

A graphic for 'The Takeaway' newsletter. It features a large, vibrant orange and red maple leaf. A blue hand icon is positioned as if holding the leaf. The text 'The Takeaway' is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, with 'Staff Weekly Newsletter' in a smaller, white sans-serif font below it.

The Takeaway

Staff Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025

Welcome to “The Takeaway,” your weekly source for news and updates from across the district.

If you have a news item or update to share, we’d love to hear from you. [Send your ideas our way](#), and we’ll do our best to include them in a future issue.

Past issues of all our employee newsletters are available [on our website](#).

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Be a Motif Maker!

Scan your Mapleton bookmark or use the link below to share your thoughts as a Motif Maker in Mapleton! [Check out the new Motif Maker questions!](#)



York International School named Mapleton's next Attendance Superhero!

At York International School, attendance isn't about one big initiative. It's a mindset woven into everything teachers, students, and families do together. That all-in approach is paying off. York's first-quarter attendance averaged about 93.5% this fall, its strongest start since before the pandemic, with juniors and seniors leading the way above 94%. For their steady progress and schoolwide teamwork, York has been named Mapleton's Attendance Superhero of the Week!



From playful incentives and daily celebrations to reflective "Attendance Refocus" sessions, York balances encouragement with meaningful support. Staff meet regularly to review data, remove barriers, and make sure every student feels seen and connected.

"Kids know we care, and that makes a difference," Principal Eriksen Van Etten said.

Read York'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.

Standards of Excellence: High Expectations

This year, the Awards for Excellence nomination process invites employees to share meaningful examples or a short story that illustrates how their nominee lives out one or more values included in [Mapleton's Standards of Excellence](#). Over the next five weeks, we'll reintroduce you to each of our five values, highlighting what they look and feel like in action across our district. This will help you reflect on the colleagues who bring these values to life every day—and inspire you as you prepare your nominations.

High Expectations

How does Mapleton define High Expectations?

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

This is evident when we:

- Set and monitor clear goals and expectations based on high standards.
- Hold ourselves accountable, providing and receiving consistent two-way feedback.
- Advance a culture of excellence and recognition.

- Promote shared ownership of responsibilities.
- Commit to collaboration, reflection, and personal growth in service of continuous improvement.
- Model integrity, fairness, and professionalism, and communicate with transparency.

Read more about [Mapleton's Standards of Excellence](#).

Volunteers needed to pilot a new career exploration platform

Mapleton is seeking 20 staff members who serve students in grades 6–12 to help pilot Pathful, a digital platform that supports career exploration through interest surveys, virtual job shadows, skill modules, and live interactions with industry professionals. Participants will test the tool this winter, including trying a short activity with their students, to help guide the district's possible implementation of Pathful.

CTE teachers, MS and HS teachers, PSOCs, and special education staff are encouraged to apply.

Participants will earn a stipend at the district's negotiated rate for two hours of work: a one-hour onboarding session on Monday, Dec. 10, or Wednesday, Jan. 6, and a one-hour feedback survey that will inform the district's decision-making.

[Apply here by Wednesday, Dec. 3](#). For questions, contact CTE Director [Chris Byrd](#) at x1068.

Apply here to pilot Pathful!

Winter Break schedule and office closures for 260-day employees

Winter break is just around the corner! Please review Mapleton's 2025 winter break schedule below to see when schools and offices will be closed and which days apply to 260-day employees.

Per the Board-approved 2025-26 academic calendar, the District (all schools and offices) will be CLOSED on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025: Board Holiday
- Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025: Board Holiday
- Friday, Dec. 26, 2025: Board Holiday
- Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025: Board Holiday
- Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026: Board Holiday

The District will be OPEN (limited services and offices) but closed for public business on:

- Monday, Dec. 22, 2025

- Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025
- Monday, Dec. 29, 2025
- Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025

Please note that District services, including technology and custodial support, may be limited or unavailable on Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30.

FOR 260-DAY EMPLOYEES ONLY:

Per the [260 Day Employee Calendar](#), Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30, are scheduled workdays, even though district schools and offices will be closed for public business. **260-Day employees are required to choose one of the following options:**

- **Report to work**
- **Use a Vacation Day**
- **Use a Personal Day**

If you are a 260-day employee, please ensure that you notify your direct supervisor (as soon as possible) of your choice for those days to ensure appropriate plans can be determined for the department.

FOR ALL EMPLOYEES:

To view and access your employee calendar, please visit [Mapleton Public Schools website](#) and select the appropriate calendar to view.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources directly at hr@mapleton.us.

Blackboard is now Finalsite Messages XR

Blackboard Mass Communication has been upgraded to [Finalsite Messages XR](#). Since Finalsite acquired the Blackboard K–12 division in 2022, this upgrade gives us access to new and improved tools designed to make school-to-home communication even more effective.

You'll access [Messages XR](#) the same way you did Blackboard Mass Communication. The dashboard has a fresh new look, but navigation and functionality will feel very familiar.

To learn more about sending messages through Finalsite Messages XR, visit the [Messages XR Help Center](#).

Messages XR Tips:

Ensuring your text messages are delivered

Please follow these guidelines to ensure your text messages are delivered reliably and to stay compliant with FCC and carrier regulations. Text messages that violate these regulations may be

blocked by carriers, impacting delivery.

For Outreach Messages:

Do: Send text messages directly related to student education, such as attendance, academics, or school notices.

Do Not: Send commercial content (e.g., fundraising, ticket sales, third-party promotions) or political messages via text.

Avoid: Using public URL shorteners (e.g., Bitly) to prevent messages from being blocked. Instead, use the professional URL shortener of your domain. Professional URL shorteners are available in Microsoft Forms. Short links can also be created through Finaliste. Please contact Communications@mapleton.us for assistance.

Help shape this year's Highway to High School event

We are seeking staff input on our draft plan for January's **Highway to High School** event to make it as engaging and impactful as possible for our eighth graders. Please review the plan below and [share your feedback here](#) by **Friday, Dec. 5**.

Event Details:

Who: All Mapleton eighth graders

When: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026

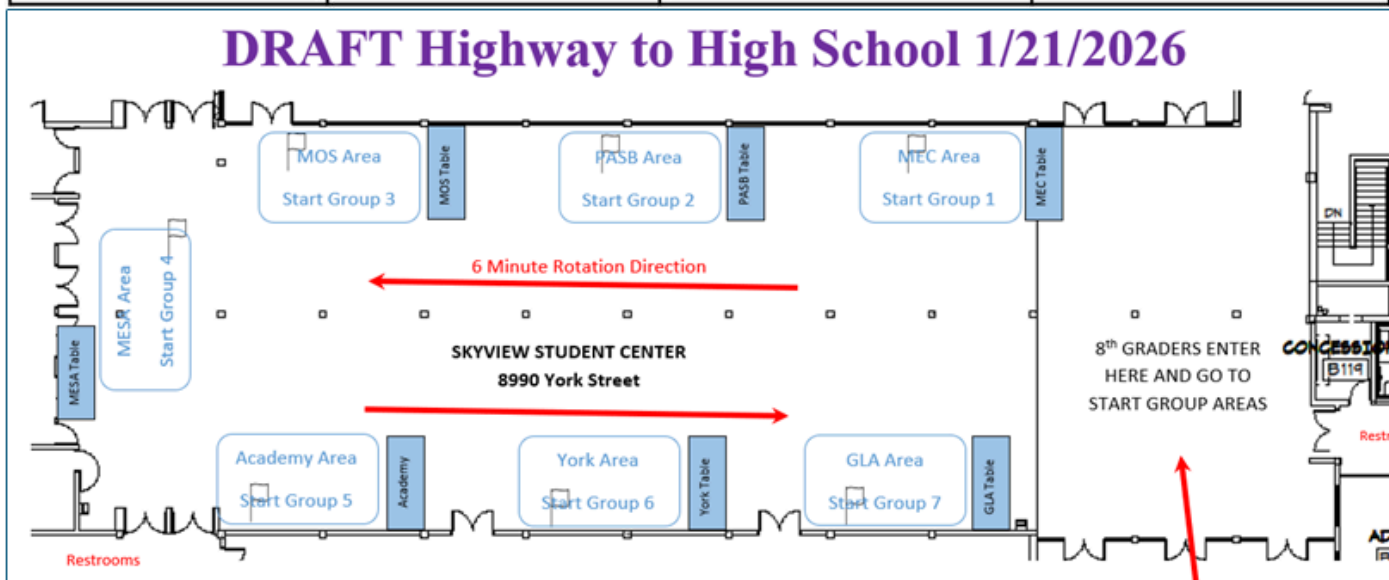
Where: Skyview Student Center

Why: To help our eighth graders explore Mapleton's high school options, connect with students and staff, and make informed choices for ninth-grade enrollment.

Below is the draft schedule for schools sending students, and the draft event map.

(Times are approximate but close. Our buses run like clockwork!)

Sending Schools	On-Site Time	Bus Departs Sending School	Bus Departs Event
Global Intermediate Academy	9:00–9:45 a.m.	8:35 a.m.	9:50 a.m.
Monterey & Explore	10:00–10:45 a.m.	9:40 a.m.	10:50 a.m.
York & Meadow	11:00–11:45 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	11:50 a.m.
Achieve & Clayton	12:00–12:45 p.m.	11:45 a.m.	12:50 p.m.
Trailside & PASB	1:00–1:45 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:50 p.m.



Draft planning action items for high school and eighth grade leaders

For high school leaders:

- Invite **charismatic staff** to attend. CTE will cover sub costs for up to two CTE instructors; non-CTE sub coverage must be paid with building funds.
- **Identify student leaders** to arrive by 8:15 a.m. and stay until 2 p.m. **Ensure transportation and parental permission.** Lunch (pizza) and bottled water will be provided.
- **Be prepared** for 35 interactive, six-minute rotations with groups of 16 in-coming ninth graders.
 - Rotate student presenters to prevent fatigue.
 - Encourage quick, engaging demonstrations instead of lectures.
 - Eighth graders will arrive familiar with the basics of your school, focus on depth and engagement.

- Ensure each high school's booth includes one table and an area for activities (see map). You may add chairs or tables if available, but stay within your assigned area.
- CTSOs may request supplies for demonstrations or activities related to pathway courses. Please submit requests early so materials arrive before the event.

For eighth grade leaders:

- Please enter a **bus request** that corresponds with the event schedule.
 - Please send the name of your school's eighth grade **teacher-leader** to byrdc@mapleton.us.
 - **Before arriving, divide students into seven equal size groups** ready to deploy to starting areas.
 - Set **clear expectations**:
 - Students stay with their group and rotate together, minimizing wandering.
 - Prepare students to successfully meet and interact with students and staff from other schools.
 - Restrooms are marked on the map; please allow your students to visit them while minimizing wandering.
 - **Review each school's pathway information** with students in advance and **prepare questions together**.
 - **Generate interest** with **career-interest surveys** and **career conversations** about high school pathways.
-

Mandatory Title IX, Discrimination and Harassment trainings due March 27

Mandatory Title IX training is required by the Colorado Department of Education for all public school employees. Title IX training addresses harassment, discrimination, and bullying. Completing these mandatory Title IX training courses ensures we are meeting state requirements while continuing to foster a culture of safety and belonging across our schools.

All Mapleton staff must complete the mandatory online training courses on Title IX compliance and discrimination, and harassment by Friday, March 27, 2026. These courses are provided through Vector Solutions.

The first 100 employees to complete the trainings will be entered into a drawing to win a prize!

About the trainings:

- **Title IX Compliance Overview (29 minutes)**
Title IX protects students and employees from sex-based discrimination and harassment. This course helps staff identify prohibited behaviors, understand reporting requirements, and know their responsibilities related to the Title IX coordinator.
- **CDE Discrimination and Harassment – Identifying (62 minutes) and Responding (22 minutes)**
There are two parts to the CDE Discrimination and Harassment training, including Identifying (62 minutes) and Responding (22 minutes). These courses help staff recognize

discrimination and harassment and respond appropriately to concerns to help ensure a safe, respectful school environment.

To access the online training courses:

To access each training, visit the [Employee Resources page](#) and select [Vector Solutions](#). Single sign-on is not yet enabled, so staff should log in as they have in the past. **For account resets, contact your [designated HR representative](#).**

For more information, contact Mapleton's Talent Management team, HR@mapleton.us.

Assessment and Evaluation

ACCESS WIDA accounts reminder

If you are a new test administrator or coordinator for ACCESS, please watch for two separate account-creation emails. One will come from the WIDA AMS DRC Portal and the other from the WIDA Training Site. **These messages are legitimate and not SPAM.**

Please create your passwords as soon as possible, as you will need access to both accounts during ACCESS testing.

Teaching and Learning

RSVP for Constructing Meaning training by EOD today

Mapleton is continuing its multi-year effort to train all K–12 teachers in E.L. Achieve's Constructing Meaning, a framework that strengthens instructional planning through a language-development lens and supports access to grade-level standards.

Teachers who have not yet completed the training should RSVP **by the end of today, Tuesday, Nov. 18, [using this link](#)**. Multiple training options are available for both elementary and secondary teachers, beginning in June 2026 and continuing through June 2027.

Participants will be paid per the negotiated agreement. Based on the budget, a waitlist may be created for the June 2026 sessions.

Questions? Contact the Teaching and Learning team.

RSVP for Constructing Meaning training here

Enroll now in CDE-approved English Learner PD Course

Enrollment has reopened for [“Empowering Educators of Multilingual Learners,”](#) an online course offered through the professional development provider **Project Momentum** and approved by the Colorado Department of Education to meet the 45-hour English Learner PD renewal requirement. The course remains free of charge for the 2025-26 academic year.

The self-paced course includes three modules and provides a certificate that also counts toward the 90 hours required for license renewal.

Important Updates

- **12-week sessions:** You must enroll and complete the course within a defined session. Certificates will be issued within 14 days after each session ends. If you need your certificate sooner, for example for an upcoming license renewal deadline, you may request an expedited review.
- **Capped enrollment:** Each session is limited to 250 participants, accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration closes once the session is full or two weeks before the session deadline, whichever comes first.
- **Applications:** To reserve your spot, you must submit an application confirming your commitment to complete the course. You will receive verification within five business days, and course access will be granted on the session start date.
- **Returning participants:** If you were previously enrolled and saved your course packets, you can pick up where you left off after re-registering. Use your course packet to find your last completed lesson. Completion is verified through submitted course packets, not the checkmarks that appear in the platform.

Upcoming sessions:

- **Winter 2026:** Enrollment window 12/15–3/15 | Course window 1/1–3/31
- **Spring 2026:** Enrollment window 3/15–6/15 | Course window 4/1–6/30
- **Summer 2026:** Enrollment window 6/15–9/15 | Course window 7/1–9/30

Apply for Empowering Educators of Multilingual Learners here

ALPs due in eduClimber by Nov. 21

Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs) must be updated and submitted in eduClimber by Friday, Nov. 21. Gifted and Talented leads have been provided substitute time to support this work.

For questions, contact [Jennifer Snodgrass](#), Teaching and Learning, at ext. 1051.

CDE Gifted Education Monitoring visit set for Dec. 2-4

The Colorado Department of Education will visit Mapleton Tuesday, Dec. 2, through Thursday, Dec. 4, for Gifted Education Monitoring (GEM), a routine review of gifted and talented programming conducted every five years. The visit evaluates program quality and compliance and provides feedback to support continuous improvement.

Mapleton is coordinating with its GT Leads to schedule school site visits and gather samples of Advanced Learning Plans and programming initiatives.

To prepare for this visit, school leaders, GT leads, and teachers are asked to [complete the GEM Preparation Survey](#) by this Friday, Nov. 14. The survey takes about four minutes to complete and will help us gather valuable feedback on GT programming in Mapleton Public Schools.

For questions about the GEM process, please contact [Jennifer Snodgrass](#), Teaching and Learning, ext. 1051.

GEM Preparation Survey

Operations and Maintenance

Mapleton is hiring on-call custodians!

Do you know someone who takes pride in keeping schools clean, safe, and welcoming, and wants flexible, as-needed work? We're looking for dependable individuals to help cover shifts when our regular team members are out.

Typical hours: 2–10:30 p.m.

Schedule: As needed

Locations: Schools throughout the district

This is a great opportunity for hands-on workers who enjoy making a difference in their school community. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact our Operations Department Secretary at 303-853-1025 or [apply online here](#).

Mapleton Education Foundation

Support the Mapleton Education Foundation's Holiday Giving Drive

The Mapleton Education Foundation is hosting its annual Holiday Shop to support families who could use a little extra help this season. Staff and community members are invited to donate things like toys, hygiene items, and nonperishable food, which will be shared with the Thornton Food Bank and Food for Hope. Food examples include canned soup, peanut butter, pasta, rice, cereal, and other staple items.

The Foundation is also seeking volunteers to assist during the event. If you'd like to help, [sign up for a time slot here](#).

Thank you for helping make the season brighter for Mapleton families.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Nov. 19 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

Monday-Friday, Nov. 24-28 - Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, Dec. 17 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19 - End of Q2

Monday-Friday, Dec. 22-Jan. 2 - Winter Break

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

[Share your good news!](#)

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





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Contact

