

Welcome Back!!
Looking forward to a great 2017-2018 school year!



**Montville Township
Public Schools™**
EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.

News & Updates - September 2017

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www.montville.net

Referendum Election Scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2017

The New Jersey Department of Education has **approved 40% Debt Service Aid** for **ALL** components of the Montville Township Public Schools' September 26, 2017 Referendum.

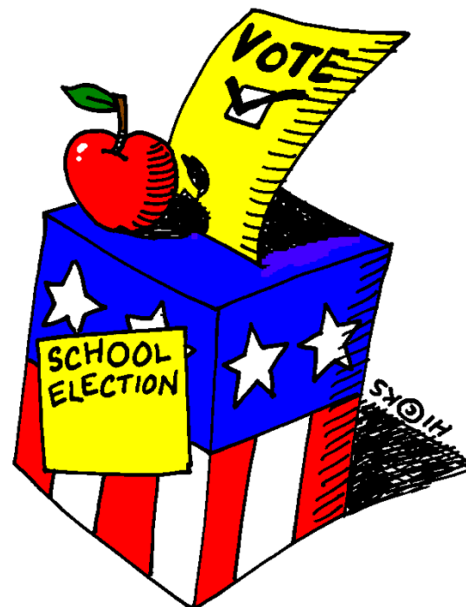
This financial assistance from NJ will result in a **\$7 million savings for the taxpayers of Montville Township.**

Leaking roofs, broken bathrooms, aging HVAC systems and outdated Media Centers are among the necessary and vital updates that are needed in all seven Montville Township Public Schools.

Additionally, Gymnasiums and All Purpose Rooms, used heavily by both the Montville Township Public Schools, and the Montville Township Recreation Department, are in need of repairs and replacements in lighting, ceilings, floors and other components. Air Conditioning for instructional areas in all seven school currently not air conditioned is also addressed by the September 26 Referendum.

If the Referendum passes ALL items are eligible for 40% Debt Service Aid from the State of NJ.

Favorable construction costs, pressing construction needs, low interest rates, and 40% Debt Service Aid from NJ, make this a particularly fiscally responsible time to pursue a referendum to address important facility needs. With ongoing discussion about potential changes to state aid, there is no guarantee that Debt Service Aid will be available for projects such as this in the future.. **Montville Township has a commitment from the State of NJ for 40% Debt Service Aid for**



the September 26 referendum items.

Traditionally the Montville Township Board of Education appropriates an average of \$1 million annually to facility repairs and upgrades. Unfortunately at this rate, it will take 17 years to complete the updates and improvements addressed by the September 26 Referendum. Many of these maintenance items cannot wait.

Referendum Timeline

The referendum election will take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 2:00 - 8:00 PM. If approved, construction on all projects is scheduled to take place during the summer of 2018.

Register to Vote

If you are not yet registered to vote, [click here for voter registration information.](#)

NOTE: Polls will be open from 2:00 to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. Voters will vote at their regular polling places. If you are unable to make it to the polls on September 26, for any reason, please [VOTE BY MAIL.](#) VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATIONS are due to the County Clerk's Office by 4PM on September 19. VOTE BY MAIL INFO can be found at [Montville.net.](#)

VOTE BY MAIL

If work, travel or family obligations might prevent you from getting to the polls to vote on September 26, 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 4PM September 19, 2017. [Click here for VOTE BY MAIL Application Information.](#)

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Lazar Middle School Achieves Bronze Level Certification Through Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to: go green, conserve resources and take steps to create a brighter future.



Board of Education Adopts Goals for 2017-2018

At the August 22nd meeting the Montville Township Board of Education adopted the following goals for the 2017-2018 school year:

Goal #1 - Referendum

The Board and District Administration will engage in activities to educate the public regarding the need for a Referendum and help encourage its passage by the voters of Montville Township. [Referendum facts](#) can be found at [montville.net.](#) If successful, the District Administration will work with the Bond Council and Architect with regard to the bond sale and management of the construction phase.

Goal #2 - High School Schedule

Conduct a study of the Montville Township High School schedule to determine the feasibility of a later start to the high school day for students.

Goal #3 - Development of a Mindfulness Implementation Plan

Based on information obtained through the district's Climate and Culture Survey, the District Administration will develop an action plan to incorporate mindfulness strategies to reduce student anxiety and stress across all grade levels.

Goal #4 - Gifted and Talented Program

The district will implement a new Gifted and Talented Program during the 2017-2018 school year.

Goal #5 - Math Achievement

The district will develop a plan to increase math achievement and decrease the number of students scoring in the "Approached Expectations" band on the PARCC Assessment by 10% in grades 6 through 12.

Bits and Pieces....

Debbie Barmore, Valley View's School Nurse, went on a mission trip to Eastern Appalachia, Kentucky along with her church the week of July 9, 2017. This was her sixth year participating in rebuilding homes for the working poor in and around Paintsville, Kentucky. She was one on the 13 adults and 27 high school students. Their mission was to help complete desperately needed home improvements through an organization called Good Neighbors in Paintsville. We are so proud of Mrs. Barmore who uses some of her vacation time to participate in this humanitarian initiative.

Woodmont School will participate in the NY Jets "Jets Tackle Bullying" program. Each week during the football season, a Woodmont student will be selected as an "upstander of the week". The winner will be posted to the school's new Twitter account with the hashtag #JetsTackleBullying. Each winner will receive three tickets to the Jets next home game, a special "Jets Tackle Bullying" t-shirts and bumper stickers!

Science teacher Marisa Castronova-Wos, of Robert R. Lazar Middle School, co-created the award-winning STEM PALS initiative. Together with elementary teacher Jess Shackil of Intervale School in Parsippany, the two are helping students mentor each other while building self-confidence and reinforcing science, technology, engineering and math skills. [Last spring the unique initiative was filmed by Classroom Close-up, NJ](#). Over the summer the episode, #20, containing STEM PALS was nominated for a [2017 Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award](#) by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Produced by New Jersey Education Association and NJTV, this episode of *Classroom Close-up, NJ* was nominated in the category of Public/Current/Community Affairs Program. Winners will be announced September 9 at a ceremony in Hershey Park, PA. The STEM PALS episode was one of four nominations received by *Classroom Close-up, NJ*. [Watch the Lazar STEM PALS segment now.](#)



School News



State of New Jersey
Department of Education

No Change to High School Graduation Requirements for Members of Classes 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & Beyond

In August the New Jersey Department of Education reaffirmed the high school graduation requirements for current high school students (Classes of 2018 - 2021) and beyond as listed below:

Classes of 2018 and 2019 - Students graduating as members of the Classes of 2018 and 2019 can meet graduation assessment requirements through any of three pathways:

- (1) Achieving passing scores on high school-level PARCC Assessments;
- (2) Achieving certain scores on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or Accuplacer; or
- (3) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the NJDOE's portfolio appeals process. (Special Education students whose Individual Education Plans (IEPs) specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies will continue to follow the graduation requirements set forth in their IEPs.)

The Class of 2020 - Students in the Class of 2020 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same three pathways as those in the Classes of 2018 and 2019, provided that students in the **Class of 2020 take all PARCC assessments**

associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and **receive valid scores**. Eligible is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes all of the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10 and ELA 11.

The Class of 2021 and beyond - Starting with the Class of 2021, students will only have **two pathways** to meet the high school graduation assessments requirements:

- (1) Pass the ELA 10 and Algebra I assessments; or
- (2) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the NJDOE's portfolio appeals process, **assuming the student has taken all PARCC assessments** associated with the high school-level courses for which they were eligible and **receives valid scores**.

September is Attendance Awareness Month

Good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation. As part of the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, all districts must report chronic absences. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the days in any school year for any reason, including excused absences.



Chronic absenteeism, missing two or three days a month, is a proven predictor of lower student achievement and potential drop out. Parents and guardians are our partners in helping students maintain strong attendance at school. The best curriculum and instruction needs regular student attendance in order to be successful.

We recognize that students who are sick should not be in school. Parents are encouraged to plan vacations and other optional activities for days and times when school is not in session.



ReThink App Helps Teens Think Twice About Negative Posts and Messages

Trisha Prabhu, a rising senior from Naperville, IL, developed an award winning, non-intrusive, innovative, patent-pending software product that effectively stops cyberbullying before the damage is done. [The ReThink App](#) is free in Apple's App Store and Google Play. It is designed to interrupt when its algorithms detect that a nasty text message or social media post is being typed. It works across all of the apps installed on

a smart phone. The ReThink software provides a warning message to users to give them a chance to "ReThink" before hitting the send or post button. The words **"Are you sure you want to post this message? It could be offensive. ReThink."** flash on the screen. In the rapid fire world of electronic communication, having a chance to reflect on how a message or post might be interpreted could help curb impulsive negativity.

<http://www.rethinkwords.com/>

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