

SCSD News



June 2017

News from the Superintendent...

Student attendance will be the focus of school district administrators and attendance officer during the 2017/2018 school year. The Board of Education adopted a new attendance policy on May 17th, based upon changes in state law that took place in November of 2016, which changes the protocols by which the school district enforces compulsory school attendance. The major change to the policy is that for a child fifteen years old and younger with six or more unexcused absences, a referral will be made to Children and Youth Services. All students can have their first ten absences considered legal as long as they are absent for a legitimate purpose and the written excuse for the absence is received by the school district within three days of the absence. Parents and guardians can issue excuses for the first 10 absences. However, the only legal excuse for a child to miss over ten days is a medical excuse verified by a medical professional, not a parent or guardian. Any absence over ten days not verified by a medical excuse is considered unexcused. Vacation requests and educational day trips that result in a child missing over 10 total days in a school year cannot be approved by school administrators as every single absence over 10 days must be accompanied by a medical excuse or the absence is considered unexcused. If a family is planning a vacation in April where the child would miss five school days, their child cannot have more than five total absences, regardless of the reason, up to that point or the request for the days to be excused will be denied. While this policy could be viewed as strict, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Community School District both understand the direct link between attendance and student achievement. I sincerely appreciate the anticipated support from parents and guardians in the implementation of this policy next year.

Happy Retirement To Outstanding District Employees

Debra Benson (Food Service)
Debbie Norris (Kindergarten Aide)
Jeannye Gordon (Kindergarten Teacher)
Sharon Lubaszewski (K-4 Teacher)

News from the High School Principal...

Susquehanna Community students and staff forged through the rainstorms to participate in the second annual Pride and Polish on My 25th. All were involved in service projects that took many months to plan and collaborate with 24 different community organizations. Some of the projects included landscaping, Adopt a Grandparent painting, spring cleaning, roadside cleanup, and SCHS Community Closet organization. Every year, the weather plays its tricks and we are forced to start all over again with scheduling. A special thank you to Mrs. Carly Batzel for being the instrumental force behind Pride and Polish and its many phases of planning and also to all of our community organizations who were patient with rescheduling.

Jessica Lamb and Evan Haley were honored at the PIAA Breakfast at Genetti Manor on May 31st. Jessica has participated in Cross Country for 4 years and plans to attend Alvernia University and major in Biology in the Pre-Medicine Program. She would like to attend Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Florida to become a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and a Pediatrician. Evan participated in Baseball for 4 years and Football for 3, serving as a Captain for both. Evan plans to attend Temple University and major in Neuroscience: Cellular and Molecular in the Honors Program. What wonderful accomplishments and such drive. We look forward to seeing your dreams come true.

Skyla Wilson attended States for the second consecutive year for Track and Field, taking home not one, but two silver medals for the 300 hurdles and the 100 hurdles at Shippensburg University. Skyla is a true athlete who makes all that she does look effortless.

Susquehanna Community Graduation will take place on Saturday, June 10th at 11 AM on the football field, weather permitting.

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

At this time of the year all of the Seniors are thinking one thing: GRADUATION. However, for the future graduates of 2019 and beyond, things are about to change. At the current time in Pennsylvania, all students graduating in 2019 or after need to take all three Keystone exams. Should students not reach proficiency on these exams, they can take the exam a second or third time after a period of remediation. Should a student after multiple attempts still not reach proficiency, he/she would be given the opportunity to take an alternate assessment, called a Project Based Assessment, which has to be approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Currently, the Dept. of Education has suspended all use of their own Project Based Assessments. It is up to the local school districts to submit a Project Based Assessment to PDE for approval. All school districts in Pennsylvania are waiting on the state legislature to address the issues of Keystone Exams and Project Based Assessments in the Fall of 2017. There have been many different proposals about both topics. Some proposals include eliminating Keystones Exams altogether and others include using a composite score of all three exams added together. Options for Project Based Assessments include leaving the current types of PBAs or Alternate Assessments in the control of the local school districts. I hope I can write this article again in the Fall clarifying all of our concerns about graduation in relation to the Keystone Exams and Project Based Assessments.
