

# Southeast Delco School District

## Board & Community Update

### *Back to School Days*

The return to school days is rapidly approaching and administrators and staff are working hard to prepare for the arrival of teachers and students.

Teachers will return to the district on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and after an opening day assembly will attend two days of professional development.

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.



### *Annual Back-To-School Luncheon*

The First African Baptist Church has again graciously offered to host a back to school luncheon for all district staff and board members on Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The luncheon is a welcome respite from the day's activities and provides an opportunity for staff from all district schools, ESC, and the community to come together socially and share a meal. The luncheon will be held at the church, located at 901 Clifton Avenue in Sharon Hill.

### *Curriculum*

Over the summer, 19 teachers have been working with Dr. Watson, Director of Teaching and Learning, to revise our Reading / Language Arts curriculum for grades K – 5 to reflect our new textbooks at these grades. Three middle school math teachers have been revising math curricula for grades 6, 7 and 8, as well as pre-algebra and algebra curricula for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. All curricula revisions will be available online for teacher at the end of August.



### *Students Enroll in 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 who have satisfied the criteria will attend algebra I classes. Parents have been notified of their students' advanced status.

### *Teachers Pilot Reading Resources*

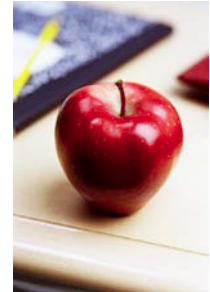
Teachers have been selected to pilot and review new resources for Reading / Language Arts in the middle school. One of the series that is under consideration will be piloted during the first semester and another series during the second semester. A decision on resources will be made in May 2014.

## *Walmart Gives Back to Local Schools*

Pat Alford, Assistant Principal at Harris School, and Dr. Watson have been working with the General Manager of the Glenolden Walmart to provide back to school items for students in each school. Please remember to visit the store and purchase some items for donation to district students.

## *Professional Development*

Dr. Watson and Special Education Director, Kimberley Brown, attended training on the Comprehensive Planning Process at Intermediate Unit 13. Southeast Delco is in phase III and will be working with all stakeholders on what was formerly titled the Strategic Plan for completion in the fall of 2014.



## *District Cyber Program Expands Enrollment*

The Southeast Delco Cyber program is entering its third year. Since starting with 2 students in August of 2011, we have consistently grown and will open up the year with at least 40 full-time or blended students. Currently, Ms. Geist and Mr. Bogash are contacting parents of students in charter and cyber charter schools to make them aware of the program we offer and the advantages of enrolling in the district.

We will again be offering the opportunity to take a number of world languages, pair cyber programming with Vo-Tech, and will look to expand some of the elective offerings for our students. As district teachers begin to take over more of the content, our flexibility will increase and we will be able to keep costs down. We look forward to another successful year in the program.

## *School Choice & Supplemental Educational Services*

There are some changes to the way Pennsylvania's Department of Education mandates Title I funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Through a waiver to the United States Department of Education, Pennsylvania has asked that School Choice no longer be mandatory and Supplemental Educational Services have been cut back to only Corrective Action schools.

School choice was applicable to students in schools who had not made AYP for the previous two years. Last year, this was Harris and Sharon Hill. The high school was also eligible, but had no other school to transfer to. Supplemental Educational Services offered tutoring to Academy Park and Harris students. Only Academy Park students will be offered tutoring for the upcoming year.

## *Future Board Meetings*

|                        |                              |         |     |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Committee of the Whole | Thursday, August 15, 2013    | 6:00 PM | ESC |
| Board Business Meeting | Thursday, August 22, 2013    | 7:00 PM | ESC |
| Committee of the Whole | Thursday, September 19, 2013 | 6:00 PM | ESC |
| Board Business Meeting | Thursday, September 26, 2013 | 7:00 PM | ESC |

## *School Events*

- *District-wide – In-service – Act 80 Day for Teachers – Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>*
- *District-wide – In-service – Act 80 Day for Teachers – Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>*
- *District-wide – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School for Students – Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>*
- *District-wide – No School for Students or Teachers – Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>*
- *District-wide – Labor Day Holiday – No School for Students or Staff – Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>*