Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-6 June 25, 2026

Congratulations Class of 2026

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Principal's Corner

I want to start off by giving a HUGE congratulations to the Class of 2026. You did an amazing job last night and I hope you enjoyed every moment. You deserve it. As I said last night "Life is not always easy. There are times when things do not go as planned. There are difficult assignments, challenging situations, disappointments, and obstacles that can make us question whether we should keep going. The true measure of a person is not whether they face difficulties, because all of us will at some point, but whether they remain dedicated when those difficulties arise." You all have bright futures ahead of you and I wish you all the best!

I want to give the most heart-felt thank you to the amazing district staff. I can't put into words how grateful I am for these last two years getting to know and work with you all. I know that this district will continue to be great and it's because of you, your hard work, and your dedication to your students, colleagues, and community that makes this district so great. I will never forget my time here and I will continue to keep in touch and root for you all.

Thank you to the community and students for the opportunity to lead you all these last two years. As Isabella said last night in her speech, being a small community truly allows everyone to know and be there for each other.

I wish the very best to the incoming superintendent, Dr. Jessica Neu and the incoming principal, Ms. Marina Williams. It won't take you long to see what an amazing district you have come to. I wish you both the best.

Once again, thank you to the entire Mount Arlington Public Schools community.

With Reverence,

Joe Coladarci, Principal

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A message from Mrs. Donohue

Dear Parents and Families,

After 30 wonderful years as a Speech/Language Pathologist with the Mount Arlington Board of Education, I have made the difficult decision to retire at the end of this school year.

As I reflect on my career, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to work with so many amazing children and families. It has been a privilege to help children find their voices, build confidence, and celebrate milestones both big and small. The joy of watching students grow, communicate, and succeed has made this work truly meaningful.

Thank you for the trust, support, and partnership you have given me throughout the years. Your dedication and encouragement played an important role in your children's progress, and I am grateful to have been part of their journey.
I will always cherish the memories, laughter, and accomplishments we shared together. While I look forward to this new chapter, I will miss the students and families who have touched my heart over the past 30 years.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives. I leave with a heart full of gratitude and countless wonderful memories.

Wishing you and your children continued happiness, success, and bright futures ahead.

With sincere appreciation and warmest wishes,

Dianne Donohue, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech/Language Pathologist

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STEPS @ Roxbury Garden Center

Students in the STEPS program visited the Roxbury Garden Center as part of their Community Based Instruction. Students were given a tour of the center, learned about various plants, flowers and vegetables, and then purchased items to be planted in the school gardens.

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Kindergarten

The kindergarten students spent lots of time practicing for the Decker End-of-Year Show. They did a fabulous job singing This Land is Your Land during the show. During the month of June, they have also been reviewing many of the concepts learned during the year. They are ready for first grade!

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First Grade

First Graders Make a Colorful Difference with The Crayon Initiative

Our first-grade students recently completed their crayon collection project in support of The Crayon Initiative, and the results were outstanding!

After weeks of collecting used and unwanted crayons from students, families, and staff members, the first graders rolled up their sleeves and got to work. As part of this hands-on learning experience, students sorted crayons by color, weighed the collections, and created a graph to analyze their data. Through this project, they practiced important math skills while learning about service, recycling, and helping others.

We are proud to announce that our first graders collected an impressive 32 pounds of crayons! These crayons will be sent to The Crayon Initiative, where they will be recycled into new crayons for children in hospitals across the country.

Thank you to everyone who donated crayons and supported this meaningful project. Your generosity helped our students learn the value of giving back while making a positive impact on the environment and the lives of children in need.

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First Grade Continued...

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Third Grade

Third grade has had a fantastic last few weeks of school! We spent a perfect day at the Bronx Zoo, sang our hearts out at the Spring Concert, finished up units on geometry, geography, and weather, and enjoyed the beautiful weather outside whenever we could. Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

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Third Grade Continued....

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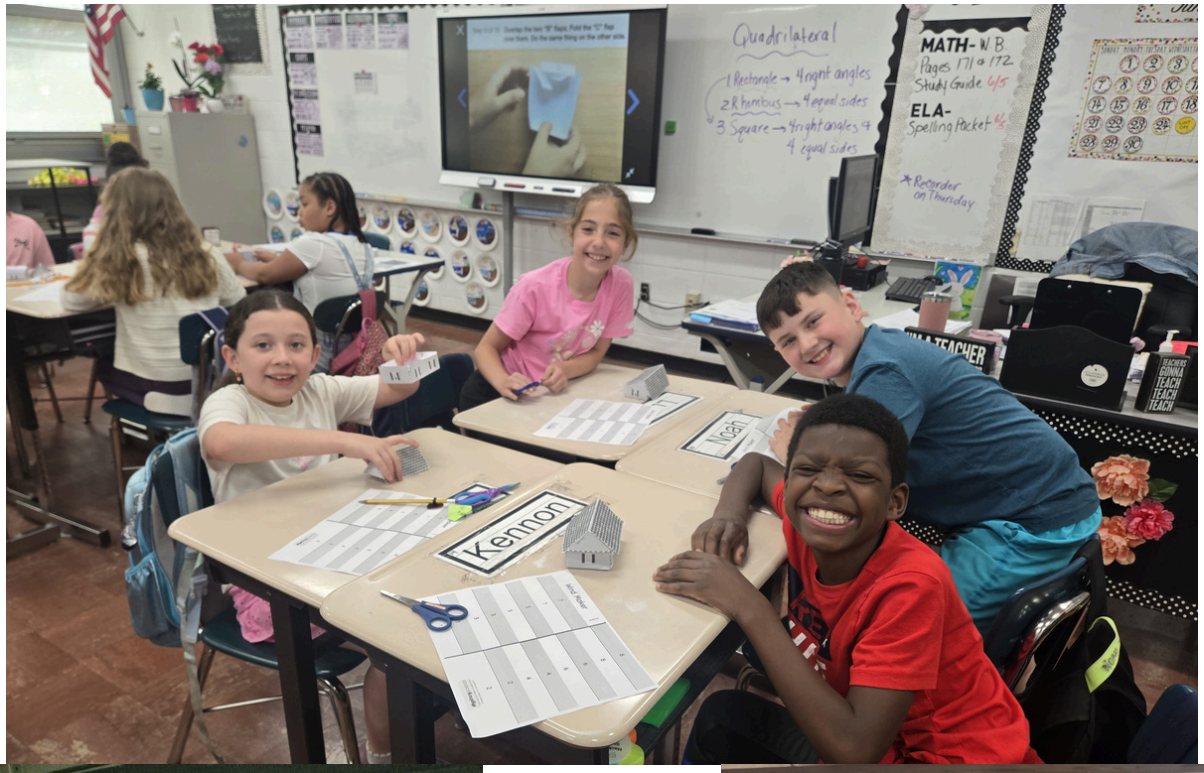
Third Grade Continued....



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Fourth Grade

Our fourth-grade students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational field trip to Hopatcong State Park, where they became environmental scientists for the day while learning about the importance of protecting our local waterways.

One highlight of the trip was the Floating Classroom experience. Students boarded the floating classroom and conducted hands-on investigations into lake ecology and water quality. They used Secchi disks to measure water clarity, tested pH levels, dissolved oxygen, and temperature, and examined water samples under microscopes to observe live phytoplankton. During the Macroinvertebrate Exploration, students learned how aquatic insects and other small organisms can be used as indicators of water quality. By exploring the lake and the nearby Musconetcong River habitat, they discovered how scientists assess the health of aquatic ecosystems.

Students also participated in a Discovery Hike through Hopatcong State Park. Along the trail, they learned about the important roles that forests, natural habitats, and human development play in maintaining a healthy lake environment. The day concluded with an interactive Watershed Model demonstration, where students explored how water moves through a watershed and learned practical ways to reduce pollution and keep our lakes, rivers, and streams clean.

This engaging field trip, led by the amazing Lake Hopatcong Foundation volunteers, provided our students with valuable real-world science experiences and a deeper appreciation for Lake Hopatcong and the surrounding community.

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Fourth Grade Continued....

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Fourth Grade Continued....

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Art

The 2026 MAPS Art Show celebrated the creativity, imagination, and hard work of our student artists. The exhibit showcased a variety of 2D and 3D artwork completed by students in grades 3-8 throughout the school year. Students explored different materials and techniques while developing their own unique artistic voices. We are proud to share the talents of our young artists!

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Instrumental & Vocal Music

The Concert Band, Beginning Band, Honors Choir, and Concert Choir had a busy last couple of months performing at our spring concerts, Gala Concert, the High Note Music Festival, and the 8th grade graduation. At the High Note Music Festival in Macungie, PA , both the Concert Band and Honors Choir earned the highest rating of Superior on their adjudicated performances.

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MAPS Athletics

As another school year comes to a close, the Mount Arlington Lakers proudly celebrate a year filled with athletic achievement, teamwork, and school spirit. Throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons, our student-athletes represented Mount Arlington with dedication, sportsmanship, and pride both on and off the field, court, and course. While wins and losses are always part of the story, the true success of our athletic programs can be found in the growth, perseverance, friendships, and memories made along the way. We would like to thank our coaches, families, staff members, and PTO for their commitment to providing these opportunities for our students. Their encouragement and dedication help make Mount Arlington athletics a special part of our school community.

The year concluded with our annual Sports Banquet, where athletes, coaches, and families gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the season and recognize the hard work of all participants. To our eighth-grade athletes, thank you for the example you have set for younger students. We wish you the very best as you continue your athletic and academic journeys in high school. Wherever your future takes you, remember that you will always be part of the Mount Arlington Lakers family.

Looking ahead, we're already excited for next year! Information and required athletic forms have been sent home with interested 5th - 8th grade students and are posted on the school website. Please reach out to Megan Hahn, Athletic Coordinator, at athletics@mtarlingtonk8.org with any questions. GO LAKERS!

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2026 High School Graduates

Congratulations to the High School Class of 2026 (MAPS Class of 2022)

A special congratulations to Grace Hill and Colleen Gordan-Mara, MAPS class of 2022, graduated RHS in the top 10!

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SUMMER TIME!!!!!!

Have a fun, relaxing, safe summer!