



# The Takeaway

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

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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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## Mapleton News

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YOU CAN SIT WITH US

BELONGING  
LOOKS GOOD  
ON YOU.

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ON OCTOBER 1,  
WE WEAR PINK.



### October Count is tomorrow!

Tomorrow, **Wednesday, Oct. 1**, is **Colorado's official pupil count day**. Attendance on this day directly impacts Mapleton's funding and resources for students. Please make every effort to ensure students are present and that attendance is recorded accurately.

If a student is absent on Oct. 1, they may still count if they attended earlier this school year and return within 30 days. Even so, it's critical that we have strong attendance tomorrow. Let's work together to make tomorrow our strongest attendance day of the year.

***Thanks to York International School and Sources of Strength, on Wednesday, we wear pink!***

This year, we're building on our theme of **belonging** with the "You CAN Sit With Us" campaign (inspired by Sources of Strength) – a positive, inclusive twist on a movie quote – to show every student that belongs in Mapleton!

So, on Wednesday, **Oct. 1**, wear **pink** and unite with your school in a strong visual statement of inclusivity. Let's show our school culture **welcomes everyone**.

Belonging looks *good* on you. Fetch a friend, wear your pink, and let's count together – because every student counts!



**York - You CAN Sit with Us (8.5 x 11).pdf**

[Download](#)

3.1 MB

## **Tomorrow is also Colorado Proud Day!**

Wednesday is also Colorado Proud Day and the annual Mountain Plains Crunch Off! Colorado Proud Day is an annual celebration of local agriculture. Students learn about the benefits of healthy, locally sourced foods by enjoying a menu that is Colorado Proud.



Tomorrow, our Nutrition Services team is preparing a mouthwatering menu that highlights the best of Colorado, including:

- A ground beef and cheese quesadilla featuring locally sourced and Colorado Proud ground beef, tortillas, sour cream, pinto beans, and house-made pickled jalapenos.
- Fresh selections on the salad bar, including cherry tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, apples, lettuce, and carrots—all grown right here in Colorado!
- And to top it off...a special chocolate chip cookie from Colorado bakery, Sweets of Inspiration.

Students will also have a chance to see who can make the loudest crunch by biting into apples grown in Colorado orchards.

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**New Frontline Absence Management process for licensed staff coming Oct. 1**

**Licensed staff:** To strengthen the systems that support our staff, we are introducing a new time-tracking process designed to improve accuracy, fairness, and transparency in attendance and timekeeping.

Administrators started using this process in September as the first step in a district-wide effort to improve accuracy and transparency with staff attendance.

Beginning **Wednesday, Oct. 1**, Frontline will expand from a substitute request system to an absence-tracking and substitute request system. **All licensed staff will now record absences in Frontline's Absence Management System—whether or not a substitute is needed.** This will replace the paper system currently used to document and report absences.

In addition to full-day and half-day options, you will be able to select **Custom Time** to enter the exact hours you will be out of the building. Only those hours will be deducted from your absence balance. Substitute requests will continue to be filled in half-day or full-day increments.

[Learn more and view a step-by-step user guide.](#)

[\*\*Learn more and view the user guide\*\*](#)

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## **New Phish Alert Button now available**

As part of Mapleton's new Cyber Security Awareness program, staff can now use the **Phish Alert Button** (PAB) to easily identify and report suspicious emails. The **Phish Alert Button** appears as an orange hook icon in the Outlook ribbon.

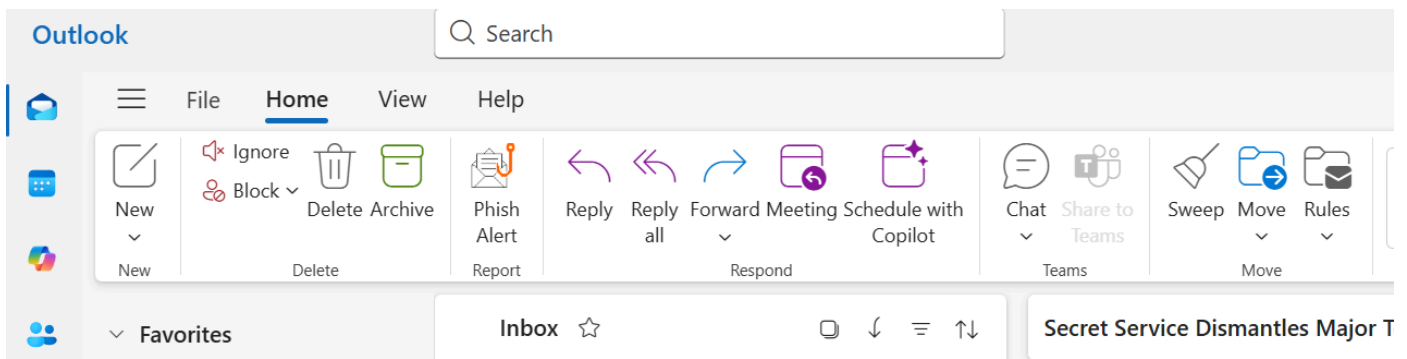
### **To use the PAB:**

Select the suspicious message

Click "Phish Alert"

Choose whether the email is "phishing" or "spam"

The message will be removed from your inbox and forwarded to the Technology team for review, saving time and eliminating the need to enter a ticket. A [step-by-step guide for the Phish Alert Button](#) is also available.



Recognizing the difference between phishing and spam is important:

- **Phishing** emails are fraudulent attempts that imitate trustworthy senders, often using alarming language to urge immediate action. These should always be reported as phishing using the PAB.
- **Spam** messages are unsolicited advertisements for products, services, or websites. They typically emphasize offers, discounts, or benefits and should be marked as spam.

By staying alert and using the Phish Alert Button, staff play a vital role in keeping Mapleton safe from cyber threats.

## Phish Alert Button – User Guide

### Mandatory cybersecurity awareness training: Two courses due by Friday, Oct. 31

Tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 1, all employees will receive an email from software company **KnowBe4** with links to **two mandatory online courses** on spotting phishing, protecting accounts, and keeping district data safe.

#### Courses:

*2025 Your Role: Internet Security and You (20 minutes)*

*Phish Alert Button in Microsoft 365: Identify Spam and Report Phishing (10 minutes)*

**Look for an email from KnowBe4 on Wednesday, Oct. 1 and be sure to complete both courses by Friday, Oct. 31.**

The training is designed to help every employee recognize, prevent, and respond to cyber threats. Your participation strengthens our collective defense. For questions or concerns, contact the [Mapleton Help Desk](#).



## Coming soon! Mapleton's latest Wellness Challenge – Star Trak

Boldly go into better health and fitness through Mapleton's latest wellness adventure, the **Star Trak Fitness Challenge**, which will run from Monday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Nov. 16.

**[Registration opens](#) this Monday, Oct. 6!**

**The challenge begins Monday, Oct. 20, and ends Sunday, Nov. 16!**

Participants can track their steps with their favorite device, exploring seven eras of space exploration along the way through the **Star Trak** platform. For those who prefer other activities, more than 100 options, including swimming, biking, rowing, and badminton, can be entered as exercise minutes and automatically converted to steps.

Each day, participants can earn red, yellow, or blue stars (worth 3, 4, or 5 points, respectively) by walking at least 6,000 steps to up to and over 10,000 steps. The goal is 15 points per week and 60 points overall during the four-week program. Additional features include optional team participation, badges for consistency, a wellness wall to share success, and more than 200 healthy recipes.

You may participate individually or as a team of up to 4 or 5 members. Teams must be formed by Wednesday, Oct. 22. The challenge wraps up Sunday, Nov. 16, but participants may update their activity until the team scores freeze on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

**[Register for the Star Trak Fitness Challenge here!](#)**

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Mapleton Public Schools

# Explore Primary GROUND BREAKING

Wednesday, October 8 | 4:30 p.m.



Next to Explore PK-8 | 104th Avenue & York Street  
10310 York St., Thornton, 80229



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## Join us for the Explore Primary groundbreaking, Wednesday, Oct. 8

Mapleton will break ground on **Explore Primary**, a new school designed for preschool through first grade, next **Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 4:30 p.m.**, near the current Explore PK-8, **10310 York St., Thornton.**

Explore Primary will serve our youngest learners. Once construction is complete, the existing Explore school will be renovated to house second through eighth grades, adding classroom space in one of Mapleton's fastest-growing neighborhoods.

Explore Primary's design features: barnyard-inspired elements, pastel colors, natural wood tones, and bright, welcoming spaces. Dedicated areas for a library, music, and gym are tailored to early learners.

This project is the second of Mapleton's "Final Four" capital improvements, made possible by community support in 2022.

**Everyone is invited to join us for this special celebration!**

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## Watermelon Trophy Watch: Welby and York headed for neck-and-neck finish

As of last Friday, Sept. 26, Welby Community School of the Arts held the lead at 88.6%, with York International School close behind at 87.7%. York has closed the gap to less than one percentage point, and it's shaping up to be a very close finish. The contest wrapped up today, so we'll share the final results in next week's update.

Even though the race has ended, families can still complete [the Meal Benefit Application](#). Continued submissions help ensure important funding for our schools and resources for our families.



For questions or support, contact [Lindsay Hull](#) at ext. 1126.

Schools	Percent of Free and Reduced Lunch Applications Submitted
Academy High School	78.4%
Achieve Academy	82.0%
Adventure Elementary	71.5%
Clayton Partnership School	73.3%
Explore PK-8	70.4%
Global Primary Academy	76.8%
Global Intermediate Academy	74.9%
Global Leadership Academy	68.4%
Mapleton Early Career Prep	64.5%
Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts	68.5%
Mapleton Online	N/A
Meadow Community School	76.9%
Monterey Community School	75.1%
North Valley School for Young Adults	53.2%
Performing Arts School on Broadway	73.0%
Preschool on Poze	80.7%
Trailside Academy	68.0%
Valley View Innovation School	73.2%
Welby Community School of the Arts	88.6%
York International School	87.7%

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## Assessment and Accountability

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Understanding MAP growth norms

Check out this [short video from NWEA](#), featuring Dr. Karyn Lewis, who provides a clear, non-technical introduction to MAP growth norms. The video explains what the norms are, why they matter, and how educators can apply them to support student learning.

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## Integrated Services

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### Support the Unified Wolverines with a team shirt

Show your support for the Unified Wolverines by purchasing one (or both!) of their 2025-26 team shirts! Shirts are \$20 each, and all proceeds go directly to our Unified program and athletes.

Unified Sports, created in partnership with Special Olympics Colorado, is a program that brings together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete on the same teams. This fosters friendship, understanding, and inclusion on and off the field.

[Click here to order your shirt.](#) Thank you for celebrating the power

of inclusion with us!

Please contact [Clare Murphy](#) at x1107 for any questions or to find out more ways you can support our athletes!

**Order your Unified Wolverines T-Shirt!**

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### All special education staff meeting next Wednesday, Oct. 8

Integrated Services invites all special education staff to the first of four 2025–26 all-staff meetings on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 8 to 11 a.m., in the Administration Building (Garden Level).

ILC teachers: Enter a substitute in Frontline as Professional and note that the Department of Integrated Services will pay for the a.m. half-day substitute.

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## Teaching and Learning

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### Upcoming Fall deadlines for student plans (ELD, READ, ALP)

Educators, please work with your Leadership Teams to schedule time during the contracted workday to complete required student plans by their posted deadlines. Suggested times include IDT meetings, staff meetings, or collaborative days.

For questions:

**ELD Plans:** [Alexis Lauffenburger](#) (Ext. 1003)

**READ Plans:** [Karla Gruenwald](#) (Ext. 1021) or [Veronica Shea](#) (Ext. 1064)

**ALPs:** [Jennifer Snodgrass](#) (Ext. 1051)

Plan Type	Responsible People	Fall (BOY) Deadline	Spring (EOY) Deadline
<i>ELD Plans</i>	<i>ELD Leads &amp; Classroom Teachers</i>	<i>Oct 3</i>	<i>Apr 24</i>
<i>READ Plans</i>	<i>Literacy Leads &amp; Classroom Teachers</i>	<i>Nov 6</i>	<i>May 15</i>
<i>ALP Plans</i>	<i>GT Leads &amp; Classroom Teachers</i>	<i>Nov 21</i>	<i>May 8</i>

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## Operations and Maintenance

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### That “First Heat of the Season” smell

Chilly mornings are here, which means the heat will be kicking on soon! Don't be surprised if you notice a funny smell the first time the heater runs. Over the summer, dust naturally collects inside the system. When the heaters fire up, that dust burns off, creating a temporary “toasty” scent.

This is completely normal and usually fades quickly. If the smell lingers for more than a couple of days, or if you see smoke, please submit a work order or call Operations so our team can check it out.

Here's to a warm, cozy season ahead!

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## The Mapleton Education Foundation



**YOU'RE INVITED**

Please join us for the 21st Annual  
Mapleton Education Foundation Gala

**Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 @5:30 pm**

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Westin Westminster  
10600 Westminster Blvd  
Westminster, 80020



WWW.MAPLETONEDFOUNDATION.ORG

**Purchase your tickets to the Gala!**

### **Eat, Play, Dance! The Mapleton Education Foundation Gala is this Friday.**

The Mapleton Education Foundation's 21st Annual Gala is almost here! Join us **this Friday, Oct. 3, from 5:30–10 p.m. at the Westin Westminster** for a night of fun and celebration.

This year's event features a new format, a Vegas-style casino night with no formal program or live auction. Just eat, play, dance, and support opportunities for Mapleton students!

Guests will enjoy an Italian buffet, casino games with prize drawings, a DJ and dancing, dozens of silent-auction baskets, wine and whiskey pulls, and purchase-only travel opportunities such as an African safari for two and a Grand Luxxe Mexico villa stay.

[Purchase your tickets here now!](#)

Proceeds support scholarships, teacher grants, extracurricular programs, and imaginative learning experiences for Mapleton students.

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## Deadline extended for Marchi Mini-Grants

There is still time to apply for a Marchi Mini-Grant!

Due to staff being busy with Homecoming preparations and assembling silent auction baskets for the Mapleton Education Foundation Gala, the deadline for Marchi Mini-Grants has been extended to this coming **Monday, Oct. 6**. Don't miss this chance to bring a creative classroom project to life.

Created in memory of beloved Mapleton teacher and principal Lisa Marchi, the program funds experiences that spark curiosity, creativity, and connection.

This fall's opportunities include:

- Up to **\$1,500** for individual projects
- Up to **\$3,000** for team projects

### To apply:

1. Submit your project to [Donors Choose](#).
2. Complete the [Marchi Mini-Grant application](#) by Monday, Oct. 6.

Submissions will be reviewed by Teaching and Learning and selected by the Mapleton Education Foundation Board. **Awards will be announced in mid-October.**

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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, Oct. 3** - Mapleton Education Foundation Gala

**Wednesday, Oct. 8** - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 16** - End of First Quarter

**Friday, Oct. 17** - Professional Development Day

**Monday, Oct. 20** - Instructional Planning Day

**Wednesday, Oct. 22** - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 5** - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m.

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

[Share your good news!](#)

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

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## “Spark! Bright Spots and Big Moments” 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](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).

**Email:** [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us)

**Website:** <https://www.mapleton.us/>

**Location:** [7350 Broadway, Denver, CO 80221, USA](#)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools](https://facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools)

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



**Mapleton Public Schools**

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