Mapleton Public Schools

The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, May 20, 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.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

On Saturday, 417 seniors crossed the stage, making this one of the largest graduating classes in Mapleton's history. In a heartfelt, student-led ceremony, nine valedictorians shared memories, gratitude, and well wishes for the future. Congratulations, Class of 2025!

Seniors receive a combined $9 million in scholarships!

On Friday, Mapleton hosted its annual Scholarship Breakfast at the Skyview Student Center to recognize graduating seniors who have earned scholarships for their postsecondary plans.

This year, more than 100 students in the Class of 2025 received a combined total of $9 million in scholarships. Awards include two prestigious Boettcher Foundation Scholarships and many others from colleges and organizations across the state and country. The Mapleton Education Foundation also awarded 34 scholarships totaling over $210,000 to Mapleton students.

Thank you to the staff, families, and community partners who continue to support our students' success.

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Mapleton News

Reminder: Chromebook fire safety and response procedures

The "Chromebook Challenge" is a dangerous trend in which students insert metal objects into Chromebook charging ports. This can cause electrical shorts, leading to fires, explosions, or the release of toxic fumes.

Mapleton's Technology team has identified damage to Chromebook charging ports consistent with this behavior. The photo to the right is being shared to help staff recognize signs of tampering and know what to look for.

To support school safety, the Technology team will be delivering electrical fire extinguishing blankets to all schools. If a device emits smoke, **unplug it, cover it with the fire blanket, and call 911.**

Every school is legally required to report any fire or misuse of fire on campus under Colorado law and the International Fire Code.

Be on the lookout for damaged ports and suspicious behavior. If you see something, take the device and contact the Mapleton Help Desk.

Free summer meals for kids!

Mapleton Public Schools is once again participating in the Summer Food Service Program to ensure children stay nourished and healthy during the break. Thanks to support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, free dine-in breakfast and lunch will be available at four Mapleton schools for all children 18 and younger. No registration or ID is required. Meals must be eaten on-site.

Adult meals are available for $2.25 for breakfast and $4.25 for lunch, not including milk.

Meal Sites, Dates & Times:

Global Primary Academy
- May 30–June 20 (closed Wednesday, June 19)
- Breakfast: 8–8:30 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Trailside Academy
- June 2–13
- Breakfast: 8–8:30 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

York International School

• June 2–20 (closed Wednesday, June 19)
• Breakfast: 8–8:30 a.m.
• Lunch: 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Adventure Elementary
• June 9–27 (closed Wednesday, June 19)
• Breakfast: 8–8:30 a.m.
• Lunch: 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

MESA's Ninth Grade Success model shows dramatic results in first year

Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts (MESA) is celebrating a major achievement, its highest-ever freshman on-track rate. This year, more than 80% of its ninth graders are on track to graduate, up about 14% from last year and among the largest gains in the country.

The improvement is the result of a schoolwide effort using strategies like a new Freshman Seminar, peer tutoring, goal-setting groups, and real-time data tracking. With early signs of success, MESA staff are already planning next steps and exploring how to share the model with other Mapleton schools.

Read the full story on our district homepage, in our "News from the District" section, here.

Teaching and Learning

Updated Math Pacing Guides now available for 2025–26

Math pacing guides for Grades 3 through Algebra II have been revised for the 2025–26 school year and are now available on the Teaching and Learning SharePoint site, here.

Updates reflect alignment with curricular resources (Bridges and enVision), and revisions to the interim assessments are currently in progress.

A big THANK YOU to the Grades 3–8 Math Work Group for leading this important work:

Grades 3–5

- Taylor Strupp, Monterey Community School
- Meagan Ackerman, Adventure Elementary
- Jordan Smith, Clayton Partnership School

Grades 6–8

- Gabby Hernandez, Global Intermediate Academy
- Jivan Smith-Shively, Clayton Partnership School
- Ashley Hult, Mapleton Online

We also appreciate the many teachers and instructional guides who reviewed the pacing guides and provided valuable feedback:

Grades 3–8 Contributors
Stephanie Menk, Monterey Community School
Dani Cerna, Trailside Academy
Kanani Buynar, Clayton Partnership School
Nouvee Vang and Amber Wilcox, Global Intermediate Academy
Zach Vine and Justine Bickford, Valley View Innovation School
Amber Prahinski, Micheala Draper, and Danni Reffel; Global Primary Academy

High School Contributors
Brandi Thorman and Bill Haan, Global Leadership Academy
Kate Dentino, Matt Stecklow, and Blake Haupert; Academy High School
Francesca Giusti and Kathryn Condon, Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts
Alison Jacobs, Mapleton Online
Andrea Rodriguez, Performing Arts School on Broadway
Dallas Saylor, York International School
Jess Schuman, Mapleton Early Career Prep

For questions, please contact Veronica Shea in Teaching & Learning at ext. 1064, or reach out to any work group member.

Priority standards and pacing work groups 2025-26

Teaching and Learning will facilitate teacher work groups during the 2025–26 school year to review and update the district's current priority standards and quarterly pacing guides. These standards were originally identified by teachers several years ago. Now that we've implemented a rigorous curriculum design process, we're reconvening in small, content- and grade-level-specific

groups to ensure we are prioritizing the most high-leverage standards and aligning them with effective pacing.

More information about how to join these work groups will be shared in the fall. Teaching and Learning will seek teacher participants to lend their expertise and help shape these important instructional decisions.

Reach out to Veronica Shea, ext. 1064, with any questions.

Quarter 4 interim assessment makeups

The Quarter 4 interim assessment window closed on Friday, May 16, and makeup testing is scheduled through tomorrow, Wednesday, May 21.

All constructed response items must be scored by **noon on Friday, May 23** to allow time for data compilation and analysis. Quarter 4 Interim Assessments are **required for grades 3–8** and optional for grades 9–11.

Supporting eighth graders on the path to high school success

We're excited to share critical updates and opportunities for our eighth graders as they prepare for their transition to high school. District leadership is essential in ensuring these initiatives are successfully implemented. Please review the details below and assign staff contacts as needed.

Please review the initiatives below and email Chris Byrd with the name of the staff member at your school who will serve as the point of contact for each.

1. Career & Technical Education (CTE) Pathway Exploration
This fall, CTE will offer a series of seven interactive, 45-minute activities that introduce students to Mapleton's wide range of CTE pathways.

- **Purpose:** Help students explore future career interests and prepare for high school selection and the January "Highway to High School" event.
- **Details:** All materials are provided. High schools have created short instructional videos to guide each activity.
- **Action Needed:** Assign a staff contact to coordinate the scheduling and implementation of these activities with the CTE team.

2. Eighth Grade Career Fair | Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2025
The Career Fair allows students to meet professionals from various industries and learn about different career paths.

- **Schedule:**
  - *10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*: Achieve Academy, Clayton Partnership School, Mapleton Online, Meadow Community School, Performing Arts School on Broadway, Trailside Academy, Explore PK-8, Monterey Community School
  - *11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*: Global International Academy, York International School

- **Action Needed:** Designate a staff member to manage logistics and attend the event with your school's eighth graders.

3. Highway to High School | Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026
This districtwide event helps students and families explore Mapleton's high school options and plan their academic and career pathways.

- **Details:** Additional information about time and location will be shared later this fall.
- **Action Needed:** Identify a staff contact who will help promote the event and coordinate school-level participation.

Why Your Leadership Matters
These experiences help eighth graders explore interests, build confidence, and make informed choices as they move into high school. Your help in assigning staff contacts and supporting planning is key to ensuring the success of each initiative.

Questions? Please contact Chris Byrd. Thank you for your continued commitment to our students' futures!

Points of Pride

Academy High School juniors named "Outstanding Chemistry Students" by American Chemical Society

Congratulations to Academy High School juniors Christian G. and Emily B., who were presented "Outstanding Chemistry Student" awards by the Colorado Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in late April at a special ceremony held at the Colorado School of Mines.

The ACS is a national nonprofit organization that promotes scientific research and education in chemistry, and the awards ceremony honored exceptional students and teachers from across Colorado for their achievements and contributions to chemistry education. Christian and Emily were among just a dozen students statewide to receive this recognition.

They were nominated by their STEM Science teacher, Mellissa Pfaff, who submitted portfolios highlighting their grades, lab work, and class projects. In addition to receiving a medal and certificate, both students earned student memberships to ACS and will be eligible for several STEM scholarships next year.

Christian and Emily both plan to pursue science degrees after high school. We're proud to celebrate their dedication and achievement in the field of chemistry.

Mapleton celebrates record number of seniors earning Seal of Biliteracy

¡Excelente! This year, a record 23 Mapleton seniors will graduate with the Seal of Biliteracy, nearly double last year's total. The Seal is an official recognition on a student's diploma and transcript that confirms proficiency in English and another language, signaling bilingual skills to colleges and employers.

Students earned the Seal through academic achievement and language testing, including the expanded use of the AAPPL exam. Recipients say it gives them a competitive edge and honors their heritage.

You can read the full story on our district homepage, in our "News from the District" section, here.

Adventure sixth graders earn Pathway to the Seal of Biliteracy Award

And some of Mapleton's youngest bilingual students are already on the path to earning their Seal of Biliteracy in high school. This week, six sixth graders at Adventure Elementary became the first in the school's history to earn the Seal of Biliteracy Pathway Award. The honor recognizes students who have demonstrated strong reading and writing skills in both English and another language—Spanish, in all cases this year.

You can read about them, too, on our district homepage, in our "News from the District" section.

Here are this week's "High Fives"

Vanessa Smith, Clayton Partnership School
"Vanna has been an uplifting, encouraging, and motivating part of my every day! As we are all keeping our heads above water, Vanna has offered solutions and ideas for my classroom. I am very appreciative of her always having a clever or fun idea that can change a lesson into something more relatable for students (and more manageable for me). Thank you, Vanna, for always being a bright light in a dark room!"

Submitted by Amanda Wise

Kevin Diep and Mike Brashers, Information Technology; Brenna Costello, Explore PK-8
"Brenna, Kevin, and Mike went beyond the call of duty, acting as impromptu mouse evictors! Thank you so much for helping out!!!"

Submitted by Jessica W. Kurela

Jeff Camara, Broadway Campus Supervisor
"Jeff greets all the students with a smile. Jeff is very helpful to all parents and students in the morning at the GPA kiss and go. All students are his 'Buddies.'"

Submitted by Anonymous

Gregg Chambers, Monterey Community School
"The Monterey Culture Team would like to recognize and shout out to Gregg for his calm, cool, and collected demeanor, even during stressful times. He has gone above and beyond to make every student feel supported, heard, and comfortable. Gregg also has a great sense of humor and is super kind to everyone, making the school a happier place. He is willing to help anyone, anytime, no matter what the situation. Thanks, Gregg!"

Submitted by Monterey Culture Team

Nicole Lehman, Monterey Community School
"Nicole Lehman's class is a happy place! Her ability to build strong relationships, compassion, sense of humor, and kind demeanor make each child feel heard and valued. Students love Mrs. Lehman and blossom in her classroom! Thank you for all of your hard work, Nicole!"

Submitted by Monterey Culture Team

Taylor Strupp, Monterey Community School
"Taylor Strupp is an incredible fifth grade teacher who has shown tireless effort in providing engaging learning opportunities in science and math for her students at Monterey. Her ability to build strong relationships with students and families is truly inspiring – she is the teacher that

every child wants in his/her corner! Her dedication to students goes beyond her classroom as she also is the leader of Monterey's Student Lighthouse Team. As its leader, her positive influence is helping students in all grades develop confidence and a voice while honing their leadership skills. Thank you, Taylor!"

Submitted by Monterey Culture Team

Jose Rico and Pilar Jimenez, Monterey Community School
"Jose and Pilar are two hardworking custodians at Monterey that keep the building spotless, organized, and functioning. Their hard work does not go unnoticed, and it greatly contributes to a welcoming environment for students, staff, and families. Their dedication makes our school a better place!"

Submitted by Monterey Culture Team

Camille Galaviz, Monterey Community School
"Camille is our super organized IG who worked diligently to make our MTSS process and CMAS testing successful. Her efforts have truly made a positive impact and are appreciated. Thank you, Camille!"

Submitted by Monterey Culture Team

If you know someone who deserves a "High Five", submit your appreciation using this form.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 20 - DAAC Meeting, 4:30-6 p.m.
Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day - All schools and offices closed.
Wednesday, May 28 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.
Thursday, May 29 - Last day of school. All schools dismiss two hours early.
Friday, May 30 - Teacher Work Day
Wednesday, June 11 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 19 - Juneteenth - All district offices closed.

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

Twitter: @mapletonschools

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

Mapleton Public Schools
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