



Montville Township Public
Schools Newsletter
April 2016



Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Annual School Budget Scheduled for May 3

The public hearing on the 2016-2017 budget will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in connection with the Board's regular meeting which will be held at the Montville Township Municipal Building. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The total increase in the general fund budget is 1.39% with a tax levy increase of 2.00%. The annual tax increase for average Montville home assessed at \$528,093 is \$137.00

PowerPoint Presentations on the proposed budget are available on the district's website - www.montville.net.

Indicators of Student Success

Parent Survey Input Summarized

As part of the 2015-2016 District Goal #4 focused on Developing a Culture of Continuous Improvement Within All of the Schools, online parents surveys at the elementary, middle and high school were recently conducted to obtain input regarding the ranking of indicators of student success. Parents at each level were asked to rank a list of 10 indicators and to prioritize a list of educational outcomes. Results of the parent input are summarized below. These results shall inform future district discussions and initiatives focused on improving the educational experience provided to students in the Montville Township Public Schools.

Elementary Level

Student Success Indicators

Students are well-balanced and well-rounded.

Students feel connected and supported.

Students have good emotional health - they are positive and happy people.

Students have developed coping skills.

Students are connected to their teachers.

Students are capable decision makers.

Students like to attend school.

Students have the skills to advocate for themselves positively and respectfully.

Students have effective time management skills.

Students exhibit mastery of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards

Educational Outcomes

Students are able to "tell a story" about what it is they are looking to grow into or become.

Students have developed digital literacy skills.

Students have developed proficiency in the curriculum standards.

Students have developed the skills to work collaboratively with other students or in teams.

Students have developed effective communication skills.

Students develop leadership skills.

Students acquire necessary social and emotional skills and balance in their lives.

Students have developed the ability to identify a problem and utilize effective strategies in solving it.

Middle School Level

Student Success Indicators

Students have good emotional health - they are positive and happy people.

Students feel connected and supported.

Students are well-balanced and well-rounded.

Students have effective time management skills.

Students are capable decision makers.

Students have friends.

Students have developed coping skills.

Students have the skills to advocate for themselves positively and respectfully.

Students like to attend school.

Students demonstrate resiliency.

Students participate in extracurricular or athletic activity outside of school.

Students exhibit mastery of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards

Educational Outcomes

Students have developed social media navigation skills.

Students are able to "tell a story" about what it is they are looking to grow into or become.

Students have the opportunity to explore their personal interests.

Students have the opportunity to meet with a teacher face to face to discuss a success or a concern.

Students have demonstrated proficiency in the curriculum standards.

Students have developed the ability to work collaboratively with other students or in teams.

Students develop leadership skills.

Students feel that they are able to self-advocate.

Students acquire necessary social and emotional skills and balance in their lives.

Students have developed the ability to identify a problem and utilize effective strategies in solving it.

Students have developed effective communication skills.

High School Level

Student Success Indicators

Students have good emotional health - they are positive and happy people.

Students have developed coping skills.

Students feel connected and supported.

Students are well-balanced and well-rounded.

Students are capable decision makers.

Students demonstrate resiliency.

Students have the skills to advocate for themselves positively and respectfully.

Students have friends.

Students have effective time management skills.

Students are connected to their teachers.

Students exhibit mastery of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards.

Students like to attend school.

Students participate in extracurricular or athletic activity outside of school.

Educational Outcomes

Students have developed social media navigation skills.

Students have demonstrated proficiency in the curriculum standards.

Students are able to "tell a story" about what it is they are looking to grow into or become.

Students have developed the ability to identify a problem and utilize effective strategies in solving it.

Students have the opportunity to explore their personal interests.

Students are able to make a college or career choice and attain it.

The student's perception of their level of preparedness matches the level of post-secondary rigor that they experience.

Students develop leadership skills.

Students have developed the skills to work collaboratively with other students or in teams

Students feel that they are able to self-advocate.

Students have developed effective communication skills.

Students acquire necessary social and emotional skills and balance in their lives.

Project Graduation - A Proud MTHS Tradition Since 1984

**St. Pius X Knights of Columbus to Hold
Fundraiser to Support this Important
Celebration**



Since 1984, Montville Township's Drug Awareness Council (DAC) has hosted Project Graduation for Montville Township High School (MTHS) graduates. The all night, substance-free, event runs from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM and includes food, fun, activities and entertainment.

The Montville DAC event is the longest running Project Graduation program the state - and possibly the longest running program in the country. Over 7,000 MTHS graduates have safely celebrated graduation at the all night affair. The MTHS Class of 2016 has 319 students. All are invited to attend Project Graduation.

The St. Pius X Knights of Columbus benefit breakfast for Project Graduation will be held **Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 8:00 AM to Noon**. It will be in the Msgr. Meyer Parish Center Gym, 24 Changebridge Road, Montville, NJ. The breakfast includes: Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, tea and desserts. "Freewill Donations" will be accepted at the door - which means contributions are voluntary, and can be made in any amount one would like to donate. The breakfast benefit is open to everyone.

Origination of Project Graduation

Project Graduation was initiated 32 years ago after the tragic loss of a local youth to substance abuse. "Project Graduation is a safe night for MTHS students to celebrate their academic careers and enjoy the company of their friends as a class one last time before embarking on post-graduation adventures," said DAC Chairperson Joseph Daughtry.

Program at Risk Due to Declining Fiscal Support

Housed in the West Orange Jewish Community Center, the cost of the annual Project Graduation evening is almost \$25,000. Funds for the program have traditionally been supplied by private and business contributions, as well as from area fundraisers. In recent years, however, contributions to Project Graduation have fallen short, leaving the program at risk. This is why the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus are stepping up efforts on behalf of Project Graduation.

The DAC has asked other organizations to also step up fundraising efforts on behalf of Project Graduation, and the public is encouraged to support the wide variety of events. Once again this year, the **MTHS School of Rock** hosted a benefit concert for the project.

In addition to attending events, the community is encouraged to send contributions to MTHS Project Graduation, c/o DAC, Montville Township Town Hall, 195 Changebridge Road, Montville, New Jersey 07045. DAC is also in need of volunteers and other donations for the Thursday June 23 to Friday June 24 event. For more information contact MTHSProjectGraduation@gmail.com.

OneMontville Green In Day Join in the Celebration of Diversity and Acceptance on Friday, May 20, 2016

Over the past year there have been a number of incidents of bias and Anti-Semitism that have occurred within the Montville Township Community. As a result, the OneMontville organization was created. Our mission statement is:

The mission of OneMontville is to create and promote a climate of acceptance, inclusion and kindness which teaches and celebrates respect for one another by embracing and being enriched by the diversity that comprises the Montville Township Community. The mission can only be fully accomplished through the involvement and commitment of community leaders, religious leaders, business leaders, and residents of all ages, races, religions, ethnicities, abilities, gender identity or sexual orientation.

OneMontville will be sponsoring a "Green In Day" on Friday, May 20th. We are asking EVERYONE - residents, students, teachers, business owners and their employees - to wear GREEN on May 20th as a very visual representation of the unity and acceptance we want to emphasize and acknowledge within Montville Township.

Order a OneMontville Green In Day T-shirt at

<http://www.shop.classactembroidery.com/Montville-Green-In-Day-TShirt-ginday.htm>



Bits and Pieces.....

Congratulations to Veda Bhattaram, a sixth grade student at Lazar Middle School, on winning the New Jersey State National Geographic Geography Bee on April 1st. Veda competed against 104 other students from schools around the state. As the state champion, he won \$100 and the National Geographic Book "The National Parks: An Illustrated History." He now moves on to the national competition in Washington, D.C. in May. The winner of the national championship will receive a \$50,000 scholarship and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. Best of luck to Veda in the next round of competition! Ben Halpern, a fifth grade student at William Mason School, also qualified to participate in the New Jersey State Geographic Bee. This was the second year that Ben qualified to participate in the state level competition.



The Montville Township Public Schools have received designation as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" as determined by the National Association for Music Merchants. Montville Township is one of 476 school districts in the country to receive this designation. Selection was based on program funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music programs.

Contact

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*"The object of education is
to prepare the young to
educate themselves
throughout their lives."
~Robert Maynard Hutchins*

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