



The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, May 13, 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.](#)

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Chromebook TikTok Challenge

The "Chromebook Challenge" is a trend that encourages students to insert metal objects, such as paper clips, foil, scissors, or pencil graphite into Chromebook charging ports. Doing so results in an electrical short which causes the temperature of the lithium battery to rise rapidly and uncontrollably. This can lead to a fire, explosion, and/or the release of toxic fumes. In neighboring districts and around the country, these incidents have led to school evacuations, property damage, and in some cases, injuries.



While we have not had any Chromebook fires in Mapleton, a school was recently evacuated as a precaution when a Chromebook began emitting smoke. The Technology department has also seen evidence of damaged charging ports caused by the insertion of a metal object. (See the image on the upper right).

What you need to know:

The Technology team delivered fire extinguishing blankets to the front office of each school.

If a device is impacted by an electrical short and the device begins to emit smoke:

- **Unplug the device**
- **Cover the device with a fire extinguishing blanket**
- **Contact 911**

Please remember that all schools are required to report any fire or misuse of fire on school property. This is required by Colorado State Law (C.R.S) and the International Fire Code (IFC).

We ask that you be on the lookout for these types of incidents. **Please physically inspect charging ports prior to connecting them to chargers or charging carts. Immediately disconnect them if you begin to see smoke.** Also, if you witness a student attempting to short a Chromebook, please set aside the device and contact the Mapleton Help Desk so that they can pick it up and repair it.

**Open
Enrollment**
It's your choice!



Final days for Open Enrollment – Deadline is this Friday!

Open enrollment **ends this Friday, May 16**. All benefit-eligible employees must [log into iVisions](#) by the deadline to elect or waive coverage. **Your current benefits will not roll over automatically.**

This applies to all benefit-eligible staff, including:

- Employees who are only enrolled in the district-paid benefits, Basic Life, and LTD
- Employees who are not returning to the district next year

Medical, dental, and vision information is [available on Mapleton's website](#).

Need help?

- **Review** – [Mapleton's Benefits Guide!](#)
- **Watch** – Benefits Information Session hosted by Willis Towers Watson. **Recording:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2599552698790088195>
- **Connect** – Do you have questions regarding changes and how this may affect you and your family? Schedule a virtual chat or phone call with Willis Towers Watson to get answers to your questions. **Calendly:** <https://calendly.com/angelina-pendleton-willistowerswatson/mapleton-public-schools-benefit-questions>

Benefit Enrollment Assistance

- **iVisions Portal:** If you need help accessing the iVisions portal (username, password), please contact the Help Desk at 303.853.1057 or helpdesk@mapleton.us.
 - **Benefits election:** If you need assistance electing/changing your benefits, or accessing a computer, please contact Robin DeCarlo, Benefits Specialist, at decarlor@mapleton.us, 303.853.1004 to arrange an appointment.
-

A look back at the first year of Teaching for Tomorrow



Nearly 40 juniors and seniors participated in the first year of Mapleton's Teaching for Tomorrow program, a unique opportunity for students to explore careers in education while earning college credit and gaining real-world classroom experience. From one-on-one moments with first graders to growing confidence as future leaders, students shared how the program has shaped their goals—and their understanding of what it means to teach.

Read the full story on our district homepage, in our ["News from the District" section, here.](#)



Graduation Day is almost here!

Mapleton's 2025 Graduation Ceremony is this Saturday, May 17! Graduates must arrive at 8 a.m. at the Rosa Auditorium on the Skyview Campus. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at DiTirro Stadium.

Staff planning to participate in the ceremony (sit on the field behind the graduates) should arrive by 9 a.m. Robes will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis inside the Skyview Student Center.

For full event details, including parking, times, and cap decoration guidelines, visit [Mapleton's 2025 Graduation page.](#)

Sick leave pay-out forms now available in Frontline Central

Licensed staff members, requests for Sick Leave Pay-Out are now available in Frontline Central. To access the Sick Leave Pay-Out request form, please follow the instructions below.

1. Log into your Frontline Central account.
2. Go to **My Forms** then **Forms I Can Start**.
3. Scroll to the **Licensed Sick Leave Pay Out Request Form**
4. Click on **Start this Form** to complete

Per the guidelines of the 2024-25 MEA Agreement, Article 17, *The Board and Association recognize the importance of instructional continuity to long term academic success for students. To promote this goal, teachers can submit for payment up to five (5) unused sick leave days at the end of the school year using the following table:*

DAYS USED RATE:

- 0-1-\$180.00/day
- 2-3-\$160.00/day

Payout to be in June of each year. Teachers must carry forward a minimum of five (5) sick leave days into the next academic year.

Please note: Days donated to the sick bank do not count as a use of leave days for the purposes of buyback.

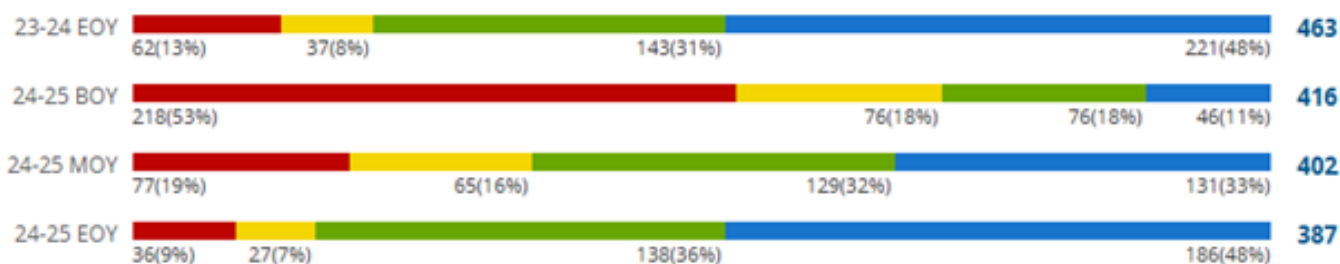
You may access the MEA Agreement here: [MEA Agreement](#).

You may also access and review your available leave balances in the employee access portal at the following link: [iVisions Portal](#). All requests must be completed in Frontline Central by **4 p.m. on Friday, May 16, 2025**. Approved payouts will be included in your direct deposit paycheck on June 30, 2025. If you have any questions, please [contact Sarah Martinez](#).

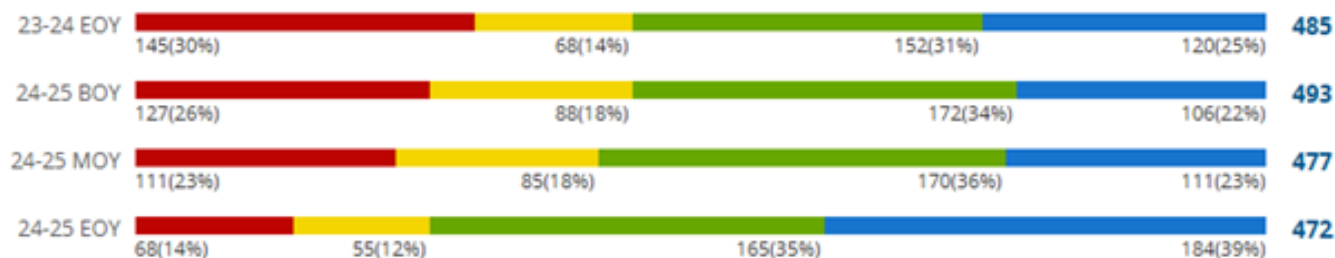
Teaching and Learning

District DIBELS Data

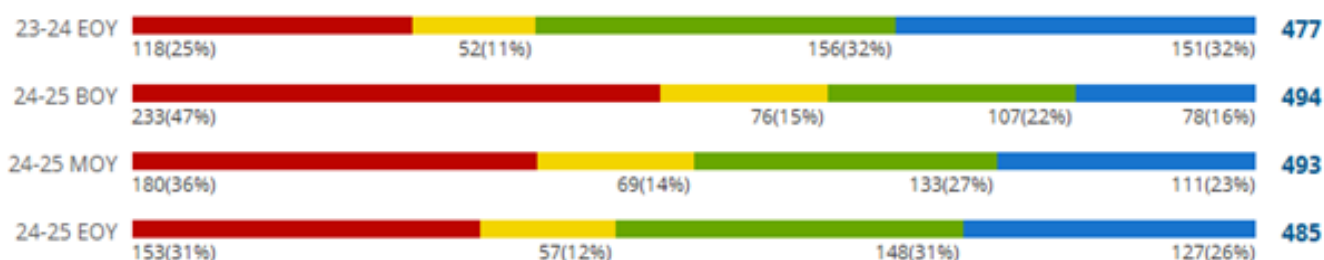
Kindergarten



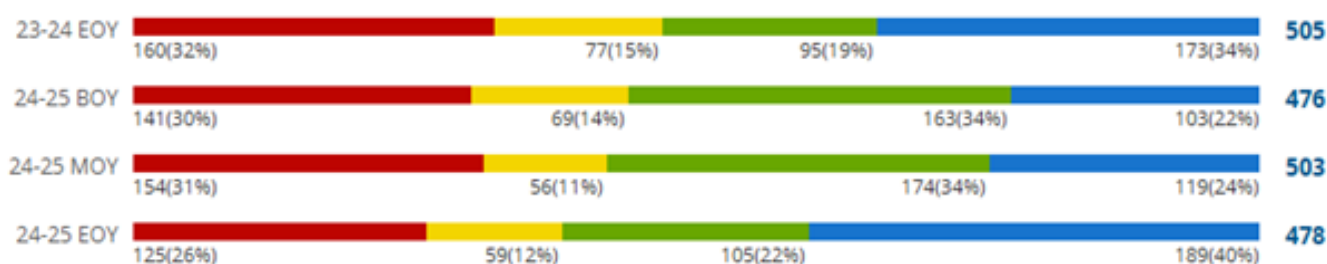
First grade



Second grade



Third grade



Training options for "Constructing Meaning": Support for multilingual learners

Mapleton is committed to using EL Achieve's "Constructing Meaning" to ensure multilingual learners (MLLs) have equitable access to rigorous academic content. This approach equips educators with practical strategies to embed explicit language instruction into everyday teaching, helping students develop the academic English skills they need to succeed across all subjects.

Below are the available staff “Constructing Meaning” training options. Schools will discuss and determine which option(s) best align with their needs and instructional focus areas:

- **Option 1: Beginning-of-Year (Summer 2026)**
 - Full week of training at the start of June (paid)
- **Option 2: Two IP days and one workday**
 - August paid day
 - Two paid Instructional Planning (IP) days (Sept. 22, March 9)
 - May 29 workday (paid)
 - June paid day
- **Option 3: School Commitment**
 - Three paid school professional development days (Aug. 5, Sept. 19, Jan. 6)
 - One paid IP day (Oct. 20)
 - May 29 workday (paid)

** This option allows schools to complete the training together, as a cohesive unit, within one year—whereas the other options require individual sign-ups and may take up to three years to train all staff at a site.*

- **Option 4: End-of-Year July/August 2026**
 - Full week paid at end of summer (paid)

For any questions, please reach out to [Allyson Mallory](#), ext. 1014 or [Alexis Lauffenburger](#), ext. 1003.

Priority standards and pacing work groups 2025-2026

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 fall 2025. 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 news

The Quarter 4 interim assessment window will continue through this Friday, May 16, with makeups Wednesday, May 19, to Friday, May 21. All constructed response items need to be scored by noon on Friday, May 23, for data compilation and analysis.

Quarter 4 Interim Assessments are **required for grades 3-8** and optional for grades 9-11.

Mapleton Education Foundation



The poster features a dark background with a large, glowing Ace of Spades card and two dice in the lower-left corner. The Mapleton Education Foundation logo is in the top-left. The text 'Take a chance for change' is written in a cursive font above a star, followed by 'GALA 2025' in large bold letters and 'MAPLETON EDUCATION FOUNDATION' below it. The 'Save the Date' section specifies the event on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 @ 5:30 pm. The venue, Westin Westminster, is listed with its address. The website URL is at the bottom.

 **MAPLETON**
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Take a chance for change

GALA 2025
MAPLETON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Save the Date
Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 @5:30 pm

Westin Westminster
10600 Westminster Blvd
Westminster, 80020

WWW.MAPLETONEDFOUNDATION.ORG

Points of Pride

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week - Student Letters



In case you missed it: Seniors say “Thank You”

Ahead of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, we asked Mapleton seniors to reflect on the educators who made a lasting impact on their lives. We captured their heartfelt messages in a special tribute video that we published last week. You can [watch it here](#).

To all of our amazing Mapleton educators and staff—thank you. Your commitment, care, and daily impact on students’ lives are seen and celebrated.

York International School and Academy High School send off their seniors in style

Last week, seniors at York International School and Academy High School participated in their annual senior sendoff traditions.

At York, the Class of 2025 participated in the Senior Parade, proudly donning caps and gowns for one final walk through the halls. Students and staff lined the route, clapping, cheering, and celebrating the accomplishments. Before the parade, York hosted its annual Signing Day, where seniors officially committed to their next steps—college, career, or a gap year—proving that every path forward is worth celebrating.





At Academy High School, seniors marked the moment with the Senior Walk, a growing tradition filled with energy and pride. Wearing their senior t-shirts, Academy students were cheered on by students and staff from both Academy and Clayton Partnership School as they took their final walk through the building. The hallways echoed with applause, high-fives, and heartfelt goodbyes.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! We can't wait to celebrate your next chapter at graduation.

Skyview seniors sign to compete at the next level

Last Thursday, Mapleton honored a standout group of senior athletes at Signing Day, held at the Skyview Welcome Center. Surrounded by friends, family, coaches, and teammates, these seniors officially signed to continue their athletic and academic journeys. Congratulations to the following girls basketball players and cheerleaders:



- Yzabella T. – University of Dallas (Basketball)
- Leila E. – Richard Bland College (Basketball)
- Nevaeh L. – McCook Community College (Basketball)
- Alexa H. – Midland University (Basketball)
- Isabelle D. – Metro State University (Cheerleading)
- Venus S. – Metro State University (Cheerleading)

During their time at Skyview, the girls basketball team earned an 80% win rate, four league championships, and four state playoff appearances. Meanwhile, our cheer team made history with two National Qualifying bids for the first time ever. These athletes have left a lasting legacy and we can't wait to see what they do next.

Mapleton JROTC instructor commissions former student into Air Force

This past Saturday, Mapleton's Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Lt. Col. (Ret.) William Arrington, had the honor of commissioning Academy High School alumnus Harvey Rosas as a U.S. Air Force officer during a ceremony at the University of Colorado Boulder.



Rosas, a 2017 graduate of Academy, completed both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Engineering at CU Boulder through the university's Air Force ROTC program. Now a Second Lieutenant, Rosas will be stationed at Yokota Air Base in Japan, working in its Civil Engineering Squadron.

As part of the ceremony, Lt. Col. Arrington administered the Commissioning Oath, a solemn pledge in which officers affirm their commitment to support and defend the Constitution of the

United States.

Congratulations to Second Lieutenant Rosas on this outstanding accomplishment and continued service.



Here are this week's "High Fives"

Garry Spencer, Academy High School

"We love Garry here at Academy. He is dedicated to his work and has built great relationships with staff and students. Recently, a student told me of a time when Garry helped her out, and it speaks to his consistent commitment to our school and community. Thanks for all you do Garry!!"

Submitted by Kayla Ramos

Jennifer Luscombe, York International School

"Jennifer organized another heartfelt and memorable graduation week for her seniors, a culmination of her year-long dedication, encouragement, and unwavering belief in their potential. Throughout the school year, she set high expectations, inspired her students to rise to the challenge, and supported them with genuine care and love. Her commitment not only shaped their academic success but also made the celebration a true reflection of their hard work and her incredible impact."

Submitted by Dianne Bennett

Molly Prince, Achieve Academy

"Mrs. Prince brings home the power of BOTH/AND in creating equity for multilingual learners. She teaches our ELD curriculum with integrity AND integrates content within EL Modules by frontloading vocabulary and content knowledge! She focuses on all language domains AND doubles down on writing along with our school-wide goals! PLUS she models school-wide academic talk structures that support all students AND MLLs in particular such as our Praise, Suggestion and Question feedback protocol!"

Submitted by Achieve Academy Crew

Milhad Makooi, Explore PK-8

"Milhad partnered with me to extend my student's learning by accepting our invitation to participate in a battle of the books. This project helped to foster a positive interaction between the 6th-8th graders and we witnessed students that normally do not engage try their best. It was a great way to meet the needs of our GT kids, help other students build confidence and practice their speaking skills.

Submitted by Dawn De Bois-Weber

Hannah Winters, Performing Arts School on Broadway

"I have worked in the Mapleton district in two high schools for the last three years. I am an Engagement Support Member through Colorado Youth for a Change. Hannah Winters is the best teacher I have encountered. She holds students to a very high standard and teaches them many valuable skills in addition to teaching her science classes. Hannah is a teacher you do not want to lose."

Submitted by Hillary Hamilton

Alexis Lauffenburger, Teaching and Learning

"Alexis's work in supporting our multilingual learners has been truly impactful. Her efforts span from leading the K-12 ELD curricular resource adoption last year and unit planning, launching a zero-period class for newcomers, and developing the Newcomer Institute, to introducing 'Constructing Meaning' as an additional K-12 instructional toolkit—empowering teachers to better support language learners in accessing grade-level standards."

Submitted by Allyson Mallory

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

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 14 - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 16 - Scholarship Breakfast, 7 a.m.

Saturday, May 17 - Graduation, 10 a.m.

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.

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics 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](https://www.facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools)

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



Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters