

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Academy Park Graduation

Academy Park High School celebrated its 34th Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, June 9th. Students, staff, families, and friends gathered at Neumann University to honor the 255 graduating seniors and celebrate their achievements.

The board, administrators, teachers, and support staff are extremely proud of our graduating seniors and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.



2016 / 2017 Final Budget

The Southeast Delco Board of School Directors will be asked to approve the 2016 / 2017 final budget at the June 23rd board business meeting. The budget is available for review on the district website at www.sedelco.org.

Rally for Fair Education Funding Campaign

The superintendent and members of the Southeast Delco Board of School Directors joined with over 200 school board members, administrators and municipal officials for a rally organized by the Campaign for Fair Education Funding in Harrisburg on May 2nd.



The Campaign for Fair Education Funding is a coalition that includes more than 50 advocacy organizations. Their mission is to ensure that Pennsylvania adopts and maintains an adequate and equitable system of funding public education; guaranteeing that every school has the resources necessary to provide all students with a quality education no matter where they live.

Additional information on the Campaign for Fair Education Funding can be found on the organization's website at www.fairfundingpa.org.

Local Audit

The school district is required to have an audit of district finances on a yearly basis. The local audit is conducted by the firm of Barbacane, Thornton & Company LLP. The local district auditors will be in the district to conduct preliminary audit work June 26th through June 29th.

The district also undergoes state performance audits that are conducted by auditors from the state auditor general's office. Although the district has not yet received notification of the audit dates, a state audit should be scheduled in the upcoming months.

New Resource to Support Student Achievement - Study Island

As the school year comes to a close, Southeast Delco administrators are working to provide new resources for students to learn and refine skills for the upcoming school year. One new resource is called Study Island, which will be available to all kindergarten through 8th grade students for the upcoming 2016 / 2017 school year.



Study Island is an internet-based program that students can use to learn or practice academic skills. Each Southeast Delco student up to 8th grade can log on and participate in reading and mathematics games and practice. In addition to reading and math, there are social studies content and lessons for 3rd graders and science lessons for students in grade 4. Students in the 8th grade can utilize 8th grade science lessons.

Students will bring home a username and password specific to them and the grade level they will be entering this upcoming school year. Students can log on at any time. Students will also have access to this resource throughout the school year but we encourage use over the summer for maximum benefit.

Families who have difficulty with internet access are encouraged to sign up for summer tutoring, visit their local library, or contact the district offices for further assistance.

Professional Development

At the end of each school year, teachers and administrators typically engage in professional development and begin preparations for the next year. This year, the district is offering two unique opportunities at the beginning of the summer: Curriculum Writing and Responsive Classroom. These workshops provide teachers with additional techniques to help students become successful learners.

The first opportunity is Curriculum Writing, where teachers will partner with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit for a four-day workshop. This workshop will focus on teaching strategies, assessing student understanding, and designing curriculum to meet those needs. The workshop utilizes a “backward” design where the focus is on identifying what students *will* learn, before planning *how* they will learn it. Teachers will identify their learning goals, determine the best way to assess student success, and plan their learning experiences and instruction techniques. This method ensures that our focus is always on student learning.



The second opportunity is Responsive Classroom training. Offered over several sessions, the Responsive Classroom approach to teaching emphasizes academic, social, and emotional growth in a strong school community; believing that *how* children learn is just as important as *what* they learn. Responsive Classroom provides educators with practical training and resources to help create safe and happy schools where students thrive.

Responsive Classroom recognizes that all of a child’s needs – academic, social, emotional, and physical – are important. The trainer provides strategies for teachers to cultivate an environment that responds to all of those needs, thereby enabling student achievement. Responsive Classroom teachers provide instruction in reading, writing, and math, while also coaching them on how to take turns, listen respectfully, and work effectively with a partner or group. This program also provides teachers with a framework to consider everything from how they set up and maintain their classroom to how they speak to and about their students.

Combined, these two sessions provide teachers and administrators with additional strategies and resources to engage students and ensure that the district continues to deliver a quality education that meets all of our students’ needs.

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, June 16, 2016	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, June 23, 2016	7:00 PM

School Events

- School is out for the summer! Classes will resume for grades 1 – 8 on Tuesday, August 30th. Students entering 9th grade will also have their first day at Academy Park High School on Tuesday, August 30th. The first day back for students in grades 10 – 12 will be Wednesday, August 31st. The first day of school for boys entering kindergarten will be Tuesday, August 30th and girls will begin on Wednesday, August 31st.
- Extended School Year, Harris School, Monday, June 27th – Thursday, July 28th
- Summer School, Grades 1 – 8, Darby Township School, Thursday, June 23rd – Thursday, July 28th
- Summer School Grades 9 – 12, Academy Park High School, Monday, June 27 – Thursday, July 28th

