



The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

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.](#)

In this issue:

Mapleton News

- Standards of Excellence
- Benefits Committee Update - CEBT
- Awards for Excellence nominees and honorees
- We need YOU to judge the Science Fair!
- "Radium Girls" – coming soon to the MAC
- CMAS, PSAT, SAT updates

Teaching and Learning

- Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr
- District-approved curriculum unit assessment calendar: April
- Strengthening Math Instruction: Grades 2-8 Alignment Workgroup
- Help choose the next **Mapleton Reads** books!

Points of Pride

- "Where is Mapleton?" Raquel Lane-Arellano's journey from Mapleton to immigrant advocacy
- Mapleton high school students experience police training simulator
- Good news from the District's Performing Arts Department!
- High Fives

Upcoming Events

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.

OneDrive

- Be sure to save your documents in the 'Documents' folder or 'Desktop' folder on your computer. This will ensure that your import work is automatically saved. [Here is a video link](#) for a general overview of some of the latest features of OneDrive.
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Mapleton News

Office of the Superintendent

Standards of Excellence

All,

At the start of this year, I challenged school and building leaders to identify a set of shared values to both reflect and guide leadership in Mapleton. We landed on five values that embody the aspirations we hold and the commitment we have to our students and to each other.

The most important shared values for Mapleton administrators are [High Expectations, Authenticity, Belonging, Integrity, and Equity](#).

During first semester, small teams of administrators dove deeper into the manifestation of these shared values. What do our values mean? What do our values look like with respect to our daily actions? How do our values support our goals?

I am pleased to share the product of this work, Mapleton's Administrator Standards of Excellence. These shared values complement our mission and belief statements by providing clarity and consistency, increasing mutual accountability, and promoting community – they serve as our compass.



High Expectations	Authenticity	Belonging	Integrity	Equity
We relentlessly pursue excellence through a shared vision of success, creating a culture of continuous improvement and accountability.	We are genuine, honest, and true to ourselves and others, fostering an environment where people can embrace both imperfection and accomplishment, vulnerability and efficacy.	We accept and include those around us, promoting a sense of safety, value and honor for each individual's contributions to the organization.	We strive for moral and ethical excellence, match our actions to our words, and commit to the highest professional standards.	We act in alignment with our beliefs that every person can achieve at high levels and that each person must receive what they need to develop to their full potential.
This is evident when we:				
Set and monitor clear goals and expectations based on high standards.	Act in alignment with our own beliefs, values, and principles even when faced with challenges or external pressures.	Are inclusive with our words and actions.	Integrate our shared values in quality, measurable ways that impact people in the district and beyond they are facing.	Recognize barriers and take steps to change them, which is essential to ensure fair experiences and outcomes for all.
Hold ourselves and others accountable, providing and receiving constructive feedback.	Foster trust and safety to encourage openness of vulnerability and transparency.	Promote a sense of community that takes responsibility and gives credit.	Hold each other accountable to our shared values.	Name inequities to what we see and have, we advocate without holding anger.
Advance a culture of excellence and recognition.	Establish respectful relationships through open communication, empathy, and using self-awareness.	Make personal connections including correctly providing names and using preferred pronouns.	Do the right thing even when no one is looking and/or when it is difficult.	Engage in deep listening and honor the stories of others' lived experiences.
Promote shared ownership of responsibility.	Live consistently without pretense by embracing our unique identities and experiences.	Operate with empathy, respect, and openness for others' cultures, values, needs, and beliefs.	Are consistent in all communications, providing complete and accurate information, including location, being consistent when appropriate.	Commit to a shared understanding of norms and co-creation of solutions.
Commit to collaborative efforts to service of diverse experiences.	Advance a growth mindset that is improved by healthy challenges.	Model and foster a culture of asking for help and taking risks, suggesting and embracing others.	Act in accordance with highest professional standards.	Use design methods to probe the system and identify what systematically creates the barriers of equity changes in people.
Model transparency, honesty, and professionalism, and communicate with transparency.	Consistently hold ourselves and others to the highest standards, together.	Foster a culture of safety and collaboration, providing the protection of division and respect.	Stand others with respect, listening to others with empathy, and without personal bias or favoritism.	Model our own cultural biases of reference to better understand ourselves and others.

High Expectations – We relentlessly pursue excellence through a shared vision of success, creating a culture of continuous improvement grounded in achievement and accountability.

Authenticity – We are genuine, honest, and true to ourselves and others, fostering an environment where people can embrace both imperfection and accomplishment, vulnerability and efficacy.

Belonging – We accept and include those around us, promoting a sense of safety, value and honor for each individual's contributions to the organization.

Integrity – We strive for moral and ethical excellence, match our actions to our words, and commit to the highest professional standards.

Equity – We act in alignment with our beliefs that every person can achieve at high levels and that each person must receive what they need to develop to their full potential.

It is my intention that these values will apply beyond administrative leadership. As you review this document, I hope these five values resonate with you and your role in serving our students and supporting one another. These shared values inspire us to celebrate achievements, guide our improvement efforts, and attract team members who uphold our mission. Most importantly, they remind us to keep people—especially students—at the heart of our work.

Our Board of Education recently [adopted a resolution](#) reaffirming Mapleton's commitment as a resourceful and responsive community dedicated to working together to ensure that no obstacle impedes student success.

I hope our shared values serve as a similar commitment to each other and all members of the Mapleton team, in our pursuit of excellence in all that we do. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on our shared values!

Sincerely,

Mike Crawford
Superintendent of Schools

Standards of Excellence

Benefit Committee Update – Colorado Employer Benefit Trust

In spring 2024, the Mapleton Public Schools Benefits Committee recommended issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for a new district benefits broker. After a formal solicitation process, four vendors were selected for interviews. The final decision was based on criteria such as K-12 experience, team qualifications, approach, district needs, cost, and interviews.

The selection committee unanimously chose Willis Towers Watson Insurance Services (WTW) as the district's new benefits broker, and Mapleton's Board of Education approved this selection effective January 1, 2025.

WTW is the broker and consultant for the Colorado Employer Benefit Trust, or CEBT. After learning more about the expanded opportunities available through the CEBT, the Benefits Committee voted unanimously to join the trust.

Becoming a part of the CEBT helps Mapleton remain responsive to the key themes brought up in the Mapleton Employee Benefits Survey, including affordability, coverage options and flexibility, providers, communication, and education. For the open enrollment window beginning in May, employees will see three plan options, including a Kaiser HMO plan, a Kaiser DHMO plan, and a United Healthcare PPO plan. Detailed plan and cost information will be available soon.

What is the CEBT?

The Colorado Employer Benefit Trust (CEBT) is a self-funded, governmental multiple employer trust that provides employee benefits for more than 450 public entities, with more than 37,000 employees and dependents covered in the state of Colorado. The CEBT plan offers health, dental, vision and life coverage to the participating groups.

Why join the CEBT?

By joining the CEBT, school districts may benefit from economies of scale, leading to lower administrative costs and more predictable premium rates compared to standalone plans. Since CEBT is a pooled trust, financial risk is shared across many employers, reducing the impact of

large claims on any single district. This protects districts from sudden spikes in insurance costs due to unexpected high medical claims.

CEBT also offers a variety of medical, dental, vision, life, and disability insurance plans. These plans are designed to be competitive in the marketplace, helping school districts attract and retain high-quality employees.

Does the CEBT have a support team?

Yes. CEBT provides centralized plan management and information, compliance support, and customer service to help employees navigate the sometimes complex insurance process. The CEBT support team is available by phone and in person, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact information will be made available soon.

What else does the CEBT provide Mapleton?

By joining the CEBT, Mapleton will have access to a robust selection of other benefits, including wellness initiatives, telehealth services, and other employee support programs, helping school districts promote overall employee well-being and reduce long-term healthcare costs.

The Benefits Committee is comprised of representatives from the following employee groups: Licensed, Classified, Administrator, and the Superintendent's Office.

Congratulations to our honorees and nominees!

The list of 2024-25 Awards for Excellence honorees and nominees is up! Check it out and congratulate your colleagues!

[2024-25 Awards for Excellence honorees and nominees](#)

If you would like to celebrate alongside Mapleton's nominees, retirees, and Quarter Century Club members, be sure to reserve your seat at the Awards for Excellence event by Wednesday, April 23.

Awards for Excellence

Friday, May 2, 6 p.m.

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver – Westminster
8773 Yates Dr., Westminster, CO 80031**

Tickets:

- \$25 per person
- Dinner will be served



· Semi-formal attire

Purchase tickets [online](#).

Or by mail via cash or check (made out to Mapleton Public Schools):

Mapleton Public Schools

Attn: Celebrating Mapleton

7350 Broadway, Denver CO 80221

For more information, please call Talent Management, at 303.853.1007, or email HR@mapleton.us

Awards for Excellence Nominees, Retirees, and Quarter Century Club Members

Last Call: Judges needed for the District Science Fair this Thursday!

Mapleton is still seeking volunteers to serve as judges for the District Science Fair **this Thursday evening, March 27**, at the Skyview Student Center. We need plenty more judges to ensure each student receives valuable feedback on their projects.



No prior experience is required—just a willingness to engage with students and support their curiosity in STEM. Judges will evaluate projects from students in grades K-12, with each entry ideally receiving feedback from two judges.

The event runs from **5-7 p.m.**, with a brief orientation at **4:30 p.m.**, where dinner will be provided. This is a fantastic way to support young scientists and be part of an inspiring evening of innovation.

[Sign up now to help make this event a success!](#)

Sign up to judge the Science Fair!



Tickets for District spring play "Radium Girls" on sale soon

Tickets will go on sale soon for this year's District spring play, "Radium Girls," running April 3-5 at the Mapleton Arts Center.

This powerful drama tells the true story of young women in the 1920s who painted watch dials with radium, unaware of its deadly effects. As they begin to suffer mysterious illnesses, they fight against corporate greed and corruption in their battle for justice. "Radium Girls" is a gripping tale of resilience, courage, and the cost of speaking the truth.

Showtimes:

- Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 5, at 2 p.m.

Admission:

Mapleton students/staff: FREE

Adults and non-Mapleton student tickets: \$12

Seniors 55+: \$8

Stay tuned for the ticket link.

Prepare your students for CMAS

The 2025 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing window opens on Monday, April 7, and runs through Friday, April 25. Students' unfamiliarity with the assessment can cause anxiety and may impede their ability to demonstrate what they know. To prepare students for CMAS testing, please familiarize them with the platform, TestNav, and assessment items by using the [Colorado Practice Resources](#). These provide students with an opportunity to:

- Practice with item formats such as true/false, multiple choice, grid-in answer, fill-in-blanks, dropdown boxes, and click and drag.
- Become familiar with the process of clicking back and forth between passages when they are asked to compare texts.
- Navigate multiple-part items. Many items on CMAS have two or more parts. If a student is not familiar with the format, they could easily miss answering part of a question.
- Practice using tools such as answer elimination tools, notepads, math symbols, and bookmarks.
- Become familiar with accessibility features such as text-to-speech.

Please also encourage students to get plenty of rest before they take these assessments, stress the importance of attendance on testing days, and tell them to do their best.

PSAT and SAT testing is coming up, too

High school teachers, please also remind your students and families that our students are scheduled to take the State of Colorado's assessments in April, which include:

- **Grade 9:** PSAT 9
- **Grade 10:** PSAT 10
- **Grade 11:** SAT and CMAS Science

Testing Schedule (April 14 - April 17):

- **Monday, April 14:** Regular school day for all students in grades 9-12.
- **Tuesday, April 15:** PSAT 9 for 9th-grade students only (*no classes for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students*)
- **Wednesday, April 16:** SAT for 11th-grade students (*no classes for 9th, 10th, and 12th grade students*)
- **Thursday, April 17:** PSAT 10 and CMAS Science for 11th-grade students (*no classes for 9th and 12th grade students*)

Make-up testing is scheduled for the week of April 21 for any students who miss a test.

Teaching and Learning

Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr: Important dates to keep in mind

This is a friendly reminder that Ramadan is coming to an end this week, concluding on either Saturday, March 29, or Sunday, March 30, depending on the lunar calendar sighting. This will also mark the beginning of Eid al-Fitr, a significant holiday celebrated by Muslims around the world.

Mapleton is proud to serve a diverse Muslim community, with families observing Eid in ways that reflect both their religious and cultural traditions. Because of this, students who celebrate Eid may be absent on Monday, March 31, or Tuesday, April 1, depending on when the holiday falls and how their families choose to observe it. Schools may wish to plan accordingly.

District-approved curriculum unit assessment calendar: April

To support future student-focused planning during IDT meetings, below are the District-Approved Curriculum Unit Assessments that support classroom instruction. The assessment dates are based on the curriculum resource pacing guides and might be administered in April (see table below):

Content Area	Approximate Assessment Date	Unit/Topic Assessment
K-6 Reading DIBELS	2 x during the month	DIBELS Progress Monitoring for Students at "Below" or "Well Below" on DIBELS Benchmark
K-5 ELA Benchmark	Apr 16	Unit 8
K-8 ELA EL Reading	Apr 10	Module 4: Unit 1
K-5 Math Bridges	Working through Unit 8	Unit 8 Assessment (May 27)
6 th grade ELA Into Literature	Apr 10	Unit 5
7 th grade ELA Into Literature	Apr 10	Unit 5
8 th grade ELA Into Literature	Apr 10	Unit 5
6 th grade Math enVisions	Apr 25	Topic 7
7 th grade Math enVisions	Apr 25	Topic 7
8 th grade Math enVisions	Apr 2 & 26	Topics 6 & 7
6 th grade Science Inspire	Apr 14	Unit 3: Module 3
7 th grade Science Inspire	Apr 2 & 23	Unit 4: Modules 1 & 2
8 th grade Science Inspire	Apr 14	Unit 4: Module 1
Earth Science	Apr 7, 16 & 25	Chapters 19, 20 & 21
Biology	Apr 1, 9 & 23	Chapters 22, 23 & 24
Chemistry	Apr 10, 14 & 24	Investigation 14, 3-D Benchmark Storylines 3 & 4, and Investigation 15
Physics	Apr 7, 15 & 23	Chapters 21, 22 & 23
Algebra 1	Apr 10	Unit 5: Topic 1
Algebra 2	Apr 3 & 11	Unit 4: Topics 1 & 2
Geometry	Apr 3 & 24	Unit 4: Topics 1 & 2

Strengthening math instruction: Grades 2-8 alignment workgroup

The Teaching and Learning Department is bringing together Mapleton teachers and instructional guides for a Math Alignment Workgroup. This team will collaborate to align priority quarterly standards, curricular resources, and interim assessments to ensure consistency and effectiveness in math instruction across grades 2-8.

The outcomes of their work will be shared in an upcoming Tuesday Takeaway. For questions, please email Assessment and Data Specialist [Veronica Shea](#).

Help choose the next Mapleton Reads books!

We need your recommendations! **Mapleton Reads** is a beloved tradition where our entire community shares common books at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

We're starting the selection process for the 2025-26 school year and would love your input! If you have book recommendations for any grade level, please submit them using [this link](#) or email Director of Data Driven Learning and Early Literacy [Karla Gruenwald](#).

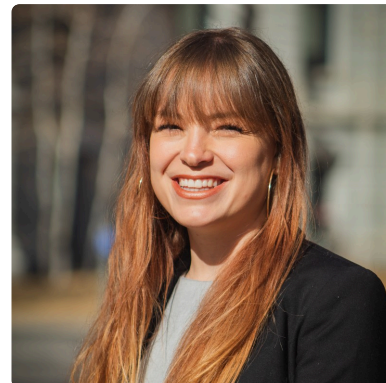
Points of Pride



A Champion for Community: Raquel Lane-Arellano's journey from Mapleton to immigrant advocacy

Raquel Lane-Arellano's journey—from a Mapleton student to a leading advocate for immigrant rights in Colorado—is a testament to the power of community support. Once a student who felt deeply encouraged by her teachers and coaches, she now works tirelessly to protect and uplift people like those in that same community.

Read her [inspiring story here!](#)



Mapleton high school students experience police training simulator

A dozen Mapleton high school students stepped into the shoes of law enforcement officers today at the Community College of Denver's Police Training Simulator. The visit, part of the district's new concurrent enrollment Introduction to Criminal Justice course, gave students a hands-on look at de-escalation techniques, tactical strategies, and high-pressure decision-making.

A CCD instructor guided students through realistic scenarios using imitation police tools like pepper spray, tasers, and training firearms. The experience provided a deeper understanding of a career in law enforcement. Michelle Barrott-Jackson, a Mapleton post-secondary coach, said trips like these are important to help students decide their futures.

"Hands-on experiences like this expose students to career opportunities they might not have considered," said Barrott-Jackson. "It helps them decide if this is the right path for them—or if they want to explore something different."



Good news from the District Performing Arts Department!

In March, Mapleton's high school band performed at the Colorado Band Masters contest and received "Superior" ratings from all three judges! One judge even gave the band a 1+, the highest possible rating indicating an extraordinary and high-quality performance. After the performance, two of the judges congratulated the student musicians and Ms. Kirby Dillman in person, which is very rare, and encouraged Mapleton to submit their recording to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) conference in January. If selected to perform at the CMEA, this is the highest honor a band can receive! We are so proud of the Mapleton Window Ensemble Students and Ms. Dillman!



The celebrations continue!

Also in March, orchestra students and staff participated in the Colorado American String Teachers Association (ASTA) Large Group Festival. Orchestra and band teachers Mr. Nick Johnson, Mr. Max Tuning, and Mr. Zach Brake took 61 7th grade and 8th grade orchestra students, alongside 25 8th grade band students to Cherokee Trail High School for the event. Our musicians performed at a high level. Mr. Tuning's 7th grade orchestra students received an "Excellent" rating, the second highest rating an ensemble can receive, and Mr. Johnson and Mr. Brake's combined 8th grade orchestra and band received a "Good" rating, the third highest rating an ensemble can receive. Congratulations!

Last Friday, Mapleton's District Performing Arts team hosted an ASTA event at the Mapleton Arts Center attended by 21 orchestras from all over the state, including as far away as Durango. Mapleton's high school orchestra and after school honors orchestra performed at the event under the baton of high school director Jennifer Chaplin. Our honors orchestra received a score of "Excellent", the second highest rating an ensemble can receive, and our high school orchestra received a score of "Superior," the highest rating an ensemble can receive. Because of their rating, the high school orchestra will also have the opportunity to move on to a state level competition this April.

Hosting this event was a massive undertaking! The District Performing Arts team received so much support to make it happen. Robin Cutting, Missy Weyer, and Martha Geonetta were essential in helping run the check in table and coordinating the 31 high school volunteers from band,

orchestra, and choir, and Greg Piotraschke ran the recording engineering and stage set up for all 21 orchestras during the event. Thank you and congratulations!



Here are this week's "High Fives"

Mr. Ben Blea, Monterey Community School

"Mr. Ben, you are truly one of a kind! Your kindness, patience, and dedication to your students does not go unnoticed. Every day, you create a classroom filled with warmth, encouragement, and excitement for learning. Your ability to make each child feel seen, valued, and capable is a gift that leaves a lasting impact far beyond the school walls.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, the joy you bring to your students, and the way you inspire those around you. You are not just an amazing teacher—you are a role model, a mentor, and a difference-maker in the lives of so many. We appreciate you more than words can say!"

Submitted by Monterey Community Culture Team

Cadence Litt, Monterey Community School

"When you walk into Cadence's classroom, you can tell she is set up for success! She is an extremely organized teacher who always strives to go the extra mile. Cadence has a great way of pushing her students to be the best version of themselves. Way to go, Cadence!"

Submitted by Monterey Community Culture Team

Hannah David, Monterey Community School

"Hannah is such a calm, positive person. She listens to others extremely well and responds to their needs without question. When she walks into the room, you can immediately sense her positive attitude and friendly spirit. Thank you, Hannah, for being such a valuable team member at Monterey!"

Submitted by Monterey Community Culture Team

Joseline Velazquez Goytia, Adventure Elementary

"Joseline is new to Mapleton this school year. She has been a great asset to our district and is doing an amazing job as secretary at Adventure. I am glad you joined the Mapleton team!"

Submitted by Melodie Mull

Clayton Partnership School

"Last week, the team at Clayton Partnership hosted an amazing Math Night, bringing in over 75 students after school to play math games and engage in learning in a fun and interactive way! Seeing so many students excited about math is truly inspiring. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic team of educators."

Submitted by Mellissa Pfaff

Ronnie Garcia, Academy High School

"Shoutout to Ronnie Garcia! Ronnie has accomplished something truly incredible—EVERY freshman at Academy High School participated in a school-wide science fair! He poured his heart into this project, going above and beyond to ensure that every single student had what they needed to complete their investigations. His dedication and hard work were evident in the students' excitement, engagement, and the depth of understanding they demonstrated in their presentations.

Thanks to Ronnie's commitment, our students not only learned about the scientific process but truly experienced it. Their confidence and knowledge shined through, making this event a massive success! Our students and our school are so lucky to have you, Ronnie! 🙌🙌🙌 "

Submitted by Mellissa Pfaff

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

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 26 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 27 - District Science Fair

Thursday-Saturday, April 3-5 - District Spring Play "Radium Girls"

Wednesday, April 9 - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15 - DAAC Meeting, 4:30-6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16 - District Art Show

Wednesday, April 23 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

[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](#)

Facebook: facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools

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



Mapleton Public Schools

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