

Issue Date: April 1, 2024

Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD) Practice Highlights

With its students leading the change, Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD), which includes Bellows Free Academy (BFA) Saint Albans, Fairfield Center School, Northwest Career and Technical Center (NCTC), Saint Albans City School, and Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC) exemplifies family engagement core principles by partnering with their communities, supporting the success of students, and creating a welcoming environment. Below are examples of family engagement and community involvement efforts which are also available on the [MRSUD website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

MRUSD Community Strategic Planning Forum included a pancake breakfast (featuring Fairfield Center School-produced maple syrup) before, for those who attended the forum. The MRUSD Board adopted five goals based on last year's community listening sessions and summit. The forum engaged community members with the Design Committee which was organized to support creating a strategic plan for the next five years based on the adopted goals. This forum was facilitated by The Creative Discourse Group.



Bellows Free Academy (BFA) - BFA Experience for 8th grade students and families. An evening to learn about BFA programs, courses, athletics, and extracurricular opportunities.



Fairfield Center School - Project Sweet Talk is a sugaring unit that the sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students participate in at Fairfield Center School. Each year the sixth graders go out and interview local maple sugarers about history, marketing, tapping, gathering, and boiling. The seventh graders learn about the maple tree, caring for the sugarbush, and the economics of sugaring. The eighth graders do the tapping, gathering, and the boiling. Throughout, community members are called upon for their expertise!



Veterans Breakfast and Ceremony - Saint Albans City School (SACS) Team USA's 7/8th grade learning community organized a breakfast and appreciation ceremony for veteran. Coffee and donuts were served by students in the school library to veterans and their family members. The breakfast was followed by a ceremony of music and three short speeches. This breakfast and ceremony had the best turnout of veterans, students, and teachers seen in many years.

STEAM Family Engagement Night - Saint Albans City School (SACS) family members had an opportunity to spend an evening using a variety of special maker space equipment to generate fancy cards on a mini cricket machine, earrings and keychains on a laser cutter, and colored tiles with a laser cutter and permanent makers.



Northwest Career and Technical Center (NCTC) has opened the doors to its School of Cosmetology and Salon for its second year of service. Community members can receive a variety of services at a reduced price, allowing students to receive the required practical hours for licensure. This year, the salon will operate on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM.

Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC) Family Literacy Night. Michael Flanagan, Librarian, hosted a series of Literacy Night for SATEC families to explore the library, meet a local author, and explore resources.

