

Dear Montgomery Township School District Community,

Thank you for your support and partnership throughout the 2025-26 school year. We recently celebrated the graduation of our high school seniors, recognized the promotion of our eighth graders, and saw many students successfully move up to new schools ready for their next academic and social adventures. Throughout this newsletter, you will find a celebration of the unique milestones, creative projects, and proud accomplishments from each of our individual schools over the past few months.

OHES

- The old Bedensville School House on the campus of Orchard Hill opened its doors in April to help our second graders step back in time and experience what school was like in the 1860s. With a little help from the Montgomery Historic Society, the schoolmarm—an old term for a female schoolteacher—conducted lessons in reading, handwriting (with a quill pen and ink, of course), and math using an “old-fashioned” chalkboard. Second graders had the opportunity to ask questions about life as a student “way back when” and gained an appreciation for the comforts of modern-day living.



- Our students enjoyed using their imaginations to build, design, and explore throughout the spring in our Cubs Cave. The Cubs Cave is an innovative outdoor space at OHES designed for creative and exploratory play. It provides K-2 students with a unique environment to enhance problem-solving, creativity, social-emotional skills, and physical well-being. With various creatables, natural materials, and activity zones, the Cubs Cave empowers students to take charge of their learning through hands-on play.



- The end of the school year meant that it was time for our second graders to spread their wings and become VES Bluebirds! During our cherished annual Clap Off tradition, the entire OHES community came together to celebrate this exciting milestone as our second graders paraded through the halls and down the drive one last time. Led by our Montgomery High School senior peer leaders, the procession was filled with cheers, smiles, high-fives, and heartfelt applause from students and staff alike.

The Clap Off was a fitting celebration of the friendships, growth, perseverance, and accomplishments our second graders achieved during their time at Orchard Hill. As they start this next chapter, we know they will carry with them the confidence, kindness, curiosity, and Cub spirit that have made them such an important part of our school community.

Congratulations to our amazing second-grade Cubs! We are so proud of all you have accomplished and can't wait to see you soar as VES Bluebirds. Once a Cub, always a Cub!



VES

- Villagers experienced new and meaningful trips this spring in support of life science units. Third graders visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and fourth graders explored the Turtle Back Zoo.



- The VES fourth grade bands, chorus, and orchestra held incredible end-of-year concerts at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center. Our performers have progressed both individually and as large groups since the start of the school year, and they performed an impressive repertoire of challenging selections for families and friends. VES lays the foundation for the phenomenal music program that we hope students continue to participate in as they progress through the district. Congratulations to our fourth-grade musicians on such outstanding performances!



- VES students participated in a school-wide Star-Spangled Challenge in recognition of the country's 250th anniversary. Students celebrated the diversity of contributions to American culture and explored the ideals of freedom, equity and justice for all. Each class created a collaborative piece of artwork from recycled materials that were presented by administrators and students at the Township Committee meeting. The winning piece features seashells in the shape of the US flag. The full presentation of art from each class is on display at the Montgomery Township Library through July 25th.



- VES Fun Day was fantastic thanks to the VES Health/PE team, all VES staff, the MES PTA, all parent volunteers, and especially the students! Villagers practiced skills they learned throughout the year and demonstrated sportsmanship and teamwork! Most importantly, students celebrated the year by having fun with classmates and the entire school community!



- VES closed the year with a Clap Off in honor of our fourth graders, a festive year-end sing-along, and a slideshow of all of our favorite memories! The day closed with cheer and well wishes during our summer send-off! The VES Family will miss this awesome group of fourth graders and looks forward to welcoming back our third graders for the 2026-27 school year.



LMS

- LMS students did a tremendous job during the Spring Band, Orchestra, and Chorus Concerts. The performances highlighted not only the musical growth and dedication of our students but also the outstanding work of our music educators. Families and community members were treated to evenings filled with impressive performances and a wonderful display of student achievement.



- On June 12th, LMS proudly hosted its "Crossroads: Journeying Through Montgomery's History" 250th Celebration. Throughout the day, students traveled back in time through immersive, hands-on learning experiences that explored the people, stories, and ideals that shaped our community and nation during the Revolutionary Era. Students interacted with historical reenactors, museum exhibits, community presenters, and educational partners while engaging in activities designed to bring history to life.

What made the celebration especially meaningful was the extraordinary collaboration between so many members of our community. Township leaders, the Montgomery Township Rev250 Committee, local senior citizens, community organizations, educational partners, and our incredible PTO came together to support the event and create an atmosphere of unity, connection, and pride. The day served as a powerful reminder of the strength of community partnerships and the positive impact they have on our students.

Our students embraced every aspect of the experience with enthusiasm, curiosity, and respect. The celebration not only provided meaningful learning opportunities but also fostered a sense of belonging and community that was felt by everyone in attendance. It was a truly special day that created lasting memories for our students, staff, families, and community members alike.



- LMS hosted a Moving Up Party for rising fifth graders in June. Although the dance featured a fun Glow in the Dark theme, the brightest thing in the room was the excitement of our incoming students. In addition to the dance, our soon-to-be fifth graders explored their new school, met future classmates, and enjoyed an evening of fun.
- Our students wrapped up an outstanding school year with memorable celebrations designed to recognize their hard work and strengthen friendships. Fifth graders enjoyed a fun-filled Field Day packed with games, activities, and school spirit, while sixth graders spent the day at Eagles Landing participating in exciting team-building challenges and outdoor adventures. Both events provided

students with the opportunity to celebrate a successful year, create lasting memories, and enjoy time with their classmates before summer vacation.

UMS

- In April, UMS continued its tradition of service and community with Cougar Care Days. Eighth-grade students engaged in various service-learning projects, including courtyard beautification, supporting the local SAVE Animal Shelter, and mentoring younger students at Orchard Hill and Village Elementary Schools. Simultaneously, seventh graders participated in activities led by the Hope Squad, focusing on the significance of community connection and peer support.
- In May, UMS hosted the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force for an assembly on digital citizenship and online safety. To mark Mental Health Awareness Month, the Hope Squad organized a "Green Out Day," and our Student Assistance Counselor launched the inaugural CARE Fair. The fair allowed students to engage with community organizations and explore practical wellness strategies.



- On April 14th, students attended a presentation about the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Throughout the presentation, insights were shared into how the document was historically communicated and discussed its enduring promise of equality and liberty. This was an exceptional opportunity for our seventh and eighth graders to connect with a foundational piece of American history through an expert lens.
- This spring, the UMS Media Center hosted its first student book swap, encouraging literacy and a love of reading. Students were invited to exchange

previously enjoyed books for new titles. We extend our gratitude to our Media Center Specialists who organized this successful community event.

- Unified programming at UMS saw significant growth this school year. In collaboration with the UMS Student Council, we hosted the first Unified Silent Disco, which provided an inclusive social environment for all students. Additionally, Unified Arts students displayed their work at the annual District Art Extravaganza, and Unified Music students performed at the UMS Music Showcase.



MHS

- Montgomery High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 400 exceptional seniors in the Class of 2026. In the commencement address, students were offered three important pieces of advice:
 - learn to embrace the discomfort of becoming
 - know your worth... and do not confuse your worth with your productivity
 - choose to notice the good; let joy become an act of resistance

The ceremony was a celebration of both endings and beginnings. It honored the remarkable impact these students have already made and the bright future they are ready to shape.



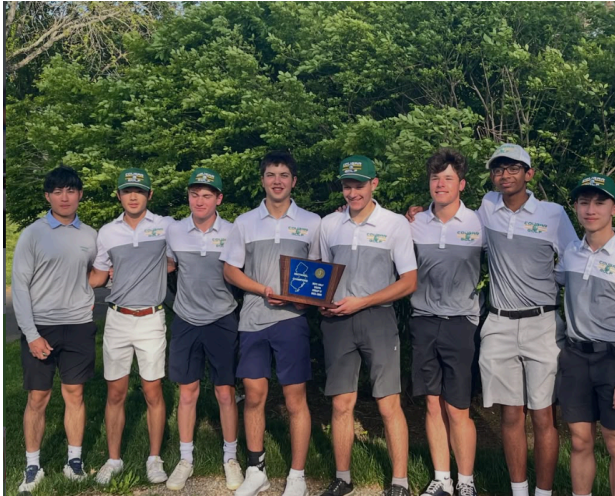
- The MHS Science Olympiad Team represented Montgomery on the national stage with an outstanding performance in Los Angeles at the Science Olympiad National Tournament. They competed against the country's top teams and earned an incredible seventh-place finish. The team achieved remarkable results at the event, including second place in Machines and Materials Science, fourth place in Astronomy and Helicopter, and sixth place in Rocks and Minerals. We are immensely proud of our students and coaches for their hard work, teamwork, and dedication. Congratulations on an unforgettable national performance!



- The annual MHS Senior Scholarship Awards Night was a wonderful celebration of our students' hard work and achievements. 86 scholarships totaling more than \$70,000 were awarded to deserving members of the Class of 2026. Thanks to the generosity of our scholarship sponsors, these awards will help support our graduates as they pursue their educational goals at colleges and universities across the country.



- It was a successful spring sports season for our MHS Cougars. The Boys Golf team won the state sectional championship, while the Girls Lacrosse team made history as they captured the conference championship and advanced to the sectional finals for the first time in school history. Both teams represented Montgomery with pride throughout the season, and we are incredibly proud of our student-athletes and coaches for their dedication and commitment to excellence.



Once again, thank you for your trust and shared commitment to our students' futures. As we head into the summer months, I encourage everyone to rest, recharge, and find time for joy and exploration. We look forward to welcoming students back on Thursday, September 3rd, 2026, energized for a new school year. Have a safe, healthy, and wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary E. McLoughlin
Superintendent of Schools