-12 to share their best ideas for an "I voted" sticker. Interested students are encouraged to submit hand-drawn or digital artwork now through **Friday, Oct. 4**. One winner from each category will be selected, for a total of three winners. Winning designs will be printed and distributed in Mapleton on and around Election Day, Tuesday,

Nov. 5. Sticker designs can be submitted via email to communications@mapleton.us or in person at the District's Administration Building. A sticker design template is attached below.

Categories:

- K-4
- 5-8
- 9-12

A few rules:

- Designs must say "I voted."
- Submissions must be non-partisan.
- Students and/or parents must be willing to allow Mapleton to use the artwork for upcoming elections.
- Entries must include the student's name, grade, school, and one or two sentences about the design.

For questions or more information, please contact [Melissa Johnson](#), ext. 1018.



I Voted Sticker Competition.pdf

Download
631.6 KB

Four more "High Fives" comin' at ya!

Check out this week's "High Fives" and please nominate someone to keep the momentum going.

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



Zach Pearson, Information Technology

"Zach has done an amazing job providing our school with the tools our students need to learn. His organizational plan to track, maintain, and provide devices has made it so much easier for us to hold students accountable for the equipment they use. We appreciate his, and his team's, hard work to keep us in business."

Submitted by Paul Stecina

Myda Hernandez, Global Intermediate Academy

"Myda is managing to keep all Chromebooks at GIA assigned 1-to-1 to students, letting the Technology team know in a timely manner what is needed to be repaired or replaced, and keeping detailed tracking of all devices in IC. It has been an extremely huge help in keeping our inventory straight, and the office staff at GIA all tell me that Myda is one who takes care of all it. I appreciate all the work she puts in to keeping this managed! "

Submitted by Zach Pearson

Diana Lujan, North Valley School for Young Adults

"A huge thank you to Diana Lujan for always being there for Pat and me when we need help with translating phone calls and messages from Spanish speaking families. You have no idea how grateful we are and how much help you provide for us. Thank you for taking time out of your busy job and responsibilities to help us communicate with our Spanish speaking families who are interested in signing up for sports."

Submitted by Mitch Sauer

We'd like to give a special High Five to Global Intermediate Academy for this great video they put together celebrating positivity in their school. **Check out [this video](#)!** GIA focusing on its five character traits this year:

- P – Positive
- U – United
- M – Motivated
- A – Ambitious
- S – Successful.

Mapleton Education Foundation

Marchi Mini Grants are back!

The Mapleton Education Foundation is also excited to announce the **Marchi Mini-Grant Program application for 2024-25 school year is now open!** The program, named in honor of Mapleton principal Lisa Marchi, provides funding for teachers to implement innovative, standards-based, hands-on learning opportunities in their classrooms.

Though applicants may also receive support from the Donors Choose site, Mapleton Education Foundation awards are up-to \$1,500 for an individual instructor or up-to \$3,000 for a team application. Applications are due Oct. 3. [Read how to apply here.](#)

Integrated Services

Abuse and Neglect reporting form update

Integrated Services has updated the Abuse and Neglect reporting form. Please utilize [this new form](#) for all reports moving forward.

If you have any questions, please contact [Rachel Coppinger](#) at ext. 1151

September is also Suicide Prevention Month. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated **988** as the replacement number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, previously reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK. [988](#) is a free, confidential service available to anyone experiencing a mental health, substance use, or emotional crisis. People can reach out for themselves or for someone they are concerned about, such as a friend, neighbor, or loved one. The goal is to connect individuals in crisis with trained crisis counselors. Both text and chat services are available in English and Spanish. Like 911 for emergencies, the 988 Lifeline is available via text or chat 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the United States.



Teaching and Learning

Prepare for Sept. 20 District-wide PD Day by reading about differentiation

Mapleton teachers and staff will come together on Friday, Sept. 20, for a Professional Development Day to learn how to respond flexibly to students' needs. To prepare for this day of learning, please read one of the articles linked below so we can develop a shared understanding of the purpose and importance of differentiation.

[K-5 grades Differentiation in the Elementary Grades](#)

[6-12 grades Differentiation in the Middle and High School Grades](#)

Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 20 - Professional Development Day

Friday, Sept. 20 - [Mapleton Education Foundation Gala](#)

Monday, Sept. 23 - Instructional Planning Day

Wednesday, Sept. 25 - Board of Education Business Meeting, Administration Building, 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 11 - Homecoming (all schools 2-hour early dismissal)

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)



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

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