Course Selection Time
Students currently in grades 8 through 11 will soon be completing the course selection process for the 2019 / 2020 school year. This year, course requests will be submitted online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal or the PowerSchool application. Parents who previously signed up for access to PowerSchool, need not do anything additional. However, those that have not registered on the PowerSchool Parent Portal will need to contact their child’s school or the district office to gain access.

Students and parents should review the course selection guide for the 2019 / 2020 school year so they are fully informed of their options throughout the course selection process. Depending on the grade level the student is entering, there will be mandatory courses and some elective courses from which they can choose. Once requests have been made, teachers and counselors will work with students to help place them in the most appropriate courses given their school and career goals.

It Takes a Village
When developing the process for course selection, as with all decisions regarding student programs and activities, district administrators are committed to creating a positive experience for the members of our school community. Title I actively encourages family and parent engagement, not only through events that the district hosts for parents, but also by soliciting input and feedback for how the district operates.

Anyone interested in helping the district improve, please let your school principal or assistant principal know. You may also contact the Title I coordinator, Jeffrey Ryan, at the district administration building. You may be asked to participate in various surveys, attend school improvement planning sessions, or even represent the district in state-wide parent events such as the State Parent Advisory Council.

Skin In the Game (SIG)
Southeast Delco School District was awarded a substantial grant titled Skin In the Game (SIG). Funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the Assistance for Arts Education Development and Dissemination (AAEDD) program, SIG was awarded to Harris School and Sharon Hill School through a process of random selection. SIG is designed to fuse the arts with literacy and technology through concepts in science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math (STREAM) with core content and arts curricula.
Delcroft School and Darby Township School, as well as Academy Park High School, will work closely with DCIU to implement programs in the field of computer science, coding and scripting within their core content. The goal of integrating STREAM in our core curricula is not only to improve student academic achievement and infuse our current instruction with 21st Century goals, but to also increase student motivation towards school in general. It will also give teachers the opportunity to use an interdisciplinary approach towards learning and technology integration.

**Special Education Child Count Process and Update**

The special education and data management departments have completed the December 1st Child Count Snapshot and submitted the information to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The report submitted describes the primary details of students' participation in special education in the current school year. Information such as primary and secondary disability, educational environment and location of services are reported. Students in school age programs who have a valid IEP on December 1, 2018, are included in the December 1st Snapshot.

In 2017, Southeast Delco reported 852 children with disabilities receiving special education services. This year, the district reported providing special education service to 879 students, an increase of 27 students that qualify through specific learning disability and/or other health impairment for special education services.

**Safe2Say Something**

Pursuant to Act 44 of 2018, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG) has partnered with Sandy Hook Promise to establish the "Safe2Say Something" (S2SS) school safety anonymous tip program. Safe2Say Something allows individuals to submit secure and anonymous safety concerns to help identify and intervene when unsafe or harmful behaviors take place within K-12 schools statewide. Tips will be submitted via an app, website or 24/7 hotline and triaged by the S2SS crisis center, which is housed in the Office of Attorney General. The crisis center then sends the tip to the appropriate school team and / or the 911 county dispatch (as needed).

The state is requiring that all staff and students from 6th – 12th grade be trained in this program. To begin implementation, each school district must establish a team of 3-5 members to receive information from the OAG and communicate that information to all necessary points of contact. Southeast Delco School District’s S2SS team is as follows:

- Casey Newcomer (Lead)
- Michele McGlynn
- Bill Whitman
- Kay Bethea
- Deborah Gibbs-Tapper
Team members registered with Sandy Hook Promise and attended the State mandated S2SS training program on December 20th at Penn State Brandywine. The state is still working on the mechanism to train all staff and qualified students in this program. Once established, the district will construct a roll-out plan and training schedule.

**Health and Wellness**

District staff are once again participating in the annual *Maintain Don’t Gain Holiday Challenge*. This year, 119 teachers, secretaries, aides, and support staff have committed to getting through the holiday season without gaining more than two pounds. They will limit the amount of egg nog and figgy pudding they consume and monitor—stringently—all of their intake. They’ll probably have to exercise, too.

If successful in their goal of not gaining more than 2 pounds, their name will be included in a drawing for the following prizes:

- $25 Visa Gift Cards
- $10 Wawa Gift Cards
- 1-Month Membership to Extreme Gym
- 25 Tote Bags w/ a PA Lottery Scratch Off Ticket

**Staffing**

The Southeast Delco School District is currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Special Education (Resource Room Teacher) Academy Park High School
- Special Education (Learning Support Teacher 1-5) Delcroft School
- Social Worker, Darby Township School
- School District Accountant (Administration) Educational Services Center
- AAEDD Grant Coordinator (Administrative) Educational Services Center
- Instructional / Non-Instructional Aides, Location TBD.
- CDL Bus Drivers and Monitors, (Transportation) Bus Depot
**Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports**

DCIU hosted a county-wide PBIS coaches meeting on November 1st. Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) is a process the district is currently implementing in all district schools to address student behavior using preventative and responsive approaches.

The Academy Park High School coaches Camile Jackson and Shannon Boyd, as well as the lead PBIS administrator, Dr. Jeff Esposito, were invited to share their school-wide implementation of PBIS at APHS. The team presented their kick-off event, the various ways in which they are promoting PBIS visually throughout the building, their efforts at including their PBIS student leadership team in their process, and their plan moving forward to sustain PBIS at the high school.

**2018 / 2019 General Fund Budget**

The administration is currently beginning preparation of the 2019 / 2020 proposed general fund budget. The Act 1 Index, as set by the Department of Education, determines the maximum tax increase that can be levied by the school district. Southeast Delco’s Act 1 Index for the 2019 / 2020 budget year is 3.4%.

At the January 17, 2018 committee of the whole meeting, administration will discuss with the board the option to adopt the resolution to not exceed the index. Adopting the resolution to not exceed the index does not mean that the district will increase taxes by 3.4%. By adopting the resolution, the district is setting the limit of the tax increase at 3.4%. The administration will also provide the board with the 2019 / 2020 budget timeline. The timeline will include state budgetary deadlines along with budget work session dates.

**2019 / 2020 PSERS Rate**

The PA Public School Employees’ Retirement System (PSERS) Board of Trustees met on December 7, 2018 and certified an annual employer contribution rate of 34.29% for fiscal year 2019 / 2020, which begins on July 1, 2019. This is an increase from the 2018-2019 rate of 33.43%.

**Audit**

The local auditors from Barbacane and Thornton completed their audit fieldwork on Thursday, November 1, 2018. The final version of the 2017 / 2018 district audit should be completed by December 21, 2018 and will be presented to the board for review and approval at the January 24, 2019 board meeting.

**Federation Negotiations**

The contract between Southeast Delco School District & Southeast Delco Federation of Support Staff will end on June 30th. An initial meeting between both parties has been tentatively scheduled for 5:00 pm on January 16, 2019, to discuss the start of formal negotiation proceedings. The key issues, predictably, are salary and health care benefits.
**21st CCLC Afterschool Update**

To date, there are 263 students attending the district’s afterschool program. An open house for each school was held in October. In November students in the program sent post cards and toiletries (provided by members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.) to the Veteran’s Group Home in Philadelphia.

**Teacher In-service**

On November 6th, all teachers in the Southeast Delco School District participated in a full day of professional development centering on social-emotional learning. The day started at Academy Park’s auditorium with testimonies from several Southeast Delco alumni who shared their experiences with the district and recognized staff members who influenced them to become the successful adults they are today.

Throughout the day, staff members had the opportunity to work in their home buildings with their colleagues on activities that pushed them to delve into their core beliefs as educators and members of the Southeast Delco teaching & learning community. The program facilitators were from Thom Stecher & Associates and they were very effective in providing teachers with meaningful activities they can implement in their classrooms to motivate and engage students.

**Safety First!**

As previously reported, SafePlans LLC. conducted a safety and security audit on all schools and district buildings. The results of the audit have been received and the recommendations presented are being reviewed for discussion with building administrators and the board.

The public safety department is fully staffed at Academy Park High School, allowing for a faster response time and increased patrol coverage throughout the day. The three new officers are receiving training, which will be on-going throughout their employment as a security officer.

In the second half of the school year, BERTs (Building Emergency Response Teams) will be involved in implementing all mandates required under Act 44 of 2018.

The long awaited PremiSys ID Card badging software upgrade is now up and functioning well. Next step, creating new and replacement district IDs for all staff that require one.

**Facilities Use**

The district is continuing with the distribution of invoices to community groups that have used district facilities. Invoice checks received are being recorded within the School Dude FS Direct program. If there are any discrepancies with the invoice process, they will be investigated and corrections will be made wherever needed.
Attempts have been made to generate corrections where possible, and work will continue to ensure all events get placed on one school calendar.

**Cold Weather Projects**

In preparation for winter and the cold and often dangerous weather conditions that come with the change in season, the following tasks have been or are routinely performed.

Heating systems are continually monitored to ensure that all are working correctly. Most of the roofs have received a routine inspection and the rest will be completed within the next few weeks.

Plans to purchase a small tractor with a plow for sidewalk snow removal is in the works. The tractor and plow will be based at Delcroft School to help reduce the need for additional manpower.

Salt and other ice melt products and equipment are being stored for use during severe weather conditions. Some upgrades to salt distribution devices are in place.

**Future Board Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Meeting of the Board</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 8, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>Thursday, January 17, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Business Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, January 24, 2019</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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**School Events**

- **Winter Recess** – December 24th – January 1st – No School for Students or Staff
- **MLK Holiday** – January 21st – No School for Students or Staff
- **End of 2nd Marking Period** – January 25th
- **Report Cards Issued** – February 1st
- **Early Dismissal** – February 6th – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM
- **APHS Back to School Night** – February 7th – 6 PM
- **Valentine’s Dance** – February 14th – APHS
- **Teacher In-service** – February 15th – No School for Students
- **12th Grade Career / College Project Day** – February 15th
- **Presidents’ Day Holiday** – February 18th – No School for Students or Staff
- **Progress Notices** – March 1st
- **Early Dismissal** – March 6th – APHS – 11 AM / Grades K – 8 – 12:45 PM
- **District Honor Band** – March 6th – 7 PM – APHS
- **Teacher In-service / Flex Day – March 15\textsuperscript{th} – No School for Students**
- End of 3\textsuperscript{rd} Marking Period – March 29\textsuperscript{th}
- APHS Junior Prom – April 12\textsuperscript{th} – Lazzaretto Ballroom
- **Spring Break – April 15\textsuperscript{th} – April 19\textsuperscript{th} – No School for Students or Staff**