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News & Updates - December 2019

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State of New Jersey
Department of Education

New Jersey Department of Education Introduces Parent Portal for Reporting for NJ Student Learning Assessments

The New Jersey Department of Education has announced a new method for presenting parents/guardians with Individual Score Reports (ISR). In addition to the traditional paper ISRs sent to parents earlier this fall, video versions of the ISRs are currently available via the online [parent portal](#). The video score report communicates information from the ISR through animations and a voiceover in New Jersey's top five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic. This portal will allow for parents/guardians to track their student's scores from year to year, beginning with the spring 2019 results.

The printed ISRs that were mailed to parents earlier this fall include the claim codes that parents/guardians can use to access their child's results in the NJ Parent Portal. Parents or guardians must create an account on the Parent Portal and use the claim code provided on the student's ISR to add the results to their profile. Once parents create their accounts, they can add codes for additional students and/or administrations by adding new codes to their accounts.



Air Quality Index (AQI) Basics

The Montville Township Public Schools provides Air Quality Index information on the district website.

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. The AQI focuses on health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. EPA calculates the AQI for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For each of these pollutants, EPA has established national air quality standards to protect public health. Ground-level ozone

and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in this country.

How Does the AQI Work?

Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. For example, an AQI value of 50 represents good air quality with little potential to affect public health, while an AQI value over 300 represents hazardous air quality.

An AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to the national air quality standard for the pollutant, which is the level EPA has set to protect public health. AQI values below 100 are generally thought of as satisfactory. When AQI values are above 100, air quality is considered to be unhealthy - as first for certain sensitive groups of people, then for everyone as AQI values get higher.

Understanding the AQI

The purpose of the AQI is to help you understand what local air quality means to your health. To make it easier to understand, AQI is divided into six categories.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
When the AQI is in this range	...air quality conditions are:	...as symbolized by this color
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

Each category corresponds to a different level of health concern. The six levels of health concern and what they mean are:

- Good AQI is 0 to 50. Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
- Moderate AQI is 51 to 100. Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people. For example, people who are unusually sensitive to ozone may experience respiratory symptoms.
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI is 101 to 150. Although the general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range, people with lung disease, older adults and children are at a greater risk from exposure to ozone, whereas persons with heart and lung disease, older adults and children are at greater risk from the presence of particles in the air.
- Unhealthy AQI is 151 to 200. Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects.
- Very Unhealthy AQI is 201 to 300. This would trigger a health alert signifying that everyone may experience more serious health effects.
- Hazardous AQI is greater than 300. This would trigger health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to Susan Marinello, District Communications Officer, who was invited to make a presentation on District Identity and Branding to the Passaic County School Boards Association. Marinello was also recently interviewed about Branding on NJ School Boards Association's [Broadcast in Education Podcast](#) on Blog Talk Radio.

The MTHS Forensics Team is ranked #48 out of over 3,000 member schools. The team recently was notified of its designation as a member of the 400 Club based on strength points earned during competition. This milestone is remarkable because it demonstrates outstanding commitment to teaching students essential life skills - including communication, research, listening, writing, and organization.

Stephanie Perillo-Gentile, Cedar Hill Speech/Language Therapist was recently invited to be a guest lecturer at Monmouth University. She was invited to speak regarding her work with children on the autistic spectrum.

Last spring three MTHS students, Anna Rehberg, Maddie Bustamente and Rachelle Philip, were selected to the NJ All-State High School Chorus. Each of these young ladies were also selected to perform solos this fall at the NJEA Convention at the a performance at NJPAC. In addition, Anna Rehberg was selected as one of four recipients of the NJ Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Out of 1000+ students that auditioned for all state, and the 450 that were chosen for the mixed ensemble, the judges took the top students in each voice part (it was down to 16). From there, students had to complete an application, submit information about themselves and their experience, letter of recommendation from their choral director, and then audition with specific sections of pieces from the All State repertoire in front of the NJ Choral Procedures committee. What a wonderful honor! Anna was officially recognized at the NJPAC concert on November 17th and will also be performing at the 40th Anniversary Ceremony in May of 2020.



U.S. Department of Education Releases Updates to College Scorecard

The College Scorecard provides students and parents with a wide variety of information related to colleges and their programs, costs, admissions, results and more. Information about colleges includes their graduation rate, the average annual cost and the average annual salary after graduation. The site also includes information about alternative pathways to a career, such as apprenticeships, and options to help pay for college.

[Access the College Scorecard](#)



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