

# Mendham Township Schools

## District Newsletter

### A Message from the Superintendent

Greetings and welcome back for the 2014-2015 school year. I certainly hope that you have had a restful and relaxing summer. We have been hard at work this summer, preparing for the school year. As a district, we have worked diligently aligning our curriculum to the new Common Core Standards, preparing for the new PARCC Assessments, updating our facilities and technology, and maintaining our focus on safety and security protocols.

Our teachers have also been hard at work over the summer taking classes and participating in trainings to be even better prepared for the coming year. This professional development for teachers is a crucial component in instilling the knowledge and tools our students need to meet the new Math, English-Language Arts, and Next Generation Science Standards. Our students utilize amazing technology resources with two computer labs in each building, over 250 laptops at MTMS, Chromebooks in grades 3 and 4 at MTES, and a state of the art wireless network at both buildings. New security procedures and infrastructure including panic alarms, security cameras, and motion detection systems, will allow us to monitor our buildings at all times. While physical safety is always at the forefront of our minds, emotional and social safety is just as important to the learning environment. Our entire faculty and staff stands ready to support the students academically, socially, and emotionally.

We realize that our families and residents face busy schedules, working far from home, keeping up with homework and grades, among other challenges. One way we are hoping to support our families is our new district app. Through our app, parents will be able to access calendars, news, homework assignments, and directories. It will have timely and personalized updates on the most critical information. With a secure login, families will be able to receive alerts and check grades, attendance history, missing assignments, and so much more. For community members without children in the schools, it will be another way to access information about the district. Our app will launch at our Back to School Nights, so please plan to join us.

We are extremely proud of our achievements at both schools, and there are many to highlight. At both schools, our mission, "Provide the Best Education for Every Student - Every Day!" drives everything we do! Aggressive academic programming and a clinical approach to instruction and interventions secure academic success for all.

MTES has earned NJDOE "Reward School Status" for 2012 and 2014. MTMS has earned the coveted NJDOE "Reward School Status" in 2012, 2013, and 2014 – alongside only two other public middle schools statewide.



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### Board Members

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President  
**Jocelyn deGrandpre**  
Vice President  
**Jeffrey Brauner**  
**Kenneth Elgarten**  
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**Frank Kontely**  
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### Board Meeting Dates

**Elementary School**  
**Media Center**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**September 16 & 23**  
**October 14\* & 21\***  
**November 18 & 25**

\* Week Change

## A Message from the Superintendent... *Continued from Page 1*

During the same time period, our students captured 17 Morris County athletic championships, and over 75% dedicated themselves to rigorous band, orchestra, chorus, and theater programs beyond school hours. With great pride, we congratulate our students on successfully contributing to West Morris Mendham High School – currently ranked #4 in New Jersey. Our community deeply embraces the notion that our rich co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings foster a great sense of pride in our schools and connects our students to our schools – ultimately, creating a learning environment conducive to every student meeting his/her greatest potential every day.

Our teachers play THE essential role in educating our students. They are highly qualified, highly skilled, and highly collaborative professionals whose success is measured not by their intense focus, sweat equity, or above and beyond efforts, but by the achievement and growth of their students - true ownership of student outcomes. Our teachers further recognize that their primary roles are to inspire students, empower self-sufficiency, develop learning partnerships, and implement systems of instruction that produce exceptional achievement for ALL students.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and School District. I know 2014-2015 will be another great year of many successes for our students and community.

*Salvatore Constantino, Superintendent of Schools*

## Three Mendham Township Middle School Students Place in the Top Ten in State on National Spanish Exam



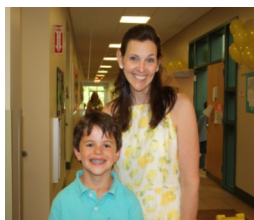
Fifty MTMS 8th grade students competed in the National Spanish Exam in April, under the guidance of Senora Blanchard, Senora Samaan, and Senora Svenson (...our fabulous World Language Department). Our students earned a total of eight gold places, nine silver, eight bronze, and nineteen honorable mention. Their performance is certainly stellar and deserving of recognition!

Three students (pictured) placed in the top ten in the entire state of New Jersey, and one student won a third prize in the Bilingual category, receiving a \$50.00 check.

The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 6-12, and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

## MTES Holds Annual Lemon Ball

On Friday, June 6th, the Elementary School and Tigers Leaders held their annual Lemon Ball raising a total of \$2,972.00! Proceeds support Alex's Lemonade Foundation helping children fight cancer.



## MTMS Grade 6 Students Compete in Regional Inventions and Innovations Competition



This year, our sixth-grade Quest students participated in a program called Student Inventions Through Education (S.I.T.E.). The program challenges students to invent solutions to self-identified problems. The program stresses the development of a wide variety of problem solving skills and encourages students to apply these skills to life situations.



The students developed their innovations or inventions here at school and participated in a competition in school where the 2 winning inventions were selected. The first and second place inventions or innovations were invited to compete in a regional competition at Bergen County Community College where local winning first and second place inventions from all over Northern New Jersey were exhibited.

## MTES National Social Studies League



In April all students in second, third, and fourth grades participated in a social studies contest sponsored by the National Social Studies League offered to schools nationwide. This contest consisted of multiple-choice questions (25 for 2nd and 35 for 3rd & 4th grade) in various areas of social studies. The top scorers from each grade level formed a "team" which was scored

among the other participating school across the United States. I am pleased to report that our 3rd & 4th grade teams, here at Mendham Township Elementary School, won third place nationally! *CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!*



## MTMS Music Program Earns National Recognition



On March 26th 2014, Mendham Township Middle School received the "Support Music Merit Award" from the NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants).

The NAMM Foundation awarded school music education programs with the announcement of 2014's Best Communities for Music Education (BCME). The BCME program applauded the efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders working to ensure that music education is part of the core curriculum. More than 2000 schools and school districts participated in this year's survey at the national level.

This year, the NAMM Foundation has designated 96 individual schools as Support Music Merit Award winners, including 3 from New Jersey. These schools set the bar in offering students access to comprehensive music education.

In order to be considered for this distinction, all applicants had to respond to a lengthy survey detailing how music education is implemented in their schools. The survey focused on the domains of staffing, curriculum, budget, scheduling, and participation. Statistics were provided for programs within the school as well as ensembles that performed in out-of-district programs such as "Region Concert Festivals" and "Regional Honors Groups." Now in its 15th year, the BCME program evaluates schools and districts based on the aforementioned domains with the assistance of researchers at The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, Kansas (an affiliate of the University of Kansas). Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and greater access to music education.

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Mendham Township School District  
18 West Main Street  
Brookside, New Jersey 07926



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## MTMS Music Program Earns National Recognition .... *Continue from Page 3*

The recognition being given to Mendham Township is indicative of the quality and commitment to music education throughout the entire program encompassing band, orchestra, chorus and general music. The instrumental side of the program is made up of four concert bands, three orchestras and a single jazz ensemble. All large ensembles meet twice per week before school utilizing the “zero period” model. In addition, each student is given one period per week of group or individual instruction depending on the student’s needs, utilizing a rotating “pull-out” lesson schedule and is implemented by two band teachers and one orchestra teacher. The choral and general music side of the program is taught by one teacher and has two choruses and a typical trimester-based general music curriculum, which focuses heavily on technology. Students are given ample opportunity to participate in any combination of multiple ensembles. The entire student body is required to take one trimester of general music per grade where they gain access to the technology side of the curriculum.

In addition to Mendham Township’s own program offerings, each large ensemble participates in at least one festival or competition per year, such as our annual Music in the Parks competition. Many students commonly and competitively participate in Honor’s programs such as Junior High Region’s Band and Orchestra, Area Band, Region’s Jazz and Elementary Honor’s Band. MTSD offers an enrichment program designated as our Region’s Workshop to help students prepare for the auditions. One other tradition worth noting here in our district is the commission of three significant works from emerging and talented composers for middle school band paid for by our local parent organization, the Home School Association. The latest commission Allegory for Winds and Percussion: A Short Story, by Michael Carl Green, can be viewed on You Tube. MTSD is on track for commissioning a brand new piece every odd year and is currently collaborating with Jesse Downs, a Mendham Township and Oberlin Conservatory graduate, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Currently the band program has 167 students enrolled in fourth through eighth grades, the orchestra program has 89 students, and the choral program, which begins in fifth grade, has 82 participants. Out of the 483 eligible students, enrollment in the performing arts for Mendham Township stands at 70 percent!

