



Bright Spots and Big Moments in Mapleton

Thursday, April 23, 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



Congratulations to Mapleton's student artists!

Thank you to all who joined us for the 2026 District Art Show. This year's show was Mapleton's biggest yet, featuring an incredible 512 pieces of artwork and representing 655 students across the district. From stop-motion animation and theatre set design to neon blacklight art, ceramics, paintings, and more, the range of creativity on display is truly inspiring.

Best in Show Winners:

K-5: Jordan P., Achieve Academy, "Owl Mosaic"

6-8: Kayden W., Welby Community School of the Arts, "Loco."

9-12: Valeria D., Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, "Anthropomorphic Man."

Congratulations to all of our talented student artists!

A special thank you to our dedicated art teachers, the Mapleton Jazz Band for providing entertainment between award ceremonies, and our volunteer judges for helping make the night a success.



Academy High School students give back through a student-led blood drive

Students and staff at Academy High School recently came together to support an important community need through a student-led blood drive.

Held the morning of Friday, April 10, at the district's Skyview Student Center, the event was organized by senior Brandon A. through the school's HOSA Future Health Professionals club and welcomed 24 donors. With each donation able to help save up to three lives, the effort could make a meaningful impact for dozens of patients.

The drive highlights the leadership and real-world learning happening within Academy's health sciences pathway, and brought together dedicated donors across the building, including a staff member who has been giving blood for more than 20 years.

Read the full story in our "News from the District" section here: <https://www.mapleton.us/>



No better way to celebrate Earth Day than learning directly from the world around us! 🌱

This morning at Trailside Academy, 3rd-grade students connected their life cycles unit to the natural world with support from Denver Audubon, an organization dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife, and habitats through education.



Students explored the stages of metamorphosis up close by observing a larva, pupa, and adult darkling beetle, bringing each stage of the life cycle to life through real-world examples.

The learning didn't stop there. Students headed out to their neighboring greenbelt to explore local ecosystems in action. Through careful observation, they spotted moths, grasshoppers, spiders, and beetles, sparking curiosity and strengthening their connection to the natural world in their own community.

Happy Earth Day, Mapleton! 🌍🌱

Big Moments



Colorado Rapids bring soccer clinic to Adventure Elementary

More than 70 Adventure Elementary students in grades K-6 had a special end to their school day as they headed out to the field for a free soccer clinic, hosted by the Colorado Rapids and UCHealth. Students had the opportunity to build their skills alongside Rapids Defender Miguel Navarro, former Rapids player Ricardo Perez, and members of the Rapids coaching team.



With plenty of energy and excitement, mascots RapidMan and Chispa, Adventure's own Marmot, helped cheer students on throughout the afternoon.

This clinic is part of a larger partnership between the Colorado Rapids and UCHHealth to donate 10,000 soccer balls to kids across Colorado over the next two years, helping ensure more students have access to play. Each student went home with a brand-new soccer ball, player cards, and autographs, making it a memorable experience for all.

This was the first of several clinics planned for Mapleton schools. Clinics will also be coming to Monterey Community School, Achieve Academy, Trailside Academy, and Welby Community School of the Arts. Additional schools will be added in the fall.

Thank you to the Colorado Rapids and UCHHealth for supporting our students and bringing this opportunity to our community!

Behind the Spark



End of year experience surveys are now open

Over the last few years, your feedback has driven real, meaningful change at Mapleton, and we're committed to continuing that momentum.

In partnership with Studer Education, our end of year experience surveys for parents/caregivers, students, and employees opened on Monday, April 20, and will remain open through Wednesday, May 6. This confidential, anonymous survey is your opportunity to share what's going well and where we can continue to grow. Every response helps shape the strategies, programs, and support systems we build for your family and your child.

Check your inbox for your survey link, or visit our website to complete your end of year experience survey today.

Complete your End of Year Experience Survey!

Right At School - Mapleton's new before and after care program



Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, [Right At School](#), a leading provider of high-quality before- and after-school enrichment programs, will operate at two locations in Mapleton.

- **Location #1: Achieve Academy (9100 Poze Blvd., Thornton, 80229)** – This location will serve families from Achieve Academy, York International School, and Explore PK-8.
- **Location #2: Meadow Community School (9150 Monroe St., Thornton, 80229)** – This location will serve families from Meadow Community School, Monterey Community School, and Clayton Partnership School.

Please note: Welby Community School, Valley View Innovation School, Adventure Elementary, Global Campus, and Trailside Academy families are invited to enroll in the before and after-school program offered by the YMCA and hosted at Trailside Academy. [For details, click here.](#)

[Right At School](#) will offer before school and after school programming to kindergarten through 8th- grade students beginning on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

Learn more at Right At School's upcoming virtual parent information night!

Right At School is hosting two virtual Family Information Nights (English and Spanish) via Zoom on Tuesday, April 28. Right At School staff will provide an overview of their programs and answer any questions you may have. To attend, click the Zoom link below. The session will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Right At School Virtual Family Information Night (English)

When: Tuesday, April 28

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86508809575?pwd=PvSs1nGuM2qQgdIAUhL5cUbW1W12Ru.1>

Meeting ID: 865 0880 9575

Passcode: beakid!

Right At School Virtual Family Information Night (Spanish)

When: Tuesday, April 28

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86508809575?pwd=PvSs1nGuM2qQgdIAUhL5cUbW1W12Ru.1>

Meeting ID: 865 0880 9575

Passcode: beakid!

McGraw-Hill high school social studies curriculum review - we want your feedback!

After a thoughtful, teacher-led review process, we're excited to share that McGraw-Hill has been selected as our new high school Social Studies resource.

McGraw-Hill's materials were carefully evaluated against rigorous criteria and Colorado Academic Standards. McGraw-Hill rose to the top because it truly supports students who think critically,

question assumptions, and wrestle with complex ideas.

The resources offer a clear, intentional scope and sequence so students build understanding steadily over time. A rich library of primary and secondary sources brings history and social studies to life, while built-in tools make it possible to reach every learner at grade level.

McGraw-Hill resources are available for a 30-day community review process, starting April 23, 2026.

[View the materials on our website](#) and let us know what you think.

Review the proposed high school Social Studies materials

Community Connections

Wolverine Den: Fresh Food and Support for Mapleton Families

The Wolverine Den is a food pantry open to all Mapleton families and offers a simple, welcoming way to pick up essentials each week – at no cost. At the Wolverine Den you will find a variety of grocery items and household staples to support your family. You can visit the Wolverine Den on the southeast side of Achieve Academy (9100 Poze Blvd., Thornton, CO 80229) every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. No appointment is needed.

To get started, you can create a quick account through the Food Bank of the Rockies. This information is kept confidential and shared only with the Food Bank of the Rockies:

<https://newclient.link2feed.com/>

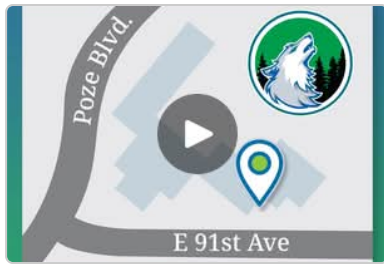
The Wolverine Den is made possible through a partnership between Mapleton Public Schools and Food for Hope, working together to support and nourish our community.

Check out the videos below to learn more about the Wolverine Den!



Mapleton Public Schools, Adams County School District 1 on Reels |...

[facebook.com](#)



Bienvenidos a Wolverine Den, un espacio acogedor en Mapleton que...

Bienvenidos a Wolverine Den, un espacio acogedor en Mapleton que ofrece alimentos frescos y apoyo cuando lo necesite 🐾 Este banco de alimentos gratuito está abierto a todas las familias de Mapleton...

facebook.com



ATTENTION PARENTS!

BEYOND "JUST SAY NO" PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT



What Every Parent of Teens Needs to Know!



April 23rd
2026



Zoom



7:00pm - 8:00pm

Join us for a dynamic and edutaining presentation for parents and learn:

- Common reasons students turn to substances
- The influence of social media, online culture, and viral trends on teen identity and behavior
- How to recognize early warning signs
- Proven strategies to start open, nonjudgmental conversations
- How to model emotional regulation and healthy coping skills
- How to connect even when your teen seems distant.

Parents leave feeling empowered and equipped!

Presented By:



Internationally Recognized Speaker:
Robert Hackenson Jr.

****RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!****

Virtual parent education night – Beyond "Just Say No"

We're excited to invite you to a FREE parent education event on Thursday, April 23, from 7-8 p.m. Join internationally recognized speaker Robert Hackenson Jr. for a dynamic, edutaining presentation designed specifically for parents of teens.

Parents will leave knowing:

- Why teens turn to substances — even "good kids"
- How social media & online culture fuel risky behavior
- How to spot early warning signs
- Proven strategies for open, nonjudgmental conversations
- How to stay connected — even when your teen pulls away

This is not a lecture. It's a real conversation — packed with practical tools, surprising research, and yes, even a little humor. Parents leave feeling empowered and equipped!

Date: Thursday, April 23

Time: 7-8 p.m.

🔗 **REGISTER HERE — Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88255318111?pwd=Ehcm0acP1q1CZorExlr2xRt0fePzYa.1>

Meeting ID: 882 5531 8111

Passcode: 113988

Can't attend on Thursday? Don't worry! We hosting another virtual event on Wednesday, May 6!

[Presented by Dynamic Influence](#)

High Fives!

Submit a High Five!

High Fives are going strong!

[High Fives](#) started nearly two years ago as a way to recognize the many difference-makers across Mapleton. Every day, someone steps up, supports a colleague, or makes a positive impact for students, and those moments are worth celebrating.

It takes less than 30 seconds to submit a High Five, and anyone can share one, whether you're a staff member, student, or family member. Take a look at some of our latest submissions below.

Martin Sanchez, Jeremy Cortez, John McCafferty, Mel Garcia, and Dominik Martinez, Operations

The Warehouse and Maintenance staff are working collaboratively to clean up the Operations yard in several areas. This much-needed work ensures we retain items for future projects while discarding obsolete materials. Given the teams' busy schedules, this often-overlooked area is critical to maintain for functionality. I greatly appreciate their help and teamwork to complete this work!

Submitted by Tara McMachen

Julianne Hazah, Valley View Innovation School

Julianne has tirelessly given a huge chunk of her heart, day after day, to make Valley View the most joyful building that I've ever had the privilege of working in. From the tiny humans, to the big kids, to the parents, to the custodians, to her educators, she makes every single person feel like they

belong and are loved. This is creating a powerfully dynamic learning environment that is giving everyone courage to stretch themselves and increase our momentum. She is making big things happen at Valley View and we love her for it!

Submitted by a very happy anonymous teacher

Sabrina Solano and Mapleton's Transportation team

Ensuring that multiple schools and classrooms could attend our spring musical at the MAC is no easy task, especially when we overbooked ourselves! Sabrina and the transportation team went ABOVE and BEYOND to find creative solutions to help more students than we thought possible get rides to and from their schools to enjoy live theater. We can't wait to share the show with our Mapleton friends. Thank you so much!

Submitted by Jackson Westenskow

Rachel Coppinger and Integrated Services for Student Support

When we face the most challenging situations in Mapleton, you know you will have the best team supporting you. Thanks to Rachel and all the Integrated Services team members who planned, prepared, showed up, and, most importantly, sat with us as we processed our feelings and shared our emotions. There never seems to be a perfect way to get through the most difficult times, but there is a perfect team to help us start down the path to healing. Thank you!

Submitted by Jackson Westenskow

CMAS Proctors and Support staff

Thank you so much to all of the teachers, paras, administrators, and office staff who worked together to make CMAS run smoothly! Also thanks to other staff members who picked up the slack and kept on teaching. Our students are locked in and trying their best!

Submitted by Karen Hoppis

Natalie Ptaszynski, Explore PK-8

Huge shoutout to Natalie for being such an incredible source of support and for lifting up every student during the District's Art Show! Your compassion and genuine care are so noticeable and will make a lasting difference in our students' lives. Explore is truly fortunate to have you!

Submitted by Reyna Sierra

Jeff and Sam, Campus Security; Broadway Campus

Jeff and Sam truly go above and beyond to ensure our Broadway campus feels safe and supported. They are always there when we need them, ready to handle any situation with confidence and care. Their visibility during recess provides reassurance to students and staff alike. In addition to their many responsibilities, Jeff and Sam take the time to build meaningful relationships with students and staff, making them an invaluable part of the Broadway campus community.

Submitted by Stormie Griffin

York International, Mapleton Online, North Valley, and all others

GLA is incredibly grateful for the support from across Mapleton. York International, MOS, and

North Valley generously provided food and care for our staff this week. Thank you to all of the schools that have sent messages, calls, texts, etc. We appreciate all of the love and support. We are thankful to be part of such a strong and compassionate community.

Submitted by Global Leadership Academy

[If you know someone who deserves a "High Five", submit your appreciation using this form.](#)

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

