



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ISSUE 38 – JANUARY 13, 2023

Congratulations to Our District Spellers



On Thursday, January 12, students who placed first and second in their school level spelling bee were invited to Rainbow Elementary School to compete in the District Spelling Bee. Six students from each school – two per grade level – were able to take the stage and represent their school. While competing individually, the top scoring school also gets to take home the coveted trophy for the next year. Congratulations to all who participated and took time to diligently practice. You all did a great job!

Overall 1st Place: Caln Elementary **Overall 2nd Place:** Rainbow Elementary **Overall 3rd Place:** Kings Highway



3rd Grade Winners

1st Place: Colin Weaver
(Caln Elementary)
2nd Place: Liliana Irias
(Reeceville Elementary)
3rd Place: Giancarlo Montanez
(Caln Elementary)



4th Grade Winners

1st Place: Kaleb Clemson-Graham
(Rainbow Elementary)
2nd Place: Alivia Comley
(Caln Elementary)
3rd Place: Lillith Gleason
(Caln Elementary)



5th Grade Winners

1st Place: Zoe Everitt
(Rainbow Elementary)
2nd Place: Brielle Wilson
(Rainbow Elementary)
3rd Place: Joel Moyao
(Kings Highway Elementary)

Important Upcoming Dates

MLK DAY – NO SCHOOL
January 16, 2023

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
January 17 & 24, 2023

Coatesville Area School Board to Appoint Next Superintendent of Schools



The Coatesville Area School District (CASD) Board of Directors will vote on January 17 on the appointment of Dr. Catherine Van Vooren as its next superintendent of schools. Dr. Van Vooren is currently Director of Student Services for the School District of Springfield Township. She is expected to begin as superintendent in Coatesville no later than February 27.

The Board will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 17 at Coatesville Area Senior High School. Following the expected approval, a brief welcome reception, open to the public, will be held.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome a superintendent with Dr. Van Vooren's diverse experience and background," said Robert Fisher, President of the Coatesville Area School Board. "We believe that her passion in providing equitable growth and sound learning environments will result in increased opportunities for student and staff success."

Previously, Van Vooren spent 10 years in the Coatesville Area School District as a principal, assistant principal, and supervisor of special education. Dr. Van Vooren has worked in the School District of Springfield Township since 2016 where she also served as principal of Enfield Elementary School. Dr. Van Vooren received her undergraduate degree in science from University of Pittsburgh, her master's degree in educational leadership from Immaculata University and her doctorate in educational leadership and management from Drexel University.

"Dr. Van Vooren is an accomplished school administrator with experience in the classroom, at the school building level and in central office," Fisher continued. "Dr. Van Vooren's success as a director of student services and former principal have given her the skills to be a successful district leader. We are eager to welcome her back to the Coatesville Area School District," said Fisher.

"I am so very honored and excited for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of the Coatesville Area School District," said Dr. Van Vooren. "Working together, we will build on the district's tradition of excellence and propel CASD forward by being innovative, student-centered and mission driven. I look forward to working alongside our educators, students, families and community as we build on successful practices and plan strategically for the future of our students. I believe it is critical that every student feels physically and emotionally safe at school, secure in the knowledge that every adult in this district is invested in their success and well-being. In doing this, we must provide curriculum and instruction that is personalized and culturally responsive, holding ourselves and each other accountable for making a difference in the lives of our students."

Van Vooren will be replacing Dr. Richard Dunlap, who has been serving as interim superintendent since the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, and prior to that as substitute superintendent since March 2022. Dunlap retired as superintendent of the Upper Darby School District in 2016. "We are extremely grateful to Dr. Dunlap for his steady, calm, and experienced leadership over the last year," said Fisher. "Dr. Dunlap has worked extraordinarily hard to move the district forward. He is a man of great integrity and work ethic and has continued to focus on changes that will benefit the students of Coatesville."

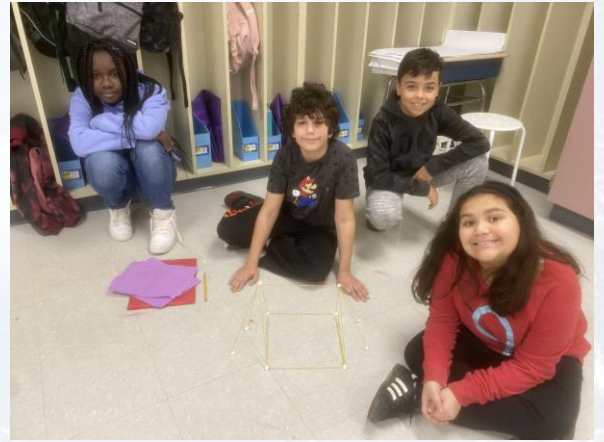
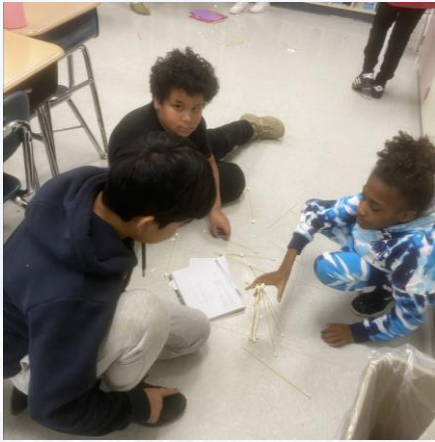
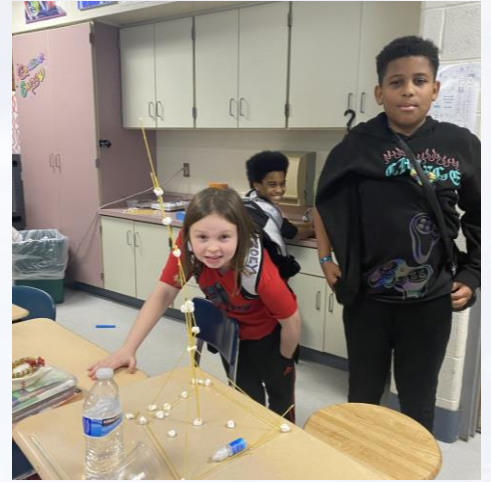
The district received more than 30 applications for the position from a diverse candidate pool of superintendents, assistant superintendents and life-long educators in a search process led by the Chester County Intermediate Unit. Ten candidates were invited for a first-round interview; of those ten candidates, four advanced to second round interviews, and two were chosen for the third and final round of interviews.

During the past two months, the Board completed rigorous interviews to determine the degree of fit between the community's criteria and the candidates' professional experiences. The interview process included in-depth questions, which were developed from an analysis of stakeholder priorities gathered through focus groups and a survey to parents, staff and the community-at-large. Submission of an entry plan and a detailed presentation to address the district's most pressing issues were also key components of the interview process.

Team Building & Problem Solving in Fifth Grade

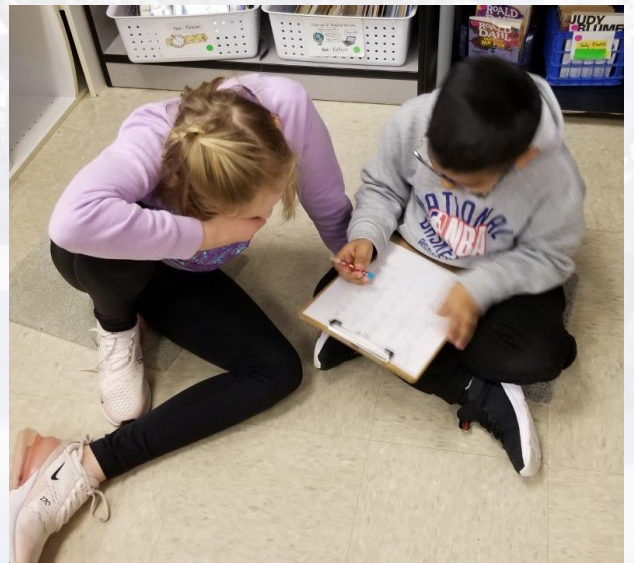
What do you do with leftover marshmallows from winter parties? You add spaghetti noodles, of course!

The fifth graders worked on a team building challenge to create the tallest tower with just two materials: marshmallows and spaghetti. They were given a limited amount of time to plan, design, and build their towers. This fun “welcome back from winter break” activity encouraged the students to use the design mindset all while revisiting the importance of working together in class as a team to accomplish a common goal: problem solving!



Students Build Fact Fluency with Spring Math

Mrs. Augustine's fourth graders at Rainbow Elementary are working hard on Spring Math! This intervention was implemented in grades 1 – 7 at the start of this school year. All students participate daily in a mathematical learning activity that focuses on their computation and problem-solving skills. This has proved to be very motivating for students, and teachers have been able to track their progress on the Spring Math dashboard and provide additional exercises in areas of need. Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor Lynn Mancinelli says, “using paired learning aims to lift all students and build enduring mastery and mathematical confidence.” The winter progress screening will occur this month.



Book Buddies Build New Skills and Friendships

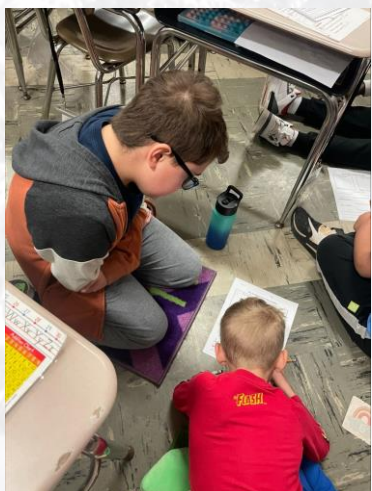
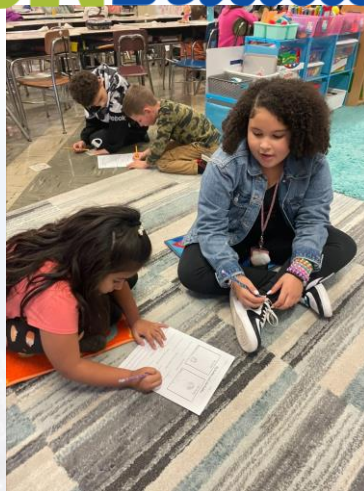
With the start of the New Year comes new adventures! Ms. Landis' first grade students at Kings Highway Elementary were introduced to their fifth grade Book Buddy from Ms. Gilger's classroom. Book Buddies will meet weekly to have an opportunity to explore the world of reading.

Pairing older elementary students with younger ones for community reading has benefits for both groups. Peer mentoring is a powerful tool that has a positive influence on a student's learning!

Book Buddy Reading is a concept that pairs different grade-level classrooms for community reading time – an upper-grade classroom connects with a lower-grade one. This allows younger readers to see what being a fluent reader looks like as they have a peer model demonstrating reading skills. As a bonus, they can also acquire a positive role model with some intentional pairings!

Older students develop social-emotional skills like patience and empathy as they work with their little buddies. Additionally, for upper elementary students who are struggling with grade-level reading, this provides an opportunity to access easier reading materials without stigma or shame. When older students are given the freedom to be better, to work for something bigger than themselves, and to mentor others, they can thrive!

This process of cooperative learning is a great way to build community in the school and promote reading! Both sets of students get excited about Book Buddy Reading time because it's a chance to have fun, read, and make a friend!





REMINDER:

PLEASE SIGN THE UPDATED
1:1 CHROMEBOOK HANDBOOK

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)



Students Innovate for STEM Parade

The students and staff at Reeceville Elementary had a great time participating in their first annual Winter Wonderland STEM parade. Mrs. Canning, the STEM teacher at Reeceville, had each classroom create a mobile float using a rolling desk chair. The float must be student created, fit through a doorway, and follow the theme of "Winter Wonderland".

The students and staff met the challenge! Everyone loved seeing the design concepts and innovative thinking used by the other classes in the school. It was an excellent way to kick off winter break and students already can't wait for next year's!



Employee Spotlight

John Hulik Cyber Academy

"Mr. Hulik is a dedicated teacher and prides himself on helping *all* of the students at the Coatesville Cyber Academy. He can often be found helping students in subjects outside of his content area and he takes time to get to know each and every student who attends the Cyber Academy. We are so lucky to have Mr. Hulik at CASD."

- Submitter wishes to remain anonymous.



We are so lucky in the Coatesville Area School District to have some of the most dedicated and caring teachers and staff in the world! We want to highlight the teachers and staff who are making a big impact on our students and families. If you have a special story to share about someone who works in our district, REACH OUT! Your story could land them a spotlight in a future issue of Around Our Schools.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A NOMINATION](#)



COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Coatesville Facilities At A Crossroads

Master Facilities Plan Task Force

Update - January 2023

The Coatesville Area School District is at a financial and facilities crossroads. The District's facilities are aging and facing numerous challenges, despite a significant preventative maintenance plan. More than 60 staff, parents, and community members are considering options for the District's schools, as prepared by architectural and facilities use firms that specialize in K-12 facilities and that have studied our buildings.

- Each of the three options currently being considered presents challenges and opportunities. The District must also consider its financial challenges. Currently, each of the three options will eventually require an average tax increase of about \$2.19 to \$2.82 per month, about the cost of a Starbucks coffee.
- After a facilities plan is approved by the School Board, design work and approvals for a project will take about a year. The length of construction will depend on the scope of the work and how the construction is phased. The facilities changes would occur over the next 3 to 7 years, and no immediate changes would go into effect for the 2023-24 school year.
- The School Board has asked the architectural firms to prepare a new option that creates two middle schools and includes an elementary school on the south side of Route 30.



Options Currently Being Considered

Option A.1

This option would close two elementary schools, and add additions to two other elementary schools. It would also renovate North Brandywine Middle School, converting it to a 6-8 middle school, and use the two buildings on the Coatesville Area High School Campus to create a 9-10 center and an 11-12 center.

Key points:

- Close Caln and East Fallowfield Elementary Schools.
- Kings Highway Elementary School: Replace the four modular classrooms with new, permanent classrooms.
- Reeceville Elementary School: Add four new classrooms to accommodate 100-150 students who would be coming from Caln Elementary School.
- North Brandywine 7th Grade Center: Renovations and additions will be made to create a 6-8 middle school.
- Scott 6th Grade Center: No renovations are being proposed to the school, but it will be converted into a K-5 Elementary School with students from both Caln and East Fallowfield.

Estimated Cost: \$140.3 million

Average monthly tax increase: \$2.19/month
(about the cost of a small Starbucks coffee)

[Click here for Pros/Cons identified by the Task Force.](#)



www.casdschools.org

Option A.2

This option would close two elementary schools, and add additions to two other elementary schools. It would also construct a new 6-8 middle school on the North Brandywine campus, and use the two buildings on the Coatesville Area High School Campus to create a 9-10 center and an 11-12 center.

Key points:

- Close Caln and East Fallowfield Elementary Schools.
- Kings Highway Elementary School: Replace the four modular classrooms with new, permanent classrooms.
- Reeceville Elementary School: Add four new classrooms to accommodate 100-150 students who would be coming from Caln Elementary School.
- North Brandywine 7th Grade Center: A new building will be constructed on the current site.
- Scott 6th Grade Center: No renovations are being proposed to the school, but it will be converted into a K-5 Elementary School with students coming from Caln and East Fallowfield.

Estimated Cost: \$156.4 million

Average monthly tax increase: \$2.66/month
(about the cost of a medium Starbucks coffee)

[Click here for Pros/Cons identified by the Task Force.](#)



Option B

This option would close two elementary schools, and the North Brandywine 7th Grade Center, remove all temporary classrooms across the district, and use both buildings on the current high school campus to create a 6-8 middle school and a 9-12 high school.

Key points:

- Close Caln Elementary School, East Fallowfield Elementary School and North Brandywine 7th Grade Center.
- Remove all temporary classroom space throughout the district (modulars and other temporary space).
- Maximize use of the two buildings on the Coatesville Area Senior High School campus (Currently an 8-9 intermediate school, and a 10-12 high school). Convert the current 8-9 Coatesville Area Intermediate School to a 6-8 middle school. Convert the current 10-12 Coatesville Area Senior High School to a 9-12 high school.
- Scott 6th Grade Center: No renovations are being proposed to the school, but it would be converted into a K-5 Elementary School with 306 students from Caln Elementary and 349 students from East Fallowfield Elementary.

Estimated Cost: \$161.9 million

Average monthly tax increase: \$2.82/month
(about the cost of a medium Starbucks coffee)

[Click here for Pros/Cons identified by the Task Force.](#)



Next Steps: The Task Force will continue to evaluate these options, as well as a new option that the architectural firm will prepare: the creation of two middle schools and an elementary school on the south side of Route 30. The Task Force will gather input from the entire school community, explore any other alternatives, and prepare a recommendation to the School Board in May, 2023. Again, each of the plans will be staged over several years and no immediate changes will occur.

Click the image below to learn more about a career in food service at Coatesville Area School District!



Looking for part-time work? Do you like working as part of a team? Want to make a difference in the lives of students? Consider joining our food service team and enjoy learning more about the position from this video with one of our amazing employees, Jill Green. Apply today at <http://bit.ly/casdjobs>.

- ✓ Fun. *Diversión.*
- ✓ Friendship. *Amistad.*
- ✓ Her Big Future. *Su gran futuro.*

Girl Scouts have it handled!
¡En Girl Scouts lo encontrará!

Life can be complicated, but keeping your girl curious, active, and happy doesn't have to be. Come see all that Girl Scouts of Eastern PA has to offer your family.

La vida puede ser complicada, pero mantener a tu niña activa, contenta y llena de curiosidad no tiene por qué serlo. Ven a ver todo lo que Girl Scouts of Eastern PA tiene para ofrecerte a tu familia.

Greater Coatesville Girl Scouts Service Unit 607

Adult Volunteers Needed!

Contact us to find out how YOU

and your Daisy (Grades K-1) can become Girl Scouts at

https://www.gsep.org/en/events/recruitment-events/learn_more.html

¿Te gustaría ser voluntaria?

Envíame un correo electrónico o envíame un mensaje de texto

Correo electrónico: gsep.serviceunit607@gmail.com

Teléfono: 610-996-0135

Crystal Arnold - Service Unit 607 Manager
Email: gsep.serviceunit607@gmail.com
Mobile: 610-996-0135

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pennsylvania



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Snow Makeup Day

**SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023**

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD OUR
REVISED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Welcome Class of 2036!

Kindergarten Pre-Registration is officially open!

The Coatesville Area School District is so excited to begin its partnership with you to prepare your child for his or her future. A child's early years are the foundation for success both academically and emotionally. The kindergarten registration process can be completed online. Please access the **2023-2024 Kindergarten Registration** form by clicking on links here:

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

In addition to basic information about your child, please be prepared to upload copies of the following documents: (1) Birth Certificate (2) Immunization Records (3) Proof of Residency

Please click [here](#) to determine which Elementary School your child will attend. Check that school's website for upcoming in-person registration dates.

Should you have any general questions or concerns pertaining to the online registration process, please do not hesitate to contact our central registration team at 610-466-2400.



CITADEL Heart. of Learning AWARD

Citadel is pleased to announce that the nomination period for the 2022-2023 Citadel Heart of Learning Award is open and available to teachers across Greater Philadelphia.

Since the program's inception, thousands of teachers, who truly go above and beyond, have been nominated. The nominations speak volumes about the significant impact teachers have in our community.

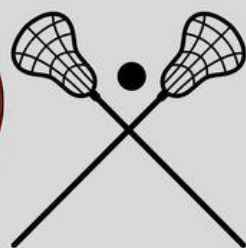
The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2023.

We encourage you all to take the time to nominate a teacher who has truly made a difference in your life or the life of your student(s). You can find the nomination form [HERE](#).

HOUR OF CODE

Our entire school district is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code.

Our Hour of Code is making a statement that the Coatesville Area School District is ready to teach these foundational 21st-century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to our students, we want to make our Hour of Code event huge. We encourage you to speak with your children about this great opportunity. We are looking forward to sharing our students' engagement in this event.



COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING COACHES WANTED!

Join the team and be part of our awesome athletic department!

7TH/8TH GRADE GIRLS LACROSSE
7TH/8TH GRADE SOFTBALL
ASSISTANT VARSITY SOFTBALL
7TH/8TH GRADE BASEBALL
7TH/8TH GRADE TRACK
ASSISTANT BOYS TENNIS

Apply Today at <https://bit.ly/CASDjobs>



School Board Updates

The Coatesville Area School Board met on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The full meeting agenda can be found [here](#) and you can watch the recording of the meeting [here](#).

This meeting contained six presentations. First was RBC Capital Markets, LLC, with Financing Options for the Master Facilities Plan. You can watch that presentation [here](#).

Interim Superintendent Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed.D. and Director of Business Administration Lori A. Diefenderfer presented an update on the 2023-2024 School District Budget. You can see that presentation [here](#).

Curriculum Supervisor Lynn Mancinelli presented a [Math Update](#) to the School Board. You can watch her presentation [here](#).

Curriculum Supervisor Casandra Jones, Teachers Joe Tassoni, Lena McKim, and Bryan Wise, and CASH students presented a [Social Studies Update and Gardner Beale House Proposal](#). You can see their presentation [here](#).

Members of the Master Facilities Plan Task Force presented an [update](#) on their work. A recommendation will be made to the School Board in May regarding the task force's opinion on which option would be most advantageous for the future of the school district. You can watch their presentation [here](#).

Director of Technology John DeAnna presented an [update](#) on the state of technology in the district as well as the plan for distribution of Chromebooks. You can view his presentation [here](#).

Twenty-four Booster Clubs received initial approval or re-approval to support CASD activities and athletics.

Public comment can be viewed here: [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#)

Coatesville Area School District Presents



Special Education Parent Nights

Date	Time	Location	Topic
September 21, 2022	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	IEP 101: Understanding the Special Education Process
October 5, 2022	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	How to Know if My Child is Making Progress
November 9, 2022	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	How to Communicate with School District Staff
December 7, 2022	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	Transition to Kindergarten
January 11, 2023	6:00 – 7:00pm	Virtual	Understanding Disabilities (Autism)
February 8, 2023	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	Preparing for Graduation
March 8, 2023	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	Transition Planning-Post Secondary Resources
April 12, 2023	6:00 – 7:00pm	CASH Large Group Rm	How to Help My Child Learn to Advocate for Themselves



Coatesville Area School District
Inspiring. Educating. Advancing.