



# Panther Pride NEWSLETTER

## Exciting New Opportunities Coming for Students in September

Our association with Atlantic Cape Community College will enable MTHS students to have the chance to obtain college-level credits toward an associate degree while still in high school. Plus, we are starting a Naval Cadet Program! Read more below.

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## A Great Year for Middle Township Public Schools

I am deeply grateful to be part of a caring, dedicated staff who work together to benefit all students. A special thanks to all of the parents who have contributed to the success of the school year.

The building referendum project has ended with new preschool classrooms, athletic fields, transportation/maintenance facility and other building improvements. These facility upgrades enabled us to centralize services and replace outdated instructional spaces. Thank you to all of the community members who supported this endeavor.

In 2019, our district was awarded a \$500,000 grant to implement a recovery high school for students in need of mental health and addiction services. We are able to service students from Cape May County and surrounding communities. Thank you to Cape Assist and Church of Christ in Cape May Court House for housing our program. Without their support, this important program would not be possible.

***The 2019-20 school year will bring opportunities for our MTHS students.***

Our partnership with Atlantic Cape Community College continues to grow with the implementation of the Early College Program. MTHS students will have the opportunity to obtain college-level credits toward an associate degree before

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## Upcoming Events:

- June 12-18 Early Dismissal
- June 12 Elem. 2 Third-Grade Awards Assembly, 9:30am
- June 13 Elem. 2 Fourth-Grade Awards Assembly, 9:30am
- June 13 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- June 14 Elem. 2 Fifth-Grade Awards Assembly, 9:30am
- June 17 MS 8th Grade Promotion @ PAC, 4pm
- June 17 HS Baccalaureate @ PAC, 7pm
- June 18 HS Graduation @ Memorial Field, 4pm
- June 18 Last Day of School
- June 18 Report Cards Mailed Home
- July 18 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- July 23-24 Freshman Orientation 8:30am - 11:30am
- August 6-8 AP Bootcamp @ HS, 8:30am - 11:30am
- August 15 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- August 20 HS Freshman Parent Orientation @ PAC, 6:30pm





## Elementary 1 Gets Creative with MakerSpace

Over the past few months, parents/guardians and students have attended MakerSpace events at Elementary 1. Students in grades K-2 were able to explore and collaborate with their parents and classmates in the MakerSpace room.

A MakerSpace is a collaborative workspace inside a school, library or separate public/private facility for making, learning, exploring and sharing, that uses everything from no-tech to high-tech tools. Students gather to invent, create, tinker, explore and discover – all while using a variety of materials.

The room is filled with items for circuit building, primary coding, robotics, tablet interactivity, craft inventing, building, and basic engineering. A MakerSpace provides hands-on learning, and helps with critical thinking skills and even boosts self-confidence. The materials are partially funded by a grant from the Middle Township Education association and the New Jersey Education Association Pride Grant program.

The last “Makerspace” event of the school year took place on Tuesday, May 7, for Kindergarten students in Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Greenberg/

Mrs. Teise, Miss Adams and Mrs. DelConte’s classrooms.

The evening MakerSpace events for parents and students were graciously sponsored and hosted by Elementary 1 staff and the Middle Township Education Association.



## BASF Grant Brings Coding to Elementary 2 Fourth-Grade



The 27 students in Mrs. Kathleen Coupland’s Elementary 2 fourth-grade homeroom come in every day with huge smiles on their faces asking, “Are we coding today?”

Thanks to a grant from BASF, students are able to explore the world of coding, as well as using nine Dot and Dash robots to learn programming skills, problem-solving, mathematics, and engineering skills. According to Mrs. Coupland, “these fun ‘toys’ challenged the students to think outside the box.”

In addition to the robots, the grant also enabled the purchase of nine Dash and Dot activity cards sets and accessory kits for the robots, as well as nine Nexus Google tablets and tablet covers, materials necessary

to complete robot challenges (painters tape, cotton balls, paper clips, plastic eggs, blocks, etc.), and a storage cart for the robots and a lockable tablet storing station.

Mrs. Coupland said the students are sharpening their social and communication skills by working in groups to brainstorm ways to complete the assigned coding challenges. They also must plan and execute strategies to transform their Dash robots into codable “maze chasers”, “snow plows”, “egg launchers”, “magnet collectors” and “balloon battle bots”.





## National History Bee has Middle School Buzzing



Middle Township Middle School has four students who qualified for the National History Bee in Chicago in mid-June: seventh-graders Sam Keppel and Ty Murnaghan; and sixth-graders Kevin Dias and Kaya Fuentes.

According to seventh-grade social studies teacher Bill Handley, who organizes MTMS' participation in the History Bee, this is the third consecutive year students qualified for nationals. MTMS has been in the program for the last four years.

Handley said it is important for the students to participate in the History Bee because they "live in a world that is larger than what they see in their every day life. They need to be a part of society and know what is going on in the outside world. The History Bee helps them gain additional knowledge and will help them become better citizens."

From an online test created by MTMS social studies teachers,

the top 18 students – 6 from each grade – participated in a History Bee in December. The top two students from each grade completed an online exam from the National History Bee & Bowl to qualify for the regional competition, held in April. At regionals, the four students qualified for the national competition.

MTMS Principal Jeffrey Ortman believes the History Bee gives students an "opportunity to shine." He said, students "become more well-rounded kids and do a wonderful job in representing our school. We are excited about our students who qualified for nationals."

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## MTMS Learns from the Past for a Better Future

MTMS students in Kimberlee Moore's Holocaust Studies class have learned about anti-Semitism and how it was used to dehumanize the Jews before and during World War II. Students came to understand how this contributed to Nazi persecution, attacks, and murder of Jews in the Holocaust.

Moore said students studied modern examples of anti-Semitism and other prejudices to gain a greater understanding of the importance of "countering prejudice with positive messages and attitudes of tolerance and acceptance."

Students picked a topic/message and created "tolerance posters". Staff selected their favorites and students were awarded prizes for the top three.

About 10 of Moore's students were trained and acted as docents for an Anne Frank museum on loan from the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect (New York City), through Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center. More than 800 students and faculty interacted with the exhibit.

Additionally, the classes hosted a showing of "The Diary of a Young Girl." More than 300 faculty and

students, including some eighth-graders from the Middle School, attended. The play also was on loan from the Anne Frank Center.

The class finishes out the year with a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.





# PantherPride NEWS



## Alumni Spotlight: Alison Mastrangelo, '09

We are extremely proud of our graduates and aim to highlight their successes – and showcase how Middle Township helped put them on the path to success.



Alison Mastrangelo is an Emmy-nominated sports reporter for WSB-TV in Atlanta. She joined the sports team there in April 2019. She began her professional broadcasting career as a general assignment reporter at Fox21/KXRM in Colorado Springs. After a few months, she was promoted to sports director/anchor.

After Colorado Springs, Mastrangelo joined Denver7/KMGH, where she covered the Broncos, Rockies, Avalanche, Nuggets, and the local college teams.

During her career, she has covered Super Bowls 50 and 51 and playoff runs for the Rockies and Avalanche, and has interviewed Colorado native and Olympic gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin. She won a Colorado Broadcasters Association Award in 2016, for best sportscaster in the non-metro market.

At WSB-TV, Mastrangelo is covering professional, college, and high school sports teams in Georgia.

Mastrangelo's passion for sports is no surprise. While at Middle Township High School, she was on the surf and basketball teams.

Mastrangelo said she believes it also was MTHS that "helped me grow my love of broadcasting."

"I took TV Broadcasting 1 & 2 from Mrs. Volpe. I would do the morning announcements and shoot video that we would edit for class projects," explained Mastrangelo. "I had a lot of fun in that class, and learned a lot." She said if the class is still available, she would recommend it to any student that might be interested in television broadcasting.

Mastrangelo graduated from Rowan University with a degree in journalism and a minor in health and physical education.

Mastrangelo's mom, dad, and twin brother BJ still live in the Middle Township area and are as proud of her as we are!

## A Great Year for Middle Township Public Schools

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leaving high school. This program will benefit families academically and financially. We are the only school district in Cape May County to have such a program.

MTHS also will begin a Naval Cadet Program in 2019-20. Students will learn character building, develop leadership skills, become role

models, give back to the community, and be offered scholarship opportunities. This cadet program will continue to help our students become an integral part of society.

Finally, I want to thank the administrators, staff, students, and parents who made the 2018-19 school year a memorable one. Your

support of our students is greatly appreciated and needed, as we continue our quest to be the best school district we can be.

Have a great summer and we will see you in September.

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. David Salvo

