



will be held in the new media center at Montville Township High School. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

## *World Language Program to Expand at Lazar*

### **Lazar World Language and Scheduling Committee makes recommendations to Board of Education**

At the February 16, 2016 meeting of the Montville Township Board of Education, Dr. Rene Rovtar, Superintendent of Schools, presented the recommendations of the Lazar Middle School World Language and Scheduling Committee. The Committee was convened last fall as a follow-up to the report of the World Language Task Force which was presented to the Board of Education in June 2015. The Committee has recommended that a three year sequence of world language (WL) study be implemented for students beginning in sixth grade. Three full years of study will equate to Level 1 and prepare students to enroll in a Level 2 class as freshmen.

The Committee was comprised of Casey Shorter, Assistant Superintendent; Andrea Woodring, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Sharon Carr, Lazar Middle School Principal; Teri Haight, Lazar Middle School Assistant Principal; Lisa Howard, Supervisor of World Languages; Ed Fleischman, Supervisor of the Arts; Chelsea DiDiego, Lazar Music Teacher; Derek Lynn, Lazar French Teacher; Jacqueline Keiser, Lazar 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher; Mary Kate Preto, Lazar 8th Grade Math Teacher; Cheryl Zanone, Lazar 7th Grade Science Teacher; and Rene Rovtar, Superintendent.

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language recommend that instruction in World Language occur one period per day in grades six through twelve. Currently students receive one marking period each of the four world languages over the course of their 6th and 7th grade years with a full year of one world language in 8th grade. This is not truly an adequate amount of time to allow the students to acquire the necessary level of proficiency in the use of the language.

A world language survey was administered to 838 students currently enrolled in WL classes in the fall. In addition, 265 parents provided input through an online survey. Survey results showed strong support for an expansion of the WL program at the middle school level.

Teams consisting of teachers, the world language supervisor and administrators conducted site visits to the middle schools in the Bernards Township, Madison and Westfield School Districts. The team had the opportunity to observe classes, meet with WL teachers and discuss scheduling parameters. The WL programs in these districts mirror the three-year WL sequence that the Lazar Committee is proposing. The language proficiency exhibited by the students in these three year programs was truly impressive.

The majority of high performing New Jersey districts, like those we like to compare Montville to (Bernards Township, Chatham, Livingston, Madison, and Summit) all provide this three year sequence to their students. Students then are more thoroughly prepared to advance to Level II study in a WL in their freshman year. We also feel strongly that a deeper foundation in the language in middle school will provide a solid base that will allow students to be successful at the high school level and potentially continue WL study beyond the two years required by the high school graduation requirements.

A wide variety of scheduling options were explored by the committee. The double period of language arts was considered to be valuable and should not be reduced. It was also felt that the class periods should not be shortened from the current 40 minutes.

Students at all three grade levels will each have one elective period in their schedule. Students will have the choice of enrolling in the music program (band, orchestra or choir or band/choir or orchestra/choir) or cycle electives (a series of 4 cycle courses each running for one marking period). A listing of the cycle classes for each grade level is provided below:

Sixth Grade - Art 6 (all students would take art). Students would then take three of the four remaining courses: Interest and Inquiry; Nutrition, Family and Computer Science 6; TV Production 6 and Computers 6.

Seventh Grade - Art 7 (all students would take art). Students would then take three of the four remaining courses: Technology Education 7; Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science 7; TV Production 7 and Computers 7.

Eighth Grade - Students would take four of the five elective courses: Art 8; Technology Education 8; Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science 8; TV Production 8 and Computers 8.

The committee also reviewed the current middle school schedule. A recommendation has been made to the Board of Education to eliminate the honors level classes in language arts at the 6th grade level. This recommendation is made based on the fact that 6th grade is a difficult transition and the rigor and expectations in the academic subjects increase significantly in 6th grade. Each year there are numerous examples of students who are placed in the honors level, even though they do not truly meet the selection criteria, and struggle. The committee members feel that this approach will provide a less stressful experience for our middle school students. It is believed that teachers can address the specific needs of all of the students through differentiation.

Honors classes will continue to be offered in 7th and 8th grade language arts; 6th, 7th and 8th grade math; and 8th grade science.

## OneMontville "Green In Day"

Save the date - May 20, 2016

The OneMontville organization recently adopted its mission statement:

***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.***



To elevate awareness of the desire to emphasize acceptance and kindness throughout all sectors of the Montville Township community, all students, staff members, parents, community residents, business owners and employees are being asked to wear green on Friday, May 20th as a symbol on community unity.

**Green is so much better than mean!**

## Bits and Pieces.....

The Montville Township High School Wrestling Team is congratulated for their first place finish in the District 2 Championships. In 14 weight classes, Montville had 10 wrestlers finish in the top three of their class to move on to the Regional Championship. The six wrestlers who took first place in their weight class were Ron Rumsby (106 lbs), Dominic Fano (145 lbs), Chuckie Marucci (152 lbs), Dillon Fazliu (170 lbs), Don Leka (220 lbs) and Parker Fox (285 lbs).

Congratulations to Brandon Wong for his selection as first chair tuba in the All-State Symphonic Band.

Seven Lazar Middle School students were selected to participate in the North Jersey Regional Honors Junior High School Band and Chorus. We are proud of Jennifer Weiss, Madison Bustamante, Christine Sun, Jenny Sun, Ananya Bijala, Griffin Smolar and Mrudul Nagapurkur!

The MTHS Drana Club will be presenting "Pippin" on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Each performance starts at 7:30 p.m. in the MTHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$12.00 for students/seniors and \$15.00 for adults. Additional information is available on the MTHS website.

The National Merit Program has released its list of scholarship finalists. Three of the semi-finalists from MTHS have advanced to the final round. Congratulations to Pranav Kumar, Kelvin Liu and Stacy Wang.



## Contact

Dr. René Rovtar  
Superintendent  
Montville Township Public Schools  
86 River Road  
Montville, NJ 07045

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

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