



Bright Spots and Big Moments in Mapleton

Friday, March 20, 2026

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



JROTC cadets earn state title, build momentum for nationals

Mapleton's Air Force JROTC Raider Squadron Drill Team is a state champion once again, capturing the Colorado title in one event at the Best of the West Drill Meet and Colorado State Championships on Saturday, March 14, at Fountain-Fort Carson High School. The team also placed sixth overall at the competition.

Competing against 27 teams from Colorado and New Mexico, the cadets captured a state title in Armed Regulation, an event that tests precision and timing through a coordinated marching routine while carrying rifles. The Raiders also earned a state runner-up finish in Color Guard.

With another state title secured, the cadets now turn their focus to nationals next month. Congratulations, cadets!

Read more [here in our "News from the District"](#) section.

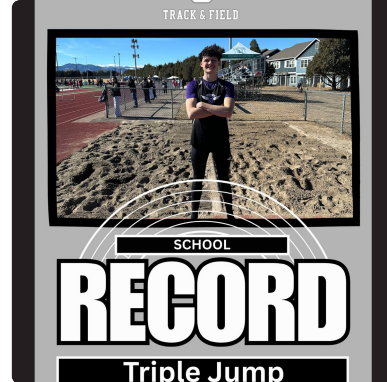


Academy High School junior sets school triple jump record

Congratulations to Academy High School junior Ronin L., who recently hopped, skipped, and jumped his way to a new Skyview school record in the triple jump.

At the Max Marr State Invitational in Berthoud, Colorado, a couple of weeks ago, Ronin recorded an impressive 44 feet, 7 inches, breaking the previous school record of 44 feet, 3 inches set by Fuad E. in 2017.

Way to go, Ronin!



Big Moments



York student makes Mapleton history in Teaching for Tomorrow program

Before even graduating, York International School senior Mariana G. is already taking major steps toward a career in education. This spring, she became the first Mapleton student to complete all four college courses in the district's Teaching for Tomorrow program and passed the ParaPro Assessment, earning credentials to work as a paraprofessional while she attends college.

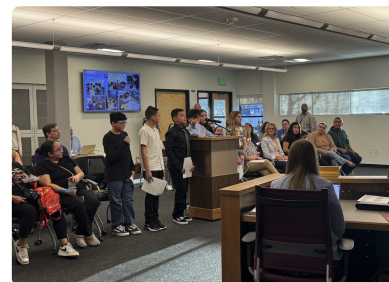
Through hands-on classroom experience, Mariana has already begun leading lessons and supporting younger students, all while discovering what it truly takes to become a teacher.

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



What's Right in Mapleton - Trailside Academy

Sixth grade students from Trailside Academy presented their "Expedition Story" to the Board of Education on Wednesday, sharing how their learning is helping them grow both academically and personally while connecting to real-world topics.



As an Expeditionary Learning school, learning at Trailside happens through "expeditions." These are hands-on, long-term projects where students ask big questions, do research, solve problems, and create high-quality work. These projects bring subjects like science, reading, and social studies together in meaningful ways.

Learning is also guided by the principles of EL Education, which focuses on three dimensions of student achievement: mastery of knowledge and skills, high-quality work, and character growth. This means students are not only learning content, but also building perseverance, teamwork, and respect for others.

During their impressive and inspiring "What's Right in Mapleton" presentation, Cesar, Magnolia, Hanson, Chris, Jordan, and Emma shared how expeditions help them work together as a crew, learn from experts, and participate in fieldwork. Students also shared how they use research, peer feedback, and revision to make their work stronger. One highlight was a fieldwork trip to Cal-Wood, where they explored ecosystems and weather patterns in nature. Experiences like this help students build curiosity, teamwork, and compassion while learning about the world around them.

Behind the Spark

Explore Primary taking shape

The construction of Explore Primary is moving along quickly! Just last month, Mapleton celebrated the “topping out” of the building, when crews put the the building’s highest structural beam in place. Today, the building is wrapped and roofing work is underway.

In the coming weeks, Mapleton’s Technology and Operations teams will participate in a “box walk,” a behind-the-scenes inspection that takes place before drywall is installed. The walkthrough allows teams to confirm that electrical, technology, plumbing, and other building systems are properly placed before the walls are closed.

Another exciting feature taking shape is a custom-built artificial cottonwood tree planned for the center of the building, symbolizing growth and honoring the cottonwoods long rooted on the property.

Explore Primary PK–1 is scheduled to open in August 2027.

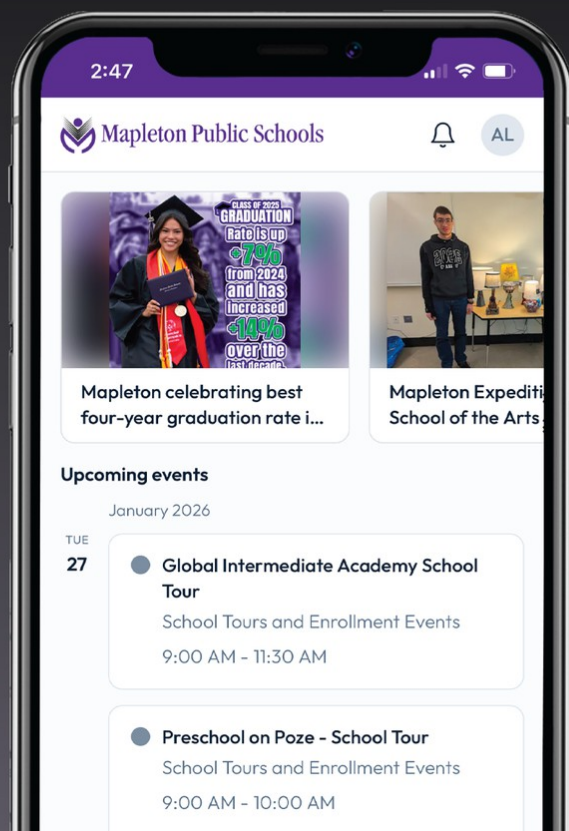


Mapleton's App is now live!

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Mapleton has an app!

More than 1,000 people have already downloaded Mapleton's app! Have you?

Mapleton's new app makes it easy to access real-time school news, district calendars, breakfast and lunch menus, and important alerts and notifications, all in one place.

Once downloaded, you can personalize your experience by selecting the schools you want to follow. Simply tap "Posts" in the menu bar and use the filter icon to choose the schools that matter most to your family.

The Mapleton app is available for free in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Search "Mapleton Public Schools" to download.

Community Connections

Wolverine Den Food Pantry closed during Spring Break

Mapleton's Wolverine Den food pantry will be closed during Spring Break next week while its host site, Achieve Academy, is not in session. The pantry will reopen Thursday, April 2, at 9 a.m.



The Wolverine Den, located at Achieve Academy, 9100 Poze Blvd. in Thornton, normally provides free essential food items to Mapleton families on a walk-in basis. Regular hours are Thursdays from 9–11 a.m.

Families needing food support during Spring Break may consider these nearby resources:

- **Adams County Food Bank**, 7111 E. 56th Ave., Commerce City (open Wednesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)
- **Food for Hope** – foodforhope.net
- **Hunger Free Colorado** – (855) 855-4626

Please share this information with families who may benefit from these resources.

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.](#)

Alexis Lauffenburger, Teaching and Learning

"I want to thank Alexis for taking the time to meet with ELD leads multiple times throughout the year for observations and coaching. She provides feedback that is specific, actionable, and individualized. After our observations, I always feel like I have grown as an educator and feel energized about the feedback I have received. Thank you, Alexis, for providing such meaningful and supportive observations!"

Submitted by Juliet Gill

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

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Contact

