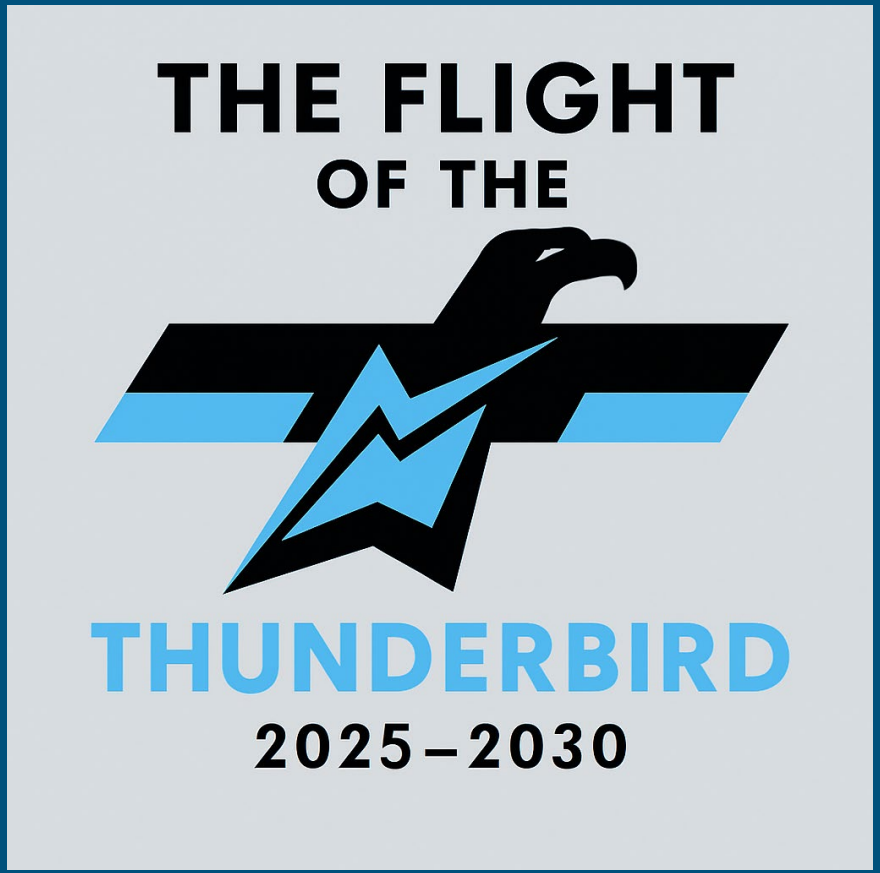
Mahwah Schools

Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Introduction

The Flight of the Thunderbird: Year One Progress

June 10, 2026

Introducing: *The Flight of the Thunderbird*



- Curriculum and Instruction (Soaring Thunderbirds)
- Community Connections (Flight Calls)
- Social-Emotional Learning (Wings of Wellness)
- Facilities (Future-Ready Habitats)

Ideas that Hatched . . .

- “Develop student leaders who take an active role inside of school and outside in the global community.”
- “Grit, resilience, and perseverance are at the core of each student.”
- “Self-development, risk-taking, hunger for improvement, expansion, visionary.”
- “Involve families and students in their educational progress.”
- “Comprehensive programs to serve ALL.”
- “Abstract thinkers who can problem-solve, collaborate, and cultivate their own positive futures.”
- “Ensure an authentic pathway for non-college-bound students.”
- “Modern cutting-edge flexible adaptive learning spaces.”
- “State-of-the-art facilities.”

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

Familiar Frames with New Names →

Curriculum and Instruction →

→ Soaring Thunderbirds: Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

→ Launching Leaders: College, Career, and Future-Ready Skills

Community Connections →

→ Flight Calls: Communicating and Connecting on our Flight Path

Social-Emotional Learning →

→ Wings of Wellness: Social-Emotional and Personal Growth

Facilities →

→ Future-Ready Habitats: World-Class Learning Environments



District Goals

Goal 1: Curriculum and Instruction

Mahwah Public Schools will continue to implement the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) with a focused commitment to strengthening Tier 2 and Tier 3, and maintaining Tier 1 interventions. We will deepen our use of multiple data sources to identify student needs and guide instructional decisions, ensuring that targeted strategies are in place to address areas for growth, particularly for students who require additional academic or behavioral support, and/or advancement, beyond core instruction.

Goal 2: Finance and Facilities

Mahwah Public Schools will initiate the process of planning and preparing for a facilities referendum focused on enhancing the district's infrastructure to meet current and future needs. This includes assessing critical facility upgrades, prioritizing long-term sustainability, and ensuring our learning environments support high-quality education. A key component of this work will be meaningful community engagement, including soliciting feedback, providing transparent updates, and ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and involved throughout every phase of the process, from initial planning to final vote.

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Soaring Thunderbirds*

Soaring Thunderbirds: Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

Sustain programs and instructional experiences that challenge learners at all levels while developing 21st century skills.

- Facilitate an academic environment that encourages intellectual risk-taking.
- Increase connections with trade/vocational programs.
- Create opportunities to cultivate empathetic national and global citizens.

Expand the differentiated curriculum to support, challenge, and raise achievement for students at all learning levels.

- Innovatively use technology and other tools (e.g., AI) in “hands-on” opportunities.
- Implement personalized learning and goal-setting plans to raise students’ abilities at all levels.

[Curriculum and Instruction]

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Soaring Thunderbirds*

Soaring Thunderbirds: Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

K–5 Experiences

- ***Differentiation & tiered support:*** **Small Group Instruction (SGI), SOAR Tier 3 enrichment, and expansion of Autism, ABA, and BD programs to meet learners across the full spectrum of need.**
- ***Raising achievement at all levels:*** **Year 2 of K–5 *iReady* Math implementation and the new Advanced Math Program for Grades 4–5, vertically aligned to new 6-8 programming.**
- ***Cross-curricular, 21st-century learning:*** **Integrated experiences across literacy, science, social studies, technology, and the arts.**
- ***Enrichment for advanced learners:*** **Math enrichment opportunities that extend and challenge.**

6–12 Experiences

- *Curriculum renewal:* New Science and Math program implementation; Grade 6 ELA redesign with planned 2027-2028 roll-out.
- *Expanded access:* Tier 3 entrance and exit criteria refined to widen student access to support and challenge.
- *Targeted intervention:* NJSLA tutoring program for Grades 6–8.
- *Equitable pathways:* Expansion of the 18–21 transition program.
- *Industry partnership:* Lincoln Tech collaboration—robotics, CNC routers, applied technology, embedded workforce and trade exam readiness.

[Curriculum and Instruction]

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Launching Leaders*

Launching Leaders: College, Career, and Future-Ready Skills

Expand problem-based learning opportunities for all grade levels with connections to real-world problem-solving.

- Support students in exploring self-directed and motivated interests.
- Create opportunities for learners to develop self-awareness in the mastery of their autonomy, executive functioning, and social emotional competencies.
- Develop the profile of a Mahwah graduate.

[Curriculum and Instruction]

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Soaring Thunderbirds*

Launching Leaders: College, Career, and Future-Ready Skills

K–5 Experiences

- Cross-curricular learning integrating literacy, science, social studies, technology, and the arts.
- SOAR Program K-3, grounded in inquiry-based, problem-solving experiences.
- Tier 3 Math enrichment emphasizing application and critical thinking.

6–12 Experiences

- *Industry partnership:* Lincoln Tech collaboration—robotics, CNC routers, applied technology, embedded workforce and trade exam readiness.
- *Advanced coursework:* AP Career Kickstart development (AP Cybersecurity, AP Financial Literacy), plus AP Seminar and AP Research 2027-2028.
- *Measurable outcome:* Career Pathway Transcript Endorsements grew from **21 students last year to 43 students this year.**

District

- *AI integration:* AI Committee guiding thoughtful, ethical integration across instruction.

[Curriculum and Instruction]

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Flight Calls*

Flight Calls: Communicating and Connecting about our Flight Path

Expand problem-based learning opportunities for all grade levels with connections to real-world problem-solving.

- Partner with families throughout each student's educational journey.
- Communicate regularly about academic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities.
  - Invite families into schools through volunteer and community events.
- Expand family engagement beyond traditional school events.
- Welcome the community to extracurricular activities and sporting events.
- Continue growing the Parent Academy and family resources.
- Share regular updates on school and district events.
- Strengthen and expand the alumni network.
- Expand "Thunderbird for a Day" to include 7th graders.
- Increase alumni involvement and mentorship opportunities.

[Community Connections]

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Flight Calls*

Flight Calls: Communicating and Connecting about our Flight Path

Educate and engage the community at large to be a part of the flight alongside us.

- Expanded Parent Academies, social media outreach, and weekly newsletters.
- Provide multiple, intentional ways for families to receive information.
- Grow elementary STEM opportunities through math and science initiatives.
- Increase hands-on learning opportunities with community professionals and partners.
- Expand engineering, robotics, and STEM competition opportunities at the secondary level.
- Strengthen partnerships with neighboring districts and community organizations.
- Continue showcasing student achievement through performing arts programs and events.
- Grow long-term partnerships that support student learning and engagement.
- Expand Community Problem Solvers initiatives and community-based projects.
- Strengthen partnerships with trade schools and career pathway programs.

[Community Connections]

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Wings of Wellness*

Wings of Wellness: Social-Emotional and Personal Growth

Facilitate a growth mindset that empowers student success in a complex future.

- Maintain the CASEL competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making in learning experiences.
- Create opportunities where students can take risks and step outside their comfort zone by developing grit, resilience, and perseverance.
- Encourage healthy nutrition and active movement.

[Social-Emotional Learning]

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Wings of Wellness*

Wings of Wellness: Social-Emotional and Personal Growth

Facilitate a growth mindset that empowers student success in a complex future.

- Lessons specifically connected to health and wellness, facilitated by school nurse.
- Confidence Closet expanded and student-sustained.
- Spirit days across the district.
- Student goal-setting and self-monitored.
- Encouraged growth in participation in offered clubs and sports.
- AI Committee - Range of stakeholders, inclusive of student cohorts.
- Grade 9 individualized student meetings by school counselors.
- SEL Days; Play60; Heart Health Awareness Day (Miles4Marcus).
  - "Olympics Week" in PE/Health

[Social-Emotional Learning]

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Future-Ready Habitats*

Future-Ready Habitats: World-Class Learning Environments

To build and maintain innovative spaces that sustain student learning with a future-ready focus.

- Enhance spaces for student-to-student collaboration opportunities (e.g., lab spaces, flexible furniture).

To procure ongoing upgrades to facilities.

- Regularly review facilities audit to make required adjustments to district schools.
- Maintain and support safe and healthy learning spaces.

[Facilities]

2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Future-Ready Habitats*

Future-Ready Habitats: World-Class Learning Environments

To build and maintain innovative spaces that sustain student learning with a future-ready focus.

- Referendum Work
- 18-21 Program at MHS: Life Skills Program, Building 5 fully renovated for student learning
- Tree Grant - Trees placed throughout district property
  - Wellness Room at Ramapo Ridge (“Confidence Closet”)

To procure ongoing upgrades to facilities.

- Updated visual arts furniture

[Facilities]

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

MAHWAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025–2030

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD

SOARING THUNDERBIRDS

Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

FUTURE-READY HABITAT

World-Class Learning Environments

FLIGHT CALLS

Communicating and Connecting About Our Flight Path

WINGS OF WELLNESS

Social-Emotional and Personal Growth

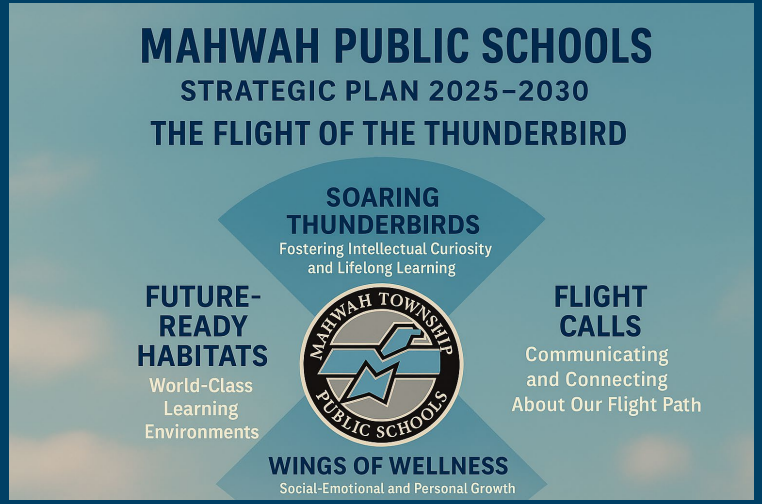
#MahwahConnects

Whatever It Takes

THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

Strategic Plan 2025-2030

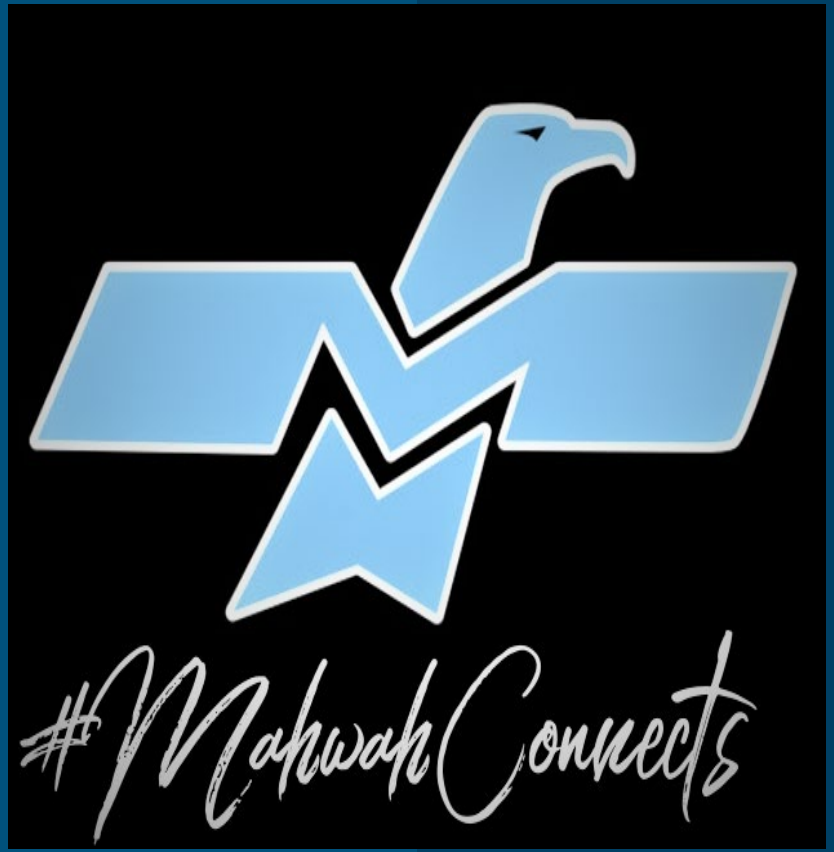
Flight of the Thunderbird: Website.



THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD 2025–2030

Tab on our district homepage:

- All communication posted.
- Progress/action steps connected to each goal statement.
- All resources connected to our school district's strategic plan and its process.


#MahwahConnects