

**Virtual BOE meetings, Honors & Awards, A NEW Student-Written Book,
AND a New App Available for District News & Notifications!
Scroll down for important details & all the news & opportunities!**



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

News & Updates - April 2020

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Distance Learning Results in Inspiring Virtual Vocal Performance as the MTHS Chamber Choir Releases a Harmonic Tribute to Singing in Times of Challenge



MTHS Chamber Choir Performs "Earth Song" As An Ensemble Together From A Distance

Montville Township High School's Chamber Choir [performs Frank Tichel's "Earth Song"](#) under the direction of Kristen Markowski. The YouTube caption reads: "In a world where silence or loneliness seems like the norm right now, as the song states, 'through darkness and pain and strife, I'll sing.'"

Despite distance, Choral Director Kristen Markowski and her vocal students, have found that they are drawn to harmonizing -- *together*. Using iMovie and Garageband, two

programs Markowski has wanted to become more familiar with, the Montville Township High School music teacher provided tracks to each of the 22 MTHS Chamber Choir singers. Separately each of the students recorded their voice part and shared those tracks with Markowski. On March 30, 2020, after many, many, hours, and more than a week of mixing, editing and balancing, Markowski was able to post the [MTHS Chamber Choir's](#) rendition of Tichel's "Earth Song" to YouTube.

"The importance of The Arts in our lives is never more apparent than in times of crisis," Edward Fleischman Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts wrote in an e-mail highlighting the extraordinary and emotionally moving choral performance. "MTHS Choir Director, Kristen Markowski, and the students of the MTHS Chamber Choir have worked collaboratively online to create this ensemble performance. I am extremely proud of what Mrs. Markowski and our students have accomplished. As the lyrics state: 'But music and singing/Have been my refuge,/And music and singing/Shall be my light.'"

[Click Here to Listen](#)

There's An App for Montville Township Public Schools!

Montville Township Public Schools has launched a district-wide app for Apple and Android phones. The app allows easy access to district news, calendar event listings, the MTHS athletics schedule, links to the individual school websites, and the district's Facebook and Twitter pages. In addition, by enabling notifications, the app will provide quick communication about delayed openings, snow days and other district notifications.



[Click here](#) to access links to the Apple App store or Google Play to install the SchoolPointe Stay Connected app on your phone. Download the app and then select Montville Township Public Schools.

Board of Education to Hold Virtual Meetings in April

In accordance with the Executive Order issued by Governor Murphy, the Board of Education is prohibited from holding an in-person meeting, as it would involve a gathering of people in excess of the social distancing restrictions. In order to keep the business of the school district moving forward, the Montville Board of Education will be holding virtual meetings until the limitations on public gatherings are lifted. The town Board of ED meetings in April are

scheduled for April 14th and the 28th. At the meeting on April 28th we will have a presentation on the 2020-2021 annual district budget. The Board is also expected to take action on adopting the budget at that meeting. Details will be forthcoming.



Stefanie San Filippo Nominated for National History Day Teacher of the Year Award

Congratulations are extended to Ms. Stefanie San Filippo, a teacher at Montville Township High School on her nomination for the Hannah E. (Liz) MacGregor Teacher of the Year

NHD

NATIONAL

HISTORY DAY

award.

Each of the 58 National History Day affiliates may nominate one high school teacher for this award, and Ms. San Filippo is the senior division nominee from New Jersey. Every nominee for the \$10,000 award is a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest. Each nominee will receive \$500 as a result of being nominated.

"Teachers are among the greatest resources students have to develop the skills necessary to become critical thinkers," said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "The nominees for the MacGregor Award have shown a dedication to teaching that goes beyond the classroom. I congratulate Ms. San Filippo on her well-deserved nomination."

Dr. James F. Harris sponsors this award in recognition of the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students. The national winner will be selected by a committee of experienced teachers and historians, and will be announced on June 18, 2020, at the National History Day National Contest Awards Ceremony held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Nominees' work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history, and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.

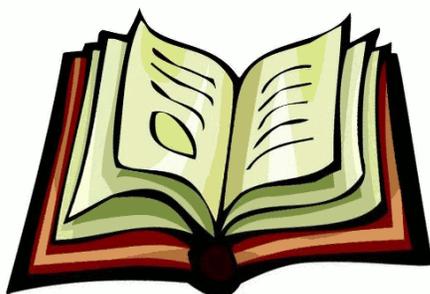
NHD is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, which seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to Valley View School's Mock Trial for taking first place in this year's Law Fair competition sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation! This year Valley View's club comprised of twelve fifth grade students, who were advised by Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Ford, wrote a trial called "The Case of the Dog Next Door: Perro v. Vine, a civil case involving two neighborhood dogs getting into a fight.



School News



Students Asked to Contribute to Book "What's Good in the World and Everyday Heroes"

As the district navigates the new experience of distance learning, Dr. Rene Rovtar, District Superintendent, is again serving as the editor of a book that will be written collaboratively with district students in grades kindergarten through twelve. The book will contain the students' perspective and advice on the positive things we can find in

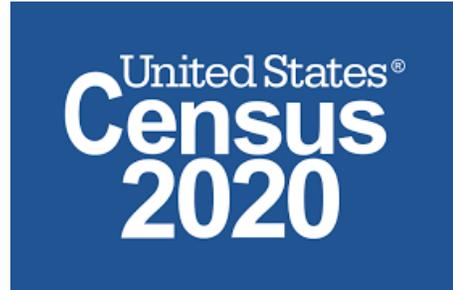
our world. The title of the book will be "What's Good in the World and Stories of Everyday Heroes." Students are asked to write on either of these topics: what are some positive examples of good things that are happening in the world, what can people do to make a difference in their communities (not restricted to COVID-19 actions), what are the things that make us smile and help us to feel better about ourselves. Students may also choose to write about the people in their lives that they view as heroes and why they have earned "hero" status in their eyes.

All students are welcome to contribute. The final work will be self-published and made available for purchase with proceeds going to the Montville Township Public Schools.

Students wishing to contribute to the book should email their writing to: Rene.Rovtar@montville.net
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MAY 31, 2020.

U.S. Census Occurs in 2020

The United States conducts a census every 10 years. In the spring of 2020, the government will again begin to compile statistics on our country's residents. For school districts, an accurate count is very important as responses to the census will drive decisions on the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding for school programs and services. In addition to funding for schools, distribution of federal funding for health care facilities, roads, transportation and social services are also determined using census data. Responses to the census are safe and secure. The law requires the U.S. Census Bureau to keep all information confidential. This census will allow responses to be made online, by phone or by mail. The 2020 Census will officially open on April 1, 2020. See a video which explains why the 2020 Census is important [here](#).



Even though we are practicing social distancing, you can still complete the Montville Marathon by walking every day. If we are unable to hold the culminating event, all registered participants will still receive their medal in the mail.

THE MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MARATHON

FITNESS CHALLENGE

Please join us for this community fitness challenge!
Run or walk 1 mile each day beginning April 21st then
join us to complete the final 1.2 miles at the MTHS
track on Sat. May 16, 2019
If you would like to receive a Montville Marathon
medal, register online - \$7.00 fee
Only registered participants will receive a medal.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2019
RUN/WALK STARTS AT 9AM
REGISTER BY APRIL 20TH
\$7.00 reg. fee for medal

RUN/WALK THE FINAL 1.2 MILES 9AM AT MTHS

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Montville/>

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