



Coatesville Area School District

Inspiring. Educating. Advancing.

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December 15, 2022

Dear Coatesville Area School District and Parents,

I want to share information about some of the progress we're making with providing Chromebooks to all students, as well as to our Comprehensive Plan and Master Facilities Plans:

- Our Technology Department has secured enough new Chromebooks so that every one of our students will be able to have a working Chromebook. At the school board's January 10, 2023 meeting, the Department will present the updated Chromebook Handbook that includes the cycle of how we'll distribute new/refreshed Chromebooks and collect the older ones. That process will begin following approval from the board, expected January 10.
- The Comprehensive Plan for 2023-2025 is being developed and will go before the board and public in February 2023 before we submit it to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The plan centers around four goals driven by the school board to make improvements in the school district. A committee of parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and school board members has been meeting this year to review district data, analyze the district's strengths and challenges, and develop the plan. It will be presented publicly and there will be an opportunity for feedback from the community before the plan is finalized.
- Coming off the last Comprehensive Plan, there have been some significant changes to support students. Our teachers have done a wonderful job of linking the curriculum to state standards, have updated their instructional practice to incorporate the science of reading, and are constantly assessing students on their reading gains and making adjustments as necessary. This is taking our students to new levels of learning. The district has also implemented MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports), a framework used by schools nationwide to provide targeted support to students throughout the school year. These changes, and the work of our talented teachers, administration, and staff are having a significant impact. **Please see the attached document for more information.**
- The Coatesville Area School District is at a crossroads with our facilities, which are aging and facing numerous challenges, despite a significant preventive maintenance plan. Our Master Facilities Plan Task Force, comprised of parents, teachers, staff, community members, and school board members, has been meeting this year to analyze options for improvements and the future of our facilities. We will hold a series of public presentations on the options being considered and solicit feedback from the community before presenting a plan to the school board in May 2023. The first public update will take place on January 10, 2023, at the Board Operations Committee Meeting.

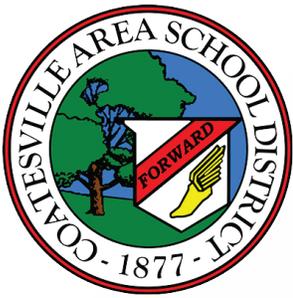
Interim Superintendent: Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.

On behalf of the Coatesville Area School District, whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukah, or Kwanza, we would like to extend our best wishes for a happy holiday and a magnificent New Year. May the holiday season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones. Wishing you and your loved one's peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RFD', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Richard F. Dunlap, Jr., Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent
Coatesville Area School District



What is MTSS?

How is it Helping Our Students?

MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports. It is a framework used by many schools nationwide to screen all students throughout the school year to provide targeted support and instruction.

The goal of MTSS is to help schools know when to intervene early so students can catch up with their peers.

MTSS includes increasing levels or 'tiers' of targeted support for those who are struggling, and integrated plans to support them.

MTSS focuses on the "whole child," and looks at not only academics but behavior and social and emotional needs.



The Coatesville Area School District's staff in grades K - 7 began implementing MTSS in the 2021-22 school year, with support from the Chester County Intermediate Unit.



- We began in the 2021-22 school year with Reading and English Language Arts. Our teachers evaluate student progress, group students according to need for targeted support, and determine whether students need to move in or out of a certain level of targeted instruction, based on their changing needs. Teachers are focusing on phonemic awareness (letter sounds), phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.



- The goal for the 2022-23 school year is to incorporate an MTSS model for math to support math concepts such as number sense, spatial sense, estimation, measurements, patterns, and problem solving.
- We plan to expand MTSS to grades 8 - 12.

MTSS tiers are about specialized support - not a placement or an identity.

MTSS tiers may change based on a student's response to the interventions they are receiving.

How do teachers monitor student progress?

Teachers use short assessments in class that help them to know where a student is struggling or excelling. Coatesville teachers use tests that are part of a national program called Acadience, designed specifically for schools using models like MTSS. Coatesville teachers meet twice a month in groups to evaluate student data and determine which students may need to move to a different tier. This allows them to track student progress and communicate that progress to parents and to other teachers.

Our Schools Use Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a proactive approach to support student behavior.

PBIS works hands in hand with MTSS. In Coatesville, students are rewarded in various ways for positive behavior. This program helps us to improve climate and culture, strengthen student-teacher relationships, increase student expectations, intervene early, and provide opportunities for students to be recognized and supported. It is part of the MTSS framework that includes the 'whole child.'



ACADEMICS ON THE RISE

Coatesville Area School District Students Show Gains 2021-22

A new, evidence-based reading curriculum is taking our students to new levels of learning. The District has also implemented MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports), a framework used by schools nationwide to provide targeted support to students throughout the school year.

These changes, and the work of our talented, caring teachers, administration, and staff is having a significant impact.

7/10

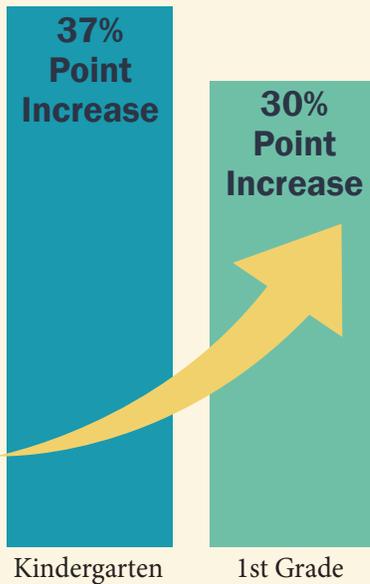
The number of kindergarten students who were proficient in reading at the end of the 2021-22 school year

↑ 31%

The number of first grade students reading on grade level at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year has increased by 31 percentage points

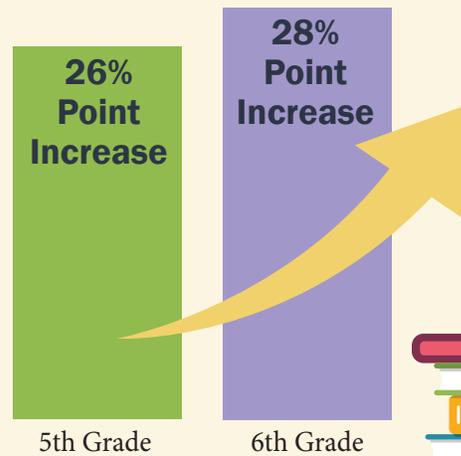
Early Learning Reading Scores Increasing

Increase in students reading at or above grade level – June 2021 to June 2022



5th & 6th Grade Reading Scores Increasing

Increase in reading comprehension scores – June 2021 to June 2022



Post Pandemic learning gaps are being identified.

Early learning Reading was a priority to start the 2021-22 school year.

When students read proficiently at early grade levels, they tend to achieve at higher levels through high school and beyond.

1,376

The number of students in grades K-6 who advanced at least one grade level in reading by the end of the 21-22 school year