



Panther Pride NEWSLETTER

New Year, New Beginnings

The 2019–2020 school year is proving to be an exciting one right from the start. We welcomed our first class of full-day preschoolers in September, as well as our first students into the Navy National Defense Cadets Corps (NNDCC). Plus, Middle Township Public Schools is launching a strategic planning initiative — read more about it below.

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

Strategic Planning Initiative

I wanted to make you aware that Middle Township Public Schools is launching an initiative to develop a **strategic plan** that engages employees, parents, students, community members, business owners, and government leaders in the future planning of our school district.

The **strategic plan** will enable the school district to:

- Engage the entire community in conversations about the needs of our students and expectations of our schools;
- Give community members a voice in how we may improve the school district as a whole;
- Focus all of the community's resources in establishing common goals and initiatives; and
- Develop a five-year plan which will drive the district's efforts and financial resources on mutually determined goals that support the needs of our students.

Parents, students, community members, government leaders, and business owners are invited to join the Middle Township Board of Education, our faculty and staff, and all those who have a vested interest in the success of Middle Township Public Schools, in three 90-minute meetings:

Wed., Nov. 20, 2019 6:30–8:00 p.m. Middle School Cafeteria

Mon., Dec. 9, 2019 6:30–8:00 p.m. Middle School Cafeteria

Wed., Jan. 22, 2020 6:30–8:00 p.m. Middle School Cafeteria

continued on page 4

Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 2 HS Fall Drama Performance @ PAC, 7pm
- Nov. 3 HS Fall Drama Performance @ PAC, 2 pm & 7pm
- Nov. 6 Schools Closed, Professional Development
- Nov. 7–8 Schools Closed, NJEA Convention
- Nov. 11 MS Veteran's Day Program
- Nov. 13–15 Early Dismissal, Conferences
- Nov. 19 National Honor Society Induction @ PAC, 6:30pm
- Nov. 21 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- Nov. 27 Early Dismissal, Thanksgiving
- Nov. 28–29 Schools Closed, Thanksgiving
- Dec. 3 Elem. 2 Winter Concert @ PAC, 7pm
- Dec. 4 HS Winter Choir Concert @ PAC, 7pm
- Dec. 6 Schools Closed, Professional Development
- Dec. 7 HS SAT Testing
- Dec. 11 District Holiday Concert @ PAC, 7pm
- Dec. 12 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- Dec. 13 HS Career Day
- Dec. 16 MS Holiday Concert @ PAC, 6:30pm
- Dec. 18 HS Dance Show @ PAC, 7pm
- Dec. 20 Early Dismissal, Winter Break
- Dec. 23–31 Schools Closed, Winter Break





Pre-K – All Day at Elementary 1



Elementary 1 welcomed Middle Township Public School’s first full-day preschool class on Monday, September 9. According to Principal Christian Paskalides, the transition from half-day to full-day classes was a “challenging endeavor”, but also “was a success.”

The Preschool Orientation held on Friday, September 6, gave everyone a good overview of the program. It also enabled students and parents/guardians to meet the

teachers and begin getting to know one another. The orientation made Monday’s first day a little bit easier.



Elementary 2 Has New “House Rules”



“House Rules” is a new social/emotional learning program at Elementary 2. Principal Nancy Loteck says House Rules rewards students with points for actions demonstrating kindness, fairness, respect, cooperation, trustworthiness, and citizenship.

The students and staff members were assigned to one of six houses at an

assembly on the first day of school. Everyone received a colored lanyard coordinated to their house color. The House of Cooperation/Cooperante is green. Each house also has a mascot; for the House of Citizenship it is the bee.

If a teacher or administrator sees a student from the House of Fairness (orange lanyard) using good manners with the cafeteria staff, for example, they can award that house two points. Points also can be deducted if students are not behaving well. The idea is for students to help each other make good choices.

Each House has a section of one of the walls in the building painted in their house color where notes can be posted as well as the weekly points. The House with the most points at the end of the month is declared the “Ruling House”. September’s Ruling House was the House of Citizenship (Purple).





MTMS Students Go Global with Reading Aloud

About 370 of our MTMS students are joining more than four million students in more than 80 different countries around the world in participating in the Global Read Aloud program. This is the first year MTMS has been involved.

Mrs. Chew, media specialist, first brought the program to Instructional Supervisor and Literacy & ELL Teacher Connie Chabok, who loved it for the students. Ms. Chabok said the literacy teachers thought it was an excellent way for students to share their love of books with others around the country and the world, and to understand that even though kids their age may

be hundreds or thousands of miles away, they are not so different. "With the main characters in the novels, our students are learning about other cultures," said Ms. Chabok, "and even though they may live differently, they are not too different from us."

The project was created by a seventh-grade teacher, Pernille Ripp, in 2010 to connect students around the world. Teachers read the same books aloud to their students over a six-week period, during which time they try to make as many "global" connections as possible.

Mr. Gimeno and Mrs. Roselli (8th grade), Mrs. Piro (7th grade) and

Ms. Chabok (6th grade) are reading *"The Bridge Home"* by Padma Venkatraman. Mrs. Roselli (7th grade), Mrs. Piro (6th grade), and Mrs. Pohle (6th & 7th grade) are reading *"The Front Desk"* by Kelly Yang.

"Students really are enjoying it and love connecting with other students," said Ms. Chabok.



Navy National Defense Cadets Corps Comes to MTHS

The first Middle Township High School (MTHS) students were accepted into the Navy National Defense Cadets Corps (NNDCC) in September. MTHS is one of just 300 schools in the country that the Naval Service Training Command of the Department of the Navy has approved for the NNDCC program.

"The NNDCC program fits well with our district's mission of providing students with a foundation that not only is challenging academically, but provides them with the skills to become successful, active citizens," said Superintendent Dr. David Salvo.



Lieutenant Commander Susan J. Blood is the Naval Cadet Instructor leading the NNDCC program. She served in the Coast Guard for 14 years and, after her discharge, pursued a career in teaching. Blood's most recent role was science and math teacher at MTMS.

Each NNDCC host school must fund the program, which includes student uniforms, instructor salaries, and daily operational expenses. To assist, Bill Howard, Commander of VFW Post 5343, Retired Chief Boatswain's Mate, US Navy, and Thomas Sippel Sr., Retired Master Sergeant, US Army, presented a check to Blood and her class of 22 cadets in the amount of \$500. The US Military Vets Motorcycle Club's Thomas Sippel Jr., Staff Sergeant, US Air Force, and Joseph J. Kremp, Rank: Spec 4 (E4), also presented the class with \$200.





Alumni Spotlight: Shawn Ward, '77

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.



In a résumé writing class during his junior year at Middle Township High School, Shawn Ward '77 followed the teacher's instructions to apply for his dream job. Ward did – Golf Pro!

His teacher at the time suggested the odds were against him, but Ward now is the Director of Golf at the Hideout Golf Club and proud to sport PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) next to his name. He has been a Golf Pro in Naples, Florida for 42 years. Ward has received several awards through the Florida PGA, including Golf Professional of the Year in 2002.

Ward, whose father Ronnie was the long-time Golf Pro at

Wildwood Golf and, at 86, is still an active PGA member, played golf at MTHS from 1973 until his graduation. Ward was on the team in 1975 that won the Cape Atlantic League (CAL) Championship. He also was a two-time CAL All-Star and was the MTHS Golfer of the Year in 1977. Ward said his record that year was 19-1.

After graduation, Ward had "no real game plan" other than to work for his father at Wildwood Golf. "Then BINGO," said Ward, "I land a winter job as a cart man at a club in Naples, Florida that was supposed to be for one season. I'm still here!"

A proud Middle grad, Ward said he "always chooses orange and black

when I get the chance – like my golf bag and even my golf grips." He said he is an active supporter of the MTHS Alumni Association.

Ward has been married to "the Naples High Homecoming Queen" for 35 years, and has three "wonderful kids who all play golf." His father and brother Jeff still live in the area; his mother passed away a few years ago.

"The many friendships, trust and fun I had in four years [at MTHS] has and always will be very special to me," said Ward. "The short of it is, I've never worked a day in my life! I've done what I always wanted to do my entire professional life!"

Strategic Planning Initiative continued from page 1

If you are interested in participating in the strategic planning initiative, please contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools:

Ms. Martha Crawley
(609) 465-1800 extension 3100
crawleym@middletpw.k12.nj.us

This is an exciting time for Middle Township Public Schools and the community. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Salvo
Superintendent of Schools

