

# SCSD News



August 2017

## *News from the Superintendent...*

With the start of another exciting school year only a few short weeks away, the school campus is a hub of activity. The high school boiler installation is over 90% complete and the roof project is underway and slated to be completed by August 18th. Fall sports will officially begin on August 14th and teacher in-services are planned for August 22nd, 23rd and 24th. The district's annual Meet the Teacher Night will be held on August 24th from 6 PM to 8 PM.

The Commonwealth adopted a "spending plan" in early July to allow funding to flow to state agencies and school districts, but unfortunately, a revenue plan still has yet to be adopted. Without agreement on the revenue side of the budget, school district projected revenues from the state may be subject to change. Under the spending plan that was adopted at the state level, the school district will receive a total of \$42,807 in new funding from the Commonwealth. Given the district's decision not to raise property taxes and to not replace a retiring educator, the district will use \$245,000 of fund balance to balance the 17/18 budget.

Every school year arrives with some type of change project to implement. This year, the district has many such projects. The Nutrition Group, Inc. will operate the district's food services and bring forth a customer-service oriented approach to the business of serving school meals. Kelly Services has been retained by the school district to recruit and provide daily substitutes, both instructional and non-instructional, for the school district. Additionally, new science curriculum will be implemented in the both the elementary and high schools. I personally look forward to these changes as I believe they will be beneficial to both the students and the school district.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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## *News from the High School Principal...*

### June/July Highlights

Each year here at SCSD, our goals shift to meet the needs of our students based upon the previous year's PSSA/ Keystone scores. This year, our Student Learning Objectives were geared towards enhancing students' abilities to interpret and analyze text within an in-depth written text-dependent analysis and skills related to mathematical computation/process and algebraic thinking. Most exciting after the Spring 2017 analysis was the fact that 100% of first time Algebra test takers at SCSD were Proficient or Advanced! These are amazing results stemming from hard work and dedication by our students and staff. There are always areas for growth, and as we move closer to the 2017-18 school-year, the tradition of setting the bar high will continue.

### **SCSD Professional Development Series 2017-18 At a Glance- What is Differentiated Instruction?**

Differentiated instruction is not a new term coined even within this decade, yet something that great teachers have done since the beginning of time. These are the classrooms that students talk about at the dinner table. These are the learning environments that leave an impact beyond the grade itself. Students all learn so differently that we cannot expect that all will reach levels of proficiency at the very same time. In order to make sure that ALL students succeed and grow, our task is to create learning experiences that tap in to their interests, levels of readiness, and perceived usefulness. This will mean that some students will prepare at a varied pace and they may even prepare for assessments in a completely different manner. Sometimes, even the students themselves will choose the instructional pathways.

This year, the staff at SCSD is taking another look at what differentiated instruction can look like inside of their classroom. What works for some may not work for all, so the challenge is definitely no small feat. You may ask, "What does this look like?" Here are a few *at a glance* possible snapshots of DI that some of the teachers here at SCSD may fire into action:

1. Writer's Workshop
2. Tiered Instruction- Jigsaw Stations
3. Embracing Failure- Second Chances
4. Student to Student Conferences
5. Student to Teacher Conferences
6. Student developed lesson planning
7. Varying sets of reading comprehension passages/questions to answer for a given book (either chosen by the teacher or student)
8. A personalized course packet with individualized remediation or enrichment materials
9. An adaptive assessment that gets easier or harder depending on how a student is performing
10. One-on-one coaching with a student, designed around his/her specific challenges
11. Students grouped into small groups, which are designed around their strengths and weaknesses so that they can tutor each other

### Important Dates

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>August 24</b>    | Seventh Grade Orientation Night (5:30 PM) |
|                     | Meet the Teacher (6 PM- 8 PM)             |
| <b>August 28</b>    | First Day of School                       |
| <b>August 29</b>    | Class Meetings                            |
| <b>September 12</b> | Cross Country Senior Recognition          |
| <b>September 23</b> | Homecoming Football Game                  |
| <b>September 29</b> | Night Football Game                       |
| <b>October 19</b>   | Volleyball Senior Recognition             |
| <b>October 28</b>   | Football Senior Recognition               |

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

### **Public Schools vs. Cyber Charter Schools**

A recent article in the Express-Times stated that Pennsylvania has the worst Charter School system in the country and most of the reason is related to Pennsylvania Cyber Charter Schools. In the article, written by Mark Spengler, he quotes Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene Depasquale as saying that PA Cyber Charter Schools have shown deplorable results in terms of graduation rates and academic performance.

Below are some of the facts related to graduation rates and academic performance for the 15-16 school year:

Public graduation rate, 86.1%

Cyber graduation rate, 47.7%

Public Performance on School Performance Profile (SPP), 70.3% -- **SCHS 86.1%**

Cyber 50.9%

It was also noted in Spengler's article that 9 out of 14 Cyber Charter schools had SPP score below 50%. Seventy percent is passing on the SPP. Also, Pennsylvania taxpayers have paid nearly \$1.2 billion on Cyber Charter schools from 2013-2015, as stated in Spengler's article, and it is clear that Cyber Charter schools are not performing in a way that serves students or the residents and taxpayers of Pennsylvania.

