



# PantherPride NEWSLETTER

## A Message from Superintendent Dr. Dave Salvo

This year has seen many lingering challenges, but our achievements call for a celebration. We're ending the year strong, Panthers, and after all we've been through — all the unknowns, the ups and downs — the experience makes me honored to be part of the Middle Township Family.

I know summer is already here, but I ask you to take a moment to look back at the progress we've made during the 2021–2022 school year. One of our senior athletes made school history. Our robotics team was awarded thousands of dollars in resources. We had major news networks come to showcase our amazing students. We had students create a life-changing sign language app. We even had students

graduate with associate degrees before tossing their caps at our own high school graduation ceremony.

There are so many things to be excited about, and they came from our talented students and dedicated staff. You should be proud.

Congrats to our 2022 Graduates!

Have a great summer and see you next year!

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Middle Township School District officials dedicated the district's Performing Arts Center to Calvin Back, a school board member who has been serving the school community since he was first elected in 1962. Back, who will soon turn 86-years-old, was just 27 when he joined the

Middle Township School Board of Education. Born-raised-in Cape May Court House, he served as President of the Board for over three decades. Back is the longest serving member of a school board in New Jersey, if not in the country, with over 60 years faithful years of service.





## Reading makes you GLOW UP — The Elementary #1 School Reading Incentive



During the opening ceremony for the School Reading Incentive, Principal Paskalides challenged all Elementary #1 students to read 15,000 books in just about two weeks! He explained during the May 23rd presentation that for each

milestone accomplished, the students would be “rewarded” with a prize.

Some of the starting prizes involved Paskalides and teachers “playing jokes” on the students. For example, a milestone of 1,000 books equaled one candy bar for each class — no joke. Hitting the 3,000-mark gave them a frozen pizza, and at 6,000 the students got homework every day for the rest of the year. Once the cumulative reading total was 10,000 books, students started getting prizes they would truly enjoy.

Teachers kept a tally and submitted it electronically. The students beat that challenge and read a total of 16,136 books by Friday, June 3. Because they surpassed the goal, the staff awarded students with a GLOW UP AND CELEBRATE Dance Party followed by a sweet treat from an ice cream truck. The Elementary #1’s Reading Incentive Committee has kept this tradition going for well over a decade.

## Elementary #1 Student Honors School Security Guard and Veteran with ‘Quilt of Valor’

A student in Mrs. Russell’s kindergarten class, along with her mother, Siubhan Tweed, and grandmother, Kathy Tweed, honored Elementary #1’s school security guard, Mrs. Amy Nagel, just before Memorial Day with a handmade “Quilt of Valor” sewed by the Tweeds. Mrs. Nagel served in the US Army for over 22 years.

These quilts are awarded to service members or veterans to thank them for their sacrifice and service. This is part of the work The Quilt of Valor Foundation has done for almost two decades. To learn more about donating or creating a Quilt of Valor, go to [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org).







## Congrats to our 5th Graders on their LEAD Program Graduation!



The Middle Township Police Department, its K9 department, the mounted department, and the SWAT team visited Elementary #2 students on June 3rd for the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) graduation. Students and staff were grateful for the officers sponsoring such a great program.

The Middle Township Police Department conducts the LEAD Program in Elementary #2 and the Middle School in an effort to create a safer and healthier community free of drugs, bullying, and violence. Beginning with the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) program in the 1990s, thousands of Middle Township fifth grade students have been instructed by thoughtful officers of the Police Department. Trained officers visit their assigned classes weekly through the 10-week program and teach a prescribed curriculum.

All 5th grade students also had the opportunity to tour the Middle Township Police Department in late May with LEAD instructor Patrolman First Class Julio Ruiz.

## Elementary #2's Performing Arts Programs Perform Multicultural Showcase

On May 14, Elementary #2's beginning and advanced Band, Choir and STEP Team performed at the Multicultural Showcase, which highlighted cultures from around the world. The band performed music from the Celtic culture, the Chinese Culture and the Native American culture. The choir sang songs in four different languages: Hebrew, Swahili, Spanish and English; and the Step Team performed dances representing styles from Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. A total of 165 students participating in Performing Arts Programs prepared for this performance since January, after they completed their Winter concert.

The Multicultural theme was chosen to match Elementary #2's updated Diversity Calendar and Website, both of which were implemented during the 2021-2022 school year. Teaching students about other cultures allows them to thrive in our diverse world. These types of activities broaden their learning and help students develop open minds to things other than what's outside of their classrooms.

Many thanks to Cindy Yenolevich, Rick Maxwell and Christine Sundstrom for their hard work in preparing our students.





## Middle School Participates in Second Cape May County Brain Bowl After a Two-Year Hiatus



Nine Middle Township Middle School students and their coach, Mrs. Jessica Douglass, competed against four other middle schools in the county during the second Cape May County Brain Bowl on May 23 hosted by Upper Township Middle School.

Students from MTMS, Upper Township Middle School, Dennis Township Middle School, Ocean City Intermediate School, and the Richard M. Teitelman School competed for the title of Brain Bowl champion after preparing for the competition for more than a month. They studied categories including Math, Science, History, Literature and General Knowledge. Each team consisted of eight to nine players selected by teachers and staff based on academic excellence.

This idea all started during monthly roundtable meetings with other local principals. School officials say that it is amazing to see how far it's come, even with the setbacks due to COVID. During its inaugural year, the Cape May County Brain Bowl had six schools compete. MTMS placed second in 2019, prior to the two-year hiatus due to pandemic restrictions.

## A New Partnership with Acclaimed Educational Software Company will Enhance Science Instruction at the Middle School Level

Middle Township School District announced a new partnership with Discovery Education, a global leader in educational technology serving teachers and students worldwide, in order to build on the district's current science instruction for middle school students.

Through the collaboration, teachers in grades 6-8 will be empowered to develop their science lessons with an engaging new suite of dynamic digital services, hands-on resources, and professional learning opportunities supporting these resources' integration into instruction. Discovery Education's state-of-the-art digital platform supports instruction wherever it takes place.

Middle Township's curriculum and opportunities offered to students are designed to help them see beyond the

boundaries of traditional education. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to engage in meaningful discussions and activities that enable them to translate academic lessons into real world solutions.



To help facilitate these types of learning experiences in their middle school science classrooms, MTSD administrators and science teachers, led by Principal Jeff Ortman, sought a suite of engaging digital and print resources that promote connections between classroom learning and the outside world and are aligned to the applicable science education

standards. After a review of several possible options offered by Discovery Education, the district selected two services, The Discovery Education Platform and Discovery Education Science Techbooks.







## Seniors Receive Associate Degrees Ahead of High School Commencement Ceremony



Three Middle Township High School seniors not only received high school diplomas this month, but as they

walked wearing their Middle Township caps and gowns, they did so with their associate degrees. Alexia Quinn, Angelina Maffei, and Brett Nabb officially finished Middle Township's Early College Program at Atlantic Cape Community College on May 19.

On Tuesday, May 17, Quinn, Maffei and Nabb, along with their families, were honored during a dinner at the high school to celebrate their academic achievements. Atlantic Cape Community College hosted the seniors, along with hundreds of other graduates, as they participated in the commencement ceremony at the Mays Landing Campus two days later.

Come fall 2022, Quinn will head to the College of Charleston to major in Accounting; Maffei will go to Stockton University to major in Education; and Nabb will go to Eastern University to major in Business while playing football and lacrosse.

## National Honor Society Students Celebrate the End of the Year at Elementary #2's Annual Field Day

Middle Township High School's National Honor Society members had the opportunity to get out of the classroom and into the sunshine to help at Elementary #2's annual Field Day! Over 500 students spread out throughout Elementary #2's fields for the end-of-year tradition. NHS members participated by guiding the younger students through the games, keeping them engaged and on task, as well as teaching them how to work together while competing against one another.

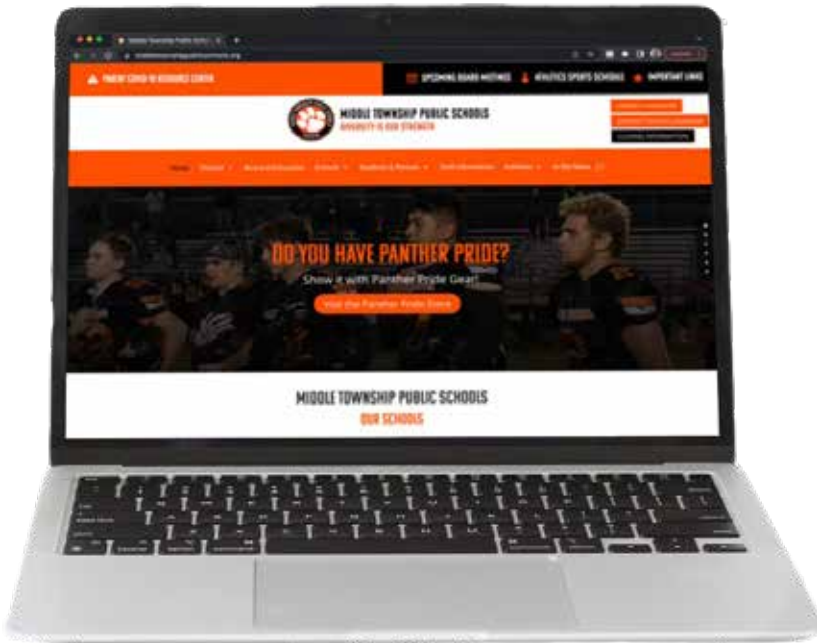




## A Fond Farewell to Our Retirees

A combined 430+ years of Service with our Middle Township Family

	<u>Years of Service</u>		<u>Years of Service</u>
<b>Elementary #1</b>			
Linda Adams, Basic Skills Teacher	25	Paul Ringkamp, Special Education Teacher	25
Debora Giuliano, Paraprofessional	18	Susan Roselli, Literacy Dept. Teacher	31
Nancy Simmerman, Library/Media Specialist	29	Matthew Zigner, Computer Teacher	22
Susan Tozour, Paraprofessional	13		
<b>Elementary #2</b>			
Megan Bramble, Media Specialist	31		
Janet Biller-Hartle, Teacher	23		
Michelle Hockenberry, PE Teacher	33		
<b>Middle School</b>			
Patricia Anderson, Security Guard	10		
Kenneth Johnson, Special Education Teacher	27		
Brian McCray, Special Education Teacher	18		
Gary Rhile, Science Teacher	13		
		<b>High School</b>	
		Jo-Ann Maker, Administrative Assistant	6
		Rita Willis, English Teacher/Supervisor	32
		<b>District</b>	
		Kay Aspell, PAC Director	15
		Charles Berrian, Maintenance	10
		<b>Transportation</b>	
		Laverne Kee, Bus Aide	24
		Franklin Pierce, Bus Driver	3
		Fred Seymour, Bus Driver	28



**Middle Township School District has officially launched new websites for all schools.** The professionals on this project analyzed all original MTSD websites, redesigned and created more user friendly and modern pages to better benefit our students, staff and families. Please use our new URLs below and bookmark them for easy future access:

**District Site:**  
[middletownshippublicschools.org](http://middletownshippublicschools.org)

**Elementary #1 Site:**  
[elem1.middletownshippublicschools.org](http://elem1.middletownshippublicschools.org)

**Elementary #2 Site:**  
[elem2.middletownshippublicschools.org](http://elem2.middletownshippublicschools.org)

**Middle School Site:**  
[middleschool.middletownshippublicschools.org](http://middleschool.middletownshippublicschools.org)

**High School Site:**  
[highschool.middletownshippublicschools.org](http://highschool.middletownshippublicschools.org)

**NOTE:** The original URL will no longer function or redirect to the new websites after July 1, 2022.

