



Panther Pride NEWSLETTER

You Have Panther Pride!

We always are proud of Middle Township Public Schools, but never more so than in these unprecedented times. You have stepped up and shown everyone what you are made of – from our youngest preschoolers to our eighth-graders and seniors, and our faculty and staff. You continue to work hard, be cooperative, and despite adversity, have showed everyone EXACTLY what Panther Pride means!

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MTHS Students Receive Honors



Alaina Young



Ishika Patel

We are so proud to announce that two MTHS students have received prestigious honors. Senior Alaina Young has been selected as a nationwide National Honor Society Scholarship recipient. Junior Ishika Patel has been selected as a New Jersey Governor's School Scholar for the 37th New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences hosted by Drew University. Congratulations to you both!

Alaina was selected from among nearly 7,000 applicants and will receive a \$3,200 scholarship toward her higher education. She plans to attend Florida State University.

Alaina's advisor, Mrs. Lasher, said Alaina is the first Middle Township High School student in 15 years to receive the prestigious award. Recipients are selected based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of the National

A Different Kind of Year — A Different Kind of Prom

Cancel the Prom?! Not our Panthers! They just changed it up to accommodate safety concerns by turning it into a "Front Porch Prom!"



This event was a collaborative effort among Middle Township School District, the Class of 2021, After Prom, and Middle Township.





Preschool and Parents Working Together



Our students have had to adapt to a different way of learning since school closed in March. This has been a particular challenge for our young preschool students and their parents/guardians, who

have become their teachers. But they all have risen to the challenge and made the best of the situation.

Although packets of materials helped the parent-teachers

keep going for the first two weeks, preschool teachers also set up Remind and Ready Rosie to help with the transition to at-home learning. Pam Shute, Katie Taylor, and Kristina Barone held special Zoom meetings for parents/guardians on April 28 and April 30 to give parents more support in this transition.

In addition, parents can find tips for keeping their preschooler engaged and learning, as well as nightly stories read by teachers, celebrities and the police, on the Middle Township Elementary #1 Preschool page on Facebook.

Teachers Instruct Via NJTV



Witnessing our teachers and students adapt to online learning in such a short period of time is remarkable.

We also were able to provide students across the state with an opportunity to learn — on screen — from two of our amazing Elementary #2 teachers: Mrs. Christal Holmes (left) and Miss Nicole DelCorio (right).

Mrs. Holmes and Miss DelCorio both have taught classes that were live streamed on NJTV Learning Live at njtvonline.org, or broadcast on local NJTV television channels.

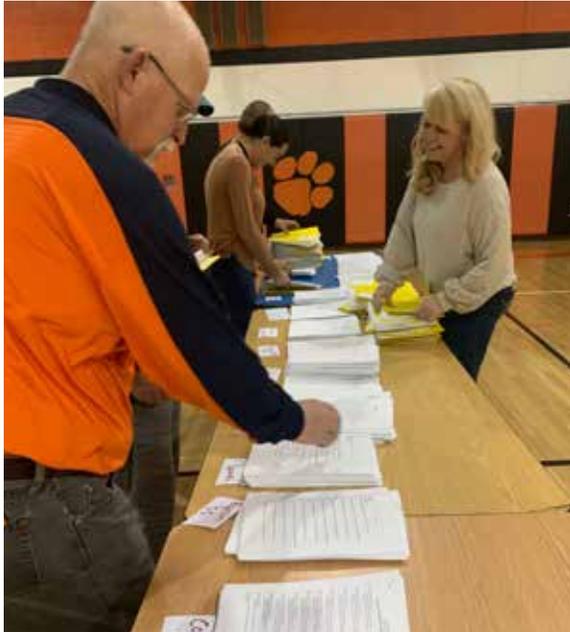
Mrs. Holmes provided viewers with two math lessons on extended multiplication and division and Order of Operations. Miss DelCorio's science class explored the Water Cycle.

We know our teachers are extra special, now students all over the state do too! Congratulations Mrs. Holmes and Miss DelCorio — you bring out our Panther Pride!





MTMS Faculty & Staff Rocked Packet Assembly



Middle School Principal Jeffrey Ortman is proud of how well faculty, staff, and students transitioned to online learning. But he is “amazed” at how quickly packets of materials were assembled for use in the two weeks before learning went online.

Mr. Ortman said school was supposed to be closed on March 13 for Professional Development, but that was canceled so packages of educational materials could

be assembled for the 555 students returning on Monday.

“Everyone came together,” said Mr. Ortman, “staff, teachers, custodians, aides, cafeteria workers – everyone pitched in.” He said custodians set up tables in the gym, cafeteria, and even in one of the long hallways where the packets were assembled. “The whole process was completed between 7:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.,” said Mr. Ortman. “No one complained, no one missed anything. It was amazing.”

Honoring The MTHS Senior Class of 2020

Although COVID-19 restrictions have curtailed many normal activities of the school year, the district wanted to ensure the MTHS Senior Class of 2020 was honored.

Recently, more than 45 staff members from MTHS and the district pulled out all the stops as they embarked on “Operation Panthers Deliver Smiles” and surprised the 202 members of the senior class. There were horns, whistles, and bells galore as staff members arrived at the seniors’ homes equipped with yard signs, masks, and good spirit! Staff members planted the “MTHS Class of 2020” yard



signs with enthusiastic waves, messages of encouragement, and lots of Panther Pride and school spirit.

“We will go to great lengths to let our students know how much they mean to us, and how much we miss them,” said Assistant Principal of Athletics Dr. Sharon Rementer.

As the caravan traveled through town to show support and love for seniors, the Panther mascot joined in the cheers, and a specially decorated school bus rolled along.

A banner on the side of the bus read: “Class of 2020. We are proud of you.”

“Seeing the smiles on their faces was the best part of the day,” said Superintendent Dr. David Salvo. “In reality, actions speak louder than words, and today we were able to show the Class of 2020 that we stand beside them, now and forever.”





A Different Kind of Year — A Different Kind of Prom

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It was sponsored by Remington & Vernick Engineers.

Between 6 and 7 p.m. on May 15, students showed off their fancy clothes, had their photos taken, and danced to music specially selected by them and played on radio station 98.7 The Coast. Teachers, administrators, and prom organizers called in to the radio station with shout-outs for the students. They also drove around to their homes to crown the Prom King, Miles Sapp, and Prom Queen, Alexa Lord, and delivered prom favors and prizes donated by the After Prom committee, teachers' association, and local businesses.

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Honor Society: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. We are so proud of Alaina!

As a New Jersey Governor's School Scholar, Ishika will join other outstanding New Jersey high school rising seniors in a three-week program that combines science- and math-focused learning with intense college-level research. The scholars will participate in the 2020 program online from July 12 through August 1, instead of on the Drew University campus, as COVID-19 restrictions continue.

Traditionally, the program integrates classroom learning with laboratory work and group projects. The modified format will ensure students receive the same level of experience and knowledge, but using online resources rather than physical instruments. Students also will be able to participate in evening discussion sessions, virtual social activities, and a career panel.

MTHS Principal George West recently said, "We are thrilled for Ishika and her selection into this program. She's an extremely hard-working individual, and so driven. She has without a doubt earned this prestigious achievement, and we are excited to see the outcome."

The recipients all were nominated by their schools to participate in The Governor's School of New Jersey. The tuition-free program is for accomplished high school students entering their senior year who have an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

The program's objectives are to broaden the scholars' appreciation and knowledge of science through exposure to a range of scientific topics and scientists, and to introduce scientific research to the scholars via a hands-on research experience in a student's area of interest.

Being selected for this program is no easy feat. We are so proud of Ishika. She is an outstanding student and deserves to be among these scholars doing what she enjoys.

Our students always make us proud. Congratulations Alaina and Ishika.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Salvo
Superintendent of Schools

