

Happy Thanksgiving - Take time to count your blessings!
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**Montville Township
Public Schools™**
EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.

News & Updates - November 2018

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New Jersey State Board of Education Makes Changes to Spring 2019 Assessments

At their October 3, 2018 meeting, the New Jersey State Board of Education proposed changes to state assessments that would be implemented with the Spring 2019 test administration.

New Name for Assessments

The State of New Jersey has terminated its membership with the interstate consortium that produced the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments. While the online assessment platform will continue, the statewide assessments will now be called:

- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments - ELA (NJSLA-ELA)
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessment - Mathematics (NJSLA-M)

Change in Testing Duration

Starting with the Spring 2019 administration, the number of test questions will be reduced. The number of ELA units of testing will be reduced from three to two. This will result in 75 fewer minutes of testing for grade 3 and 90 fewer minutes for grades four through high school.

In mathematics, the number of questions are also being reduced. The number of units will be reduced from four to three for grades three through five. This will result in 60 minutes less testing time. For grades six through eight there will still be three testing units, but they will each be reduced by 20 minutes for a total reduction in testing time of one hour. The Algebra I end-of-course assessment will also be reduced from three 90-minute units to two, for a reduction of 90 minutes in testing time.

The Department of Education has also proposed the continuation of the provision that permits students to demonstrate ELA and mathematics competency through the use of alternative assessments such as the SAT and ACT. This provision would be continued for members of the graduating classes of 2019 through 2025 (May 2, 2025 is the sunset date for this section of the

New Jersey Administrative Code. The Code would have to be reviewed and readopted at that time.)

Montville Township Public Schools to Implement Schoology Learning Management System



The Montville Township Public Schools are moving towards the full implementation of the Schoology Learning Management System during the 2019-2020 school year. Currently implementation plans and timelines are being developed that will allow for the system to be introduced in the Spring of 2019 with a pilot group of teachers. Full use of the system will begin in September 2019.

A learning management system (LMS) allows teachers to create, deliver and manage instructional content for their courses. It also provides an opportunity for lessons, grades and communication through the LMS to be available 24/7 anywhere a user can access the Internet. Schoology can be accessed through computers, Chromebooks, and mobile devices, such as smartphones.

Schoology offers an online gradebook as well as online posting of assignments. Teachers have the ability to create online quizzes and tests and the system provides options for differentiating assignments. The system offers the opportunity for students to collaborate online and for the teacher to provide feedback to the students. Within the online course area, teachers can provide curricular resources and rubrics. The program allows other applications, such as Google Drive, Twitter and Facebook, to connect and interact with Schoology.

The Schoology LMS was selected because of the ways in which it will enhance and support greater communication within the district. District administrators and principals will be able to send broadcast messages, mass updates, and mobile notifications. User groups can also be configured to facilitate communication with regard to school groups (PTA/HSA/PTC), athletic teams, extracurricular groups, and other district/school-linked organizations.



District Wins Two 2018 School Communication Awards



On November 1st, the Montville Township Public Schools district was recognized with two of the 2018 School Communication Awards presented by the New Jersey School Public Relations Association. The district captured the First Place Award in Marketing, Branding and Image and the Second Place Award in the category of Special Interest Publication. Congratulations to Susan Marinello, District Communications Officer, for her ongoing work to improve communications within the district. The new district logo, school logos and athletic logos have been received with enthusiasm since their release earlier this year.

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
DRAMA CLUB

PROUDLY PRESENTS



November 15th & 17th at 7:30pm
November 17th at 2:00pm

Montville Township High School
Robert O. Stafford Auditorium
100 Horseneck Road
Montville, NJ 07045

TICKETS

\$12 for Student/Seniors \$15 for Adults

Order Online

<http://mthsnj.booktix.com/>

Montville Township High School Drama Club will perform JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH on November 15 at 7:30PM and November 17 at 2:00PM & 7:30PM. Tickets are \$12 for students and senior citizens and \$15 for adults. GET TKTS NOW:

BookTix.com

Bits and Pieces....

The students in Ms. Portnoff's first grade class are starting each morning with Mindfulness. The students are learning how to set an intention for the day while working on expressing their emotions and learning about perseverance, empathy, and gratitude.

All seven Montville Township Public Schools participated in various activities during the month of October to recognize the Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week and Red Ribbon Week.

Congratulations to Lazar teacher Karin Wardell on having one of her paintings accepted at the Speakeasy Gallery in Boonton for their September "oddities" show.

Congratulations to the MTHS Mustangs Football Team for their record of 7-2 through the end of October. The team has now moved on to the State Play offs. On Friday, November 2, at 7pm, The Mustangs will host a play off game against Warren Hills. Come out and show your support. **#MustangPride!**



School News

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