

SCSD News



March 2017

News from the Superintendent...

The budgeting process is underway for the 2017/2018 school year. Unfortunately, Governor Wolf proposed only very small increases to the district's Basic Education Subsidy and Special Education Subsidy. When combined, these increases equal approximately \$82,000. Such an increase does not come close to covering even a fourth of the increases in salary and benefits alone. Due to the failure by our legislators to craft meaningful changes to PSERS, the state retirement system, the school district is facing an increase in contributions rate of over \$200,000.00. Unfortunately, that is not the only downside of the state budget. The governor is also calling for a reduction in the transportation reimbursement subsidy schools receive. He believes reducing the funding will give school districts the incentive to bid their transportation contracts and that such bidding will reduce districts' transportation costs. Reduced transportation costs, in the governor's opinion, would lead to less need for state transportation reimbursement. While some school districts may have excessive transportation costs that rise above the formula, Susquehanna Community spends approximately \$11,000 less than the state formula. Unfortunately, the cut to the transportation subsidy could reduce our transportation funding by \$70,000. This would mean that a net "new money" amount from the state of \$12,000 would be all the district would receive to cover salary, benefit and transportation cost increases.

There is still much work to be done on the state budget in Harrisburg, the district is taking proactive steps to improve its budget situation. The district is seeking proposals from food service management companies to take over the day-to-day operation of the district's food service program. The district has averaged a \$60,000 per year loss for the last five years with our food service department and the move to a company that specializes in management means better fiscal operations and market-based, a.k.a. student-based, decisions on food service menus. The district will also not be replacing a retiring teacher that will provide an approximate savings of \$90,000 to the district's budget.

Switching hats, the elementary school will see the implementation of a new science curriculum and a remedial math curriculum next year. The new science curriculum will be implemented in grades K-6 and the remedial math curriculum will be used with select 5th and 6th grade students. Teachers will receive professional development on the new curriculums in August. In addition to the new curriculums, Title I will change their delivery of service to accommodate more students next year. As we progress with our new reading series, the need to have flexible Title I service times is essential.

News from the High School Principal...

Greetings! It is hard to believe that it is April already and we are planning many end of the year events as we speak. As the year winds down and we prepare for PSSA and Keystone Exams, here are a few tips for a successful testing experience:

1. Get a good night's sleep.
2. Eat a healthy breakfast.
3. Do NOT bring any electronic device.
4. Read each question/ writing prompt carefully prior to answering or crafting your response.

PSSA Dates

ELA: April 4th-6th

Math PSSA: April 25th-27th

Science PSSA: May 2nd-3rd

Keystone Exams

May 15th-23rd

Other Dates to Remember

Parent-Teacher Conferences	April 6th
DTE Presentation	April 6th
Lockheed Martin Field Trip	April 12th
School-Wide Service Project (Pride & Polish)	May 5th

The **National Honor Society** Dinner was held on March 8th, 2017. Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. David Szili. The following students were honored:

Hannah Day	Skyla Wilson	Canyon Stone
Garret Grausgruber	Angel Bieloski	Chloe Tinklepaugh
Evan Haley	Michael Braun	
Jessica Lamb	Devon Dubanowitz	
Saige Perry	Emily Fremburg	
Kathryn Woodruff	Lia Heath	
Emily Frye	Kaylee Landry	
Bridget Iveson	Bethany Maby	
Kaylin Trynoski	Rhiannon Potter	

The **National Junior Honor Society** Program followed by a reception was held on Thursday, March 30th, at 6:30 PM. The following students were honored:

Cortney Bennett	Austin Gow	Ella Hansen	Sophie Lawrenson
Carson Beamer	Jaycee Conklin	Rachel Day	Mackenzie Heath
Taylor Huyek	Jonathan Jenkins	Shania Megivern	Geena Miller
Airyll Rockwell	Kailye Towner	Meaghan Towner	Samantha Voegel
Mackenzie Steele			

The Susquehanna Community **Mentor Program** will be hosting a bonding day for program participants on April 13th and hosting a college field trip to The University of Scranton and Marywood University on April 12th. A day of fun touring the historic Lackawanna Train Station and a private trolley ride from Lackawanna Station to Montage Mountain is planned for May 8th. All mentors who dedicate their time are welcome to attend.

Classroom Highlight- During Quarter 4, 8th graders in Mr. Soden's classroom will be taking part in a mock trial. As part of their Civics class, students will take on various roles to conduct the trial.

News from the Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment...

Inspire Science is the name of the new science series for grades K-5. **Inspire Science** is produced by McGraw Hill, the same company that created **Everyday Math** and **Wonders Reading**. The program was launched in the Spring of 2015 to engage schools and educators with new STEM learning materials designed to increase student interest and potential in essential Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines.

Inspire Science is designed to help spark student interest and empower them to ask more questions, think more critically, and maximize their ability to solve problems. The instructional model will prove that science education can be comprehensive and fun. The program is designed to pique student interest within the science classroom. The goal is to cultivate curiosity and inspire the next generation of innovators, visionaries, and inventors.

They base the program on three tenants:

SIMPLE - Embrace science through user-friendly teaching experience

CONNECTED - Getting more out of science time through built-in literacy and math connections

INSPIRING - Preparing students for a future full of STEM opportunities

Inspire Science is designed to prepare the next generations of innovators. Since the pace of change is accelerating, your students will find themselves in careers that likely don't even exist today. Their future will require problem-solving skills that go beyond the status quo. This program is designed to help students prepare for any future they may face through an emphasis on problem-solving and career-based learning. Students will learn to think like scientists and engineers while developing the skills they need to create solutions to everyday challenges.