



PantherPride NEWSLETTER

A NEW NORMAL

Welcome back Panthers — to our new normal! No, it's not exactly the same as it used to be, but Panther life is strong and we all have learned to be resilient. Plus, we have so much to celebrate this school year, so let's see that fabulous Panther Pride!

Middle Township Public Schools
216 South Main Street
Cape May Court House
Phone: 609.465.1800
Fax: 609.463.1979
sgrigniolim@middletpw.k12.nj.us



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am excited to welcome back our students and staff into our classrooms for full-time, in-person learning. Our administrators, teachers, and support staff put an incredible amount of time and effort into planning a new school year. The return to in-person learning is a must for students to grow socially and academically.

Obviously, this school year is unique due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. We all know too well, the negative impact Covid-19

has had on school environments and life as we know it. Our resilient students, dedicated staff, and supportive families made the start of school a success.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has reshaped educators' thinking to improve schools — and that's a good thing. This school year we will have a great opportunity to reignite our students' passion for learning. We will primarily focus on addressing student achievement and restoring a sense of normalcy in the lives of students and staff. The key for all of us is to recognize the lessons we learned as we move forward this school year.

Again, welcome back. I look forward to continuing our journey to provide your child with the resources needed to become strong academic learners. I would like to extend my appreciation to you — our students, families, staff and Board of Education — for your continued support of our schools.

Dr. David Salvo
Superintendent of Schools

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1-5**, Schools Closed, Fall Break/NJEA Convention
- Nov. 10**, HS, National Honor Society Induction @PAC, 6:30 pm
- Nov. 11**, MS, Veteran's Day Ceremony
- Nov. 12**, HS, Fall Play @ PAC, 7 pm
- Nov. 13**, HS, Fall Play @ PAC, 2 pm & 7 pm
- Nov. 16-18**, Early Dismissal, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 18**, Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
- Nov. 24**, Early Dismissal, Thanksgiving
- Nov. 25-26**, Schools Closed, Thanksgiving
- Dec. 4**, HS, SAT Testing
- Dec. 8**, HS Winter Choir Concert @ PAC, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 9**, Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
- Dec. 14**, All Schools Combined Holiday Concert @ PAC, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 23**, Early Dismissal, Winter Break
- Dec. 24-31**, Schools Closed, Winter Break

2022

- Jan. 3**, Schools Reopen
- Jan. 4**, Organization Board of Education Meeting, 4 pm
- Jan. 9**, HS Prom Fashion Show, Avalon Links, 1 pm
- Jan. 12**, HS Parent Information Night
- Jan. 17**, Schools Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20**, Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
- Jan. 28-29**, Step Team Performance @PAC, 7 pm





Elementary #1 Fills Buckets of Respect



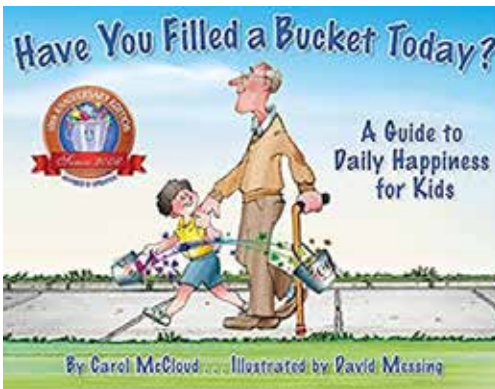
Students at Elementary #1 celebrated the annual Week of Respect by learning to respect the school, creatures great and small, their own differences, and standing up for others like a Superhero. On Friday's Crazy Sock Day, everyone wore "crazy" socks to remind themselves to "take the right steps to Respect."

bucket that holds good thoughts and feelings about themselves.

Ms. Cox explained how students could fill their own buckets and those of others, by showing love, saying or doing something kind, or even just with a smile.

Teachers were given shapes, and when they saw a student being a "bucket filler", they wrote the student's name on the shape and put it in the grade-level bucket hanging in the hallway. The grade with the "fullest bucket" at the end of October earns Bucket Filling Prizes.

Elementary #1 Guidance Counselor Kelly Cox taught each class about "bucket filling", based on the book, "Have You Filled A Bucket Today?" by Carol McCloud. Students learned everyone carries an invisible



What's New at Elementary #2?

Another exciting new school year is what's new at Elementary #2! There is so much going on, we don't know where to begin!

During the month of September, students and staff celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, where students heard messages describing customs from Hispanic Culture during the morning announcements and read about the contributions of Hispanic authors, artists, inventors, scientists, and musicians, among others.

In October, Elementary #2 recognized Global Citizenship and learned about anti-bullying. Appropriately, the month kicked-off with the annual Week of Respect, organized by guidance counselor Mrs. Rachel Chew. Diversity will be celebrated



in a different way each month throughout the school year. The photo is of students with the school's Diversity Bulletin Board.

Some 25 students, one from each homeroom, recently were recognized as Panther Achievers for exhibiting "resiliency" as part of the school's Character Education Program. Each month, Elementary #2 celebrates a different character

trait, recognizing students for exemplifying that trait. In the coming months, students will be celebrated for showing Respect, Kindness, Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, Empathy, and Courage.

This is the first year Elementary #2 has Chromebooks available for every student, thanks to support from the Board of Education. Additionally, Coding will be introduced into the school's computer classes later this year.

These are just a few of the exciting things happening at Elementary #2!



Breaking News from MTMS!



The breaking news from MTMS actually is about...well, the news! This year, students and teachers will be able to learn about happenings at MTMS by watching MTMS News: Keeping Up with the Panthers!

Over this past summer, Ms. Heather Chew, Ms. Tara Krajicek, and Principal

Jeff Ortman put together a television studio for the TV Production class that enables the students to produce their own news program.

Ms. Chew and Ms. Krajicek are using a Panther Block to work with the 26 students who are actively engaged in the process. The students have planned all elements of the programming, including content, reporting, filming, and editing. According to Ms. Chew, the current plan is to have a news broadcast every Friday for the remainder of the school year, beginning October 15. Initially, the episodes will be

prerecorded, although expectations are that the students eventually will broadcast live.

The broadcasts will be posted on a private YouTube channel and teachers will be able to show the program during homeroom.

Ms. Krajicek, who normally teaches science, took TV production classes in high school and is sharing her knowledge with students. The TV studio is available for use by all MTMS classes. As the librarian, Ms. Chew can work with teachers and instruct their classes on using the equipment.

MTHS Senior a Governor's STEM Scholar

Senior Emily Mawhinney has been named to the Governor's 2022 Class of STEM Scholars, a statewide STEM education initiative for New Jersey students in grades 10 through the doctoral level. Mawhinney is the only student included from Cape May County.

Emily hopes to major in environmental science and work to mitigate the overuse of the earth's resources through research.

"My dream job is to perform research on climate change," Emily said. "Secretly, I hope at least some of that researching can be spent in the Arctic." She believes the STEM Scholar experience will enable her to "gain a better understanding of the potential jobs and career paths I can take within the STEM field."



There are 100 students from 20 New Jersey counties among this year's STEM scholars. The program is a public-private partnership of the Research & Development Council of New Jersey, The New Jersey Office of the Governor, the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of

Higher Education, and the state's leading research companies. The ultimate goal of the Governor's STEM Scholar Program is to retain future STEM professionals in the state.

"We could not be more proud of Emily," said Middle Township High School Principal George West. "Her interest, enthusiasm and passion for the environment and the potential for research to protect it for coming generations is the mark of a dedicated, committed scientist. We know she will make her mark."



Fall Sports at Middle: Nothing Short of Spectacular

Middle Township's student athletes are using fall sports to demonstrate Panther Pride every day, in every way!

"Honestly, I could not be prouder," said Dr. Sharon Rementer, Athletic Director/Middle Township High School Assistant Principal. "The fall season has just surpassed every expectation I could have had. I am so proud of the students, the coaches, just everyone who has made this season possible."

Phenomenal is a great way to describe Panther football this season. The win over Clayton in early October marked the first time in 61 seasons the Panthers started with five straight wins. A 90-yard kickoff return by Freshman Remi Rodrigues set the tone for the game, with the Panthers closing out with a 41-0 win.



The Panthers went into the October 22 Homecoming Game with a record of 5-1-0, coming off the only loss of the season to Collingswood after play stretched into overtime. But the Homecoming game – from the players' entrance bursting through fog to the last whistle – it was all Panthers, with a 43 to 0 win!

Seniors were standouts, including Brett Nabb who completed 9 of 9 passes for 142 yards and two touchdowns. The younger players also stepped up! From freshman Remi Rodrigues' touchdown on a long run, to sophomores Michael Zarfati – catching 6 passes for 75 yards — and Isiah Carr-Wing's interception and touchdown.

The Boys and Girls Soccer Teams have been standouts this season, too, according to Dr. Rementer.

Although the Lady Panthers could not pull out the win in the Cape-Atlantic League playoff tournament in Mid-October, they expect to be heading to state playoffs, with at least 12 wins on their side, and bringing home the division win.



Dr. Rementer noted that the Panther's goalkeeper, senior Brianna Robinson, has really stepped-up, despite this being her first year in the net. "There also is the amazing duo of CC DiMauro and Olivia Sgrignoli," said Dr. Rementer. "They are unstoppable. They anticipate each other's moves. They are the best duo to come out of Cape May County in a long time."



"We have some phenomenal freshmen players in Gracie Repici, Carmen O'Hara, and Keily Sanchez, too," noted Dr. Rementer. "Honestly, it's just a great team!"

The Boys Soccer Team scored a "huge victory," according to Dr. Rementer, beating the Ocean City High School team 4-2. "It was amazing to watch them play," said Dr. Rementer, who also had the opportunity to act as commentator for the game. "We don't have a turf field and it could have been an issue, but they played remarkably on the turf," she said.

The young team saw huge goals from juniors Steve Berroddin and Landon Osmundsen. Goalkeeper Devon Bock also had an amazing game, according to Dr. Rementer. "It was a huge night for the team," she said. "It was a wild game, but great night for Middle Township Panthers."

Dr. Rementer noted that this fall has not been easy. "Everyone is still dealing with COVID, and we came back to issues with transportation for events and shortages of officials, but still, we could not be prouder. It's all about the kids. We do everything we can for them, and they have just been phenomenal."

Photo credit for all photos on pg.4: Courtesy of Brian Cunniff for Coast Sports Today.

