Mahwah Schools

Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Progress

End of Year Five: Work to Date

May 21, 2025

Mahwah Blueprint: The Vision



Our Progress…

Curriculum and Instruction

Goal Statement – Curriculum and Instruction

To develop a rich and diverse standards-based curriculum that challenges and inspires our children through the use of essential 21st century learning opportunities, for an ever-changing society. To further build the learners' capacity for success in the areas of collaboration, critical and creative thinking, respectfully nurturing their future pathway choices.

- Regularly evaluate our curricula to ensure that our students are immersed in a well-balanced and diverse educational experience.
- Think globally about educational impact and how students can use their knowledge beyond the four walls of the classroom - rooted in inquiry, diverse perspective, self-advocacy, and civic engagement.
- Continually invest in our educators and provide professional development opportunities to increase their capacity in developing and implementing 21st century pedagogy, as well as diversity training to ensure that all staff are comfortable discussing race, equity, and equality as appropriate by grade level.
- Provide opportunities for all students to participate in authentic learning experiences that encourage them to be problem-solvers, critical thinkers, collaborative members of a group, and risk-takers.
- Create and develop relationships with organizations outside of the school building that enriches the students educational experience and prepares all students for more meaningful post-secondary options and the workforce.

Strategic Plan: Accomplishments

Curriculum & Instruction: 9-12

- Implemented Career Pathway Transcript Endorsement Class 2024- 16 Class 2025- 25
- Increased from 20 to 24 Advanced Placement Courses
- AP School of Honor- AP Honor Roll; AP Access Award
- Updated all English core-content courses to include the new 2023 NJSLA standards and revised curricular units to be skills-driven
- Created the new elective course Discovering Identity through Young Adult Literature and four new senior seminar courses: Writing the Truth: Memoir and Nonfiction, War Literature, Psychology and Literature and Sports Literature, Fundamentals of Investing, Honors Marketing, Honors STEAM Capstone: Independent Research
- Added book clubs to each grade level to give students choice and connect to unit themes
- Teachers received PD on Student Discourse and Questioning.
- Implementing small group instruction in all classrooms to utilize targeted, Tier 2, data-driven small group instruction focused on common, skill-based deficiencies.
- Revising Tier 3 Programming including content and entrance/exit criteria
- Science department initiated focus on *content mastery* through the utilization of targeted LinkIt! retakes.
- Focus on reading-based improvement strategies such as vocabulary morphology, anchor charts, word walls, etc.
- Summer Thunderbird Internship and Externship Program 21-22: 3 students; 22-23: 13 students; 23/24: 24 students; 24/25: 48 students.

Strategic Plan: Most Recent Accomplishments

Curriculum & Instruction: 9-12

- Incorporation of authentic poetry into all three world languages.
- Interdisciplinary Art unit where students learned about Artists, Mediums, and culture through the arts in target language
- Added new Work Based Learning placements at Powerhouse Gym, ICA Risk Management Consultants, Leistritz Advanced Technologies
- Life Skills Program expanded the use of the Cricket Machine and Printer to make hats and t-shirts for clubs, teaching staff, and administration outside the MHS building
- The performing arts curriculum was updated to reflect the new standards
- Increased dual enrollment articulation agreements from 3 universities to 7 universities
- Increased dual enrollment course opportunities for 20 courses to 31 courses.
- Added dual enrollment courses: Fundamentals of Investing,Practical Psychology, Honors Sociology, Broadcast Journalism, 3D Design, Animation, Digital Photography, Graphic Design
- In 2023-2024, 132 students earned college credits in 194 classes; 40 students, graduates from the Class of 2024, over four years earned six or more credits.
- College Process (Two/Four Year)- Numbers of applications: 1893; Number of acceptances: 1150; The Class of 2025 will be attending college/university in 24 states + Canada

- Awards-https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hp9m2BC0OpzPzbvZdLqwbG-MWHcDFPa2aSz0oVxph48/edit?usp=sharing

Career Pathway Endorsement

Lukas Hart has earned a Career Pathway endorsement in **Visual and Integrated Design (STEAM)** and **Engineering and Technology (STEAM)**. These endorsements are earned by completion of an academic concentration of study, participation in a co-curricular application of skills and engagement in a community-based learning experience.

MAHWAH CAREER PATHWAYS
CONNECTING CLASSROOMS TO CAREERS

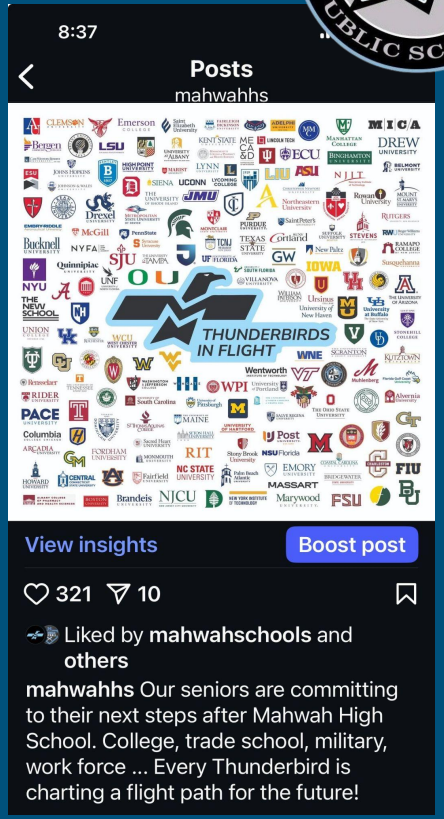
Career Path on Transcript - Class of 2025	Grade 12
Biotechnology Research & Health Science (STEAM)	5
Business Administration	4
Engineering & Technology (STEAM)	5
Government & Social Sciences	4
Information & Computer Science Technology (STEAM)	2
Performing & Communication Arts	3
Technical Career, & Community	1
Visual & Integrated Design (STEAM)	1
Total	**25**

Curriculum and Instruction: Strategic Plan in Action









Community Connections

Goal Statement - Community Connections

To create enriching collaborations for our students that engage community-based experts and highlight meaningful, real-world experiences, both in and out of the classroom. To further promote the continued transparent and honest communication amongst the Mahwah Community.

- Provide real-world experiences for our high school students through internships and other mentorships that our community has to offer.
- Develop a program that supports and guides new/current families through the educational experience/student and family ambassadors in each school.
- Engage local experts with our schools to expand career education and to support the curriculum with authentic voices, insights, and experiences.
- Explore how our schools support our diverse population and identify how to serve all groups more effectively.

Strategic Plan: Accomplishments

Community Connections

- Sample Experts in the Classroom (279 Connections)
  - MHS science teacher in order to give students background information in biotechnology that relates to one of the novels students read *Oryx and Crake*.
  - Mahwah Police Officer was invited to speak to the YA Literature students to explore themes related to a novel selection involving the criminal justice system
  - Guest Speaker: Mr. Zacks - US II - Holocaust - parents were survivors
  - Alumnae business owner, to speak to her classes about using math in business.
- Sample Field Trips Experiences
  - AP GOPO – Poll training and working for presidential and primary election; Attend city council meeting; League of Women Voters – register voters
  - AP Economics – to the Financial District
  - Honors Marketing – focus group participants at Focus Crossroads
  - AP 2D, 3D and Art History – The Met
- Partnership with Ramapo College – Dr. Ken Goldstein, School of Contemporary Arts, spoke to art students about career opportunities in the arts. Dr. Adam Friedman, School of Social Science & Human Services for dual enrollment and teacher education. Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, Director of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- Visual Arts PD at Ramapo College and Montclair Art Museum
- HOPE Club organizes, plans, and runs “Take Your Child to Work Day” an anticipated annual school event.

Strategic Plan: Accomplishments

Community Connections

- Hosted webinars via Parent Academy - Career Pathways, Internships/Externships & Option 2 Programs.
- Hosted Hackensack Meridian visitation for students/future medical professionals interested in research-based opportunities, 9th grade biology Skype-a-scientist.
- Career Pathway Assembly and Student Panel with RRMS Grade 7 and Grade 8
- Continued to refine visitations to elementary partners for science/STEAM days through school HSO's.
- Community Events: International Night, Autumn Festival and New Year Lunar Celebration through an MSF Grant for the entire Mahwah Community
- Thunderbird Partnerships: Red Cross, Toy Drive with Mahwah Pd, former alumni coming to speak about the importance of language in the workplace
- Autumn Festival and New Year Lunar Celebration through an MSF Grant for the entire Mahwah Community
- Invited the Mahwah Police Department into the building and on trips for: coffee with a cop, Holiday Cookie Exchange, Valentines Day, and Rockland Boulders Trip as part of our Life Skills Programming.
- Theater director started a collaboration with Ramsey High School in order to create a stronger and broader theater community for our students
- MHS music department hosted the Bergen County Band and Chorus auditions.
- Habitat for Humanity started annual Volleyball fundraiser to raise money ($61,000) to build house; Snow Angels, and Access for All with Leo Club

Community Connections: Strategic Plan in Action







Social Emotional Learning

Goal Statement – Social Emotional Learning

To foster a demonstratively supportive learning environment that empowers students to be safe physically and emotionally, and allows for the healthy development of balanced and well-rounded individuals who will authentically integrate into our communities while simultaneously achieving their academic, career, and personal goals.

- Regularly evaluate Social-Emotional/Student Health and Wellness curricular offerings and experiences.
- Cultivate a learning environment that creates empathetic learners, appreciative of our diverse community and communities at large, are eager to understand the individual experiences of their peers, and recognize and value the human right of all people.
- Create programs and provide tools for parents with the resources needed to support their children both socially and emotionally.
- Build a K-12 social-emotional learning continuum, through the support of a comprehensive school counseling program and complementing SEL program, with unified language, consistent practices, and level-appropriate structures.
- Establish explicit yearly professional development opportunities for staff as it relates to social-emotional development and challenges that may occur in their classrooms in teaching a group of students with diverse backgrounds and needs.

Strategic Plan: 9-12 Accomplishments

Social Emotional Learning

- Finalized Parent Brochure on SEL
- Created district website for wellness https://sites.google.com/mahwah.k12.nj.us/mindfulness/home
- Created the Top Soaring Thunderbird Program that highlights students/staff monthly.
- Anchoring our student support team in the NJ SEL competencies
- Mindful Monday, Words of Wisdom Wednesday and Thunderbird Thursdays (announcements and hallway monitors)
- 2 SEL coaches to assist staff with professional development and student activities
- Running four sections of Mindfulness, Wellness and Resilience semester elective
- Mindful March activities
- Obtained a grant and created a Confidence Closet
- Included SEL questions in our senior exit survey
- Created student code of conduct matrix that includes ISS, Assigned Study, & Re-entry intervention meetings

Social-Emotional Learning: Strategic Plan in Action



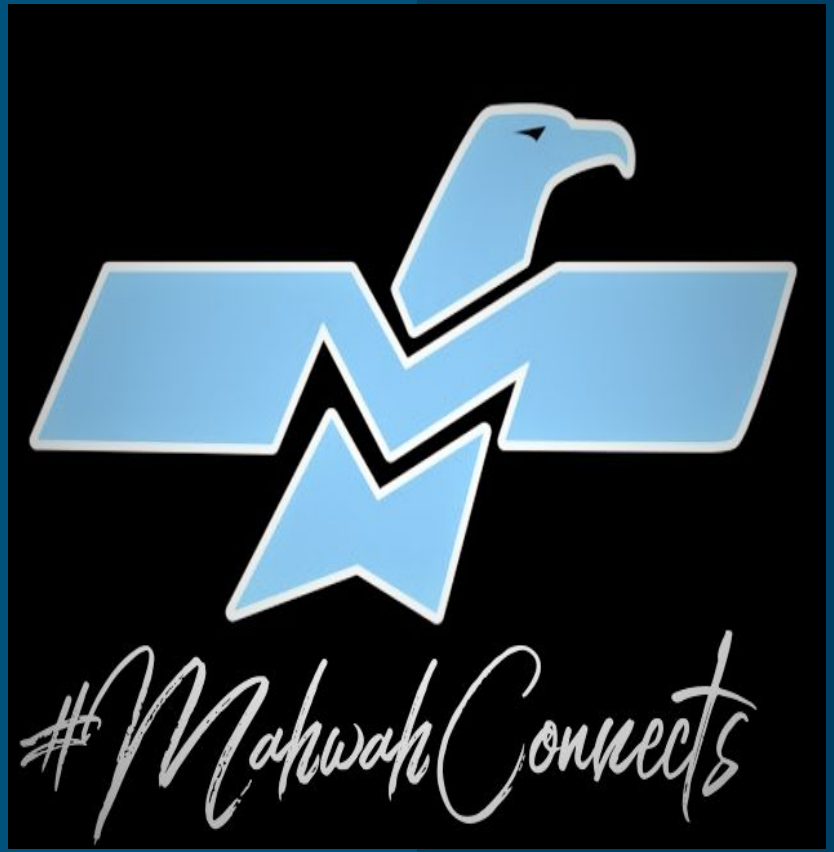




Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Website

- Tab on our district homepage:
  - All communication posted.
  - Progress/action steps connected to each goal statement.
  - All resources connected to our school district's strategic plan and its process.


#MahwahConnects