

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Academy Park Graduation

Academy Park High School will hold its 42nd Annual Commencement Ceremony at 6:30 pm on Friday, June 13th at Neumann University.



Early Reach Initiative

Special education students at Academy Park High School had the opportunity to pilot a new service provided by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation that assists students with the transition from high school to careers/college after high school. This initiative will provide early identification and advocacy for students with disabilities between the ages of 14 and 17.

Workshops were held throughout the month of April assisting students in small group settings to provide them with pertinent information about secondary transition and college and career readiness.

Workshops will also be held this summer to help students understand the world of work and prepare them for education, training, and work beyond high school. Topics will include future job goals, dreams and aspirations, resources to assist with meeting those goals, and assistance with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation process. We are excited to be piloting this new program.

Southeast Delco Reading Carnival

Come one; come all to the Southeast Delco Reading Carnival “Your Ticket to Read” on May 28th at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Darby Township School.

The evening’s entertainment will feature magician and puppeteer, Abby London. District teachers have created exciting workshops for students and their families, such as: Character Photos, Make and Take Activities, Literacy Games, and much more. A **FREE** dinner will be provided and as children attend events they can accumulate tickets, which can be cashed in at the end of the evening for a free book for their home library.

The event is sponsored by the Delaware County Literacy Council Grant and Title I funding.

Summertime Reading and Math

Students in grades K – 12 will receive summer reading assignments at the end of the school year. All assignments are due the first week of the 2014 / 2015 school year and will be considered part of their English / Language Arts grade for the new school year. Summer reading lists for grades 1 – 8 are currently posted on the district website. Reading lists for grades 9 – 12 will be available shortly.

Students in grades K - 8 will also be given Math packets to help keep skills sharp during the summer break. All packets are due the first week of school and will be part of the Math grade for the new school year.

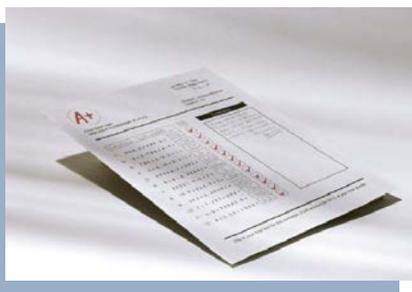
May Happenings

May is the month for our intermediate grades science fairs. Students in grades 4 and 5 will hold their individual school fairs throughout the month and the winners will present their projects at Harris School on May 21st. Also in May, Keystone testing in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature for high school students will be administered. Algebra I students in grade 8 will also participate in the Keystone Assessment. Good Luck to them!

Accelerated Math Classes

Math teachers in grades 6 and 7 are reviewing criteria and student grades for eligibility for enrollment in accelerated math classes in Pre-Algebra for grade 7 and Algebra I for grade 8. Students in grade 7 will take the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Assessment as part of the selection criteria. Parents and students will be informed of their eligibility for enrollment in these two accelerated Math classes at the end of the school year.

Report Card Revisions



The district is considering changes to its report card system. A committee of teachers and administrators is working on revisions to the grades K - 2 report card, which would reflect the PA Core standards.

The district is also asking for input from parents. A short survey is available on the district website at www.sedelco.org. Parent's opinions are important to the district and your support is appreciated.

Evaluations

Teachers and school administrators are doing a lot of work towards the end of year evaluation process. As you may be aware, the state has implemented a new Educator Effectiveness model. This model incorporates observation ratings, building scores, and will soon include teacher-specific PVAAS scores.

PVAAS, or Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System, scores are derived from student scores on PSSA and Keystone assessments. Teachers who provide instruction in classes that end with a state assessment have their student scores calculated and converted to a teacher-specific score which will go on their end of year evaluation.

Teachers and administrators are currently reviewing class rosters and the amount of time students are enrolled in classes to ensure maximum validity of the PVAAS teacher-specific scores. The next step in the process will be for each grade level to develop Student Learning Objectives, or SLOs, as an added component of the overall Educator Effectiveness model. Central office administrators have already arranged for two presentations by the Intermediate Unit and two site visits with districts that have begun to implement the process. As always, we will keep the board and community updated as the process continues.

Extended School Year Program

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires school districts to provide Extended School Year (ESY) services for students who meet certain criteria. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) team must consider the following factors to determine who is eligible to receive these services; however, no single factor will be considered determinative:

- Whether the student reverts to a lower level of functioning as evidenced by a measurable decrease in skills or behaviors, which occurs as a result of an interruption in educational programming (Regression)
- Whether the student has the capacity to recover the skills or behavior patterns in which regression occurred to a level demonstrated prior to the interruption of educational programming (Recoupment)
- Whether the student's difficulties with regression and recoupment make it unlikely that the student will maintain the skills and behaviors relevant to IEP goals and objectives
- The extent to which the student has mastered and consolidated an important skill or behavior at the point when educational programming would be interrupted
- The extent to which a skill or behavior is particularly crucial for the student to meet the IEP goals of self-sufficiency and independence from caretakers
- The extent to which successive interruptions in educational programming result in a student's withdrawal from the learning process
- Whether the student's disability is severe, such as autism / pervasive developmental disorder, serious emotional disturbance, severe mental retardation, degenerative impairments with mental involvement and severe multiple disabilities

Extended School Year services are funded through Special Education and supplemented with ACCESS reimbursements. Approximately 200 students will receive ESY services this summer. The ESY program will begin on June 23rd and run through July 31st. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. The program is being held at Harris School and includes:

- Intensive research-based instruction in Reading
- Intensive research-based instruction in Math
- Occupational and physical therapy, speech / language, and counseling services
- Positive behavior support program to encourage positive social behaviors and improved work habits
- Social skills training
- Work study program
- Community classroom living and learning program
- Weekly swimming trips to Ridley Park pool



Summer Tutoring Program

This year, the Summer Tutoring program will be funded through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. The program will begin on June 23rd and end six weeks later on July 31st. The program runs Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and will be held at Darby Township School.

Last year, approximately 350 students were served by the program and we expect a similar enrollment this year. Students are invited to summer tutoring if they are determined to be at risk on the DIBELS assessment and

other district assessments. The district utilizes several curriculum resources during the summer, including Harcourt's *Summer Success* and McGraw-Hill's *Number Worlds*. Organized physical activities are also provided.

The district is hoping to continue its partnership with the Nutritional Development Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This partnership will allow us to offer boxed lunches and milk to both the students enrolled in the program and children in the neighborhood.

Academy Park Summer School

Summer school will be available to Academy Park students who did not pass course work during the regular school year. Three sessions will be held each day, Monday through Thursday from June 30th to July 31st at 7:30 am to 1:00 pm. Students will pay \$40 per course, with registration occurring the week before the program starts.



Professional Development for Kindergarten Teachers

Jodi Pittcock from Reach Associates presented to Kindergarten teachers on the topic of Close Reading. The agenda consisted of instructional shifts of the common core, text complexity, and professional reading. The teachers observed a model lesson and discussed with one another what they had observed. Lastly, teachers were able to do collaborative planning and develop formative assessments.

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, May 15, 2014	6:00 PM
Board Business	Thursday, May 22, 2014	7:00 PM
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, June 19, 2014	6:00 PM
Board Business	Thursday, June 26, 2014	7:00 PM

School Events

- *Keystone Exams – May 14th through May 16th*
- *District-wide Junior Science Fair – May 21st – Harris School*
- *Memorial Day Holiday – May 26th – No School for Students or Staff*
- *Senior Awards Night – May 28th – 5:00 PM – APHS*
- *Reading Carnival / Family Literacy Night – May 28th – 6:00 PM Darby Township School*
- *Senior Prom – Citizen's Bank Park – June 5th – 7:00 PM*
- *Last Day of School for Students – June 13th*

Spring Concerts

- *Darby Township School Spring Concert at APHS – May 14th – 7:00 PM*
- *Delcroft School Art Show and Spring Concert – May 15th – 6:30 PM*
- *Sharon Hill School Spring Concert at APHS – May 20th – 9:00 AM*

- *Academy Park High School Spring Concert – May 21st – 7:00 PM*
- *Harris School Art Show and Spring Concert – May 29th – 6:30 PM*

District Musical – Cinderella ~ The Enchanted Edition

- *Academy Park High School – May 16th – 7:30 PM*
- *Academy Park High School – May 17th – 7:30 PM*
- *Academy Park High School – May 18th – 2:00 PM*

