



News & Updates - May 2017

Visit Our Website
www.montville.net

Board of Education Approves Five-Year Strategic Plan to Guide District

At their meeting on April 18, 2017, the Montville Township Board of Education approved a Five-Year Strategic Plan to guide the district in attaining the goals that were developed through the public input process.

Four major goal areas were developed:

Goal Area #1: Student Achievement and District Achievement

Goal Statement: Foster high levels of student and district achievement by creating and maintaining an environment that provides an educational experience that will challenge each student to work to their full potential in acquiring the knowledge and skills to excel in their chosen field of study or career.

Objective #1: Ensure that students are accepted to the colleges of their choice.

Objective #2: Successfully implement the new gifted and talented program at the elementary and middle school levels.

Objective #3: Ensure smooth transitions from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school.

Goal Area #2: Technology/STEM (STEAM)

Goal Statement: Incorporate purposeful STEM/STEAM experiences into the K-12 curricula to further all students' understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, utilizing creative and aesthetic techniques associated with the Arts, to enhance their abilities to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in developing solutions to problems. Identify opportunities to expand STEM/STEAM activities beyond the scope of the regular school day.

Objective #1: Provide ongoing, sustainable professional development related to the integration of technology in instruction.

Objective #2: Provide a 1:1 Chromebook initiative for grades 5 through 12.

Objective #3: Ensure that students and staff develop the necessary 21st Century digital



skills for communication and managing the instructional process.

Objective #4: Develop an annual STEAM Day to highlight these programs and activities in all of the schools.

Objective #5: Develop a cycle class at the middle school level to focus on STEM/STEAM

Objective #6: Expand extracurricular opportunities for students in the areas of problem solving, mathematics, coding and robotics.

Goal Area #3: School Culture and Climate/Community Involvement

Goal Statement: To foster a sustainable, positive school culture which is centered on norms, values and expectations that create an environment that allows students to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically and provides all members of the school community with meaningful opportunities to become agents of positive change within their school and the community.

Objective #1: Conduct a study of the high school schedule to analyze the feasibility and effectiveness of possible schedule changes that would provide for a later start to the high school day for students.

Objective #2: Implement programs and strategies to reduce student stress, anxiety and depression.

Objective #3: Implement a service learning program at all grade levels to foster community involvement.

Objective #4: Provide multiple means to embrace and celebrate the diversity that exists within our schools and our community.

Objective #5: Develop an active alumni network and facilitate greater alumni involvement in district programs and activities.

Objective #6: Increase efforts to provide alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs.

Objective #7: Insure that strong character education is emphasized at all grade levels, with particular emphasis on developing students who are upstanding digital citizens.

Objective #8: Identify and implement various means to increase school spirit at the high school level.

Goal Area #4: Cultivation of Faculty Excellence

Goal Statement: Recruit and maintain a faculty of excellent teachers who will provide innovative, rigorous and inspirational instruction at all grade levels and in all disciplines to support the highest levels of student achievement.

Objective #1: Encourage staff innovation in developing ways to revitalize and refresh instructional programs and course offerings.

Objective #2: Review employee compensation to help ensure the district is able to attract the best and brightest teachers and support staff members.

Objective #3: Evaluate the administrative and supervisory structure with a goal of providing the best possible instructional leadership.

Objective #4: Explore innovative strategies to meet the professional development needs of all staff members.

The Board of Education is most grateful to those parents and residents that participated in the public input sessions for their involvement in the strategic planning process.

Referendum Update

At their meeting on February 7th, the Montville Township Board of Education authorized the District Architect to submit the necessary applications and documents to the New Jersey Department of Education with regard to the district's [proposed referendum](#) scheduled for **Tuesday, September 26, 2017**.

The NJDOE is in the process of calculating the Preliminary Eligible Costs for the referendum projects to determine the amount of Debt Service Aid that the District will be eligible to receive. The Debt Service Aid could represent nearly 40% of the cost of these projects that the local taxpayers of Montville would

not need to fund. In addition, the Montville Township Board of Education has indicated that they plan to appropriate \$600,000 from their Capital Reserve Account to further reduce the impact on the local taxpayer.

Once the Preliminary Eligible Costs are received from the NJDOE, the district will provide more detailed information regarding the fiscal aspects of the referendum.

Ongoing reports about the Referendum are part of the regular agenda at each Board of Education meeting.

Referendum Timeline

During the Summer of 2017 the Board will take action to finalize the actual referendum questions to be included on the ballot. The referendum election will take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If approved, construction on all projects would take place during the summer of 2018.

Register to Vote

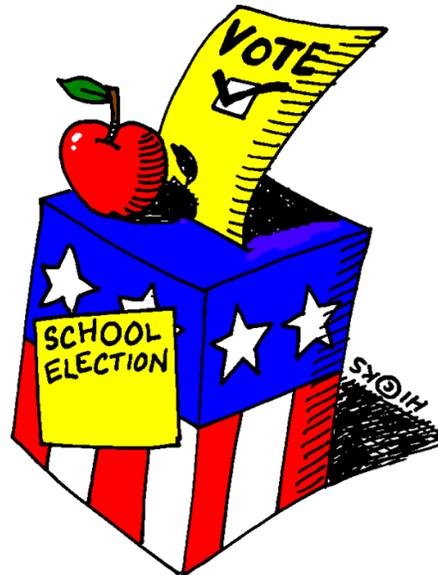
There is a link on the district website to enable parents and residents to register to vote in the Referendum election, if you are not already a registered voter.

[Click here for voter registration information](#)

Vote by Mail

If work, travel or family obligations might prevent you from getting to the polls to vote on September 26th, consider submitting an application to vote by mail. A link to the application for a mail-in ballot is available on the district website. Vote by mail applications must be received by the Morris County Clerk by **September 18, 2017**.

[Click here for Vote by Mail Application Information](#)



OneMontville Green-In Day: Friday, May 19, 2017...WEAR GREEN!

For the second year, Montville Township Public Schools will support the [OneMontville](#) Green-In Day for #AcceptanceKindnessRespect. All schools, businesses, community organizations and residents are encouraged to wear green as a visible demonstration of the welcoming community Montville Township is for all. Help us paint the town green with **Acceptance - Kindness - Respect!**

Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to Veda Bhattaram (7th grade student at Lazar Middle School) for winning the NJ State Geography Bee for the second year in a row. Veda now advances to the national finals in Washington, D.C. - Best of luck, Veda!

The Hilldale Student Council organized a "Pasta for Pennies" drive during the month of March. \$2,958 was raised for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

On Friday, March 31st the STEP (Spirit, Teamwork, Energy, Pride) Leadership Group held a celebration in honor of Montville Township's 150th birthday. Students decorated the school with balloons and streamers and posted a collection of interesting facts about Montville's history around the school.



School News

The fourth grade leadership team at Valley View School will be launching a "Soap for Hope Dive" to bring awareness to the needs of millions of children worldwide who do not have soap and clean water for basic hygiene needs.



Parents Cautioned About Netflix Series - *13 Reasons Why*

On March 31st Netflix released a new series called "13 Reasons Why" which has been adapted from a book by the same name.

Across the country it has attracted wide viewership, particularly among teenage

audiences. "13 Reasons Why" tells the story of Hannah, a high school girl who takes her own life and creates 13 cassette tapes which she sends to those she blames for her death. The story is pure fiction, but it is depicted in a very graphic way. Mental health professionals have expressed concern about the impact that this series may have on a young audience, particularly anyone who may have experienced mental health issues, suicidal thoughts or behaviors. The series has suicide prevention specialists concerned about potential risks due to the series' sensationalized depiction of teen suicide. The series does provide an opportunity for some dialogue about suicide prevention and how to protect yourself and your friends. These kinds of conversations are supported by Montville Township School District's position as a Stigma Free School District.

Click on the link below for information from the National Association of School Psychologists for Educators, Families and Students:

[Guidance on "13 Reasons Why"](#)

Montville Township Public Schools | (973) 331-7100 | www.montville.net

STAY CONNECTED:

Follow us on [twitter](#)



Like us on Facebook



View on Instagram