

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Back to School Days

The long, hot days of summer break have ended and students and staff have returned to the district to begin the 2019 / 2020 school year. Prior to welcoming students on August 28th, teachers and instructional aides attended two days of professional development.



All district schools will host Back to School Nights for staff, students and families in September. The dates and times are as follows:

- APHS – Tuesday, September 10 – 6 PM – 8:00 PM
- Delco Academy – Tuesday, September 10 – 6 PM – 7:30 PM
- Sharon Hill School – Wednesday, September 11 – 6 PM – 7:30 PM
- Delcrot School – Thursday, September 12 – 6 pm – 7:30 PM
- Kindergarten Center – Tuesday, September 17 – 6:30 PM
- Darby Township School – Wednesday, September 18 – 6 – 7:30 PM
- Harris School’s Back to School Night was held on September 4th.

Annual Back-To-School Luncheon

The First African Baptist Church celebrated the opening of the 2019 / 2020 school year and welcomed district staff at their annual Back to School Luncheon on Tuesday, August 27th. Many thanks go out to Reverend Dent and the congregation of the First African Baptist Church for their kindness and generosity. Southeast Delco is fortunate to have such a committed and caring community partner.

New Teacher Induction

Teachers hired over summer break participated in two days of induction on August 21st and 22nd. The district’s New Teacher Induction program is a year-long process that gives new teachers an opportunity to network with one another, to complete on-line modules on current educational topics and to attend bi-monthly meetings to gain insights into issues that pertain to our school district.



In addition, the program is set up as a resource and support for new teachers to assist them in their journey with Southeast Delco. Teacher mentors were invited for an informational session on August 22nd and bonded with their mentees over lunch. Throughout the two days, teachers heard from Dr. Butz, Dr. Ryan, Mr. Wilson, and Ms. McGlynn. The induction concluded with a tour of the school district, escorted by Ms. Alford.

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports)

Every building in the district has received training on PBIS and has committed to implement the process with fidelity with their staff and students. PBIS is a system of practices that teaches students desired behaviors through positive reinforcement.

Darby Township School (DTS) and Delcroft School did their PBIS kick-off on September 4th. Harris School and the Kindergarten Center held theirs on September 6th while Sharon Hill School is doing their kick-off on September 19th. The purpose of the PBIS kick-off assemblies is to review school procedures and appropriate behaviors with students so everyone in the building knows what is expected of them.



Darby Township School PBIS Kick-off

PBIS coaches from each building meet once a month with district and DCIU coaches to share resources and to learn about different ways of sustaining the process in the buildings.

Professional Development

The 2019 / 2020 school year opened with a welcome address from Dr. Butz on August 26th in the auditorium of Academy Park High School. There were several PD opportunities offered to teachers on the 26th: Into Reading for teachers in grades 3-5 and grade-level PLCs that focused on Benchmarks, de-escalation techniques at the Kindergarten Center, and STEM resources through DCIU for specials teachers. On the morning of the 27th, building principals held faculty meetings to welcome their staff and in the afternoon hosted meet and greets for new parents.

The professional development plan for 2019 / 2020 school year centers on Benchmarks, learning the assessment feature of PowerSchool, writing in the classroom, math instruction, mindfulness, self-care, and safety. Academy Park has also designated safety, solidifying the instructional framework, classroom diagnostic test data, as well as a variety of choice sessions as a focus for this school year's professional development.

STEM at Southeast Delco

The district is now in year 2 of the AAEDD grant, which was awarded to Harris School and Sharon Hill School to implement Skin in The Game (SIG) within their instructional framework. Throughout the last school year, teachers in grades 4 and 6 from these buildings have received a plethora of technological resources and ongoing training to integrate game design in their teaching.



Students have been engaged in designing online games and board games while using a variety of technological tools during their school day. This school year, while 4th and 6th grade teachers continue to implement SIG in their classrooms, 5th and 7th grade teachers will be trained in the components of game design.

Through the PA SMART grant, teachers in Delcroft School and Darby Township School will be trained in STEM related programs such as Engineering is Elementary and TeachWonder so students from these two buildings can take advantage of STEM related learning in the classroom.

Student Enrollment

District administration has been monitoring enrollment numbers in each district school since the beginning of the summer. Overall enrollment in the district, in each school, and at each grade level is analyzed to ensure that district resources are being allocated in the most effective and efficient manner possible. At the start of the 2019 / 2020 school year, overall enrollment has increased compared to the level at the end of last school year. Four of six schools are seeing an increase in their overall enrollment, with the largest increase being at Academy Park High School. Two schools, the Kindergarten Center and Sharon Hill School, are seeing a decrease in enrollment. The Kindergarten Center in particular is down almost 75 students from the start of last school year.



ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Increases and decreases in enrollment have an effect on class sizes and human resource allocation. There are currently several grade levels across the district being closely monitored for new enrollments. The grade levels are high enough that the average class size will be at or over 30 students per class with the addition of just a few more students. Class sizes at that level are less than ideal and the district looks at a multitude of ways to address each need. We will continue to analyze each new enrollment in an effort to provide the optimal, fiscally responsible learning environment for all stakeholders in the Southeast Delco School District.

Special Education

The special education team was ready for a wonderful beginning to the 2019 / 2020 school year. Several new staff members have joined the team, including teachers, speech and language pathologists, school psychologists, as well as other related service providers. The district continues to offer varied types and levels of support to students requiring specially designed instruction.

EASY Project

The Southeast Delco School District has partnered with Elwyn through the EASY Project. The EASY Project is a Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) grant funded program that supports school districts in implementing successful educational programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Educational experts from Elwyn in the areas of ASD, speech / language therapy and occupational therapy will consult with the district's high school team 1-2 days per week, providing professional development, consultation, coaching, and hands-on modeling of best practices and programming for the district's ASD student population. The high school special education team is excited to partner with Elwyn, and to learn new instructional methods to support our students!



Wilson Reading System

After a year of hard work and practice, the district is proud to announce that 4 additional special education staff members have completed the requirements and are now certified Wilson Reading System instructors. Wilson Reading System (WRS) is a research-based intensive intervention program for students in grades two through twelve with language based learning disabilities.

WRS is a program based on phonological coding research and Orton Gillingham principles. The program teaches the structure of the English language utilizing a direct and systematic multisensory approach. The program will teach students decoding and encoding skills until mastered. Our newly certified special education staff will provide students with instruction in word structure, word reading of high frequency and irregular words, vocabulary, sentence level text reading and listening, and reading comprehension with narrative and expository text. We are excited to be able to provide the Wilson Reading System as an intervention for our students and optimize their reading achievement.

Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP)

Special education team members met throughout the summer to review and revitalize the positive behavioral support incentives for students participating in the district kindergarten through twelve emotional support programs. Teams identified distinct incentives that students at specific grade levels can earn when they demonstrate the identified individual replacement behaviors as indicated in their current Individualized Education Plans (IEP).



The program is a positive behavior support system (PBS) that provides a process for monitoring growth and progress as students move from highly structured to less structured learning environments. The goal is to teach students to regulate and gradually improve their behavior and classroom performance by developing coping skills when faced with frustrating situations and developmentally appropriate social skills. The design of this program is based on the notion that students who have difficulty maintaining appropriate behaviors in school need consistent monitoring and guidance from adults.

As students progress through the program and develop more appropriate replacement behaviors, the amount of supervision and guidance from adults decreases. Students also have the opportunity to earn rewards and privileges associated with each level, which helps to reinforce positive social and academic performance. The level system provides a concrete monitoring tool for both students and staff. Teachers have clear expectations and students know where they stand with regard to meeting these expectations and the criteria for success. Administrators, teachers, counselors, and support staff have the parameters and the structure to guide and encourage students to meet the criteria, as well as data to show success.

Staff and students alike are excited with the implementation and alignment of the new program and look forward to the identified rewards.

Building and Grounds

The broken beam in the multi-purpose room at the Kindergarten Center has been replaced and the room is now available to students and staff. There is a small punch list of items that need to be completed, but nothing that affects full access and use of the facility.



Service Master's contract became effective July 1, 2019 and the transition to the new cleaning provider went well. Any issues or concerns were addressed by the team and all buildings were clean and ready for the start of a new school year. The company is continuing the process of training staff to meet their expectations of a clean and healthy environment for our children and staff.

The facilities usage procedure is being updated to provide a more cost effective operation for the district. Administration is working closely with board members to streamline the process.

Biometric Screenings for Employees

Southeast Delco School District again participated in an employee wellness program sponsored by the Delaware County Schools Healthcare Trust. The program's mission is to educate and inspire members to take responsibility for their health by providing a diverse well-being program that meets a range of personal health needs and creates a culture that is focused on improving quality of life and a sense of community for all employees.



Maxim Healthcare administered biometric screenings to all interested Southeast Delco staff. This non-fasting screening included a lipid panel (total cholesterol, HDL, LDL / TC ratio, triglycerides), glucose, blood pressure, and body mass index (BMI). The district provided screenings at two district locations – Academy Park High School and ESC.

Don't Get Bitten by the Flu Bug

Once again, our local Rite Aid Pharmacy will deliver the flu vaccine to district staff during the first week of October. Flu shots will be administered on-site at all district schools and offices, including the bus depot. Staff members must register in advance to ensure that Rite Aid has the appropriate number of doses available.



DCCC Board Appreciation Dinner



Delaware County Community College (DCCC) has asked that the district provide board members with a “save the date” notice informing them that DCCC will again host school board members from sponsoring county districts at their annual Board Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, October 30th at the Marple Campus.

Formal invitations will be sent by DCCC to board members in September.

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, September 19, 2019	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, September 26, 2019	7:00 PM
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, October 10, 2019	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, October 24, 2019	7:00 PM
<i>DCCC Board Appreciation Dinner</i>	<i>Wednesday, October 30, 2019</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>

School Events

- ***Teacher In-service – October 2 – No School for Students***
- APHS Homecoming Celebration – Knight Field – October 4 – Start Time TBD
- APHS Homecoming – APHS vs Interboro – Knight Field – October 4 – 7 PM
- ***Teacher In-service – October 7 – No School for Students***
- APHS Senior 12th Grade Career / College Project Day – October 7
- Sharon Hill School Game Night – October 9 – 5:30 – 7:30 PM
- Harris School Game Night – October 10 – 5:30 – 7:30 PM
- End of 1st Marking Period – November 1st
- ***Early Dismissal – Grades K – 8 – November 25, 26, 27 – 12:45 PM***
- ***Parent / Teacher Conferences – Grades K – 8 – November 25, 26, 27***
- ***Thanksgiving Holiday – November 28, 29 – No School for Students or Staff***