Mt. Lebanon School District Board of School Directors President's Report

November 16, 2026

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to reflect on the power of community. Last week, I acknowledged the heartbreak our community has experienced, but also the extraordinary compassion and kindness that have emerged during such a difficult time.

I've been reminded that gratitude is about more than being thankful for what we have. It's also about recognizing our responsibility to one another. Showing up, extending grace, and choosing kindness, even in the smallest moments. This Thanksgiving, I am especially grateful for our educators, staff, administrators, first responders, families, students, and neighbors who continue to demonstrate what community truly means.

I also recognize that this holiday season may feel different for some. My hope is that we continue to make space for one another and lead with compassion. Because of the strength of Mt. Lebanon isn't simply measured by our achievements or traditions. It's reflected in how we care for one another.

On behalf of the Board, I wish our entire community a peaceful and restorative Thanksgiving.

I'd like to extend a job well done and thank you to the band boosters and team for putting on a wonderful banquet for our students. To our 21 soon to be graduates, you will be missed!

I'd also like to take a moment to celebrate an incredible accomplishment by our Mt. Lebanon High School Girls Soccer Team! For the first time in 18 years, our Blue Devils are WPIAL Champions! This marks the program's 10th WPIAL title! I am looking forward to celebrating with you and the rest of our fall sports teams during the Fall Sports Recognition on November 23rd.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

- Three cheers for three music educators! Jason Cheskawich (Mellon Middle), Mariann Fox (Foster & Markham Elementary Schools), and Doug Reichenfeld (High School) have earned a spot on the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's 2026–27 BRAVO! Champions of Music Education list!
- 30th Annual Holiday Bells, Mallets & Drums Concert Series: December 11 & 12 - Join us for one of Mt. Lebanon's favorite holiday traditions! The 29th Annual "Holiday Bells, Mallets & Drums" Concert Series returns this season, and we'd love to celebrate with our MTLSD families. These concerts have been a cherished community staple for three decades, showcasing the extraordinary talent of our students and the strength of our nationally recognized percussion program. For more information about tickets, visit the District website.

INCLUSIVITY CALENDAR

- **National Family Caregivers Month** - Honors the more than 40 million caregivers across the country who support aging parents, ill spouses, or other loved ones with disabilities who remain at home.
- **National Native American Heritage Month** - This celebrates the heritage and culture, as well as honors the contributions of Native Americans.
- **November 8:** Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions such as Jainism and Sikhism. It symbolises the spiritual victory of Dharma over Adharma, light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.
- **November 11:** Veterans Day, a U.S. federal holiday honoring military veterans. The date is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world, commemorating the end of World War I in 1918.
- **November 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and draws attention to the continued violence endured by transgender people.
- **November 26:** Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada, celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year.