

**LEARNING** from the  
*past.*

**LIVING** in the  
*present.*

**SHAPING** the  
*future.*



MOON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**2024**

# WELCOME!

Dear Moon Area School District Community:

As we reflect on another successful year, I am proud of the significant strides we have made in strengthening the academic programs that are at the core of our mission. This year, we focused on refining and expanding resources throughout the district to address specific needs, ensuring that our K-12 curriculum remains aligned with Pennsylvania's academic standards. We have worked on refining pacing guides and common assessments to enhance consistency across grade levels and subject areas, ensuring students experience a seamless academic progression.

At the core of our academic success is our commitment to data-driven decision-making. Our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and curriculum framework are built around student performance data, allowing us to provide targeted interventions and support for every student. This approach has contributed to positive academic outcomes and remains central to our decision-making in every classroom.

We are also preparing for significant changes in curriculum requirements. One of the key initiatives we are focused on is the adaptation to the new STEELS science standards, which are set to be implemented in the 2025-26 school year. Our science curriculum is being aligned to meet these standards, ensuring that students are not only ready for the changes but will also thrive under the new framework.

Additionally, we are preparing for the shift to digital assessments. By the 2025-26 school year, all PSSA assessments will be fully online. In anticipation of this transition, we are working to incorporate more digital learning tools into our classrooms and providing targeted training for our educators to ensure that students are prepared for the online testing format.

While we are pleased with the overall rankings and building-level scores provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, we remain committed to continuous improvement. Our educators and staff continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every student is not only meeting standards but is also equipped to succeed in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

In line with our focus on creating a positive school environment, the high school has adopted the ROAR (Respect, Ownership, Acceptance, Resilience) PBIS program. This initiative is designed to promote a culture of respect and personal accountability, and we are excited about the positive impact it will have on both students and staff as we continue to foster a supportive and inclusive school climate.

This year has also seen significant progress on several important construction projects. Upgrades at Brooks and Allard Elementary Schools, as well as at the middle and high schools, are on track to be completed this summer, positioning our facilities to better accommodate the district's growing student population.

# WELCOME!

Our athletic programs have also continued to thrive, with several student-athletes earning state medals and honors. One of the highlights of this year was receiving the WPIAL/PIAA Sportsmanship Award, an honor that reflects the values of integrity, respect, and teamwork that define our district and positively impact our community.

Looking ahead to the 2025-26 school year, we are preparing to reconfigure our elementary schools, transitioning from five buildings to four. This shift will allow us to better allocate resources, increase efficiency, and further strengthen programs like MTSS, which has already proven successful in supporting students across the district.

We are also excited about the progress of our new Central Operations and Support Building, which will be developed on the middle and high school campus. This facility will address long-standing needs for centralized storage, improve material distribution, and house our maintenance department, increasing operational efficiency and potentially allowing us to sell the existing maintenance building.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication of our teachers, support staff, and administrators. Their commitment ensures every student has the opportunity to succeed. I am also deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our School Board Directors, whose leadership continues to guide the district toward a bright future.

As we move forward, I am excited for the opportunities that await us. Together, we will continue to build on this year's successes, tackle challenges with determination, and remain committed to creating a district that prepares every child for success.

Thank you for your continued trust and support in making Moon Area School District a community we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Balaski  
Superintendent  
Moon Area School District



## OUR MISSION

Moon Area School District, in partnership with the community, is dedicated to educating every individual in a respectful, safe, enriching environment through a challenging, comprehensive approach that inspires excellence, lifelong learning, and responsibility.

## OUR VISION

We shall accomplish our mission by doing the following:

Provide a safe, supportive environment for students, staff, and community.

Meet the diverse needs of our students to prepare them to achieve their goals.

Prepare our students to meet rigorous standards of learning to achieve academic excellence.

Commit to offering a variety of opportunities for students to explore and develop lifelong pursuits.

Communicate and collaborate with the community to build meaningful partnerships.

## OUR SHARED VALUES

Learning is a lifelong process. The education of our youth is the most valuable investment for our future success. Every person is unique and has intrinsic worth. Honest, open, and on-going communication promotes trust and mutual understanding. Relevance is an important catalyst for learning. Higher expectations promote greater achievement. Education is a shared responsibility of the student, school, family, and community. Essential elements to the educational process include confidence, competence, respect, cooperation, and understanding. Relevance is an important catalyst for learning. Higher expectations promote greater achievement. Education is a shared responsibility of the student, school, family, and community. Essential elements to the educational process include confidence, competence, respect, and cooperation.



# OUR LEADERSHIP

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Barry J. Balaski, *Superintendent*  
 Dr. Jason D'Alesio, *Assistant Superintendent*  
 Jessica Drylie, *Director of Fiscal and School Services*  
 Ashley Beeson, *Director of Pupil Services*  
 Dr. Kimberly Prevost, *Director of Data & Analysis*  
 Dr. Lauren Morgan, *Director of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction*  
 David Gallup, *Assistant Director of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction/ School Safety and Security Coordinator*  
 Christie Leininger, *Director of Food Services*  
 John Daniels, *Director of Facilities*  
 Alan Alcalde, *Athletic Director*  
 Kellie Crago, *HR, Benefits, and Payroll Supervisor*  
 Casey Kaiser, *Director of Technology*  
 Kate Bunton, *School Psychologist*  
 Rachel Coyle, *School Psychologist*  
 Demi Skeriotis, *School Psychologist*

## BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

### **Moon Area High School (Grades 9-12)**

Ryan Matsook, *Principal*  
 Nicole Hegerich, *Assistant Principal*  
 Matthew Tumulty, *Assistant Principal*

### **Moon Area Middle School (Grades 5-8)**

Melissa Heasley, *Principal*  
 Megan Geddes, *Assistant Principal*  
 Dr. Brian Pohland, *Assistant Principal*

### **J. A. Allard Elementary (Grades K-4)**

Dr. Susan Kazmierczak, *Principal*

### **Bon Meade Elementary (Grades K-4)**

Dr. Lucas Furlow, *Principal*

### **J.H. Brooks Elementary (Grades K-4)**

Dr. William McGahee, *Principal*

### **Richard J. Hyde Elementary (Grades K-4)**

Joseph Johnson, *Principal*

### **McCormick Elementary (Grades K-4)**

Dr. Julie Moore, *Principal*

## SCHOOL BOARD

Amy Stuart, *President*  
 Robert Zieger, *Vice President*  
 Kristin Sainovich, *Secretary*  
 Kate Wise, *Treasurer*  
 Patrick Callahan, *Board Member*  
 Adam Gill, *Board Member*  
 William Kammerer, *Board Member*  
 Sarah Simmons, *Board Member*  
 David White, *Board Member*



# ENROLLMENT

## ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL RACE AND ETHNICITY

October 2024	
1212	High School
1260	Middle School
209	Allard Elementary
572	Bon Meade Elementary
382	Brooks Elementary
237	Hyde Elementary
229	McCormick Elementary
41	District Placements
<b>4142</b>	<b>Total</b>

October 2024	
6.74%	Multiracial
71.68%	White
0.02%	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander
5.36%	Black or African American
7.10%	Asian
0.19%	American Indian/ Alaska Native
8.91%	Hispanic/ Latino

## ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

October 2024	
312	Grade 12
323	Grade 11
298	Grade 10
301	Grade 9
316	Grade 8
307	Grade 7
287	Grade 6
356	Grade 5
326	Grade 4
338	Grade 3
317	Grade 2
336	Grade 1
325	Kindergarten
<b>4142</b>	<b>Grades K-12</b>

## SCHOOL-AGE MASD RESIDENTS

October 2024	
School Type	Number of Students
Homeschool	113
Private/Parochial School	173
Public Charter School	103
Other School Placements*	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>

\* Other school placements include students attending schools for special education, dropout prevention, or another individual need.

## PARKWAY WEST CTC

MAHS currently has 147 students who attend Parkway West Career and Technical Center.





# BUDGET AND FINANCE

## OPERATING BUDGET

Moon Area School District's operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year is \$94,977,920.

# \$94,977,920

## FREE/REDUCED MEALS

28.63%	High School
27.14%	Middle School
34.45%	Allard Elementary
19.93%	Bon Meade Elementary
28.53%	Brooks Elementary
36.71%	Hyde Elementary
10.48%	McCormick Elementary

## MILLAGE RATE

- 2024-25 Millage Rate: 24.5467
- 2023-24 Millage Rate: 23.7856
- 2022-23 Millage Rate: 22.6746
- 2021-22 Millage Rate: 22.6746
- 2020-21 Millage Rate: 22.6746
- 2019-20 Millage Rate: 22.1000
- 2018-19 Millage Rate: 21.1170

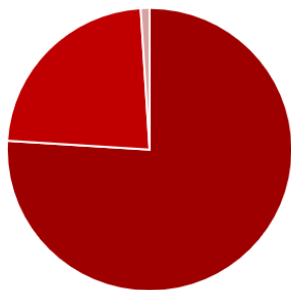
## ESSER FUNDING

### APR ESSER III

ESSER funding ended on Sept. 30, 2024. MASD was able to provide additional remediation to students, mental health support, updated technology devices, and new software and books.

## REVENUE SOURCES

- Local Sources:  
\$69,643,363 (73.69%)
- State Sources:  
\$24,153,439 (25.55%)
- Federal Sources:  
\$722,848 (0.76%)



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Maintaining our school facilities is a priority. This page includes an overview of the district's major capital expenses for the 2024-2025 school year.

Middle School		
Parking Lot Patching	\$55,000	Summer 2025
New Classrooms, Cafeteria, Maintenance Office and Other Updates	\$2,225,000	Summer 2025

Allard Elementary		
Two Additional Classroom and System Upgrades	\$80,000	Summer 2025

Bon Meade Elementary		
Classroom Flooring	\$250,000	Complete

Brooks Elementary		
Five Additional Classrooms and System Upgrades	\$320,000	Summer 2025

McCormick Elementary		
Parking Lot Repavement	\$152,000	Complete
Classroom Flooring	\$120,000	Summer 2025

Near Future Considerations		
Update Technology Labs at all schools		

District		
HVAC Upgrade	\$400,000	In Progress
Central Operations and Support Building Updates	\$6,100,000	Summer 2025

Athletics/ Fieldhouse		
Track Paint	\$15,700	Complete
Baseball & Softball Preliminary Field Repairs	\$10,000	Complete

High School		
Parking Lot Patching	\$55,000	Summer 2025
New Classrooms, Cafeteria, Office Space and Other Updates	\$3,425,000	Summer 2025





# SCHOOL SAFETY



The MASD School Resource Officer (SRO) program offers numerous advantages for students, staff, and the broader school community. One of the primary benefits is enhanced safety and security; our SROs provide a visible law enforcement presence that can deter crime and ensure a quick response to potential threats. In addition to safety, our SROs focus on building positive relationships with students, breaking down barriers, and fostering trust, which encourages open communication and makes students feel more comfortable seeking help.



The district SROs are dedicated to proactive approaches, such as conducting educational programs on topics like drug prevention, bullying, and safety awareness, equipping students with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions. They often engage with younger students, including reading to kindergarten classes, fostering a love of learning and creating a positive association with law enforcement. Furthermore, our SROs collaborate with school counselors and mental health professionals to identify and support at-risk students, addressing issues before they escalate.



This year, the district hosted the first Safety Night. The Safety Night was organized to inform parents about the dangers facing students and provide them with resources and strategies to support their children's safety. By serving as a bridge between the school and the community, our SROs foster partnerships that enhance educational opportunities and promote community safety initiatives.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

Corporal Mike Beachy serves as the MAHS School Resource Officer. He has more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, including 12 years of experience teaching and leading students.



Officer Cuyler Hale serves as the School Resource Officer for the MAMS and elementary schools. Officer Hale has more than 13 years of law enforcement experience and has served the last 7 years with the Moon Township Police Department.

Both Corporal Beachy and Officer Hale are committed to fostering a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff at Moon Area School District.



# PUPIL SERVICES

The Moon Area School District Pupil Services Department proudly services a wide variety of student needs throughout the district. The Pupil Services Department is dedicated to assist in carrying out the district's mission of educating every individual in a respectful, safe, enriching environment through comprehensive programs that inspire excellence, lifelong learning, and responsibility.

MASD services 719 students with an Individualized Education Plan, 178 students in gifted education, 123 students with a 504 Service Plan, 354 English Learners, and 54 students who receive out-of-district programs.

There are currently 10 MASD students who are experiencing homelessness.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Moon Area School District offers K-12 Life Skills Support classrooms to address the needs of students with disabilities, including complex learning profiles. In addition, the district has been consulting with the PATTAN Autism Initiative ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Supports since 2010. The district also provides Emotional Support Services via the treatment team model at Bon Meade Elementary School, Moon Area Middle School, and Moon Area High School through a partnership with Wesley Family Services (WFS). A Mental Health Therapist from WFS also provides therapeutic services to support the mental health needs of students at Moon Area High School. This program was designed for student who demonstrate moderate to severe behavioral, social, and emotional needs. Moon Area is committed to inclusive education, providing specialized support through our special education programs. We strive to create an environment where every student, regardless of unique learning needs, can thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.



# PUPIL SERVICES

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The district has once again been awarded a grant to help support immigrant students and English Learners through Title III funds for this school year. These funds will be directed to provide an English Language Development coach to support content teachers who service English Learners in their classrooms. This program offers support to teachers in planning lessons, assignments, and assessments, along with best practices in supporting English Learners in an inclusive school environment. Our English Language Development program focuses on empowering students with language proficiency, fostering effective communication skills, and promoting cultural understanding. Through tailored programming and targeted support, we aim to ensure all students achieve success.

## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

Moon Area School District has many social/emotional and mental health supports in place, some of which include:

- SAP (Student Assistance Program), which is known as MAPS (Moon Assistant Program for Students) in the Moon Area School District, provides services for at-risk students K-12.
- School-based mental health therapists from The Bradley Center service students in all buildings based on referrals made by the MAPS team.
- Peer-to-Peer Program in the high school presents programs directed toward domestic violence and mental health.
- The district has three full-time school psychologists to assist with student mental health.
- The school social worker, contracted with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, provides mental health checks and regular counseling sessions with students identified by school counselors and with parent/guardian permission.

## PUPIL SERVICES DATA

	Students with Special Ed Services	Students with a 504 Plan		Gifted Education Students		English Learners
High School	210	58	High School	65	High School	73
Middle School	235	41	Middle School	74	Middle School	90
Allard	30	2	Allard	5	Allard	25
Bon Meade	108	8	Bon Meade	11	Bon Meade	27
Brooks	66	8	Brooks	8	Brooks	42
Hyde	43	4	Hyde	2	Hyde	83
McCormick	27	2	McCormick	10	McCormick	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>



# TECHNOLOGY

This year, the Technology Department focused on enhancing accessibility, improving the integration of technology in education, and equipping students and staff with modern tools to foster an engaging learning environment. Our primary initiatives included updates to wireless usability, the integration of iPads for 5th and 6th grade levels and advancing classroom technology applications.

## WIRELESS USABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

To support our growing reliance on digital tools, we undertook significant upgrades to the school's wireless network. Key improvements included:

- **Expanded Coverage:** Additional access points were installed, ensuring seamless connectivity across the campus.
- **Increased Bandwidth:** Network speeds were boosted to accommodate the high demand for streaming, cloud-based applications, and collaborative tools as well as online testing requirements.
- **Enhanced Reliability:** Upgraded systems now minimize downtime and ensure consistent service during peak usage hours.

These updates have directly enhanced the learning experience by allowing uninterrupted access to digital resources and supporting innovative teaching strategies.





# TECHNOLOGY

## IPAD INTEGRATION FOR 5TH AND 6TH GRADES

We successfully rolled out a 1:1 iPad program for 5th and 6th grade students, providing each student with an iPad to use both in the classroom and at home. Highlights of this initiative include:

- **Curriculum Integration:** Teachers implemented iPads into core subjects, utilizing apps for interactive assignments, research, and project-based learning.
- **Teacher Training:** Professional development sessions equipped educators with strategies to incorporate iPads effectively.
- **Student Benefits:** Early results show improved engagement, collaboration, and digital literacy skills among students.

## INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Technology has become an integral part of our educational approach. This year, we focused on blending digital tools with traditional teaching methods. An example of this can be found at our Bon Meade Elementary School. Here is a testament from the Art Teacher Kristin Teeple.

Bon Meade Elementary is revolutionizing the way students experience art by blending creativity with technology. In Ms. Kristin Teeple's art class, fourth-grader Abigail Siebert is learning how to document her artistic journey using school-provided iPads. Recently, Abigail captured and submitted a photo of Jeff Koons' Balloon Dog to her personal gallery on Artsonia, the largest online student art museum.

"Our goal is to foster creativity and give students the tools they need to express themselves," said Ms. Teeple. "By integrating technology, we're teaching them how to document and celebrate their work, while also building a lifelong appreciation for art."

Bon Meade Elementary's use of technology in the art classroom is a testament to how schools can combine innovation with tradition to inspire the next generation of artists.

[Please visit Bon Meade's Art Museum.](#)

## FUTURE GOALS

This year's achievements reflect our commitment to preparing students for a technology-driven world. Moving forward, we aim to:

- Implement advanced cybersecurity measures to protect student and staff data.
- Explore new tools to enhance personalized learning experiences.
- Explore the ever-changing world of AI and what it can bring to the table.

We thank the administration, staff, students, and families for their support in making these advancements possible. Together, we're building a future-ready learning environment.

# FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Formative assessment is an essential component of instruction and learning because it serves as a roadmap, guiding teachers and administrators as they make important instructional decisions throughout the year. Rather than wait until a final summative assessment at the end of a school year to learn how students are doing, formative assessments provide real-time data about what students know and need in the present.

Students in grades K-4 take the Acadience Reading screener, administered by teachers with iPads. The Acadience Learning Online assessment streamlines the assessment of students to determine those who may be in need of intensive reading intervention. Students who score below benchmark are then provided with appropriate interventions through the district's MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports). MASD also uses the Renaissance STAR Assessment suite for reading and math for students in grades K-8. The STAR is not only a valid and reliable predictor of student achievement on PSSA exams, but it is also a powerful tool for educators to see exactly where individual student mastery has been secured or where additional instruction is needed. MASD continues to use CDT tests for middle school science and for high school Algebra 1, biology, and 10th grade English literature to gauge student readiness for state summative assessments. As MASD prepares for its transition to online PSSA and Keystone exams this year, our students are gaining valuable experience using a variety of online formative assessments throughout the school year.

Students are also learning to use the same online test taking tools that will be on the PSSA and Keystones by practicing with the online testing tools that are available at <https://wbte.drccedirect.com/PA/portals/pa> and clicking on the box in the top left that says "Online Tools Training."

## MASD BUILDING SCORES

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, Act 13 Building Level Scores were assigned to schools to in a way that fairly evaluates the performance of schools that have students who take the PSSA and Keystone Exams. The building scores are comprised of multiple measures including assessment, growth, attendance rate, and graduation rate where applicable. Additionally, building scores are adjusted using a "challenge multiplier" based on the percentage of students in the school who are economically disadvantaged. For more information about Act 13 of 2020 and building scores for schools throughout Pennsylvania, visit PDE's website.

	Building Score 2022-2023	Building Score 2023-2024
High School	70	74.7
Middle School (Upper)	85.8	79.9
Middle School (Lower)	70	74.4
Allard	72.8	87.7
Bon Meade	87.4	91.9
Brooks	83.9	91.8
Hyde	85.3	80.5
McCormick	88.1	79.5

## ACADIENCE READING SCREENER

MASD uses Acadience reading to identify if students are above or below benchmark for their grade level. This tool enables teachers and administrators to identify students who need strategic or intensive support within a number of specific early reading skills. The data is used to individualize instruction and improve reading outcomes for all students.

	At or Above Benchmark 2022-2023	At or Above Benchmark 2023-2024
Kindergarten	85%	87%
Grade 1	76%	69%
Grade 2	77%	74%



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The numbers in the chart below represent the percentage of students who were proficient or advanced on the PSSA exams in grades 3-8 or Keystone Exams for the high school.

	English Language Arts			Mathematics			Science		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Allard	72.7%	73.3%	78.2%	74.2%	72.4%	84.6%	92.1%	74.2%	90.9%
Bon Meade	84.5%	79.6%	81.6%	77.3%	80.8%	83.3%	92.0%	94.3%	95.9%
Brooks	76.9%	77.7%	81.4%	74.1%	76.0%	81.4%	91.2%	94.4%	92.9%
Hyde	66.2%	72.7%	53.5%	61.5%	69.7%	56.9%	73.8%	84.2%	88.5%
McCormick	93.5%	93.6%	86.7%	88.3%	88.5%	86.7%	100%	97.3%	90.7%
Lower Middle	71.6%	71.6%	76.6%	53.9%	58.4%	63.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Upper Middle	72.4%	74.7%	70.8%	41.0%	50.7%	50.3%	68.7%	74.8%	72.1%
High School	81.3%	80.0%	71.9%	85.2%	37.8%	61.6%	42.1%	65.8%	62.5%

\* Keystone Literature, Algebra and Biology exam data is based on the 11th grade cohort's best performance.



# PSSA RESULTS

## PSSA MATHEMATICS

	Advanced			Proficient			Basic			Below Basic		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
MASD Grade 3	42.4%	42.2%	38.9%	36.7%	36.7%	37.9%	13.3%	13.1%	16.3%	7.6%	8.0%	7.0%
PA Grade 3	20.9%	21.6%	20.6%	26.9%	30.1%	30.8%	23.4%	23.4%	22.4%	28.9%	24.9%	26.2%
MASD Grade 4	34.2%	38.0%	50.0%	38.8%	40.6%	33.5%	16%	15.6%	13.4%	11%	5.8%	3.0%
PA Grade 4	17%	16.5%	21.3%	25.3%	30.0%	27.4%	26.8%	28.5%	26.4%	30.9%	25.1%	24.9%
MASD Grade 5	27.7%	34.6%	32.7%	33.6%	35.7%	37.6%	27.3%	20.1%	21.4%	11.4%	9.5%	8.3%
PA Grade 5	12.2%	15.8%	14.9%	23.3%	26.9%	27.9%	33.5%	28.1%	31.9%	31.1%	29.2%	25.4%
MASD Grade 6	18.9%	22.0%	27.9%	27.5%	26.6%	29.9%	27.2%	30.8%	27.6%	26.4%	20.7%	14.6%
PA Grade 6	13.3%	12.9%	14.7%	18.9%	23.5%	22.6%	28.8%	30.1%	30.8%	38.9%	33.5%	31.8%
MASD Grade 7	16.8%	18.2%	22.6%	26.5%	31.2%	29.3%	31.7%	29.7%	30.0%	25%	20.8%	18.2%
PA Grade 7	9.7%	12.3%	12.4%	17.4%	20.9%	21.5%	30%	27.3%	28.1%	43%	39.5%	37.9%
MASD Grade 8	13.7%	16.7%	18.8%	26.4%	35.1%	30.3%	30.5%	21.7%	27.6%	29.5%	26.4%	23.4%
PA Grade 8	6.8%	8.3%	9.8%	15.7%	17.7%	18.8%	27.1%	27.0%	26.0%	50.3%	46.9%	45.4%

## PSSA ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

	Advanced			Proficient			Basic			Below Basic		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
MASD Grade 3	28.8%	25.8%	16.6%	52.9%	53.2%	65.1%	12.2%	16.7%	14.0%	6.1%	4.3%	4.3%
PA Grade 3	11.8%	12.1%	9.1%	40.6%	41.9%	46.7%	29.7%	31.6%	28.0%	17.9%	14.4%	16.2%
MASD Grade 4	41.8%	45.8%	35.8%	38.6%	35.5%	40.4%	16.1%	13.9%	21.7%	3.6%	4.8%	2.1%
PA Grade 4	21.3%	21.4%	16.9%	30.9%	30.4%	34.6%	29.2%	31.0%	32.4%	18.6%	17.2%	16.2%
MASD Grade 5	23.7%	26.2%	22.3%	49.1%	48.9%	59.9%	21.6%	19.5%	11.5%	5.7%	5.3%	6.3%
PA Grade 5	13.3%	13.2%	10.2%	40.3%	40.4%	42.0%	28.7%	31.0%	31.1%	17.7%	15.4%	16.8%
MASD Grade 6	31.7%	30.1%	26.9%	39.7%	39.7%	46.3%	24.8%	26.2%	22.8%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%
PA Grade 6	19.4%	18.8%	13.8%	36.7%	36.8%	39.1%	35.6%	36.3%	38.3%	8.3%	8.1%	8.7%
MASD Grade 7	20.7%	26.5%	21.2%	54.1%	47.4%	47.8%	24.4%	24.3%	29.6%	0.8%	1.8%	1.3%
PA Grade 7	17.8%	17.7%	15.5%	39.5%	36.8%	37.9%	37.7%	41.0%	41.7%	5.1%	4.5%	4.9%
MASD Grade 8	23.7%	25.3%	22.4%	48.5%	50.5%	51.0%	19.9%	19.0%	20.9%	7.9%	5.1%	5.7%
PA Grade 8	16%	14.4%	11.7%	39.7%	38.4%	40.5%	29.9%	32.8%	32.8%	14.4%	14.4%	14.9%

## PSSA SCIENCE

	Advanced			Proficient			Basic			Below Basic		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
MASD Grade 4	58.4%	59.2%	62.7%	33.1%	33.2%	30.9%	6.4%	5.1%	6.1%	2.1%	2.5%	0.3%
PA Grade 4	37.2%	35.2%	36.8%	36.5%	38.9%	40.3%	18.3%	18.0%	16.7%	8%	7.8%	6.2%
MASD Grade 8	28.8%	37.4%	41.2%	41.1%	37.7%	31.3%	16.8%	11.7%	18.7%	13.4%	13.2%	8.8%
PA Grade 8	20.1%	26.2%	22.2%	31%	30.8%	32.3%	20.6%	18.4%	19.5%	28.3%	24.5%	26%



# HIGH SCHOOL OVERVIEW



## GRADUATION RATE

The preliminary data for the Class of 2024 represents the rate as of Nov. 17, 2024. The figure typically increases slightly once school attribution rules are applied and the rate is finalized.

	MAHS	PA
Class of 2021	95.5%	86.7%
Class of 2022	94.4%	87.0%
Class of 2023	94.4%	87.6%
Class of 2024	93.5%*	**

\* This is preliminary data. | \*\* PA is not yet available.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

	2022	2023	2024
Total AP Students	290	258	330
Total AP Exams Taken	518	511	583
Scores of 5	82	63	96
Scores of 4	108	103	174
Scores of 3	152	160	176

## PSAT/NMSQT

	Moon 2024	PA 2024
Reading & Writing	548	482
Mathematics	525	469

## SAT

	Moon 2024	PA 2024	National 2024
Reading & Writing	594	546	519
Mathematics	581	529	505

## ACT

	Moon 2024	PA 2024	National 2024
English	25.3	24.0	18.6
Mathematics	25.4	23.5	19.0
Reading	25.8	25.2	20.1
Science Reasoning	24.7	23.9	19.6
Composite	25.3	24.3	19.4

## KEYSTONE EXAMS

Results are based on the performance of the junior class cohort during the 2023-2024 school year.

	Proficient or Advanced	Advanced
Algebra -- MASD	61.60%	15.20%
Algebra -- PA	40.20%	15.00%
Biology -- MASD	62.50%	36.40%
Biology -- PA	59.20%	25.80%
Literature -- MASD	71.90%	13%
Literature -- PA	53.90%	12%

\* More than 80% of colleges across the country are now "test optional" to gain admission. Research shows high test scores correlate to wealth, access, and socioeconomic status more so than ability, potential, or success in post-secondary education. Therefore, colleges are taking a deeper look at each student's grades and courses as an indicator of success in higher education.

# HIGH SCHOOL OVERVIEW

## HONORS COURSES

Algebra II  
 Anatomy/Physiology  
 Biology  
 Chamber String Ensemble  
 Chemistry  
 Comparative World History  
 Concert Choir  
 Contemporary Global History  
 Cyber Security  
 Engineering Design 1 and 2  
 English 9  
 English 10  
 French IV, V  
 Geometry  
 German IV, V  
 Percussion Ensemble  
 Spanish IV, V  
 Symphonic Band  
 Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus  
 US History 1865-1945

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Art History  
 Biology  
 Calculus AB  
 Calculus BC  
 Chemistry  
 Computer Science Principles  
 European History  
 Government/Politics  
 Language 11  
 Literature 12  
 Physics 1  
 Statistics  
 US History

## COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Accounting  
 Comprehensive Musicianship 1 & 2  
 MS Office Apps  
 Information Technology 1  
 Information Technology 2  
 Physics  
 Statistics

## AP COURSE INFORMATION

	Number of Students Tested	MASD Percent 3+	PA Percent 3+	Global Percent 3%	MASD Average Score	PA Average Score	Global Average Score
Art History	14	78.6%	71.1%	62.6%	3.43	3.21	2.99
Biology	31	93.5%	76.4%	68.0%	3.84	3.36	3.14
Calculus AB	22	90.9%	69.6%	64.2%	3.95	3.37	3.21
Calculus BC	12	91.7%	82.1%	80.0%	4.17	3.95	3.87
Chemistry	16	100.0%	78.2%	74.9%	3.88	3.39	3.28
CSP	22	77.3%	73.1%	64.3%	3.32	3.17	2.90
European History	33	75.8%	79.6%	71.3%	3.30	3.41	3.22
Government	137	75.2%	79.7%	73.5%	3.44	3.60	3.39
Language	85	67.1%	63.2%	53.7%	2.99	3.01	2.76
Literature	42	90.5%	77.8%	72.1%	3.76	3.29	3.14
Physics	51	47.1%	46.1%	45.6%	2.61	2.54	2.52
Stats	31	64.5%	70.0%	61.0%	2.81	3.20	2.93
US History	78	85.9%	83.0%	72.0%	3.38	3.52	3.23

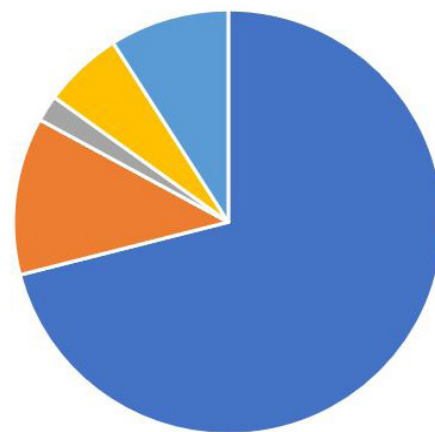
# MOON AREA CLASS OF 2024



## POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Approximately 82% of Moon Area High School graduates pursue a post-secondary education. 72% are now enrolled in four-year colleges, 10% enrolled in two-year colleges, 2% of students joined the military and 6% entered the workforce. The remaining 10% were undecided or planning to take time off before furthering their education.

- 4 Year College
- 2 Year College
- Military
- Workforce
- Undecided



296

Class Members

122

Senior Scholar Athletes

341

Underclass Scholar Athletes

61

Students Received 283 Private University Scholarships/ Awards

27

Students Received 38 Local Scholarships/ Awards

16

Students Received Athletic Scholarships

7

Students Were National Merit Commended Students





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS?

## Understanding Common Assessments and Pacing Guides in Our Schools

Moon Area School District is proud to share that teachers in grades 3-8 are collaborating to create common assessments and pacing guides. These tools are designed to ensure that all students receive a consistent, high-quality education across the district. This initiative aligns our teaching more closely with our high level of educational expectations. Research supports this approach, with findings indicating that "high expectations create a culture of achievement, where all students are encouraged to strive for excellence" (Hattie, 2009).

With pacing guides, essential content is taught at the right time, ensuring students are fully prepared for each new grade level. Common assessments provide valuable insights into where students excel and where they may need additional support. This data enables our teachers to adapt their instruction effectively, meeting the diverse needs of all learners, including those who may require extra assistance.

By using these tools, we ensure equity in education, providing each student with the same learning opportunities. Additionally, this approach helps us gather valuable data for the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), which allows for timely interventions for students who need extra help.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How are common assessments created?

Developed through collaboration among teachers district-wide, common assessments are aligned with state standards and focus on essential skills at each grade level.

### 2. How do common assessments impact my child's grades?

While they play a role in final grades, common assessments primarily guide instruction, helping teachers plan their teaching to individual student needs.

### 3. What if my child struggles with a common assessment?

Teachers will use assessment results to offer additional support, including reteaching concepts and providing extra practice.

### 4. Can pacing guides be adjusted for my child's learning pace?

Yes, pacing guides are flexible, allowing teachers to slow down or revisit material based on student needs.

### 5. Are common assessments standardized tests?

No, they are created by our district's teachers to align with daily classroom instruction and assess similar skills as state tests.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS?

## 6. How are pacing guides updated?

Regular reviews based on student performance, teacher feedback, and changes to state standards ensure pacing guides remain effective.

## 7. Will there be personalized learning opportunities?

Yes, while providing structure, teachers will continue to differentiate instruction based on individual student needs.

## 8. How do common assessments align with state testing?

Common assessments align with state testing by being based on eligible content, which identifies the specific concepts and skills that students are expected to master at each grade level. This alignment ensures that common assessments provide a reliable measure of students' readiness for state tests and promote a cohesive instructional approach.

The quote “high expectations create a culture of achievement, where all students are encouraged to strive for excellence” can be attributed to John Hattie, specifically from his research synthesized in his book *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement* (2009). In this work, Hattie emphasizes the significant impact of setting high expectations on student achievement and school culture.

Hattie, J. (2009). *Visible learning: A synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement*. Routledge.

## Pennsylvania State Assessments Go Digital and Moon is Ready!

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is making an important change to state assessments by transitioning all tests to a fully digital format starting in the 2025-2026 school year. This means that students in grades 3-8 and HS students taking the Keystones, will be required to take their state assessments on computers or iPads rather than using the traditional paper and pencil format.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS?

## Pennsylvania State Assessments Go Digital and Moon is Ready! (cont.)

MASD has diligently and systematically prepared for this shift and will be participating in the digital format this school year for certain levels. For the 2024-2025 school year, students will be taking the Keystone exams digitally and students in grades 3-6 will take the Math, ELA, and Science PSSAs on iPads.

To prepare, digital learning tools have been built into daily instruction, allowing students to become familiar with the online platforms and tools they will encounter on digital assessments. Practice assessments throughout the year will further enhance their comfort with this format. MASD students will have plenty of experience using computers and iPads in an educational setting, making the transition to digital assessments smoother.

Additionally, our teachers will be receiving training to help them guide students through this transition effectively. By understanding the digital tools and platforms themselves, teachers can better support their students in building confidence with technology. They are also focused on improving students' digital literacy, such as typing, navigating online resources, and using educational apps. These skills are crucial not only for assessments but for students' overall success in a digital world.

Moon Area School District is optimistic about the opportunities digital exams present and is committed to ensuring our students are well-prepared for the shift to digital assessments. We will continue to provide the support and resources necessary for our students to succeed both in the classroom and beyond.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS?

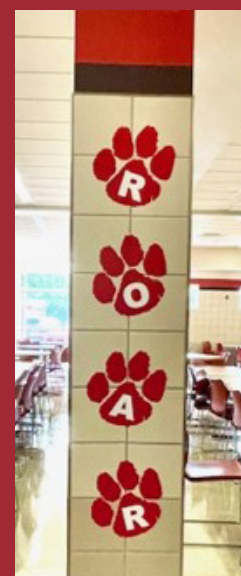
## At Moon Area High School, We R.O.A.R!

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based framework designed to enhance the overall school climate by promoting positive behaviors and preventing unwanted behaviors. At its core, PBIS focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors rather than solely reacting to negative behaviors.

While PBIS framework has existed at our district's elementary buildings for quite some time, the district decided it was time to bring forward a mature and meaningful version to support our High School students. The goal is to strengthen our positive social culture and provide the necessary supports to our students to improve academic, behavioral, and social/emotional outcomes for all. Through the use of the acronym "R.O.A.R.," students will be exposed to ways that they can exhibit the principles of our schoolwide values of being Respectful, taking Ownership, showing Acceptance, and displaying Resilience in their daily lives.



[Read more about PBIS at the High School on our website.](#)





# PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

## MASD ALL-DISTRICT MUSIC CONCERT

In March of 2024, the MASD Music Department held its 16th Annual All-District Music Concert. This concert represented more than 350 students from all school buildings, with students in grades fourth through twelfth performing in a continuous musical extravaganza in the MAHS auditorium in honor of "Music In Our Schools" month.

## MASD ELEMENTARY MUSIC

MASD elementary students are presented with strong foundational musical skills in the elementary general music classes. These skills are building blocks that lead to future growth in Moon Area's music program. Students receive opportunities to perform in concerts throughout the academic year. Several elementary music students have performed at the Moon Area Education Foundation Moonlit 5K, as well as the Mark Milovats in Concert – "Christmas Wonderland" at the Byham Theater. In addition to performing, elementary music students are presented with meaningful and exciting cross-curricular music learning activities that enhance academic skills including math, ELA, science, and social studies.

## MASD MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC

The middle school music program provides performance experiences to all students in the building, with 19 different ensembles. There are band, chorus, and orchestra groups for each grade level, as well as Adapted Music classes. In addition to the grade-level ensembles, there are five after school groups available to students with the Middle School Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Moon Area Youth Orchestra, Lil' Bro Canto, and Girls Chamber Choir. These groups perform both at concerts as well as within the community. Students also participate in the various Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) honors groups throughout the region. The Middle School Wind Ensemble auditioned and was selected to perform at the annual state PMEA Conference in Erie, PA last April.

## MASD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC

Moon Area High School Band and Orchestra had a robust year performing at community and district events. Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Orchestra performed at Walt Disney World in February 2024.

Moon Area High School Chorus showcased their talents at performances throughout the community. In collaboration with the 8th grade chorus, the combined choirs performed the National Anthem and Alma Mater at the Varsity Football Pink Out Game.

## PMEA RECOGNITION

Middle and high school students represented our district at various PMEA events.





# PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

## MASD THEATRE PROGRAM

### The Drowsy Chaperone

In the spring of 2024, the Moon Area High School Theatre Department orchestrated the presentation of the hit musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. This production featured over 100 high school students on and off stage. Students in the cast, crew, and orchestra worked together to create a top-quality performance of this beloved musical. *The Drowsy Chaperone* was MAHS Theatre Department's biggest hit yet, performing to a sold-out Saturday night crowd.



### James and the Giant Peach

Transitioning to the fall of 2024, the theatre department brought the beloved Roald Dahl book, *James and the Giant Peach*, to life on stage through spectacular acting, singing, and dancing. *James and the Giant Peach* featured students in high school and select students from middle school. Stage craft and crew students succeeded in their challenge to bring a giant rotating peach to center stage.





# PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

## HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ART

The High School Art Department cultivates students' artistic skills and encourages learners to feel empowered to explore their creativity. The curriculum includes traditional fine art techniques as well as digital media. In addition to selecting from a wide variety of specialty classes, students participating in the fine arts can display original works of art in The Moon Area High School Annual Art Show, which takes place in May.

The Digital Imaging students also had the field trip opportunity to tour Robert Morris University's graphic arts studios, meet with faculty and talk to current design students. Additionally, last year the High School Art Club partnered with the Positive Painting Project to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Students at the high school also participated in real world art experiences including event photography at the Moon Area Education Foundation's MoonLit 5K. Art Club members created the High school promenade set design.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL VISUAL ART

The Middle School Visual Arts program fosters creativity and expression through an enriching curriculum that allows exploration of various mediums and techniques while encouraging collaboration and individual growth. Each year culminates in an inspiring art show, where young artists proudly display their work, celebrating their talents with family and friends. Last year we began a selection of exceptional artwork to be showcased at the district's central office, providing students with a valuable exhibition opportunity that enhances their confidence and appreciation for the arts. Our middle school program also includes a vibrant Art Club, welcoming everyone regardless of experience. These students participated in the Positive Painting Project. In addition, middle school artists participated in numerous community art initiatives such as local and state art contests. This inclusive art program not only nurtures artistic skills but also builds a strong community of young creators.



## K - 5 MAGAZINE COVER CONTEST

Bon Meade Elementary School 3rd grade student Hadleigh Vanderheyden won the Allegheny West Magazine's cover coloring contest! Hadleigh's artwork was featured on the cover of the November/ December 2024 issue.

In addition, many other MASD elementary students had their artwork featured in the November/ December issue of Allegheny West Magazine.



# ATHLETICS

## VARSITY SPORTS

- Baseball
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Bowling
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Golf
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Boys and Girls Rugby
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Swimming
- Boys and Girls Tennis
- Boys and Girls Track
- Boys and Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Wrestling
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Girls Flag Football
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Softball

## JUNIOR VARSITY SPORTS

- Baseball
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Bowling
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Tennis
- Boys and Girls Volleyball
- Boys Golf
- Cheerleading
- Girls Rugby
- Football
- Hockey
- Softball

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

- Baseball
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Swimming
- Boys and Girls Track
- Boys Wrestling
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Hockey
- Softball

## 2024 FALL SEASON OVERVIEW

We had a very successful fall season in which we claimed 3 section titles, a WPIAL title, and a State Runner-up finish. Our MAHS fall varsity athletic teams had a combined overall record of 86 wins and 35 losses for a 71% winning percentage! Go Tigers!

## WPIAL SPORTSMAN AWARD

Moon Area School District is one of two winners of the 28th Annual WPIAL Sportsmanship Award. This is Moon's third time receiving the award. Moon previously won in 2013-14 and 2020-21.





# ATHLETICS

## 2023-2024 SECTION CHAMPIONS

- Boys Basketball
- Boys Cross Country
- Boys Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Bowling
- Girls Cross Country
- Girls Golf
- Girls Soccer

## 2023-2024 TEAM WPIAL CHAMPIONS

- Boys Basketball

## 2023-2024 TEAM PIAA CHAMPIONS

- Girls Soccer

## FALL 2024 SECTION CHAMPIONS

- Boys Cross Country
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer

## FALL 2024 TEAM WPIAL CHAMPIONS

- Boys Soccer





# MASD AWARDS

Moon Area School District is pleased to present the recipients of the third annual Distinguished Alumni Award and the second annual Service Legacy Award!

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The 2024 MASD Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are Mr. Alan Lesh (Class of 1974) and the late Mr. Thomas E. Richards (Class of 1972).

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes each recipient's contributions to our school district, community and beyond in one or more of the following areas: Career Achievement or Military Service Distinction, Service to Society, and Service and Support to the Moon Area School District. Their accomplishments, affiliations, and careers honor a legacy of excellence. [Read more.](#)



## SERVICE LEGACY AWARD



The 2024 MASD Service Legacy Award recipients are Mr. Michael Haslett, Former Director of Pupil Services, and Mr. William Moore, Former Science Teacher, Coach and Athletic Director.

The Service Legacy recognizes each recipient's remarkable and positive influence on our students and schools. Each of these individuals exemplifies the inherent value of Moon Area School District's academic programs and student engagement, embodying the enduring sense of pride shared by both current and former students, staff, and faculty. Their unwavering dedication to go above and beyond in serving our school community and leaving a lasting impact serves as an inspiring example for others to establish their own enduring legacy. [Read more.](#)

## SUBMIT A NOMINATION

If you know of somebody who graduated from Moon Area High School and deserves recognition, nominate them for the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award. Likewise, if you know of somebody who has served our school district as an employee or volunteer, nominate them for the 2025 Service Legacy Award.

[Learn more and submit a Distinguished Alumni Award nomination.](#)

[Learn more and submit a Service Legacy Award nomination.](#)



**MA**

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PURPOSE

INNOVATION

EXCELLENCE

TM

