



# The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025

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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.](#)

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🏆 **HISTORY MADE! CONGRATULATIONS, SKYVIEW WRESTLERS!** 🏆

The Skyview Wolverines Boys and Girls wrestling teams are headed to the 2025 CHSAA Wrestling State Championship Tournament at Ball Arena, and we couldn't be more proud! Eleven of our outstanding wrestlers have qualified— the most in Skyview history!

**A huge shoutout to our qualifiers:**

Arianna A. – MEC Prep, Ariyah A. – MEC Prep, Atlee B. – MESA, Jennifer C. – MESA, Sofia C. – Academy High School, Anthony G. – MEC Prep, Itzel H. – MEC Prep, Isaiah A. – MESA, Andrew P. – Academy High School, Monico “Juju” S. – Global Leadership Academy, Juan V. – York International

The Skyview teams will compete against the best wrestlers from across Colorado in the biggest wrestling event of the year! Preliminaries start Thursday, Feb. 13, and the tournament runs through Saturday, Feb. 15. For tournament schedules, live streaming, and tickets, visit:

<https://chsaanow.com/sports/wrestling>

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## Tuesday Tech Tip of the Week

Welcome to **Tech Tip Tuesday**, where every Tuesday, we spotlight handy tech tips and tools designed to streamline your workflow.

### Insert a table of contents

Create a table of contents based on your document headings.

1. Select **References > Table of Contents**, and then select the table of contents you want.
  2. If you need to make changes in your document that affect the table of contents:
    1. Select the table of contents.
    2. Select **References > Table of Contents**, and then select **Update Table**.
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# Mapleton News

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Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025 | 3:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of Meadow Community School, Mapleton's newest community learning hub designed with YOU in mind! Explore the state-of-the-art, nature-inspired school and discover innovative learning spaces tailored for preschool through eighth grade students. Made possible by the generous support of our community and a \$13 million BEST grant, Meadow Community School is a place where creativity, collaboration, and curiosity thrive. Come tour the school, connect with our team, and help us mark this exciting milestone!



9150 Monroe St., Thornton, CO 80229

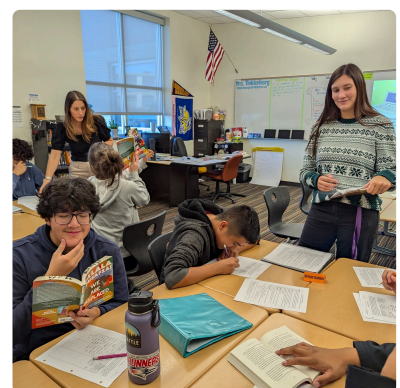
303.853.1500 | meadow.mapleton.us |   

## Academy High School's MEET program enhances understanding of geography, English

At Academy High School, ninth graders are benefiting from an accelerated Humanities course that blends geography and English. Led by two teachers, the course encourages critical thinking through discussions on literature and global issues, helping students transition into high school.

This innovative class is part of the MEET (Mapleton Educator Empowerment Teams) program, launched last fall to boost student achievement and reduce teacher burnout. Now in place at five Mapleton schools, MEET fosters collaboration among teachers to enhance education.

Read more about it in the "News from the District" section on our [homepage](#).



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## Benefits Committee update

The Benefits Committee will meet this afternoon, Tuesday, Feb. 11, to discuss next steps with the district's new Benefits broker, Willis Towers Watson Insurance Services.

In the spring of 2024, the Mapleton Public Schools Benefits Committee recommended submitting a request for a proposal (RFP) for a new District benefits broker. A formal solicitation process was completed in December 2024 to seek a qualified benefits broker for insurance consulting services. Nine formal responses were received and reviewed. Of the nine, four were selected for an interview. The final selection was made based on the solicitation responses of the following criteria: Vendor experience in K-12, experience of assigned team members, how their approach to working with Mapleton compared to other responses, the vendor's ability to meet district needs, costs of services and an in-depth, in-person interview. The selection committee unanimously voted to recommend Willis Towers Watson Insurance Services (WTW) to serve as the District's benefits broker effective January 1, 2025, and the Board of Education approved the agreement in December.

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## Food for Hope "Wolverine Den" opens this Thursday, Feb. 13

Mapleton Public Schools is partnering with the nonprofit Food for Hope to provide ongoing nutritional assistance to district families. Beginning Thursday, Feb. 13, the "Wolverine Den" food pantry, located at Achieve Academy (9100 Poze Blvd., Thornton), will be open to all Mapleton families from 9-11 a.m. The pantry will continue to operate every Thursday from 9-11 a.m., offering families access to essential food items on a weekly basis.



Flyers were shared with schools last week. Please help us spread the word about this new partnership.



**Food for Hope\_Food Pantry.pdf**

[Download](#)

1.9 MB



Food for Hope\_Food Pantry SPA.pdf

Download

2.0 MB



## Join Mapleton's Winter Wellness Challenge – Snow Wonder begins Feb. 17!

Registration is now open for [Snow Wonder](#), Mapleton's second, month-long wellness challenge of the school year!

Colder temperatures and shorter days can make staying active a challenge, but [Snow Wonder](#) makes wellness fun and engaging. Here's how it works:

- Earn inches of snow by recording healthy activities like exercise and mindful eating.
- Watch as your virtual winter scene transforms with each activity logged.
- Explore stunning winter destinations while boosting your energy and well-being.
- Compete for **exciting prizes** along the way!

The contest runs from **Monday, Feb. 17, through Sunday, March 16**. Staff are encouraged to register soon and form their teams by **Monday, Feb. 24**. Participants can begin logging their activity starting **Monday, Feb. 17**.

**Don't miss out.** [Register here today!](#)

**Register for Snow Wonder!**



## February is Love the Bus month!

This month, schools and communities across the country come together to honor the iconic yellow school bus and the dedicated drivers who transport millions of students safely each day. This month-long celebration provides an opportunity to express gratitude and raise awareness about the importance of school transportation. By highlighting the vital role of school buses, Love the Bus month reminds us of the essential service they provide, ensuring that every child can access education with safety and reliability.

Mapleton's school choice model is backed by a comprehensive transportation plan that ensures students can attend their chosen schools, no matter where they live within the district. Every school day, our incredible team of 32 dedicated drivers and 16 hardworking paras make sure 2,300 students get to and from school safely. With 41 buses covering 28 routes—from 106th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard to Trailside Academy to 53rd Avenue and Lincoln—our drivers wake up as early as 3 a.m. to make sure our students get to where they need to go safely and on time. They go the extra mile, literally—last year, they drove a whopping 259,075 miles!

Help us say 'Thank You!' to Mapleton's transportation team. [Share your appreciation with a High Five](#), or email [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).

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# Teaching and Learning

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## Colorado ELPD requirement for license renewals and available support options

Starting on Sept. 1, 2025, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) will require all license renewals in elementary education, math, science, social studies, English language arts, and middle-level endorsements to include 45 documented hours of English Language Professional Development (ELPD).

To assist Mapleton's professionally licensed educators in meeting this requirement and addressing the needs of multilingual students, the district is offering several professional development options. Details are provided below:

### June and Fall 2024 Secondary Constructing Meaning Cohorts

For staff who completed 35 hours of Secondary Constructing Meaning training in the June 2024, Fall 2024 Cohort A, or Fall 2024 Cohort B, an additional 10 hours of ELPD will be offered through the optional full-day **Refining Our Practice** module. This module will be available twice in the spring, on March 7 and May 12, during instructional planning days.

To participate, educators must have attended the 5-day Secondary Constructing Meaning Institute in one of the listed cohorts. Participants will be paid the standard extra duty rate as outlined in the contract. Completing both the 5-day training and the 10-hour module will fulfill the CDE's 45-hour ELPD requirement.

### Future Options for Satisfying the ELPD 45-Hour Requirement

- MPS Embedded English Language Development Certification
- WIDA Self-Paced Workshops
- Approved External ELPD Programs

For more details on future options for fulfilling the ELPD requirements, staff can refer to the DRAFT table, **CDE 45-Hour ELPD Requirements.pdf**.

Additional information on the CDE 45-hour ELPD requirements can be found at [CDE's official website](#). For Mapleton-specific questions, contact [Alexis Lauffenburger](#), Multilingual Program Coordinator, at ext. 1003.

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# Mapleton Education Foundation

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## Mapleton Education Foundation's Scholarship application is now open to Mapleton seniors

The Mapleton Education Foundation's 2024-25 scholarship application is now open to Mapleton seniors! Applications are due Wednesday, March 5, at 3:30 p.m., and scholarships are available for students interested in attending traditional universities or colleges, vocational or technical schools, or even apprenticeship programs in-state or out-of-state. You can [learn more about the scholarships here](#). Please share this with your seniors so we can support their dreams and aspirations.

**The Foundation is also looking for volunteers to help review those scholarship applications. The application review period runs from Friday, March 7, to Friday, March 14.** Reviewers will be asked to score approximately 20 applications and can do so at any time that is convenient during the review week. The application platform is completely online, which is user-friendly and provides an efficient way to rank overall scores.

[If interested in participating, click here to sign up!](#) Your opinion and participation in the review process are greatly appreciated!

If you have questions, please email [Thomas Hernandez](#).

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## Points of Pride

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### Skyview Cheer Team places ninth at Nationals!

Congratulations to the Skyview Cheer team for their outstanding performance at the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) National Championships in Orlando! Competing in the Medium Varsity Non-Tumbling Division II Game Day Group A, the team placed an impressive ninth overall. This marks their second consecutive year qualifying for the prestigious competition under the leadership of Head Coach Tia Johnson. Way to go, Skyview Cheers!

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## Mapleton crowns new District Spelling Bee Champion

Mapleton crowned a new District Spelling Bee champion last Wednesday after 19 challenging rounds for 27 of the district's best spellers.

Ivan S., an eighth-grade student from Clayton Partnership School, claimed the title by correctly spelling the winning word, "magenta," a vibrant hue between red and blue. Julian Q., a seventh-grade student from York International School, secured second place, while Nevin L., an eighth-grade student from Explore PK-8, finished in third. All three finalists will advance to the State Spelling Bee next month, representing Mapleton on a larger stage.



The event was made possible through the support of Mapleton families and staff, whose encouragement helped create an exciting and competitive atmosphere. Congratulations to all the talented spellers, and best of luck to the finalists at the state competition!

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## Seven Mapleton elementary students sing with Colorado All-State Elementary Choir

Seven talented Mapleton sixth graders participated in the Colorado All-State Elementary Choir Festival on Saturday, Feb. 1, in Colorado Springs. Selected by their Zero Hour Choir Director, Emily Stover, the young singers—Kaylee A., Taylor M., Adelina O., and Alivia J. (from Trailside Academy); Zoe M. (Adventure Elementary); Olivea B. (Explore PK-8); and Noah H. (York International School)—were recognized for their exceptional vocal skills, work ethic, and passion for music.

The festival, which brings together more than 300 fourth through sixth graders from across the state, offers a special opportunity for students to collaborate and perform under the leadership of renowned choral directors and composers. In the weeks leading up to the event, Mapleton's students prepared by rehearsing at home and during Zero Hour.

On the day of the festival, the students spent the morning and afternoon rehearsing as a group before performing in front of 3,000 people at The Broadmoor. Their repertoire included "This Little Light of Mine," "Be Who You Are," and "Starlight, Starbright." Congratulations to these outstanding singers!



## Here is the new year's first "High Five"

### **Natalie Ptaszynski, Explore PK-8**

"Every year, Taz collaborates with classroom teachers to integrate art into our Modules. Taz helps third grade students develop frog trading cards to showcase at our Celebration of Learning. She is also willing to take on this endeavor and all the extra work it takes. Explore is so lucky to have her!"

*Submitted by Nicole DiPaolo*

### **Andrew Ruchard, Rebecca Groeneveld, Realene Olson, Angel Medina, Heather Gorey, and Emily Estes; Integrated Services**

"Thank you, to this team, for administering cognitive assessments across the district so far this year. Even though it is one of those "other duties as assigned" to your roles as School Psychologists, it is very much appreciated that you are taking time away from your schools to support students and other Special Education teams throughout Mapleton. Thanks for all that you do!"

*Submitted by AJ Staniszewski*

### **Jake Martinez and Clare Murphy, Integrated Services**

"Thanks to both of you for providing emergency crisis support to two of our schools during the first semester. I know you carry a heavy load in each of the schools you are the Team Leads for, so stepping up to help when asked without hesitation is very much appreciated. Thanks to you both!"

*Submitted by AJ Staniszewski*

### **Jackie Scarpaci, Integrated Services**

"Jackie has made a seamless transition from her role as the Team Lead at Achieve to Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in the Department of Integrated Services, Special Populations. She has proactively taken on projects to support our schools, Special Education teams, and students. She has also offered to lead multiple new initiatives and take over current systems and structures to improve implementation clarity and efficiency. I have also seen her reporting behavior progress to a family and the family's response was one of trust and understanding because of how Jackie approached the situation. Thanks, Jackie!"

*Submitted by AJ Staniszewski*

### **Amanda Logan, Mapleton Early Career Prep**

"Amanda has provided some evaluation support at another school in addition to her role as the Special Education Generalist Teacher at MEC. Amanda agreed to this without hesitation and I appreciate it very much knowing it is an added responsibility. Thanks so much, Amanda!"

*Submitted by AJ Staniszewski*

**Brie Schwab, Global Leadership Academy**

"I want to give Brie a double high five for her efforts in putting together family communication for our campus regarding parking lot pick-up and drop-off safety. Her communication included visuals and tips both in Spanish and English. I know this took her some time to do and I appreciate her making student safety a priority in her schedule. Thanks for sharing with us, Brie!"

*Submitted by Tiffany Drago*

**Ariel Zach, Global Leadership Academy**

"Ariel goes above and beyond for our students each day and I am so appreciative that she is on the GLA team. Most recently, she helped a group of female student leaders prepare to attend WorldDenver's International Women's Day Celebration. She connected with the organization to secure grant funding to invite 19 young women interested in leadership to attend the conference. Taking the time to encourage our young adults to experience new things and to spread their wings is commended!"

*Submitted by Tiffany Drago*

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

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## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, Feb. 12** - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m., at Meadow Community School

**Friday, Feb. 14** - Teacher Trade Day - No school for students

**Monday, Feb. 17** - Presidents' Day (All schools and offices closed)

**Tuesday, Feb. 18** - DAAC Meeting, 4:30-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 26** - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, March 6** - Professional Development Day - No school for students

**Wednesday, March 12** - District Science Fair

**Wednesday, March 12** - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m.

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

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### 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](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).



**Email:** [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us)

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

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

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools](https://facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools)

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