



The Takeaway

Staff Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 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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Academy High School named Mapleton's next Attendance Superhero!

At Academy High School, showing up starts with belonging. In just one year, the school's first-quarter attendance rate has climbed from 88% to about 91%, with juniors at nearly 96%! Principal Edgar Torres credits the improvement to a growing sense of connection and student leadership. For their progress and creative approach to building community, **Academy High School has been named Mapleton's Attendance Superhero of the Week!**



From the student-led Senior Sunrise at Red Rocks to mentoring programs and “Advisory Takeovers,” Academy is creating a culture where students want to be. Mentoring and Leadership classes built around the Sources of Strength framework help students talk about challenges, identify trusted adults, and find support before attendance becomes an issue.

“Once students learn to communicate and know there’s someone who will listen, attendance starts to improve,” Torres said.

The school received the “**Be Present, Be Proud, Be You**” cape and will be worn first by **Esther Herrada**, Academy’s paraprofessional for at-risk youth, who helps families overcome barriers to attendance. Congratulations, Academy, for proving that when students feel connected, they show up ready to learn and succeed.

“Esther is an incredible advocate for our students, teachers, and school community. She is relentless in holding students accountable for their education and attendance. Whether she’s running lab sessions, overseeing detention, visiting classrooms to ensure students make it to class, or calling home to connect with families, Esther consistently goes above and beyond to support student success.

She leads with both compassion and firmness (Mano dura con corazón), showing our students the power of tough love. Through her persistence and care, she helps them understand why being in school matters and how attendance shapes their future. Esther is a true Attendance Superhero whose dedication strengthens our entire community.”

– Nominated by Melissa Pfaff

Read Academy’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.

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

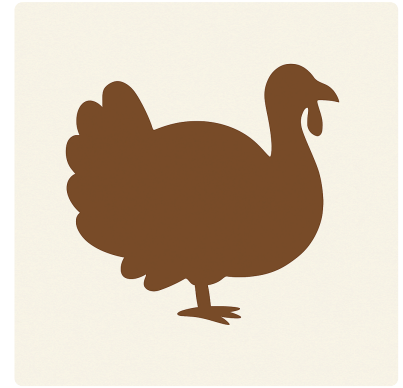
Blackboard Mass Communication has been upgraded to [Finalsite Messages XR](#). Since Finalsite acquired the Blackboard K–12 division in 2022, this upgrade gives us access to new and improved tools designed to make school-to-home communication even more effective.

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](#).

Thanksgiving lunch for staff, next Thursday, Nov. 20

Nutrition Services will serve their annual Thanksgiving meal next **Thursday, Nov. 20**. The menu features turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, a garlic knot, a turkey-shaped cookie, and access to the salad bar.



Staff are invited to join the celebration by reserving a meal in advance.

- **School staff** – RSVP through your kitchen managers
- **Non-school-based staff** (Central Administration, Operations) – RSVP by contacting Nutrition Services secretary [Lina Burmann](#) at ext. **1117**.

Adult meals are **\$4.25** (milk not included).

Questions? Contact [Lindsay Hull](#), Nutrition Services director, at **x1126**.

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

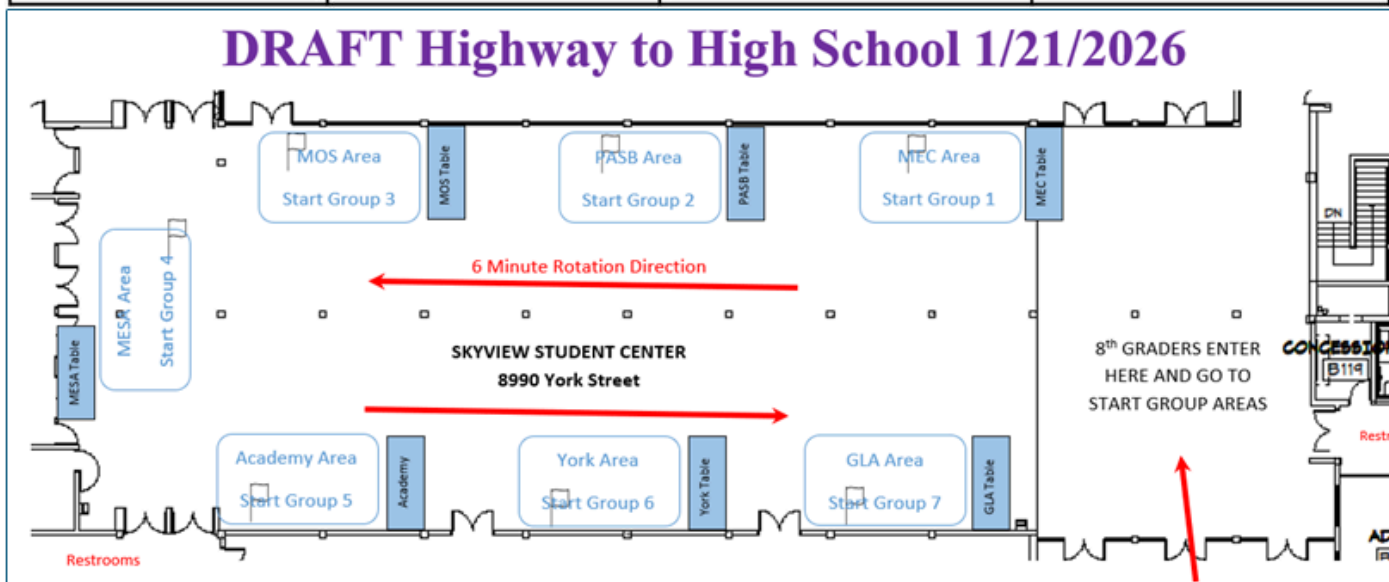
Where: Skyview Student Center

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.

Teaching and Learning

Middle school math teachers: RSVP for the Nov. 13 IDT session

Middle school math teachers are encouraged to **RSVP for this Thursday's Instructional Design Team (IDT) session** in the **MEC/MESA Project Center**. As of last week, eight teachers have already signed up to collaborate and strengthen math instruction across the district.

Hosted by Teaching and Learning, in partnership with 2Partner Math Consultants, the IDT sessions give teachers time to dive into the math behind the standards, share effective models and strategies, and plan upcoming lessons together.

Additional session dates, times, and locations are listed in the chart below. Participation is **required for new middle school math teachers** as part of New Teacher Induction and is **open to all middle school math teachers**. Teachers will receive extra-duty pay according to the negotiated agreement.

For questions, please contact Director of Teaching and Learning Services [Allyson Mallory](#) at **ext. 1014**.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	MEC/MESA Project Center
Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	MEC/MESA Project Center
Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026	4:30 - 6 p.m.	Trail Ridge, Admin. Building

RSVP for IDT session here

RSVP for Constructing Meaning training by Tuesday, Nov. 18

Mapleton is continuing its multi-year effort to train all K–12 teachers in **E.L. Achieve’s Constructing Meaning**, a framework that helps educators plan instruction through the lens of language and provide multiple access points to grade-level standards.

Teachers who have not yet completed the training should RSVP by **Monday, Nov. 18**, [using this link](#). Several 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.

If you have questions, please reach out to 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:

- **Fall 2025:** Enrollment window 10/1–12/15 | Course window 10/1–12/31
- **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.

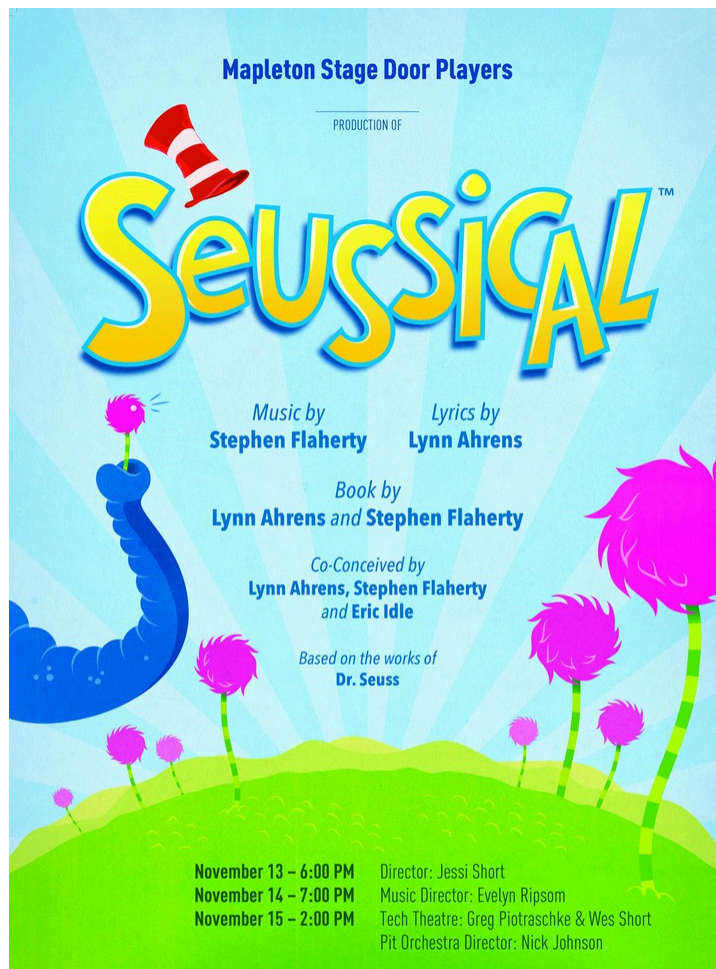
Mapleton is coordinating with its GT Leads to schedule school site visits and gather samples of Advanced Learning Plans and programming initiatives.

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

Upcoming Events



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



Thursday, Nov. 13 - *Seussical*, presented by Mapleton Stage Door Players , 6 p.m., The MAC
Friday, Nov. 14 - *Seussical*, presented by Mapleton Stage Door Players, 7 p.m., The MAC
Saturday, Nov. 15 - *Seussical*, presented by Mapleton Stage Door Players, 2 p.m., at the MAC

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.

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

[Share your good news!](#)

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



Mapleton Public Schools

www.mapleton.us

Contact

