



Bright Spots and Big Moments in Mapleton

Thursday, Nov. 20, 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 York International School, our new Attendance Superhero!

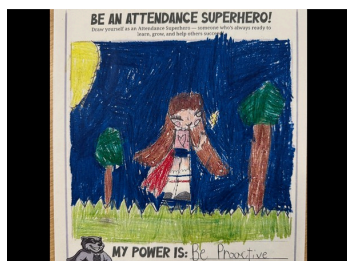
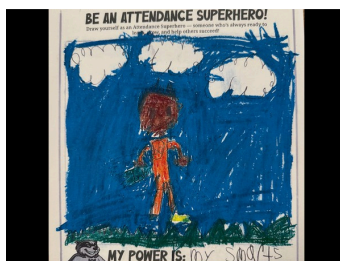
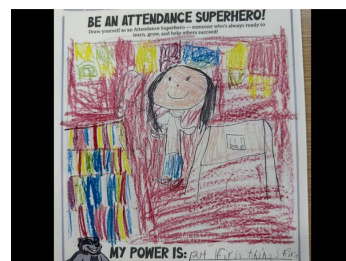
At York International School, attendance is a whole-school effort woven into daily routines, classroom culture, and strong relationships. This fall, York's first-quarter attendance reached about 93.5%, its best start since before the pandemic, with juniors and seniors leading the way. From classroom competitions and fun incentives to supportive "Attendance Refocus" sessions, students and staff are showing that consistent, caring attention makes a difference.



Because of that, York is Mapleton's newest Attendance Superhero of the Week as part of our Attendance Superhero Campaign, which celebrates schools going above and beyond to promote strong attendance and school pride. Each week, one school receives the purple "Be Present, Be Proud, Be You" cape to display or wear proudly.

Read the full story about [York's attendance efforts](#).

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



Design your Attendance Superhero!

From their “smarts” to their pride, Ms. Litt’s second graders at Monterey Community School have what it takes to be Attendance Superheroes!

Students took an opportunity to design their own Attendance Superhero as a part of the district’s “Be Present, Be Proud, Be You” attendance awareness campaign.

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. We are inviting all students 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? Pick up a superhero design page from your school’s main office, or download and print the poster below, and turn in your completed design to the main office when you’re done.

Schools: Please send your school's Attendance Superhero designs to Communications at the Administration Building.

Thank you, Ms. Litt, for sharing your school’s outstanding Attendance Superhero designs! 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



Skyview Boys Soccer earns top league honors

Congratulations to the Skyview Wolverines Boys Soccer program on an outstanding season! Head Coach Ken Wood was named Colorado League Coach of the Year, and junior Juan G. earned Colorado League Player of the Year for his impact on both ends of the field.

Coach Wood guided the Wolverines to back-to-back Colorado League Championships, finishing with a 6–2 league record and an 8–7–1 overall season. Juan led the team with six goals and five assists, helping anchor the team’s strong performance.

Juan joins Keegan B., Ayrton G., and Erwing C. on the Colorado League First Team. Axel F. and Yaseen M. earned Second Team honors.

Congratulations to the entire team on a successful year!

Big Moments

Trailside middle schoolers map out their financial futures through CTE pathway



Trailside Academy's middle schoolers took a realistic look at their futures through a new project in their Career and Financial Literacy class. Students chose one of three post-graduation tracks: college, workforce, or military. They then researched what the first four years after high school would actually require. Students examined tuition, housing, salaries, training costs, transportation and other real-life expenses. They finished the project by calculating whether their chosen careers can support the lifestyles they want.

The project helped students better understand the connection between their goals, their habits and the choices they make today.

[Read the full story here, in our "News from the District" section](#)

Valley View launches engineering-focused CTE pathway for middle schoolers

Valley View Innovation School is expanding its hands-on learning model with a new three-year Engineering and Technology pathway for middle school students. The program began in August with sixth graders taking Engineering 1, using Project Lead the Way curriculum to explore real-world design, robotics, and creative problem-solving.



Students are already tackling two major units: Design and Modeling, where they created ankle-foot orthosis prototypes for a real medical scenario, and Automation and Robotics, which they will continue in Valley View's specialized Immersion Studios. Later this year, students will move from the Science Studio into the Robotics Studio to build and code robots.

The school also plans quarterly field trips so students can see innovation in action.

[Read the full story here, in our "News from the District" section](#)

Students rev up learning with wind-up car engineering



Start your engines! Fourth and fifth graders at Monterey Community School turned parts of the school into mini racetracks earlier this month as they built and tested wind-up cars using Project Lead the Way curriculum. The hands-on project introduced the students to potential energy (the stored energy when the car is wound up but not moving) and kinetic energy (the energy released when the car speeds off).

Working in teams, students fine-tuned their designs to make the cars travel farther and faster, then raced them on different surfaces to see how friction changes speed and distance.

“It was exciting to see the scientific process in action,” teacher Taylor Strupp said. “They learned that engineers make mistakes, but you keep trying until it works.”

Mapleton Early Career Prep freshman publishes first magazine article

Mapleton Early Career Prep freshman Clark P. is already stepping into the publishing world through her internship with “Dining Out” magazine, a Denver- and Boulder-based publication covering local restaurants and chefs. The outlet published her first article, a review of the cookbook “Sweet & Salty!: King Arthur Baking Company’s Cookbook for Young Bakers,” in late October.



In it, she writes about baking apple cake and breadsticks with her younger brother and what she learned along the way.

Each Tuesday, Clark shadows her editor, interviews chefs, and samples dishes from top restaurants. She hopes to continue writing through high school and pursue journalism in college.

[Read her review here.](#)

Behind the Spark

Mapleton welcomes new Board members

Mapleton's Board of Education welcomed two newly elected members and honored two departing members during the November Board meeting, following the certification of the election results.

Outgoing Board President Thomas Moe (District E), who is term-limited, and Assistant Treasurer/Secretary Bethany Frye (District A), who chose not to seek reelection, were recognized with heartfelt gratitude for their service, leadership, and dedication to Mapleton's students and community.



Mapleton's Board of Education is elected on a biennial cycle. In one biennial election, Directors for Districts A, C, and E are elected, followed by Directors for B and D in the next cycle.

This year, the district welcomed Paige Kelly, representing District E, and Jason Sedillo, representing District A. Mallory Boyce will continue to serve the community as the representative for District C.

Superintendent Crawford shared that, for the first time in many years, all five Board members have children attending Mapleton schools, a meaningful reflection of their close connection to the district.

During the celebration, Board members expressed deep appreciation for outgoing President Tom Moe, whose leadership has helped shape many Mapleton's capital improvements. Since joining the Board in 2017 and being re-elected by acclamation in 2021, Mr. Moe has supported the opening of nearly a dozen new or remodeled school buildings., with Explore Primary, the district's 12th project, scheduled to open in 2027.

The Board thanked Bethany Frye, who was appointed in June 2023, for her thoughtful service and her commitment to representing families and strengthening the Mapleton.

Community Connections

Operation Warm comes to Adventure Elementary

This week at Adventure Elementary, nearly 400 students were wrapped in warmth and joy as they received brand-new coats, thanks to Operation Warm and the generous volunteers from Thomas English Muffins and Bagels and Bimbo Bakeries USA.

Volunteers spent a few hours helping PK–6 students find the perfect fit, zipping coats, tying hoods, and celebrating every smile. Each moment reflected the extraordinary care and kindness our community brought to our school.

Operation Warm, a national nonprofit, provides essential items to children who need them most. Thank you to Operation Warm, Thomas, and Bimbo for helping our students stay warm this winter and for showing up for kids!



Academy senior organizes spring blood drive

Motivated by the phlebotomy class he completed in Academy High School's Health Sciences Career Pathway, senior Brandon A. is organizing a community blood drive this spring. Working through the school's HOSA Future Health Professionals club, Brandon is partnering with Vitalant, a nonprofit blood-services provider that supplies about 900 hospitals in more than two dozen states.

The drive will be held at the Skyview Student Center on a Friday in April 2026, with the exact date to be announced. At least 50 volunteers, all 18 or older, are needed to ensure the event's success.

“When you donate one pint of blood, it can save at least three lives,” Brandon said. “Something like this can really bring the community together.”

If you would like to volunteer, sign up by [following this link](#).

There's still time to join Mapleton Reads

Have you gotten your Mapleton Reads books yet? There's still time!

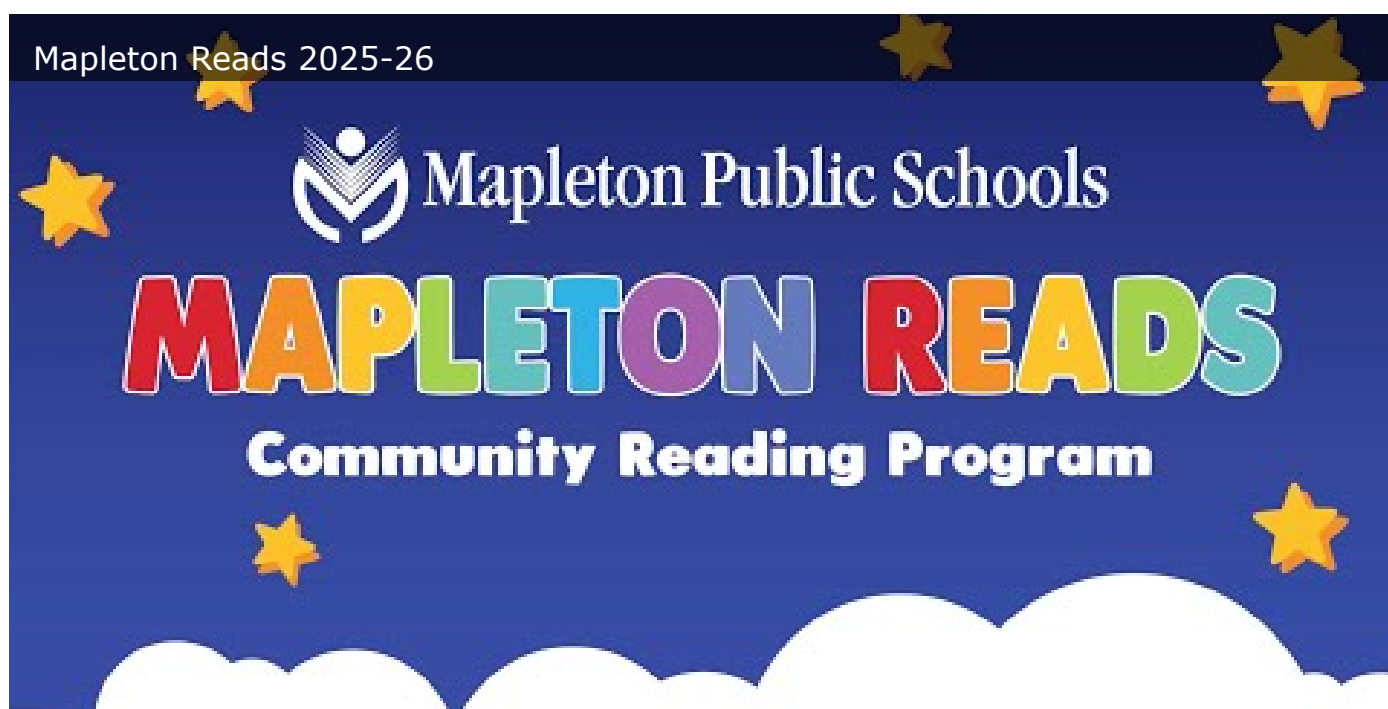
Through January 2026, our community is invited to cozy up this fall/winter with three incredible stories that inspire courage, connection, and imagination:

All the Books by Hayley Rocco and John Rocco (K–3rd Grade)

All Thirteen by Christina Soontornvat (4–8th Grade)

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (9–12th Grade)

Pick up your free copies at any Mapleton school, the Welcome Center, or the Administration Building. Spend the season reading, reflecting, and connecting with stories that bring us together.



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.](#)

Jenn Luscombe, York International School

"Jenn is CONSTANTLY working to help kids. She is a tornado of energy, planning events, helping students apply to college, supervising and chaperoning trips, and being generally awesome and amazing. Her positive attitude is infectious and she's never too busy to help out. York is a better place because Jenn is here. Thanks for all you do!"

Submitted by David Consiglio

Krystin Zwolinski, York International School

"I wanted to send a big THANK YOU to Krystin! York's K-5 would be so lost without you! Thank you for everything you do, even the things we don't see but always get done! You are amazing! THANK YOU!!💖"

Submitted by Nicole Nemechek

Jennifer Luscombe, York International School

"Jenn has been on a mission worthy of a standing ovation—and maybe a hot dog or two! From creating magical moments for our seniors as they dream, apply, and plan for life after graduation, to cheering on our juniors with a college fair field trip and writing ICAP lessons that help every student see what's possible, she's doing it all with heart. Her creativity, dedication, and constant care for both students and staff remind us what it means to make Mapleton shine. Whether she's organizing celebrations, thinking up senior fundraisers, or simply showing up to make others feel seen and supported, Jenn's energy is unmatched. 🍌 ✨"

Submitted by Liz Tarbutton

Jennifer Ryszkowski, Rachelle Johnson, Todd Gonzales, Brandon Barringer, and Daniel Wilk; Meadow Community School

"A big thank you to the sixth grade team at Meadow Community School for welcoming me to 'Shadow a Student' as part of our stakeholder engagement efforts for strategic planning. Experiencing a day in the life of a student was both eye-opening and energizing. Hearing students' perspectives firsthand is truly invaluable, and I'm grateful for the opportunity. Thank you, Meadow!"

Submitted by Tiffany Dragoo

Natalie Ptaszynski, Emma Hoeschler, Matthew Mellstrom, Morgan Silver; Explore PK-8

"Thank you to the seventh grade team at Explore for welcoming me to 'Shadow a Student.' Walking in a student's shoes for a day reminded me why their voices matter so much in shaping our future. This experience was energizing and will help guide our strategic planning in meaningful ways. Thank you, Explore!"

Submitted by Tiffany Dragoo

Kari Horn, York International School

"Kari is always finding new ways to make Library engaging for our youngest learners at York. With her new center rotations, students are engaging with different content and concepts to make transdisciplinary connections and build social-emotional skill sets that will set them up for future success, both in and out of school. Kari works diligently to meet the needs of all students and provide a safe space for them to learn and build a love for reading and overall learning."

Submitted by York's K-1 Team

Sarah Hartman, York International School

"From the moment she arrived here, Sarah Hartman has been a rockstar. However, this year, she has stepped into the role of Instructional Guide and she is absolutely killing it. She's gotten us focused on analyzing data at a granular level, encouraged us to ask for what we need, and is visible in classes every day supporting teachers. She has our and our student's success at the front of her mind, every day."

Submitted by Josh Hirsch

York International School's ILC team

"Thank you so much for welcoming me into your classroom for a day and learning about ALL the amazing things happening! Hayley Fisher, I admire your dedication and energy! Our district and association is grateful for you!"

Submitted by Angela Connelly

Clayton's Middle School Team

"Thank you so much for welcoming me and giving me the opportunity to shadow one of your 8th graders. I had an incredible time experiencing learning at your school, and loved the engagement, curiosity, and joy I saw in every classroom. We are so lucky to have such dedicated and creative teachers like Clayton's. Thank you for all you do!"

Submitted by Melissa Johnson

Anne Gooch, Preschool on Poze

"Anne has been a vital asset to our team at Preschool on Poze. Her positivity and dedication to our students is incredible! Our students are always so excited when she comes in to provide speech services! She is always willing to lend a hand, brings great ideas to the table, and we are truly so lucky to have her!"

Submitted by Ashley

Nicholas Johnson, Kevin Ruskusky, Cody Owston, Gabriella Kricheli, Jordan Bishop, Lesli Cochran; Monterey Community School

"Big thanks to the seventh grade team at Monterey Community School for letting me spend the day as a student! Walking in their shoes from Zero Hour all the way to the dismissal bell gave me such a fresh perspective on what matters most to our kids. Their voices are powerful, and this experience will help shape our next steps in strategic planning. I appreciate you, Monterey!"

Submitted by Tiffany Dragoo

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

