

Mullica Township Board of Education

Community Update

Fall 2019

Welcome Back!



We are looking forward to another great school year. Our staff were busy all summer preparing for the return of our students.

Teachers wrote curriculum and decorated classrooms while our custodial staff deep cleaned our whole building, painted classrooms and hallways, and spruced up our landscape. The administrative team registered new students, scheduled students and teachers for classes, and held orientation programs for our new students.

The PBIS team held an Olympic themed welcome back event for all the students on the first day of school and will host activities throughout the year. The PTA has also been working on their event ideas for the new school year. Lots of exciting things will be happening in Mullica Schools in 2019-2020.

ACE Returns!

Due to the hard work of numerous staff members, Mullica Township School has won the 21st CCLC grant again. The new & improved ACES program began the first week of October and students already had their first fun Friday event. We are excited to be able to bring this program back to Mullica, to provide our students with high quality after school opportunities!

Little Free Library

In the 2018-19 school year the PTA started a little free library near our school garden. The little free library is a small, waterproof box in which books are placed to be shared with the community.

Anyone can come and select a book to borrow, or keep. Books are replaced and rotated regularly by the PTA. Books can be donated during the school year to be added to the library, check the PTA website or facebook page for details. The goal of the Little Free Library is to get everyone to read more.

Our schools had many great accomplishments in the 2018-19 school year. Some of them are listed below:

Parking Lot Update!

It has been a long, slow process, but we are finally getting a new parking lot! The parking lot will be located in the back of the school and there will be a sidewalk connecting the parking lot to the back entrance of the school. This new lot should help make parking, drop off and pick up easier for everyone. Construction on the new lot has already begun!

Updated Bathroom

Last school year the 3rd and 4th grade bathrooms (near the cafeteria) were gutted. Tile, toilets, sinks, and partitions were replaced and the bathrooms were painted. The rooms now look (and smell) brand new. We plan to update the rest of the bathrooms in the school, one at a time.

Referendum Update

We are proud to report we have substantially completed all aspects of the referendum, except the parking lot (which will be done soon).

Roofing has been replaced or repaired, air conditioning has been installed in the cafeteria, air conditioning units have been replaced in the Kindergarten wing, numerous classroom doors have been updated to improve safety, a safe vestibule entrance has been added to the back of the school, and many lights around the building have been updated to LED (this will reduce our electricity costs).

As with all old buildings, there are always items that need updating or replacement.

Looking to the future we know that we will eventually need to replace many air conditioning units in the Middle school and either dramatically update or replace our water treatment facility (septic). We are currently maintaining these items and many others to the best of our ability so that we can extend their life as long as possible.

School Yard Garden

Thanks to the hard work of the staff and our community volunteers our students have a beautiful, productive and educational school yard garden.

Classes learn how to plant seeds, they learn about the life cycle of plants and what they need to grow. They learn where our food comes from, how to harvest, and they get to taste the products of their hard work. Many of our students learn they like vegetables that they never were willing to try before. It is a real-world experience that will benefit our students their whole lives. Thank you to everyone who helps make this garden grow!

Curriculum

Over the past few years the district has made significant investments in curriculum and programs. Last year the district purchased a new K-5 Language Arts program. This year, in addition to a new 6th-8th grade Language Arts program, the district invested in LinkIt benchmark assessments for all students and is piloting several new Math programs.

Mullica Pride

Our school has had many wonderful accomplishments in the last year. Below are a few highlights.

SJ Elementary Chorus Festival - Malanie Pagan, Natalie Eifert, and Lydia Vogel performed at Washington Township HS in Sewell, NJ, with a guest conductor and 150+ elementary students from across the SJ region in March.

Showcase Music Band Festival - The Jazz band Saxophone section received a trophy for Outstanding Saxophone section and the Senior band flute section received the Outstanding Flute section trophy in May.

Elementary Honors Band - Arielle Neals, Ian Morrissey, AJ Maxwell and Giavana Mauceri performed in April at Shawnee High School.

Boy's Cross Country - 2018 League Champions

Spelling Bee Winner - Matthew Best

8th Grade Dialogue - School representative Michael Sears

Planning

The district is currently pursuing Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools accreditation and Future Ready School certification. Both pursuits involve strategic planning with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement for the long-term. You can learn more about both by visiting <https://www.msa-cess.org/> and <https://www.frsnj.org/>

Community Partnerships

The Mullica Township Board of Education greatly appreciates all of our community partners, who help to make our school a great place to learn and grow.

Our community partners provide our students with educational programs, volunteer in the classrooms and the garden, provide staff members with grants to pursue innovative ideas, fund field trips and special events, assist with field maintenance, and participate in shared services relationships (which help reduce costs). Some of our partners are listed here.

Mullica Twp Education Association

Sustainable Mullica

Mullica Twp Education Foundation

Mullica Twp PTA

AtlanticCare

Mullica Twp Fire Departments

Mullica Twp Police Department

Mullica Twp Committee

Mullica Twp Seniors

Washington Twp School District

Mullica in the Pines Historical Society

Mullica Twp Rec Association

GEHRHSD

Board of Education Members

Andrew Weber - Superintendent
Susan Brownhill - President
Sarah Kurtz
Nick Roehnert

Karen Gfroehrer - Business Administrator
Joy Wyld - Vice President
Dr. Noel Naylor
Cathy Werner

Dawn Stollenwerk - Treasurer
Carmen Jacobo
Linda Quatrone
Mark Winterbottom