



The Takeaway

Staff Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, Oct. 23, 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](#).

In this issue:

Mapleton News

Quarter 1 rounding data

Mapleton Reads

Mandatory Cyber Security training

Department Updates

Teaching and Learning

Upcoming Events

Mapleton News

Continuing the conversation: Year two of rounding

Mapleton leaders are once again making their "rounds," checking in with staff across schools and departments to listen, learn, and strengthen our community and culture. This is our second year of rounding, and the feedback shared last year helped shape meaningful improvements in communication, support, and collaboration.

Rounding is not evaluative. It's a chance for open, honest conversation about what's working well, what challenges exist, and how school and department leaders can better support those they serve, including staff, students, and parents. If you haven't had a chance to round with a school or department leader yet, examples of questions you might be asked include:

- What's working well?
- What has been challenging?
- How could we be helpful?
- Do you have the resources and support you need?
- Who has been helpful to you?

Last week, Mapleton administrators came together to review rounding feedback from Quarter 1. The insights gathered highlight celebrations, growth opportunities, and actionable next steps, outlined below.

Celebrations – What's Going Well?

The most frequent themes include:

- **Staff Support and Culture:** Many entries highlight strong staff relationships, positive school culture, and support for new staff.
- **Student Relationships and Belonging:** Schools are celebrating improved student connections and a sense of belonging.
- **Instructional Systems:** Effective systems (like IDTS) and collaborative planning are strengths.
- **Student Growth and Engagement:** Schools noted improved student outcomes, increased participation (in academic and athletics), and greater family involvement.
- **Supportive Leadership:** Staff appreciated transparent and supportive communication from administrators and leadership teams.

Challenges – What Needs Attention?

Key challenges mentioned:

- **Time Constraints:** Limited time for planning, supporting students, and managing responsibilities is a concern.

- **Need for Student Support Systems:** Common issues included insufficient support for diverse learners, mental health needs, and a lack of mature MTSS frameworks.
- **Infrastructure and Resources:** Competition for space and inadequate facilities/technology are concerns at several schools.
- **Consistent Resourcing of Schools:** Retaining staff, filling vacancies, and equitable support for school models are concerns.
- **Clear Communication of Expectations:** Need for better communication systems with families and staff, standardized student expectations, and grading practices.

Actions – What’s Being Done?

Frequent action themes include:

- **MTSS Implementation:** Many schools are focusing on creating or refining MTSS systems to better support students.
- **Professional Development:** Plans include PD focused on improving instructional quality, equity, and student supports.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Schools aim to increase team-based approaches and strengthen instructional leadership teams (ILTs).
- **Operational Improvements:** Actions include scheduling optimizations and coordination with Operations to address space and resource challenges.
- **Intentional Planning:** Schools are aligning actions with 90-day plans and focusing on data-informed decisions.

Mapleton Public Schools

MAPLETON READS

Community Reading Program



ALL THE BOOKS
Written by Hayley Rocco
and Caldecott Honoree John Rocco

Reading Level: Grades K-3



ALL THIRTEEN
Written by Christina Soontornvat

Reading Level: Grades 4-8



A MONSTER CALLS
Written by Patrick Ness

Reading Level: Grades 9-12

Mapleton Reads kicks off its 13th year

Mapleton's annual community reading initiative, **Mapleton Reads**, is back for its 13th year, uniting students, families, and neighbors through a shared love of reading. From **October 2025 through January 2026**, readers across the district will explore this year's three selected titles, grouped by reading level, sparking conversation and connection throughout the community.

K-3: "All the Books," by Hayley and John Rocco, follows Piper, a chipmunk who learns the joy of sharing stories with her community.

4-8: "All Thirteen," by Christina Soontornvat, tells the true story of the 2018 cave rescue of a Thai soccer team, highlighting courage, teamwork, and hope.

9-12: "A Monster Calls," by Patrick Ness, explores love, loss, and healing as a boy faces his greatest truth with the help of an unexpected visitor.

Copies of all three books are available at Mapleton schools and the Administration Building. Join us in celebrating the power of reading!

 **Mapleton Public Schools Cyber Security Awareness**

KnowBe4 Human error. Conquered. **This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we're strengthening our defenses against cyber threats!**

 **Required Cyber Security Training**
All staff will receive an email from KnowBe4 with links to two short, mandatory online courses:

2025 Your Role: Internet Security and You (20 Min)

 Cybercriminals continue to evolve their tactics, using methods like phishing scams and artificial intelligence (AI) powered attacks to breach systems and steal sensitive data. This comprehensive training module provides employees with the tools and knowledge to safeguard themselves, their devices, and the organization from data breaches, ransomware, and other costly cyber threats.

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

 The Phish Alert Button (PAB) is a vital tool for protecting against phishing attacks in today's digital workplace. This training module will guide you through how to use the PAB in Microsoft 365, helping you recognize suspicious messages, distinguish spam from phishing attempts, and report threats quickly and effectively.

Training Deadline: Complete both courses by Friday, October 31
Check your inbox for an email from KnowBe4 with the subject line about your assigned training.

 **New Phish Alert Button (PAB)**
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.



Your participation is greatly appreciated as it strengthens our collective defense against cyber threats. For questions or concerns, contact the Mapleton Help Desk at Helpdesk@mapleton.us.


Integrated Services

 Mapleton Public Schools

 **Help Us Build Mapleton's Family Resource Center!**

Mapleton is creating a **Family Resource Center** to support students, families, and our entire school community — and we need **YOUR** ideas to make it thrive!

Together, we can create a center where every family feels supported, connected, and empowered.



Scan the QR code to share your ideas

We value your voice and want to hear which programs and resources you feel are most important for supporting student wellbeing in our district.

Ways to get involved:

- Share your ideas through a quick survey
- Join a focus group conversation
- Partner with us to design programs and services

What programs, services, and supports would make the biggest difference for Mapleton families?

From **health and wellness** to **academic support** and **community partnerships**, your voice matters in shaping a space built for everyone.

For more information, please contact:

Tiffany Dragoo, Community Outreach Coordinator | 303.853.1085 | DragooT@mapleton.us

Less than two weeks left to share your ideas for Mapleton's new Family Resource Center

Help design Mapleton's future Family Resource Center by completing a short survey before next **Friday, Oct. 31**. Your feedback will help shape a welcoming hub that provides programs and services to support students, families, and the entire Mapleton community.

Mapleton is in the early stages of developing this center, and we want to hear from **families, students, staff, and community partners** about what supports and resources are most needed to strengthen student wellbeing.

Ways to get involved:

- Complete the survey by Friday, Oct. 31 (scan the QR code or use the link).
- Share the survey with others in the Mapleton community.

- Encourage students to take the survey.
- Join a design team to help shape the center.

For more information, contact [Tiffany Dragoo](#), ext.1085.

[Take the survey](#)

Teaching and Learning

Upcoming Constructing Meaning training – Watch for RSVP

Teaching and Learning will soon send RSVPs to principals for teachers who still need **E.L. Achieve’s Constructing Meaning** training. This framework helps teachers plan for different access points to grade level standards through the lens of language and strategies that support this learning.

Constructing Meaning supports flexible responses to students who need additional scaffolds based on language levels. Watch for the RSVP to plan ahead, choose the option that works best for you, and help Teaching and Learning prepare for upcoming sessions.

Help Shape Instructional Design in Mapleton

Teaching and Learning is **seeking about 20 passionate educators**, including teachers, instructional guides and administrators, **to help update the Instructional Design Team (IDT)/DDI rubric**, a key tool for supporting effective instruction and continuous improvement across Mapleton schools.

The district is especially **hoping to add more K–5 and high school representation** from the following schools:

- Achieve Academy
- Adventure Elementary
- Clayton Partnership School
- Global Primary Academy
- Global Leadership Academy
- Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts
- Meadow Community School

- Monterey Community School
- Performing Arts School on Broadway
- Trailside Academy
- York International School

The group will meet three to five times after school between November and January. Participants will be compensated at the current extra-duty rate for any time outside their contract hours.

Staff interested in participating should [complete the IDT Rubric Revision Work Group Participation Survey](#) by this Friday, Oct. 24.

IDT Rubric Revision Work Group Participation Survey

Math Professional Development brings educators together for vertical planning

Educators from Clayton Partnership School, Explore PK–8, Global Primary Academy, Meadow Community School, Performing Arts School on Broadway, and York International School came together last Friday for a districtwide math professional development and planning day focused on how math concepts build across grade levels.



The session gave K–12 teachers, instructional guides and administrators the opportunity to collaborate and analyze how math builds vertically. By working together, educators shared strategies, perspectives and approaches to strengthen instruction.

Research by education expert John Hattie shows that teacher collaboration has a powerful impact on student success, with [collective teacher efficacy](#) having one of the highest effect sizes in improving achievement.

Thank you to the Meadow Community School team for hosting and supporting this professional learning day.

Important updates on CDE relicensure requirements

If you have **not had to renew your credential in the last seven years**, please review the [current Colorado Department of Education requirements](#) carefully. Licensed staff must complete **90**

contact hours of professional development within that seven-year period to renew their credentials.

Within those 90 hours:

- At least **45 hours** must focus on English Learner/CLD professional learning (if required for your endorsement).
- At least **10 hours** must focus on special education and/or behavioral health content, including culturally responsive and trauma-informed practices.

These requirements are **not in addition to** the 90 total hours but are included within them. For questions about relicensure hours, please contact [Reyna Sierra](#), Teaching and Learning Department Secretary.

Upcoming Events

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

Friday, Nov. 7 - Teacher Trade Day

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

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

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

[Share your good news!](#)

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

“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.

Email: communications@mapleton.us

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

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

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

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



