

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Southeast Delco Summer Programs

Southeast Delco is beginning to prepare for both student and staff participation in district summer programs. Each year, the district typically operates four summer programs aimed at assisting students in meeting their academic and social needs. These four programs are the Prekindergarten Readiness program, 21st Century Tutoring program, Extended School Year program, and the High School Credit Recovery / Summer School program. The purpose of each program, how it is funded, a small description, and the intended participants can be found in the descriptions below:

- Our Prekindergarten program is funded by Title I and helps students build readiness skills to support their success at the Kindergarten Center. These students are identified through the registration and screening process used by the Kindergarten Center. Approximately 20-30 students attend the program 4 days a week during the months of June and July. Parents who have a child that will be starting kindergarten in the 2016 / 2017 school year are encouraged to register in the spring so their child can be screened, and if necessary, included in the program. This program will be held at Darby Township School.
- The 21st Century / Title I tutoring programs are funded by a federal grant awarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Southeast Delco receives a portion of this grant and uses it to provide summer tutoring to students in kindergarten through 8th grade. The purpose of this program is to improve student academic skills, as well as provide an element of recreation to their daily lives. This program also takes place at Darby Township School. Eligibility information is sent home with students towards the end of the school year.
- The special education department provides Extended School Year (ESY) programming to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students that qualify for ESY receive instruction in core content areas and take a weekly field trip to a local swim club for physical activity. ESY is funded through special education funding that the district receives. Students must qualify for eligibility for ESY. More information on this program can be requested during IEP meetings. This program is held at Harris School.
- Our High School Credit Recovery / Summer School program is for high school students who need to stay on track to graduate on time with their fellow classmates. This program is partially funded by the 21st Century grant and partially funded by the students themselves. If a high school age child needs to repeat a class to improve their grade from either the fall or spring



semester, they may enroll in the summer program. Other students, who may be in need of credits to meet graduation requirements, may also enroll. These classes are taught by Academy Park teachers at the high school. Registration information is provided at the conclusion of the school year.

Work on the Budget Continues

Administration continues to work on the 2016 / 2017 budget. The district has received the second look rates for medical insurance. The rates will increase by 10.31%, which is a decrease from the first look rates that showed increases of approximately 14%. The district expects to receive the 2016 / 2017 rates for vision, dental and prescription insurance by the end of March.



The March Committee of the Whole meeting included a budget update. Administration will continue to hold departmental budget meetings during the coming months. The state still does not have a finalized budget for the 2015 / 2016 budget year and estimating state subsidy amounts remains a major concern. Over the past few years, the district has adopted the proposed final budget at the April board meeting, followed by the final budget adoption at the May board meeting. Due to current uncertainty, a decision to push back the budget adoption timelines to May and June, respectively, may be considered.

CVS / Caremark Employee Prescription Plan

Southeast Delco School District has been a member of The Delaware County Public Schools Healthcare Trust since its inception in July 2013. The Trust is comprised of 11 participating school districts, the DCIU, 1 purchasing school district, and 33 Delaware County municipalities who are a separate purchasing entity. The Trust represents over 16,000 subscribers. The goal of the Trust is to keep healthcare affordable while educating members on ways to promote better health and wellness, to help keep costs down. While participating in the Delaware County Public Schools Healthcare Trust, Southeast Delco School District has saved \$1,770,000 due to below trend renewal increases over the last three years.

The Trust engaged Gallagher Benefit Services to re-evaluate the marketplace and find a cost-effective, innovative prescription benefits manager that could provide best in class pharmacy benefit management services. After a rigorous request for proposal (RFP) process the Trust selected Caremark as its preferred prescription benefit manager.



Due to better contract terms and greater purchasing power, the estimated cost avoidance for Southeast Delco to move from Express Scripts to Caremark, with no plan changes, is 8.9% or approximately \$532,000 over a three year period. The plan will be effective July 1, 2016.

Widener Science Partnership

Throughout the 2013 / 2014 and 2014 / 2015 school years, a group of Southeast Delco middle school science teachers (grades 6-8) worked with Widener faculty to develop their use of inquiry-based teaching techniques in their classrooms. Inquiry-based learning uses a central question to frame a curriculum unit or module, which students answer for themselves by discovering and learning through a series of guided discussions, experiments, and hands-on activities.

Over this past summer, middle school science teachers were involved in science curriculum writing, infusing best-practice educational approaches to the teaching and learning of science in middle school science classrooms.



During the current school year, the Southeast Delco middle school teachers have worked with the Widener team to develop and implement programming that is being used to develop the fifth grade and new middle school teachers' understanding and use of inquiry in their science teaching. By employing a train-the-trainer model, the middle school teacher trainers have been able to work with the fifth grade teachers and new middle school science teachers in their buildings to increase their content knowledge and use of inquiry-based teaching in the planning and implementation of science.

Southeast Delco School District is extremely fortunate to have opportunities such as this to partner with outside organizations interested in and dedicated to supporting our students and teachers in the teaching and learning process.

Future Board Meetings

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| Board Business Meeting | Thursday, March 17, 2016 | 7:00 PM |
| Committee of the Whole | Thursday, April 21, 2016 | 6:00 PM |
| Board Business Meeting | Thursday, April 28, 2016 | 7:00 PM |

School Events

- ***Spring Break – No School for Students and Staff – Wednesday, March 23rd – Monday, March 28th***
- End of 3rd Marking Period – Friday, April 1st
- PSSA – English Language Arts – Grades 3 through 8 – Monday, April 11th – Friday, April 15th
- Report Card Conferences – Thursday, April 14th – 6 PM – APHS
- Junior Prom – Friday, April 15th – 6 PM – Oaks Ballroom
- PSSA – Math – Grades 3 through 8 – Monday, April 18th – Friday, April 22nd
- Dodge Ball Night – Thursday, April 21st – 6 PM – APHS

- ***Teacher In-service – District-wide – No School for Students – Tuesday, April 26th***
- PSSA – Science – Grades 4 and 8 – Wednesday, April 27th – Thursday, April 28th
- Progress Notices – Thursday, May 5th
- Darby Township School Junior Science Fair – Monday, May 9th
- ***Early Dismissal – District-wide – Wednesday, May 11th – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 - 12:45 PM***
- Delcroft School Junior Science Fair – Tuesday, May 10th
- Sharon Hill School Junior Science Fair – Wednesday, May 11th
- Harris School Junior Science Fair – Thursday, May 12th
- District Family Literacy Night – Thursday, May 12th – 5 PM – Harris School
- Keystone Exams – Monday, May 16th – Wednesday, May 18th – APHS
- District Science Fair – Thursday, May 19th – Darby Township School
- APHS Senior Prom – Friday, May 20th – Arts Ballroom – Philadelphia
- APHS Senior Awards Night – Thursday, May 26th – 7 PM – APHS
- ***Memorial Day Holiday – District-wide – No School for Students and Staff – Monday, May 30th***

District Musical

- District Musical – Friday, April 22nd – 7:30 PM – APHS
- District Musical – Saturday, April 23rd – 7:30 PM – APHS
- District Musical – Sunday, April 24th – 2 PM – APHS
- District Musical – Friday, April 29th – 7:30 PM – APHS
- District Musical – Saturday, April 30th – 7:30 PM – APHS
- District Musical – Sunday, May 1st – 2 PM – APHS



Spring Concerts

- Sharon Hill School Spring Concert – Monday, May 16th – 6:30 PM – APHS
- APHS Spring Concert and Art Show – Wednesday, May 18th – 7 PM – APHS
- Harris School Spring Concert – Thursday, May 19th – 7 PM – Harris School
- Darby Township School Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 25th – 7 PM – Darby Township School
- Delcroft School Spring Concert – Thursday, May 26th – 7 PM – APHS