



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

News & Updates - March 2021

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New Jersey Department of Education Announces Intent to Seek Waiver for 2021 State Assessments



On February 19, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) announced that it will be submitting a request to the United States Department of Education to waive the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirement to administer the statewide assessment system in the spring of 2021. The NJDOE indicated that it will be collecting local assessment data from every district to provide a snapshot of student learning during the 2020-2021 school year. This will provide the data necessary to enable the NJDOE to report aggregated statewide student performance results this spring which will indicate the number of students on grade level, below grade level, and above grade level from this targeted data from the mid-point of the current academic year.

On February 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education informed states that it is not inviting them to seek waivers for assessments this year. The USDOE did indicate a willingness to allow states to administer shorter versions of the regular tests, to permit students to take the assessments remotely, and to expand the testing window to allow states to administer the assessments in the summer or fall of 2021.

Prior to the announcement that it would be seeking a waiver, the NJDOE had announced a postponement of state testing in New Jersey. The testing window, which was scheduled to open in March, was pushed back to start no earlier than April 5th.

Montville Township Public Schools district is awaiting further direction from the NJDOE and will release assessment schedules when the NJDOE has determined how they will implement the test flexibility offered by USDOE.

"Parenting Through the Pandemic" - FREE Zoom Webinar Provides Guidance on Identifying Mental Health Symptoms & Fostering Resiliency

THURSDAY, MARCH 11 at 7:00PM

Recommended by Montville Township Public Schools Department of School Counseling, PARENTING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC is a [ZOOM webinar](#) that provides guidance to parents and guardians on identifying mental health symptoms, how to best support and foster resiliency, motivating your child, and helping them find balance.

Featured Speakers:

Kellie Kucinski, LSW, MSW, Clinical Outreach Specialist, **Newport Healthcare** and

Ellie Fuentes, MA, LCADC, LAC, NCC, **Clinical Change**.

Please **RSVP by March 10**. For **INFO & QUESTIONS** contact: Kellie Kucinski, 973-713-5843 or kellie.kucinski@newportacademy.com

[Click Here for INFO & to RSVP](#)



COGNITIVE CHANGE AND NEWPORT ACADEMY PRESENT

Parent Academy

A series of fun and informative workshops for parents and educators, featuring expert speakers on teen mental health and adolescent development—from technology and substance use to sexuality and socializing.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11 • 7:00–8:00 PM ET
“Parenting through the Pandemic”

Speakers: **Kellie Kucinski**, LSW, MSW, Clinical Outreach Specialist, Newport Healthcare and **Ellie Fuentes**, MA, LCADC, LAC, NCC, Clinical Change

[Click here to RSVP](#)

A Presentation for Morris County Families

This parent webinar provides guidance to parents on identifying mental health symptoms, how to best support and foster resiliency, motivating your child and helping them find balance.



Kellie Kucinski holds a Master's of Social Work from New York University and is a Licensed Social Worker in New Jersey. Kellie is also a therapist at Cognitive Change in Florham Park, NJ and specializes in working with teens and families struggling with primary mental health concerns.



Ellie Fuentes is mental health coordinator for Morris County Juvenile Facilities as well as a private practice therapist at Cognitive Change in Florham Park, NJ. She holds a Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor and a Licensed Associate Counselor in the state of New Jersey. Ellie has been training in adolescent TEAM CBT, which has provided her a great edge when it comes to connecting to teens who might not be a huge fan of therapy. She has a long history specializing in adolescents who are struggling with delinquency and primary mental health concerns.



RSVP by March 10 to Kellie Kucinski
973-713-5843 or kellie.kucinski@newportacademy.com

Survey for Middle and High School Virtual Students Looking to Return to In-Person Learning for Fourth Marking Period

Lazar and MTHS Parents/Guardians, whose students are currently fully remote, will have the opportunity to complete a survey indicating that they would like to have their child(ren) return for in-person learning for the fourth marking period. The survey will be available through the **Genesis Parent Portal beginning in mid-March**. School administrators will review the parent input to determine if the combined cohorts at these schools can be maintained for the fourth marking period while still providing space in the classrooms for social distancing. A school messenger alert will be sent to parents when the survey is available for parent responses.



Applications for Integrated Preschool Program 2021 - 2022 Due March 26, 2021

Children with and without special needs are educated together in an innovative, child-centered program designed to promote the academic, social, emotional and language development of every child. The program will consist of 3 half day sessions per week for 3 year-olds and 5 half day sessions per week for 4 year-olds.

Key program components include:

Research based curriculum, which is aligned with the NJ Department of Education's guidelines for high-quality early childhood education and designed to ensure students are prepared to successfully transition into kindergarten.

- Class lessons facilitated by a certified Speech and Language Specialist to enhance language development.
- Class lessons facilitated by an Occupational and Physical Therapist to enhance fine and gross motor development.
- Weekly instruction in art, music, and media taught by certificated faculty members.
- Ongoing involvement in school-wide events including school assemblies, special programs, theme days, and field trips.

Enrollment

Enrollment is open to a limited number of preschool children who will be selected via a lottery process. A -preschool readiness screening will be administered to all applicants. In order to be eligible, children must be at least 3 years of age, but less than 5 years of age, on or before October 1, 2021.

Pre-K tuition is \$400.00 per month (3 days)/ \$500.00 per month (5 days) for ten months. Limited transportation is available at a rate of \$250.00 per year (one way) and \$500.00 per year (round trip).

FOR MORE INFO - montville.net/News/integrated-pre-school-program

Applications submitted after March 26, 2021 will be placed on a waiting list.

Parents will be notified of preschool screening date/time via e-mail.

Written notification of program acceptance will be mailed.

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Bits and Pieces...

Congratulations to MTHS student Mirella Richard, who has been working on the Congressional Award Program since January 2020. This award, given by the U.S. Congress, is comprised of a series of six levels. Participants have the opportunity to earn bronze, silver, and gold certificates and bronze, silver, and gold medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Participants are honored for achieving their own challenging goals.

Kudos to the Woodmont Student Council for their P-Jammin for Kids event, held in February, which raised \$545.50 to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

In February, the Lazar Middle School MathCounts Club participated in the North Central Chapter Competition. Team members included: 6th graders: Emily Chen, Manya Madan, Vivian Wei, Daniel Lee, Jhil Patel, Saisathvik Avva; 7th graders: Anisha Mulinti, Olivia Zhang; and 8th graders: Jason Mao, Jiya Patel, Joshua Estrin, Palak Maheshwari, Prisha Malik, Sai Anupama Suresh, Scipio Han.

Congratulations to all who participated for a job well done with special acknowledgment of 6th grader Emily Chen who ranked 33rd out of 157 competitors and 8th graders Jason Mao who ranked 3rd and Joshua Estrin who ranked 9th. Both Jason and Joshua qualified to compete in the MathCounts Chapter Invitational on February 25th.

The William Mason Student Council held their first "Souper" Bowl, and collected non-perishable items for the Montville food pantry. We are very appreciative of the generous donations for our community.

JCP&L Helicopters To Conduct Routine Inspections of Power Lines in Montville March 3-24

The Montville Township Administrator has informed us that Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) will be performing routine helicopter patrols of the power transmission lines in Montville Township beginning March 3rd and running approximately through March 24th, weather permitting. A routine patrol is a general, overall look at the transmission line, right-of-way, structures, and all associated hardware where the inspection crew is trying to look for any obvious or outstanding maintenance conditions to be addressed. During this routine patrol, the helicopters may be seen hovering or circling structures or spans of a transmission line to get a better look at any conditions found during the patrols.

Interfaith Food Pantry Network Offers Free Groceries to Morris County Residents



While most Montville Township Residents are familiar with the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry as a resource for those experiencing food insecurity, the Interfaith Food Pantry Network is also a resource available to residents of Morris County who are in need. The Interfaith Food Pantry Network provides assistance in a number of areas including food, education, and resources to inspire confidence and provide hope to Morris County families in need. For additional information, visit their website at [Interfaith Food Pantry and Resource](#)

[Network](#)