



Bright Spots and Big Moments in Mapleton

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

Welcome to **Spark! Bright Spots and Big Moments**, your biweekly roundup of feel-good stories, standout moments, and celebrations from around Mapleton. From student achievements to staff highlights, this community newsletter is all about what makes Mapleton shine.

Spark stories:

Bright Spots: Shout-outs and recognitions

Big Moments: Experiences, milestones, and celebrations

Behind the Spark: Staff profiles or features

Community Connections: Events, partnerships, family highlights

High Fives!

[Share your good news!](#)

[Send a "High Five"!](#)

Bright Spots



Congratulations to Mapleton's first Attendance Superhero, GLA!

We're excited to launch our new Attendance Superhero Campaign, celebrating schools that go above and beyond to promote strong attendance and school pride.

Each week, we'll honor a different school as Mapleton's Attendance Superhero! The selected school will receive the coveted "Be Present, Be Proud, Be You" cape to display or wear proudly, however they choose. Whether it's your principal, your mascot, or your students taking turns with the cape, we can't wait to see how each school shows off their super attendance spirit.

The first school we are proud to celebrate as Mapleton's Attendance Superhero of the Week is Global Leadership Academy (GLA)! New principal Lisa Schwartz and her team have made attendance a schoolwide priority with the launch of the "Strive for Five" initiative. "Strive for Five" encourages students to miss no more than five days of school all year. Ms. Schwartz also designated an office staff member to focus specifically on supporting families and removing attendance barriers, among other efforts.

The first person to wear the cape is GLA office clerk Arlene Ramos, who leads many of the school's attendance efforts. Congratulations, Global Leadership Academy, for setting a superhero



example of what it means to Be Present, Be Proud, and Be You in Mapleton!

Read GLA’s full story [here](#) in our “News from the District” section.

Tell us why your school is Mapleton's next Attendance Superhero! Email Communications@mapleton.us.

 Mapleton Public Schools

BE AN ATTENDANCE SUPERHERO!
Draw yourself as an Attendance Superhero — someone who's always ready to learn, grow, and help others succeed!



MY POWER IS: _____

☒ **BE PRESENT**

☒ **BE PROUD**

☒ **BE YOU!**

Design your Attendance Superhero!

Mapleton students, staff, and families:

Every superhero has a secret power. Whether it’s superhuman strength or super speed, all superheroes have something that helps them reach their goals, overcome challenges, and make the world a better place.

In Mapleton, one of the most powerful superpowers you have is the power of being present! When you show up to school on time, every day, you activate your attendance superpower. You learn new things, connect with friends, and get stronger and smarter with every single day.

Now it's your turn to become an Attendance Superhero! Draw yourself as a superhero who is present and proud to be learning in Mapleton. What's your attendance superpower? Use your imagination! Your superpower is what makes you unstoppable.

Turn in your completed superhero design to your school's main office.

Schools: Please send all submitted designs to the Communications Department at the Administration Building. All designs will be displayed in the Administration Building, and a few winners will have their artwork turned into official posters!

Pick up a superhero design page from your school's main office, or download a copy using the link below.



Superhero Drawing Flyer.pdf

[Download](#)

1.0 MB



Lady Wolverines Volleyball team wins fourth straight league title

Congratulations to the Skyview Lady Wolverines Volleyball Team on winning their fourth consecutive Colorado League Championship!

The team capped an undefeated league season with a dominant 3-0 victory over Gateway High School in the conference tournament, securing their spot among the region's top contenders. Their consistency, teamwork, and determination have made Skyview a powerhouse in 4A volleyball once again.

The Lady Wolverines now head into the regional tournament this weekend with momentum and confidence as they continue their postseason run. Congratulations to the players and coaches on an outstanding season!

Unified Bowling team heads to State!

Mapleton's Unified Bowling team wrapped up its final practice of the season at AMF Sonesta Lanes in Thornton, preparing for the **Unified Champion Schools (UCS) State Bowling Championships** this **Friday, Nov. 7**, at **Bowlero Englewood**.



After a strong showing at Regionals, the team is heading into its first-ever State appearance full of confidence and excitement. Now in its second year, Mapleton's Unified Bowling program includes more than 20 athletes and six student coaches.

In partnership with Special Olympics Colorado, Mapleton's Integrated Services team promotes inclusion through Unified Sports, which brings together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to learn, compete, and build friendships

both on and off the lanes.

Celebrate Senior Night - Friday, Nov. 7!

Join Mapleton tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 7, at George DiTirro Stadium as the Skyview Wolverines face the Green Mountain Rams for Senior Night, the final home game of the season.

At the game, Mapleton will be honoring graduating seniors from the Skyview football team, cheer team, District Performing Arts, and Mapleton's Air Force JROTC.

Festivities begin at 6:15 p.m., with the kickoff at 7:00 p.m. Seniors will walk out with their families as we celebrate their hard work, dedication, and achievements throughout their time in Mapleton.

We hope to see you there, cheering them on!

Big Moments

Academy High School launches Patient Care course for senior students

Academy High School has expanded its Health Sciences Pathway with a new **Patient Care** course, giving seniors another hands-on way to explore careers in healthcare. Students learn how to assist patients with mobility, hygiene, and daily care needs while developing professional communication and bedside skills.

The course builds on Academy's **Electrocardiogram (EKG)** and **Phlebotomy** classes, allowing students to graduate with up to three industry-recognized certifications that can lead directly to jobs in the medical field.



Fifteen students are enrolled in the inaugural class, which includes classroom training followed by a semester-long internship in a healthcare setting.

[Read the full story here!](#)

Future teachers get a lesson from Mapleton's Superintendent of Schools

Last week, high school students in Mapleton's **Teaching for Tomorrow** educator prep pathway learned how schools are governed, influenced, and funded from a special guest teacher, Superintendent of Schools Mike Crawford.

He led a walking field trip from the classroom to the district's Boardroom, where students stepped into the role of Board of Education members, reviewing real policies and suggesting changes during a simulated work session. They also explored how school districts make difficult decisions about allocating limited resources.

The hands-on experience deepened students' understanding of school leadership and sparked discussions about returning to Mapleton one day to teach and lead the next generation.



Mapleton Early Career Prep senior tailors a path toward fashion design

Mapleton Early Career Prep senior Amanda A. is stitching together her passion for fashion and her plans for the future. Since her sophomore year, she has interned at Platinum Bridal in Thornton, where she helps manage inventory, track costs, and communicate with designers whose gowns can take months to complete.



A highlight came recently when Amanda met internationally known bridal designer Kitty Chen, who shared how she studied marketing before entering design, a path Amanda now hopes to follow. This spring, she and her classmates will produce a fashion show featuring redesigned thrifted clothing. After graduation, Amanda plans to study business and marketing before pursuing a career in fashion design.



Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts senior designs a bright future

From the classroom to leadership roles, Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts senior Micky D. is making her mark through creativity and design. A student in Mapleton's Digital Media and Communications Pathway, Micky is mastering design principles in Ms. Huff's Adobe Illustrator course, earning college credit while creating real-world projects such as Crocs shoe designs and a Colorado-themed pin for the Technology Student Association

(TSA).

As TSA president, she helped grow the program from five to more than 20 students and led fundraisers supporting school activities. Micky's portfolio includes artwork displayed in the District Art Show and branding for a local business. She plans to continue her studies in design or even teach future artists herself.

Behind the Spark



Transportation Team hosts spooktacular Trunk or Treat

Mapleton's Transportation Department hosted a festive Halloween celebration at the district's Operations Building last week for its second annual Trunk or Treat event, welcoming more than 200 excited students and their families.

About 10 decorated cars, hosted by bus drivers and paras, lined the lot to hand out candy, while mechanics and drivers connected two school buses to create a pair of "haunted buses," complete with fake spiders, skeletons, cobwebs, and costumed staff ready for a few spooky surprises.

"Our team gets so excited about events like this," said Transportation Director Heather Salgado. "They love doing things for our kids and giving back. Our drivers and paras have such special relationships with students and it's wonderful to celebrate that."

Community Connections

Global Primary Academy second graders receive new bikes

Global Primary Academy second graders are riding high after receiving brand-new bikes, locks, and helmets a couple weeks ago, thanks to the nonprofit **Wish for Wheels** and the generous team from **Mountain States Toyota**, who built each bike with teamwork and heart.



The surprise sparked pure joy as students pedaled away for the first time, their smiles as bright as their new helmets. The donation represents more than a fun way to get around; it promotes confidence, independence, and healthy, active lifestyles.

Wish for Wheels is a nonprofit that gives new bikes to children who might not otherwise have one, inspiring a love of cycling and healthy outdoor play.

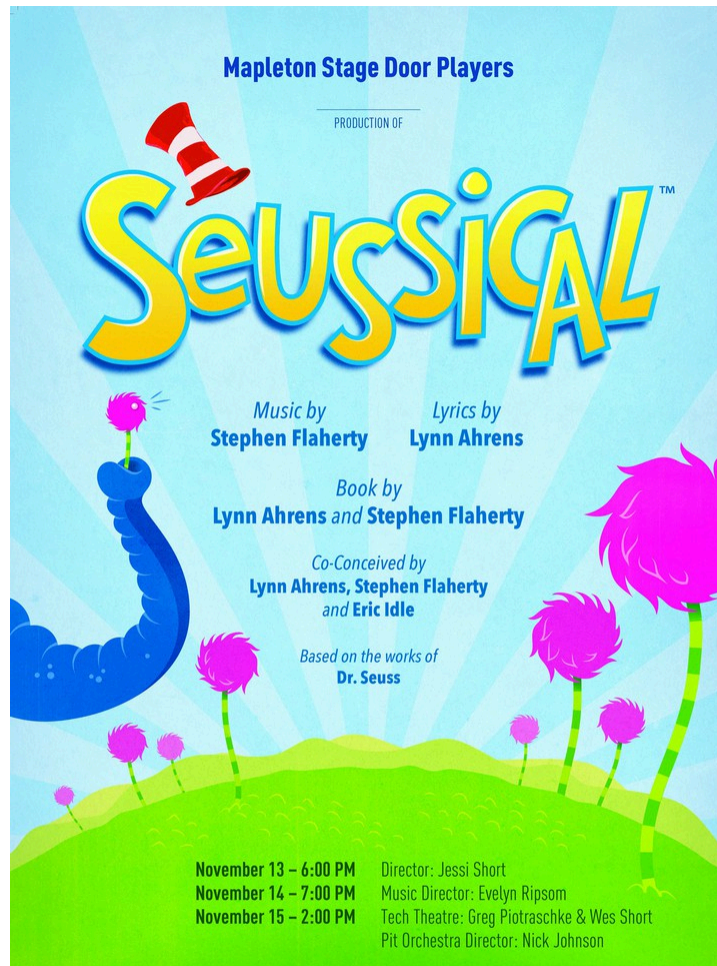
Haunted Halls event unites Achieve Academy community

A long-standing Achieve Academy tradition reached new heights this year as the school's beloved Haunted Halls event became a fundraising celebration of community spirit and belonging. With support from Principal Carla Frenzel, staff, students, and families, the after-school event on Friday, Oct. 24, became one of the largest in school history.



The celebration featured food prepared by parents, a silent auction, carnival games, pumpkin painting, a bounce house, and a haunted house starring student actors from the Performing Arts School on Broadway. Senior Leadership Ambassadors from across the district also joined in to help make the night a success.

Achieve is already looking forward to building on this spirited event next year.



\$12 - Adults/Non-Mapleton Students ages 5+
\$8 - Senior Citizens 60+, Veterans
Free - Mapleton Students, Faculty and Staff,
Children under the age of 5



High Fives!

Submit a High Five!



“High Fives” are a quick and fun way to celebrate the people who make Mapleton shine. From kind gestures and creative ideas to everyday excellence, these shout-outs recognize those who go above and beyond and remind us of the many ways our community makes a difference.

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

**Jan Thompson, Alicia Hernandez, Ruben Nunez, Ricky Celestine, and Aaron Torres;
Transportation**

"A big thank you to the transportation team that services Meadow Community School. During the incident two weeks ago, they responded quickly, getting students on buses and out of the area as soon as possible. Their swift action kept hundreds of students out of harm's way and helped ensure everyone made it home safely. Thank you, Transportation!"

Submitted by Heather Salgado

Mapleton staff

"Thank you to all our Mapleton Public School staff for supporting Meadow during our time of need. We appreciate you all."

Submitted by the Jeannine Stout/Meadow Community School teachers

Mapleton Community

"A heartfelt thanks from the Meadow Community. On behalf of our entire school community, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible outpouring of support we've received and continue to receive. Your kindness, support, generosity, and willingness to help have been truly heartwarming during this time.

From thoughtful messages and countless acts of care, each gesture has reminded us what makes Mapleton such a special place. We are so grateful to be part of a community that comes together so quickly and compassionately when it matters most.

Thank you for standing with us, lending a hand, and lifting spirits. Your support means more than words can express."

Submitted by Ann Sosa-Jaquez/Meadow Community School

Mapleton Community

"Thank you so much to all the schools and the Mapleton Education Association (MEA) for your support as we dealt with our situation. It was so nice to have so many people reach out when we needed it. Our students and staff felt the love of the district and MEA, and were happy to grab a slice of pizza and/or donut knowing someone was thinking of us."

Submitted by Maureen Russ/Meadow Staff

Bus driver's out of Meadow Community School

"Thank you for loading the students and getting them out of harm's way during the Meadow incident."

Submitted by Transportation

**Alex Ryckman, Michael Laudico, Kari Dusenbery, Amber Wilcox, & Jaylee Helms; Global
Intermediate Academy**

"Thank you so much for hosting me in your classrooms last week while I shadowed one of your kiddos for Strategic Planning! I learned a LOT and I appreciate what great work you're doing!"

Submitted by Robin Graham

Edgar Torres, Academy High School

"Shout out to Mr. Torres at Academy High School! He is an exceptional and dedicated director who continually supports students, staff, and parents with care and commitment. His positive attitude and leadership truly make our school a better place for everyone. Thank you."

Submitted by Esther Herrada

Matt Coates, Academy High School

"Shout out to Mr. Matt Coates at Academy High School! He is an outstanding and supportive administrator who always goes above and beyond for both students and teachers. His dedication and willingness to help make a positive difference in our school community every day. Thank you."

Submitted by Esther Herrada

Trailside Academy Middle School Team

I had the most amazing day shadowing one of your 8th graders! It's so clear how deeply you care for each and every one of your students. Your students were kind, welcoming, and even took the time to teach me how to find the slope of a line! It was an incredible experience from start to finish. The work you do is challenging, but you approach it with such positivity and make it look effortless. I'm so grateful you're here! Our students (and all of us!) are so lucky to have you.

Submitted by Melissa Johnson

Submit a High Five!

Spark! Bright Spots and Big Moments – Call for Submissions

Do you have a bright spot or big moment to share? Email communications@mapleton.us, or call 303.853.1020 to share your ideas!



Mapleton Public Schools

www.mapleton.us

Contact



