



PantherPride NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents:

Believe it or not, we are just about halfway through the 2022–23 school year, and what a year it has been so far!

We were so glad to return to school in September focusing more on academics, co-curriculars and social-emotional learning rather than masks and social distancing. Our school family did a wonderful job working together to make the best of extremely trying times, but I know we have been excited to change our focus and advance our district goals.

Let's remind ourselves of the district's goals. On our website, you can review the **2020–2025 Strategic Plan: Transforming the Future!** Right now I believe we should be refocusing on learning and giving back to the community, and so I'd particularly like to draw your attention to "Curriculum and Instruction" and "Community Engagement."

In creating the Strategic Plan, under "Curriculum and Instruction" we wrote that we would "further elevate academic programs." This included adding technology, blending coursework, piloting ELA programs, closing achievement gaps, analyzing the high school academies, making better use of Naviance and incorporating more themes of diversity into our classes.

Under "Community Engagement" we said we would "strengthen our outreach efforts and engage community members." This plan included improving communication with alumni, implementing programs for parents and families, increasing communication with the broader community, and building community partnerships.

I am proud to be a part of a district that holds such lofty goals and that actively incorporates those goals into our daily planning. Our faculty, staff, Board members and parents have all been part of our efforts to focus on success. Thank you all, and Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Dr. David Salvo

Middle Township Public Schools

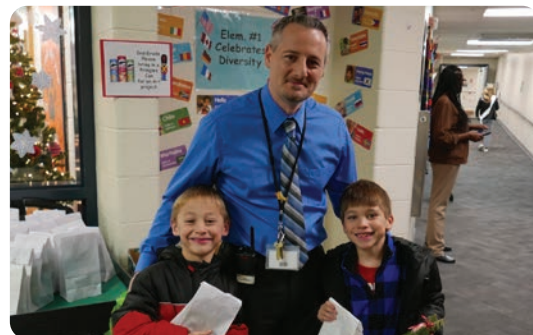
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UPCOMING EVENTS

2/3–2/4 — ELEM. #2'S DRAMA PRODUCTION OF ALADDIN 7:00 P.M. @ PAC

2/6–2/10 — SCHOOL COUNSELORS WEEK

2/16 — BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 6:00 P.M.

2/20 — SCHOOLS CLOSED - PRESIDENTS DAY

2/22 — ELEM. #1 BOOSTERTHON KICK-OFF

2/23 — ELEM. #2 BOOSTERTHON KICK-OFF

2/24 — HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY





Three Veterans of MTSD Promoted to New Administrative Roles

Three familiar faces at Middle Township School District transitioned into new roles at the end of 2022. Dr. Sharon Rementer is now Middle Township High School's Principal, Nicole Drake is the high school's Assistant Principal, and Josh McCarty is the Assistant Principal of Athletics.

Prior to their appointments, Rementer served as the district's Athletic Director and Assistant Vice Principal at MTHS. She has worked in Middle Township schools since 2006 and was promoted to Athletic Director in

2017. Drake was a math teacher for 16 years and has served as an Instructional Supervisor at MTHS since 2020.

McCarty, a 1999 MTHS alumnus, joined the district in 2017 as a middle school social studies and literacy teacher, as well as an Instructional Supervisor.

"Fresh ideas, new perspective ... We're confident that the skills they bring to the table, their experience within the district and their proven dedication and commitment will allow them to thrive even more than they already have," said MTSD Superintendent Dr. David Salvo.



The new administrators will work alongside current MTHS Assistant Principal Brad MacLeod.



Guidance Corner

Stockton Agreement Offers Credits in Esports to MTHS Students

Stockton University has officially

announced a new agreement with MTSD, offering college credit to Middle Township High School students interested in computer gaming through a new dual credit program.

The new dual credit course, Introduction to Esports, introduces students to the history, development and current state of esports. Offered through Stockton's School of Business, the course addresses the interconnectedness of esports with traditional hospitality centers, identifies the basic operational aspects of live esports tournaments as well as career opportunities in the esports/hospitality industry.

The mission of the Dual Credit Program at Stockton is to offer a four-credit college-level course at a reduced rate of \$400 to college-bound high school students. Fifteen students have already opted into this course, the 13th such course available at MTHS.



Joelle Tenaglia, Director of Guidance





Holiday Concert Thrilled Large Crowd



Well over 800 community members attended the district wide Winter Concert held at the Calvin L. Back Performing Arts Center on December 13. Hundreds of students filled the room with sounds of classics like Deck the Halls and Feliz Navidad.

Participating groups included:

Elementary #2 Band - Cindy Yenolevich,
Band Director

High School Band - Brinley Edwards,
Director

Elementary #2 Choir - Mr. Maxwell, Choir
Director

High School Choir - Debbi Dalfonso,
Director

Middle School Band - Brinley Edwards,
Director

High School Faculty Choir

Middle School Choir - Lelah Eppenbach
directed in lieu of June Camizzi

Over 80 members of the HS Dance Academy led by director Morgan Tridente also performed and were on stage for the concert's big finale.



High Fives for School Drives!

The entire school community at Elementary #1 participated in their annual fall food drive event. There wasn't a set goal amount, but Instructional Aide Tara Edmunds announced that students collected **2,493 food items** from November 28 to December 8! Mrs. Davis's kindergarten brought in the greatest number of food items, and they were rewarded with an ice cream treat. All items were donated to a local food closet in the local community.

Elementary #2 students also came together for their annual winter can drive. Students in Mrs. Dykhousé's 5th grade, Mrs. Sundstrom's 4th grade, Ms. Taylor's 3rd grade, and Mr. McFadden's classes organized, collected, and counted a total

of **4,454 cans and non-perishable items** which were donated to Holy Redeemer's food pantry. The winning homerooms were Ms. DelCorio's 3rd grade, Ms. Naticchione's 4th grade and Mrs. Ritterhoff's 5th grade - who collected the most items per grade level. They were recipients of the Golden Can award!

Elementary #2's gym teacher, Mrs. Hines, organized a "Warm Their Soles" sock drive to collect new socks that were later donated to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission and The Branches in Rio Grande. During the week of December 5 through 9, students donated 773 pairs of socks!





Holiday Outreach



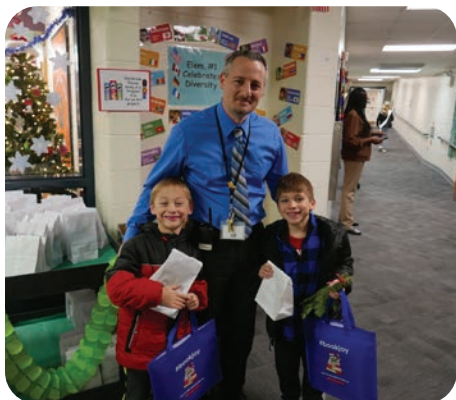
For the second year in a row, MTSD staff members helped collect gifts for students in need through Kanen's Christmas. This organization was created in 2021 as a collaboration between Pam Shute, Supervisor of Elementary Education, Kelly Cox, Elem. #1 Guidance Counselor, and Lauren Keating-Wear in memory of one of Middle Township's students, Kanen Keating-Wear, who passed away in 2019.

Staff throughout the district helped to provide gifts and wrapping paper for 42 Middle Township families that included more than 140 children.

The holiday outreach was expanded this year to include meals for each of the families. This was done with the help of MTSD parent Lindsey Tyler DeLollis, kindergarten teacher Shantelle DelConte, and several local businesses within the community.

Special thanks to Sturdy Savings Bank, Coldwell Banker, Anzelone Electric Co., Acme Markets, Bellevue Tavern Restaurant, Alfe's Restaurant, Halls Carpet Care, Klenswite Pools, Friend in Need, Hot Spot, Flecks, Bagel Time, Cowan Family, Burke Motors Group, Seashore Food Distributors Inc., Jesters Dive Bar, Monzo Catanese Hillegass Law Firm, Woodrow Family, Cyndi Arnold, Donia Mills, Laura Lambert, Lisa Galati, and Katie Taylor.

A Tree-Mendous Family Reading Night



Elementary #1's annual Family Reading Night was held on Wednesday, November 30. Guests had an opportunity to listen to guest readers at Storytime, make tree bookmarks, decorate cookie trees, learn at the tree exploration table and shop at the Book Fair.

Family Reading Night started in 1994; A celebration of reading, its purpose is to foster a love of reading through shared activities. This year, more than 300 people attended. Guest readers included MTSD staff, city council members, local law enforcement and many others.

In the spirit of the Giving Tree, families also had the opportunity to donate art supply items for the HurriKanen's Kids, an organization that helps families affected by childhood cancer. The donated art supply items were given to Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania by HurriKanen's Kids.

A special thank you goes out to the Reading Night Committee and its volunteers, and congratulations to Shelley McFadden for successfully organizing her first event as Media Specialist.



Elementary #2 Presents the PAWSOME Panther PBSIS Program

The Pawsome Panthers PBSIS program kicked off in November. PBSIS means “**Positive Behavior Support in School.**” Students can earn tickets for demonstrating the following traits: perseverance, awesome attitude, wow work ethic, showing kindness, outstanding responsibility, minding their manners, and being extra respectful. Each Friday two tickets are pulled at random from each grade level’s collection box. These students are awarded a bracelet and a pencil. They are also invited to the monthly Pawsome Panther Party, organized by fourth grade teachers Ms. Kerr and Ms. Sudan, during the last week of each month where they are given a snack and participate in a fun activity. Congrats to all of the recent Pawsome Panthers!



Middle Township Holds Popular Diversity Events

Sponsored by the Middle Township Education Association, “**Latin Night Out**” hosted a few hundred attendees who rotated through three rooms complete with Latin-inspired arts and crafts, two interactive games that posed questions about Latin pop culture, Spanish language and Inspiring Latin Americans and lastly, tons of Latin-inspired foods. Participants had the chance to win a host of prizes including over \$400.00 in gift baskets and other items donated by Bethel Commandment Church of Whitesboro, enjoy a festive atmosphere, and even learn some new dance moves thought by members of United Young Generation. Many Dance/Step Team members and United Young Generation Middle and High School student members assisted with the entire event.

United Young Generation is an after-school club that promotes social harmony. Celebrating the differences that make us great: “Diversity is Our Strength.” Mrs. Christal Holmes is the advisor for the Middle School, and David Farrow for High School.

In conjunction with Latin Night Out, on **April 18, a Multicultural Night** will give students a chance to celebrate all of the different cultures and ethnic groups that have helped to form America. Once again, there will be free food and entertainment, arts and crafts, game shows, and one additional component: a special activity in the gym! **A Juneteenth celebration and an infotainment assembly will be held on June 5** which will begin with a performance in the Performance Arts Center featuring dancing, singing, and dramatic readings.

The event will continue with a soul food dinner. United Young Generation Middle and High School will host this event at the High School. Last year more than 400 people attended.





Middle Township Seniors Chosen for Early Acceptance into Universities and Colleges

More than a dozen MTSD seniors have been notified of early acceptances into colleges and local universities – and thousands of dollars in scholarship funds.

In November, several MTHS students attended the 24th annual Malcom Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair held at Rowan University. Five were accepted to three different HBCU schools and were awarded scholarships between \$10,000 and a full ride. During that same week, Stockton University hosted its first

ever Instant Decision Day at MTHS where 10 students were accepted and awarded a total of \$72,000 in annual merit-based scholarships.

“College tours like these really provide our students with an opportunity that they wouldn’t normally have when it comes to travel limitations,” said MTSD Supervisor of Guidance Joelle Tenaglia. “It’s important that they actually get one-on-one time to speak with college representatives and learn more about their future options.”



Fall Sports Recap

Fall sports wrapped up with Panthers tennis being the third team to clinch conference championship, the team’s first since 2014. Girls and boys soccer also won their conferences, each for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations Football All Stars! They are: First Team WR Michael Zarfati, RB Remi

Rodriguez, OL Marco Salgado, K Jerome Licata, DL Maurice Matthews and LB Adrien Laboy; and second team QB Mark Oliver, OL Nik Cruz, DB Zamar Wakefield.

Winter sports are officially here! Panthers winter schedules are posted online. Keep up to date on Facebook and Twitter, on www.capeatlanticleague.org and RSchoolToday app.

