

Southeast Delco School District Board & Community Update

APHS Art Students Tour the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program

Academy Park art students were treated to a tour of the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program in May. Students visited existing mural sites in North Philadelphia and Center City and were given access to a studio where new murals are being created. Students were also given an opportunity to speak with professional artists about their work and the complicated process of creating these wonderful works of art on a building in the middle of the city.

As always, the students were well-behaved and attentive to the guide and fellow artists. This was the first time that Academy Park has worked with the Mural Arts Program and it was a wonderful experience for our art students.

A special thank you goes out to Academy Park art teacher, Ms. Alyssa Brown, for organizing this exciting and educational field trip.



District Cyber Program and Technology

The Southeast Delco Cyber Program is winding down its second year of service this week. Many thanks are given to Ms. Stefanie Geist for leading the program this year. We are finishing this year with 37 full-time cyber students. We also have over 150 students who are taking an elective on-line. Most electives being taken online come from the World Language department. In order to grow the program even further, we will continue to contact district parents who have students enrolled in charter schools to convince them to return to the district for their child's education. We will also be having some Southeast Delco teachers become the primary instructor for courses. This will allow for greater flexibility when it comes to cyber students receiving their instruction.

The district is also using this time to bolster the technology available to students and staff. A new round of technology is currently being added to the grades K - 8 buildings. This new technology includes iPads, laptops, and Smartboards. With the addition of this new equipment, the district will move closer to providing a 1:1 environment between students, and equipment.

Over the summer, we will add to and replenish the technology at the high school. New laptops will be added, technology labs will be updated, and the art and music concentrations will receive equipment to raise the usage standard for all students. The technology at the high school will be added once all new security measures are in place.

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 235 students will receive ESY services this summer. The ESY program

will begin on July 1st and run through August 8th. Classes are held Monday through Thursday, 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
- 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
- Occupational and physical therapy, speech / language, and counseling services
- 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 July 1st and end six weeks later on August 8th. 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 score below “core” on the DIBELS assessment or below “proficient” on the 4Sight Benchmark exams. The district utilizes several curriculums during the summer, including Harcourt’s *Summer Success* and McGraw-Hill’s *Number Worlds*. Organized physical activities are also provided.

The district is excited to introduce a new 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.

Southeast Delco Junior Science Fair

The Southeast Delco Junior Science Fair for grades 4 and 5 was held on May 30th at Darby Township School. Topics included worms, potato chips, and bubble gum. Fourth grade entries were team projects. Harris’ project placed 1st and was presented by students Grace Larwill, Krystal Graham, Anjanie Hires, and Sanaa Williams. Fifth grade entries were individual projects. Amy Dao of Delcrott was awarded 1st place honors, Jerome Spearman from Sharon Hill won 2nd place, and Devon Thompson from Harris took 3rd place. The assistant principals from each school served as judges.



Summer Reading

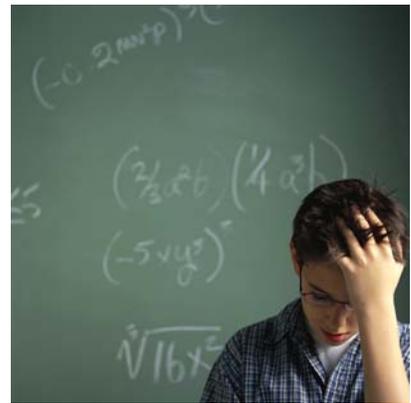
Summer reading lists for grades K - 8 were revised to reflect the Common Core and are posted on the district webpage. Students also received math packets, and in some cases, additional multiplication packets to keep up math skills over the summer break. New Reading Olympics reading lists for grades 4 and 5 and middle school students are also posted on the website for students to enjoy over the summer.

Early Grade Readers Improve Skills

Teachers and interventionists in grades K - 2 have submitted their end-of-year Rigby Reading Levels. We are delighted in the amount of growth our youngest readers have shown when comparing their beginning of the year reading levels with their ending reading levels. Students who worked with reading interventionists and the new leveled literacy intervention have also shown tremendous growth and many have met the requirements for their grade level and have exited the program.

Accelerated Math Program

Using district criteria, teachers in grades 6 and 7 have selected students who will participate in the district's accelerated math program. Students in grade 6 who have satisfied the criteria will attend Pre-Algebra classes, while students in grade 7 will attend Algebra I classes. Parents will receive notification of their students' advanced status at the end of the month.



Curriculum News

Dr. Watson met with 18 elementary teachers on June 5th for training in the new grades K – 5 reading curriculum, *Understanding by Design*, which will be written this summer. Three middle school math teachers will be trained on June 17th on the same foundational process for math 6, 7, 8, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra I, also to be completed over the summer.

Staff Professional Development

Teachers new to the district for the 2012 – 2013 school year attended their final induction class on May 15th. Delcrot assistant principal, Raqueebah Birch, addressed the group and spoke on the topic of *Hope, Optimism, and Determination*. Dr. Butz presented completion certificates to thirteen teachers.

On May 23rd and 24th, Cathy Feldman of REACH Associates, did learning walks in each of the elementary schools with the principals and assistants. These walks are quick visits to the classroom where the team then meets to discuss both positive and negative feedback on the teaching process. Feedback is then delivered to the teachers.

Jody Pittock, of REACH Associates, met with middle school social studies teachers to score student

work from their literacy design collaborative modules. This is a way to have students include information and argumentative writing pieces, along with research, in connection to their curricular topics, to support writing and research skills. Ms. Pittock also met with reading interventionists to plan training for grades K - 5 teachers on the instructional shifts in the Common Core in reading, which they will then turn-around on June 18th and 19th. A meeting was also held to revise the grades K - 5 literacy framework to reflect the shifts in Common Core, which will be rolled out to all teachers in August.

End-of-Year Professional Development

Though it is the end of the school year, rigorous professional development days have been planned for grades K - 8 teachers. Topics to be covered on June 18th and 19th include the following: *Journeys* reading program training for grades K - 5; safety training; Common Core shifts in literacy for grades K - 5; and shoring up to Common Core in math for grades K – 5. Technology topics, will include Discovery Education, document cameras, StoryBird, teacher websites, and Edmodo. Middle School topics include technology and safety, domestic abuse, training on the new math Common Core series, and a presentation on internet safety.

Performance Contracting Reaps Savings for District

Director of Facilities, Harry Young, was featured in the article “Project Profile” in the February issue of the publication, ***Maintenance Solutions***. “Project Profile” was presented in four parts:

- Part 1: Pennsylvania School’s Plumbing Retrofit Helps Combat Rising Water Bills
- Part 2: Water Consumption at School Drastically Reduced After Plumbing Retrofits
- Part 3: District Builds on Success of High School Plumbing Retrofit
- Part 4: Rising Water Costs Drown Potential Savings from Plumbing Retrofit

As the article states, Harry provided background information on the plumbing retrofits that were installed by a private contractor at Academy Park during the summer of 2006. The cost of the plumbing project was \$55,184 with a projected annual savings of \$14,651 and a payback time of 3.8 years.

The article went on to describe how Harry made decisions on product specification for the upgrades based on advice from the plumbing industry. The water savings were almost immediate; Southeast Delco School District projected a reduction of its water use by 252,000 gallons during the first year after the changes were made.



As the district’s utility expenses increase dramatically due to rate increases, Harry’s focus is energy and water conservation in seven district buildings. Costs generated by every district electric, natural gas, and water meter are recorded by the facilities on a monthly basis to maintain an ongoing cost analysis.

The article references Harry’s recommendation of an energy performance contract with a local utility

to pay for the combined projects allowing the district to finance the project through guaranteed savings. The school board got behind the project when presented with the potential savings involved.

“I guess the motivation for the board and what basically sold them was the compilation of data”, Young says. “That was kind of what prompted us to do it, and when they realized the amount of savings they could get, they were pretty much in favor at that point”.

Harry goes on to explain that “with performance contracting, the cost is absorbed through the savings”.

Southeast Delco School District faces the same water-conservation issues that affect facilities managers across the country. Harry’s goal as the next phase of the district’s project continues is to completely upgrade all of the district’s buildings with low-flow toilets and faucets.

Author Name: Dave Lubach, Associate Editor

Article Title: “Project Profile”

Magazine Title: Maintenance Solutions

Volume: February 2013

Link: <http://www.facilitiesnet.com/plumbingrestrooms/article/Pennsylvania-Schools-Plumbing-Retrofit-Helps-Combat-Rising-Water-Bills--13816>

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, June 20, 2013	6:00 PM	ESC
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, June 27, 2013	7:00 PM	ESC
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, July 18, 2013	6:00 PM	ESC
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, July 25, 2013	7:00 PM	ESC