

Inspiring. Educating. Advancing.



Coatesville Area
School District
Inspiring. Educating. Advancing.

The Coatesville Area School District 2018-2019 Annual Report

Dear Members of the Community,

While serving as the Coatesville Area School District interim superintendent, it is my responsibility to keep you informed of the many accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff while managing the day-to-day operations of the School District until a new superintendent of schools is appointed by the School Board. With the new school year underway, now is the perfect time to reflect on what's come before and celebrate our achievements.

You may notice many of the programs highlighted inside this annual report involve finding new and creative ways to connect to the greater community. Instilling value in collaboration and teamwork is one of the most important lessons we teach.

With the 2019-20 school year now in full swing, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank all of you who have helped make me feel at home in my first few weeks with the District. It's been a warm welcome and I truly appreciate it.

As we progress into the school year, should you need to get in touch with me about any topic, or simply would like to say hello, my door is always open. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

Sincerely,
Richard F. Dunlap Jr, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent

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Scott Sixth Grade Center, North Brandywine Seventh and Eighth Grade Center Now Open

For CASD middle school students, the 2019-20 school year began as an exciting time of transition, as the District officially reopened two of its middle school buildings under new identities. Scott Middle School became the Scott Sixth Grade Center and North Brandywine Middle School became the North Brandywine Seventh and Eighth Grade Center.

To help them adjust to the new surroundings before the start of the year, students were invited to back-to-school night shortly before the first day of school. They were greeted by their principals with opening remarks and were then able to follow their schedules and meet their teachers for a short period of time to get familiar with the building and meet their new classmates. As a result, the first day of school went smoothly for all involved, said Jason Palaia, director of elementary and secondary education.

“Overall it was a smooth transition,” he said. “Students on the first day of school had a great attitude and were eager to meet new teachers, and experience the new building. For the sixth graders, they were going to a new building anyway, but they seemed to be getting into the swing of their schedules at a quick pace. Seventh-and-eighth-graders came in very receptive to the change. Students were eager to meet new people, see their teachers and follow their schedules.”

The changes came because the District accelerated its master facilities plan to shutter the South Brandywine Middle School. System repairs were hindering the ability to regularly hold classes there.

Bringing students together from across the District at an earlier age allows them to become more prepared for high school and post-secondary school life. Approximately 450 students began the school year at Scott, while over 780 students began the year at North Brandywine.

At Scott, students get a taste of middle school life to come as the school hosts several school-wide extracurricular activities including intramural sports such as flag football, soccer and basketball, and clubs such as robotics, student council, and drama.

Scott also continues to incorporate the rigorous improvements made to the English language arts and mathematics curricula, which were implemented over the past three years. Additionally, the school offers a wide variety of elective courses during the day, such as STEM, chorus, orchestra, band, family and consumer sciences and chorus.



CASD Receives \$1.1M from T-Mobile for Student Laptops and Mobile Internet Access



The Coatesville Area School District will take a technological leap forward this school year, thanks to a new partnership with T-Mobile.

This past spring, the District was the recipient of the \$1.1 million EmpowerEd award from T-Mobile. The award enables the District to equip every K-12 student with

their own HP Chromebook laptop computer to use both in school and at home. In addition, the award helps close the internet access gap for families, by providing free or reduced-cost service (summer months are suspended) via mobile hotspots.

Seamless Integration

The District believes integrating new technology into the teaching and learning environment will help develop 21st century skills for all students. Each student in grades K-10 will receive an HP 11 G6 Chromebook. Coatesville Area High School students will receive a previously-owned Chromebook, as their time in the district will end in coordination with the licensing on the Chromebooks. Students will also receive a hotspot that gives them internet access wherever they go. The hotspots will allow students to receive 2GB of data each month.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Richard Dunlap said the technology taskforce and the District were working to ensure the computers have the proper components to use not only in school but at home as well. “It’s also important for our community to feel comfortable with the distribution and use of the Chromebooks,” he said.

To alleviate the potential for confusion and address questions from District staff members and parents, the District launched a page on its website featuring answers to frequently asked questions about the new Chromebooks. The site includes a copy of the Student & Parent/Guardian 1:1 Handbook (available in English and Spanish) and other important information. To view the materials, visit <https://www.casdschools.org/Page/6548>. If a community member has a question regarding the new computers that’s not already addressed on the website, they can email techfaq@casdschools.org or call 610-466-2400 x10002.

Tools for 21st Century Learning

News of the one-to-one initiative with T-Mobile sparked a lot of excitement throughout the District when it first broke. Both Dunlap and Michael Sobczak, director of technology, said they were grateful for the award.

Dunlap praised the work of the technology department in obtaining the EmpowerEd award and laying the technological foundation to enable the District to handle the undertaking. “The one-to-one Chromebook program enables our students to learn the tools that will allow them to stay competitive in our global economy after graduation,” he said. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to stay connected. I’d like to thank Shane Brody and his team at T-Mobile for the award. We look forward to working with you on this incredibly important program.”

“Students today are living and learning in a digital world. Technology is changing so many aspects of our culture, including our educational systems. Because of technology, students today have an almost instantaneous access to a depth and breadth of information,” said Sobczak. “The EmpowerEd award will ensure that our students can access that information at school and at home. A big thank you goes to T-Mobile for its generosity. We truly appreciate it.”

New Assistant Principals Will Reinforce Positive Behavior at the Elementary Level



Jamar Alston

Ensuring a safe environment for students that is conducive to learning is one of the most important priorities in the Coatesville Area School District. That's why the District welcomed three new assistant principals at the elementary level this year.

Dr. Jamar Alston, Kathryn Lamothe and Kerry Myers will take roles at King's Highway, Caln and East Fallowfield elementary schools, respectively.

Lynn Mancinelli will continue to serve as the assistant principal at Rainbow Elementary, while former South Brandywine Middle School Assistant Principal Allison Shimon will now serve as Reeceville Elementary's assistant principal.

"Each elementary assistant principal will work closely with teachers and students on reinforcing expected behaviors outlined in the code of student conduct," said Jason Palaia, director of elementary and secondary education. "The assistant principals will also be reinforcing the relationship between home and school. They'll be enlisting parents to assist with enforcing school expectations."

Each assistant principal has an understanding of what is developmentally appropriate behavior among students versus what is a behavioral issue, Palaia said. They also are proactive individuals who will look to create procedures and programs that will prevent unwanted behaviors, while reinforcing positive behaviors in school.

Dr. Jamar Alston King's Highway Elementary

Alston has been an educator for 15 years, having worked most recently as a teacher in the Upper Darby School District. Before that, he held teaching positions at the Graystone Academy Charter School and Chester Upland School District. He holds a doctor of education degree from Neumann University, a master's degree in education from Cabrini University, a master's degree in history from West Chester University and a bachelor's degree in history, philosophy and education.

"I'm excited to come home. Coatesville is a family to me," he said. "My father graduated from there, my sister graduated from there, my brother attended Coatesville schools. I student-taught under Carl Smith, who was a teacher/mentor of mine. It's great to come back and move up into a leadership role. I've been in the profession for 15 years, at this point in my career I want to make a difference. It's refreshing to take on a leadership role."

Alston firmly believes in the growth mindset model, in which all students can and must learn. He makes it a point to be a role model and mentor for his students and encourages them to think before acting, to be well-mannered and polite, and to always demonstrate grit in their schoolwork. Alston encourages his students to treat all human beings with dignity and respect.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Farah, and children, Jayden, Amaya and Chase; cooking, traveling, reading, writing, playing foosball, watching the Philadelphia Eagles, boxing and television.

Kathryn Lamothe Caln Elementary School

This is Lamothe's 21st year in education. She has taught second and fourth grade as a classroom teacher, and kindergarten through fifth grade as a gifted support teacher. Lamothe graduated from Villanova University in 1999 with a bachelors in psychology, and her elementary education certification. In 2006, she completed her masters in educational leadership and her special education certification from Immaculata University. Kathryn also completed the Writing Institute through the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project in 2008. Most recently, Lamothe earned her principal certification from Cabrini College in 2014.

"I'm excited," said Lamothe on the new opportunity at Caln. "It's a really great group of people and the school has already had a great start to the school year. I'm hoping to keep that great start going by building relationships with the community and continuing to help Caln stay on the right track."

Lamothe is married to her college sweetheart, Mike, and they have four children: Ian, 11, Dana, 10, Charlotte, 6, and Mitchell, 2.

Kerry Myers East Fallowfield Elementary

Myers first worked as a special education teacher, then as the response to instruction and intervention coordinator at Marcus Hook Elementary School, in Chichester School District.

He grew up in a rural community outside of Harrisburg and attended West Chester University, where he majored in business management and competed as a distance swimmer. Following college, Myers worked as a corporate account manager and coached swimming, while he earned his masters of education from Immaculata University.

After only his second day at East Fallowfield, Myers said he already felt like he was at home. "I came from the Chichester School District, which is one in the same as Coatesville, in terms of student needs and population," he said. "The faculty has been warm, loving and open. I feel like I'm at home already."

Myers' goals for the year include supporting student achievement, creating positive behavior support systems and supporting the needs of the special education and general education populations. "Overall, I want to create a strong learning environment that instills a sense of community and culture and helps students to become lifelong learners," he said.

Myers lives in West Chester with his husband, Jack, their cat, Lola, and dog, Lincoln. He enjoys kayaking, rock climbing and exploring all that the area has to offer.



Kathryn Lamothe



Kerry Myers

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS: The Programs That Made Us Proud During the 2018-19 School Year



During the 2018-19 school year, Coatesville Area School District students showed the best of what this District can be when we work together. Each Coatesville principal shared a program or initiative at their respective school that was a source of pride for them this past school year. The programs range from acts of community service to opportunities for students to expand their horizons about the world around them. Each shows the power of community connection and the amazing things that can happen when people work together.

CALN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family Engagement Event Promotes Literacy and Math Skills

Caln Elementary School was excited to host the first-ever Catch Coatesville's Rainbow Family Engagement event in conjunction with the other elementary schools, which focused on literacy and math this year at the Coatesville Area Intermediate High School. Elementary families and staff from across the District collaborated to present a fun-filled evening of parent and school engagement. Each elementary school represented a color and had activities and food aligned with that color: Caln Elementary School presented the Everyday Math program's activities and games. Parents explored the benefits of the program, while students participated in fun learning activities that practiced their knowledge and skills. Families also participated in several raffle drawings for special baskets and other prizes.

EAST FALLOWFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

100th Day of School Can-Good Drive Fosters Friendly Competition

East Fallowfield students celebrated the first 100 days of school with a service project designed to help less fortunate members of the community. Students were challenged to see which classroom would be able to collect 100 canned goods by the 100th day of school. As donations came in each day, they were displayed in the hallway outside each classroom's door. The donations were a perfect way for students to practice counting each day, plus they were motivated to keep bringing in donations as they saw other classes' can totals grow.

KING'S HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Red Ribbon Week Tulip Planting Serves as a Drug-Free Reminder

King's Highway students and staff pledged to live a drug-free lifestyle by planting bulbs on the school's property during Red Ribbon Week last October. With the help of funding from the King's Highway PTO, each student planted a tulip bulb. Then in the spring, students were thrilled to be reminded of the promise they made, as so many tulip bulbs began to bloom.

RAINBOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wax Museum: African American History Brought to Life

Rainbow Elementary students embarked on a research journey focusing on key Black History Month figures that have impacted our way of life. During the month of February, students researched and developed an interactive exploration project that focused on key history topics and people that have had a positive and major influence on America. They found a way to bring those figures to life by creating their own "wax museum."

Students worked collaboratively during social studies to gather and organize information about historic African Americans. As they collected their research, they began to create group presentations that had each student actively engaged in presenting the information creatively and effectively. Each student did their best to transform themselves into their studied person, and shared their information to parents, teachers, school administrators and school board members in a "wax museum presentation."

REECEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Junior Achievement Day Promotes Financial Literacy

Volunteers from various walks of life came to Reeceville this past spring for Junior Achievement Day. There were two volunteers assigned to each third-through fifth-grade classroom to instruct students in three main areas of focus: work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Students were assigned specific roles within a company (manager, accountant, chef, etc.) and they had the opportunity to start their own business. Students also played money games and had the opportunity to build a city.

NORTH BRANDYWINE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Re-set Room Offers Outlet for Dealing with Stress

North Brandywine Middle School created a room in the building that students could visit, either by their choice or by the suggestion of a teacher, to help "re-set" themselves to have a successful remainder of the school day. The room had a stationary bicycle, a mini trampoline and elliptical machine, bins with macaroni or sand, a chalkboard and a bouncy ball. If students felt themselves starting to move in a bad direction and needed an outlet to get some energy out, talk to an adult, or just spend a few minutes in order to calm down, they were able to use the re-set room.



Students and faculty benefited from this program because students were able to gather themselves and “re-set” for the remainder of the school day. This program was incredibly successful as over 93 percent of the students that utilized it did not receive any discipline referrals for the remainder of the day in which they visited the room.

**SCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL
Field Trip Yields Real-World Experience,
Collaborative Learning**

Students engaged in real world experiences as they investigated their future careers during a field trip to the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) accounting firm offices in Philadelphia. Students worked with college students and PwC employees to build LEGO Boost Robots. They wrote code using iPads to make the robots move, make noise and race. Students benefited from this experience because they were able to learn from an unfamiliar challenge, collaborate with peers and receive positive support from professional employees and college students.

**COATESVILLE AREA INTERMEDIATE HIGH SCHOOL
SPIRIT Summit Combats Racial Tensions within a
High School Setting**

Four hundred and fifty students from four Pennsylvania school districts converged on Coatesville Area Senior High School to work with officials from the U.S. Department of Justice and various state agencies to develop techniques to combat racial tensions within the hallways of their respective high schools. The Student Problem Identification and Resolving Issues Together (SPIRIT) group developed the summit in order to address social justice issues, with a focus on racial tension, experienced by high school students across Pennsylvania. This was the second such summit that Coatesville has hosted over the last few years.



**COATESVILLE AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Students Earn College Credit through Dual
Enrollment Program**

Coatesville Area Intermediate and Senior High School began a partnership with Delaware County Community College (DCCC) that allows high school students to earn high school credit while taking college courses at DCCC’s Exton campus. Students who begin the program sophomore year have the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree. During the 2018-2019 school year, all 35 students who took advantage of the program were successful in earning college and high school credits.

Students in the program were able to transfer their college credits to the college of their choice. This is a financial savings for the families of the students who opted to participate in the program. Students are enrolled in the liberal arts program, which allows them to take all of the freshman and sophomore college requirements at no cost to the family. DCCC has counselors that are “transfer specialists” who work with the students to ensure that all their credits are accepted at another college or university. DCCC also has a list of articulation agreements with colleges and universities that is extensive and provides additional scholarship money to the students and the school offers merit-based scholarships to students.

**CASD CYBER ACADEMY
Students Discover
Career Possibilities during College Visit**

High school students attended a full day of workshops at Delaware County Community College to help plan their future careers. Students joined the business, computer science, culinary arts and hotel and restaurant management departments for an immersive experience. The workshops highlighted such programs and topics as leadership styles and innovation, molecular gastronomy, service excellence and hacking. Students also learned about the admissions process and financial aid. The day included an opportunity to network with current students and faculty and a campus tour.

CASD Welcomes New Elementary Special Education Coordinators

As part of the ongoing effort to increase special education support and services and maximize progress among special education students, the Coatesville Area School District has recently hired four new special education supervisors to serve at the elementary level.

The elementary school supervisors of special education team now consists of: Brenda George, who is assigned to Rainbow Elementary; Casandra Jones, who is assigned to King's Highway Elementary; Suzanne Laubscher, who is assigned to Reeceville Elementary; Kathryn Buschan, who is assigned to Caln Elementary; and Jeff Kuciapinski, who is assigned to East Fallowfield Elementary.

While these individuals are newly hired for the elementary supervisor roles, the District's special education department continues to have Becky Kohr, Meghan Monahan and Jenn Marvil, who are assigned the secondary schools and other District-wide roles and responsibilities. Also, Stevan Lefever, is now a supervisor of special education, who will be assigned as the Local Education Agency (LEA) representative for students in out-of-District educational placements.

According to Special Education Director Lisa Hauswirth, there are five aspects to how the newly-hired special education supervisors will be implemented to support students, families and teachers in the District:

1. Utilize essential components and practices for facilitating Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. An IEP team consists of a special education teacher, general education teacher, parent/guardian, an LEA representative and any other therapist or individual who works with students with an IEP. Teams meet to draft an appropriate educational program for students based upon their needs. By having an individual who has special education certificate, they have a deeper knowledge of how to facilitate those meetings and how to help brainstorm supports to meet a student's needs.

2. Assist with managing people and data and processes as part of student progress. Supervisors will be looking at student achievement data, behavioral data, acting as a liaison within the school setting to facilitate therapists, teachers and working to ensure the student has the support and services intended.

3. Analyze support services, strategies and programs within each elementary school to conduct a needs assessment. They will see where the needs are, and what's specific to a particular student, school or District-wide and determine how to address those needs. Having an administrator solely focused on special education working in tandem with principals will ensure the programming offered to all students is appropriate.

4. Special education supervisors will improve instruction by providing ongoing feedback and coaching to staff. They will conduct formal and informal observations of teachers and hold meetings and training sessions to discuss paperwork they've reviewed, lessons they've been a part of or situations that are student specific. These conversations will help to reinforce best practices.

5. Improve and increase communication between home and school to further engage families and community members. Supervisors of special education will call parents prior to an IEP meeting to discuss what the parent feels is going well in the program and what may need improvement. A parent should know they can always contact their child's teacher and/or special education supervisor for support. They can also talk about community resources available. Additionally, the District plans to conduct training sessions open to any community member surrounding special education topics. Topics of discussion, for example, would include what the process looks like if a child is struggling but is not currently in special education. Families of general and special education students will be able to know what resources are available to them and how to access them.

The special education department is working with The Arc of Chester County to further plan the details of these meetings. Community partners have also envisioned supporting the school District by hosting informal chat-and-chew style events, where community members could come to learn about the resources available to them.

"Special education is so individualized," said Hauswirth. "The new supervisors of special education will work at an individual and global level to ensure all students continue to receive the support and services they need to maximize their progress."

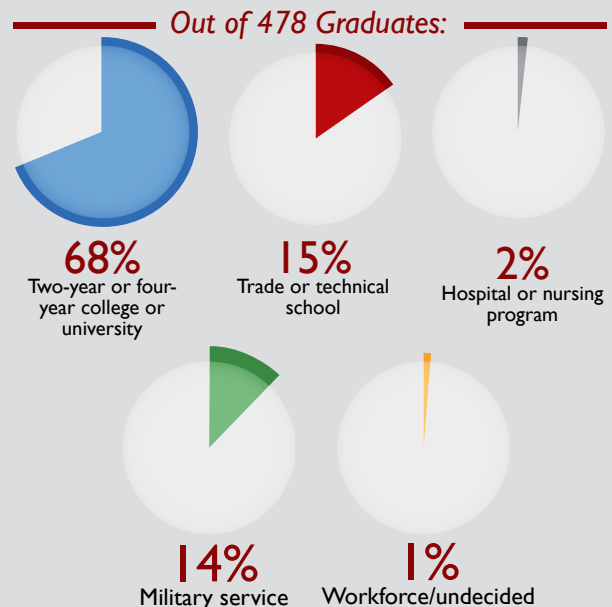
HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

The District congratulates the graduates of the Class of 2019 on their achievements and contributions. We wish these newest alumni every success and happiness in the years to come! Here is a snapshot of where our graduates said they would be headed next:

COLLEGES INCLUDE:

- James Madison University
- Rutgers University
- Drexel University
- Kutztown University
- Penn State University Main and satellite campuses
- West Chester University
- East Stroudsburg University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania

The students of the Class of 2019 received over \$2.4 million in scholarships and awards.



2018-19 Athletic Points of Pride

It was an exciting year for high school sports, as once again, our teams demonstrated their incredible talents and skills on the field. Here are a few of the points of pride from the 2018-19 season.

Fall

Football

- The football team was undefeated during regular season play, earning the National League Division Ches-Mont Championship. The team captured its second straight District 1 Class 6A football title. It also competed in the PIAA Class 6A state semifinal.
- Aaron Young and Ricky Santiago were selected to represent the high school in the Big 33 game.
- Tione Holmes was selected to play in the East/West All-Star Game.

Cross Country Track

- Samantha Miller placed 51st overall in the Pennsylvania State Cross Country meet in Hershey, Pa.

Winter

Boys' Basketball

- The team won the District 1 Ches-Mont boys' basketball championship and made it into the state playoffs.
- Jhamir Brickus surpassed Richard "Rip" Hamilton's all-time scoring record, making him the second highest scorer of all time.

Girls' Basketball

- The team made it to the opening round of the District 1-6A playoffs.
- Sarah Huston reached the 1,000-career point mark in the final game of her high school career.

Wrestling

The wrestling team competed in the Wrestling Ches-Mont Championship and placed fifth overall. Nine individuals also received medals.

Spring

Boys' Track and Field

- The boys' track team finished in first place in the high jump and the 4x100 relay at the PIAA Track and Field State Championship. The team set a new state record in the 4x100 relay with a time of 40.99 seconds. Members of the team later travelled to Harrisburg to be recognized by the State Senate.
- The boys' 4x100 team posted the fastest American time at the 2019 Penn Relays.
- For the second straight year, the boys' track team won the District 1 Championship.
- Naheem Moore won the silver medal in the triple jump at PIAA Track and Field State Championship.

Girls' Track and Field

- The girls' 4x200 relay team was invited to compete in the prestigious Millrose Games. Only the top athletes from around the country and the world are invited to this meet.
- The girls' 4x100 team won bronze at the PIAA Track and Field State Championship.
- The girls' team finished in second place in the District 1 Championship.



Kindergarten Readiness Summer Camp Offered Preview of School Life to Come

While most students were soaking up the sun and enjoying the time away from the classroom this summer, the class of 2032 had the opportunity to get a sneak peek at what life in kindergarten would be like.

Rainbow Elementary School hosted the second annual Kindergarten Readiness Summer Camp July 8-11. Over the course of the four-day experience, approximately 60 students were in attendance.

During camp, students learned to love reading, thanks to the Units of Study and Word Study programs, which improve reading skills and teach patterns in words rather than memorizing spelling words. They

also learned how much fun math can be using the Everyday Math core standard curriculum, which reinforces abstract math concepts through real-world applications. Campers also met their future classmates and began developing social skills with their new friends.

“It’s vital for students to have the opportunity to interact in a school setting prior to kindergarten,” said Dr. Bridgette Miles, principal at King’s Highway Elementary School, who oversaw the camp. “Whether students are going to Rainbow, or another elementary school in the District, it’s important for them to begin to feel acclimated to what school will be like. Many students have not gone to preschool, so this camp lays a foundation for skills they will learn in kindergarten.”

