

Southern Lehigh Middle School Spring Update

School Musical:

On May 20th, 21st, and 22nd, SLMS presented three performances of Seussical Jr. to great audiences! Twenty-one talented 7th and 8th graders romped through the world of Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat and other Dr. Seuss characters. For most of the students, this was their first in-person musical since before the pandemic, and it was clear they missed being on stage! Parents, staff, and students all collaborated to make the show a special experience for the cast, crew, and community. The show's message that "A person's a person, no matter how small" resonated throughout the auditorium, and we're all tremendously proud of everyone involved.

Instrumental Concert:

The Instrumental Music Department students delighted audience members with the demonstration of their expertise in the field of instrumental performance music during their May 18th concert. The students performed pieces that displayed their talents and competencies achieved during the school year. Congratulations to our Instrumental music students and their Director, Mr. Jeff Loda.

Chorus Concert:

The Choral students, under the direction of Mrs. Tina Lebrecht entertained audiences during their May 16th concert. The choral students performed a variety of musical pieces that were enjoyed by all in attendance. Congratulations to our Choral Music Students!

Greenpower:

The students' Greenpower race team competed against the Nazareth Area School District Middle and High School teams on Saturday, April 23rd at Nazareth Middle School. The Greenpower Team designed and built the race car from the frame-to the finish product, including all electrical components.

Teen Counselors

On Wednesday, April 20th, the Teen Counselors came down from the high school for one final visit with our seventh-grade students. As a culminating activity, the Teen Counselors led a variety of team-building and relay activities outside on a beautiful, sunny morning. The activities included jumbo cup-stacking challenges, hula-hoop races, and rubber chicken relays, and our students had a blast spending that time with their high school role models. A special thank you to all of Southern Lehigh High School's Teen Counseling program, including advisors Amy Bausher and Cherise Kocis, for a year's worth of building relationships and making positive impacts on our seventh-graders!

SWPBIS

(School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions Support) SLMS, in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania, has been supporting this initiative since 2017. The model is intended to recognize the efforts of students to be kind, considerate, and caring. Students, who exhibit these characteristics are recognized through the awarding of a “red-ticket”. These red tickets then allow the student to be entered into a prize drawing. Prizes are kept on display in the main lobby, as an incentive to continue their efforts to make our Middle School, a kind, caring considerate place for all.

Lunches

In April the color-coded lunch groups were retired and all students began reporting to the main cafeteria for all lunch periods. A special word of thanks to all students, staff and faculty for their cooperation during the “color-coded” lunch era.

Drills

The Southern Lehigh School District, as part of its regular attention to the safety of all students and staff maintains a monthly “drill- schedule “. This schedule is intended to be prepared for various types of unexpected events. During the 2021-2022 academic year, our students participated in monthly fire drills, which required to total evacuation of the building. In addition, as part of our ALICE model training for students and staff, all participate in drills that reinforce the elements of the A.L.I.C.E model These component elements are, ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER, EVACUATE. The drill schedule is completed by attention to preparation for natural disasters that can be occasioned by natural events, earthquakes, as well as severe weather.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year, also known as The Lunar Festival or The Spring Festival, occurring on February 1, 2022 is the largest and most significant holiday in China. The date of the Chinese New Year varies every year, usually falling on the first full moon of the year. The celebration starts on New Year's Eve when members of a family, regardless of the number or distance, gather for a "reunion dinner". At midnight on the eve, the sky is permeated with vibrant fireworks and blizzing firecrackers, welcoming the arrival of the New Year. The Chinese New Year is the prime time for family reunions; visiting relatives and friends, and exchanging greetings for the coming New Year. There are many symbolic foods prepared for the New Year. For example, "yu" is the word for fish in Chinese, and is homophonic to the word 'surplus'. Hence, eating fish during the New Year celebration signifies that there should always be surpluses. In northern China, "Jiaozi" (dumplings) are made, and the filling inside that gets wrapped symbolizes luck.

The New Year celebration is the most joyous time of the year for children. According to Chinese tradition, children will receive "hong bao" (red envelopes/pockets) that typically contain money from adults. From the 1st day of the New Year to the 15th day, streets and homes are filled with dragon and lion dances. The formation of these dances involves a group of people, some of whom manage the "dragon" and the "lion", while some beat the drums. It is believed that the loud noise created by the drums, along with the faces of the dragon and lion scare away the evil spirits.

The New Year celebration ends on the 15th day of the New Year, which is the Lantern Festival. On that evening, people make lanterns and place them on rivers/ponds and allow them to float with the currents. In other places, there are lantern parades. People bring lanterns with them and walk on the streets.

8th Grade Party

On May 13, 2022, the students of the 8th grade, in recognition of their completion of their final Middle School academic year and their soon-to-be move to our High School, participated in the Eighth Grade Party-on-Preston celebration. The 8th grade students enjoyed a movie, an ice-cream festival and some free time on the fields of the Middle School. Congratulations to our 8th graders and to all who helped to make "Party-on-Preston" a success!

Track Walks

During the COVID period, voluntary track-walks were instituted at the Middle School in order to afford the students, fresh air, sun light, and a supervised a "change-of-pace". The walks quickly became popular and have become an integral part of the Middle School culture. The sun-light, fresh and "change-of-pace" we hope contribute to the students overall health and vitality.

What's So Cool About Manufacturing

In Fall 2021, four of our very talented Southern Lehigh Middle School Studio 22 students, Delaney L., Hiba S., Sophia C., and Sydney Y., participated in the "What's So Cool About Manufacturing Video Contest". These four students were assigned a local manufacturer, Kitchen Magic. The students were given the task to brainstorm, plan, visit their assigned manufacturer, film, and create a video on Kitchen Magic to promote awareness about manufacturing in general and manufacturing jobs in and around the Lehigh Valley. The group also wanted to capture and highlight the high technological aspect of manufacturing today versus manufacturing in the past. They worked together over the course of five months to complete the filming and editing.

At the beginning of April 2022, there was an Awards Ceremony held in the evening at the Arts Quest Center in Bethlehem, where all participating school teams attended. Eleven different awards were presented. In addition, a cupcake

war took place showcasing the local technical institutes and the many creative culinary skills in the Valley. This was surely a tasty treat for all. Due to the contest's success, it has been held for 9 years for middle school students in the Lehigh Valley. Our own teacher-coaches, Mr. Pauling and Mrs. Walter have been a part of the coaching team since the very beginning. Manufacturers showcased in previous years include Lutron Electronics, Crayola, Just Born, I2R Nanowave, and Bracalente just to name a few. Studio 22 students are already excited about the upcoming challenge/opportunity for next year's contest. Will we have the opportunity to showcase a company like Martin Guitar or Mack Trucks? We will just have to wait and see. More updates coming Fall 2022.

Career Day

Our 8th grade culminated their Career Acquisition Unit with a Mock Interview for an entry-level position. The students learned how to navigate the interview process from documents to interviewing skills. They filled out a job application for a job opening, created a resume or qualifications brief, and perfected their cover letter to obtain an interview. During the Career Day on Thursday, May 12th, thirty-five parent-volunteers helped conduct the mock interviews with the students and provided individual feedback to each student. After their interview, the students wrote a thank you letter to their interviewer, which is an important, last part of the process to hopefully obtain the job offer. Students also spent time after their interviews writing their own reflections on how they felt their interview went and will be able to compare their reflections with the interviewer's feedback. Students also chose six career presentation videos from a variety of careers videos that were recorded from past career day presentations and current parent's submissions. It was wonderful to see our students dress up for their interviews and demonstrate all they had learned from the Career and Technology Exploration Course. It was great to have half of our live event back in the building for this year's Career Day.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

Starting next school year (2022~ 2023), there will be a new procedure for the NJHS induction process.

As we have done in the past, 7th grade students will still be invited to be a part of NJHS if they achieve a 3.8 overall GPA after 3rd marking period report cards have been finalized. They will need to maintain their GPA and complete six service hours during eighth grade (the deadline is the end of March). At that point, all 8th grade NJHS inductees who have maintained a 3.8 and successfully completed 6 service hours will be inducted into NJHS as members. The change is that we used to induct 7th graders but they had not yet completed service hours. By changing the process, students who are inducted have now experienced all of the 5 pillars to represent NJHS, which are service, scholarship, character, citizenship, and leadership.

Their next opportunity to be part of the Honor Society will occur in 10th grade (NHS). Please reach out to Mrs. Halloran or Mrs. Grubb if you have any questions.

Rocket Assembly

We want to thank Mr. Netwall for presenting to the 8th-grade science classes on rocketry. Mr. Netwall specializes in propulsion engineering (rocket science) for the United States Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. Hoping to inspire and encourage students to explore the scientific field, he graciously volunteered to present to the 8th graders who are currently working on building rockets in the classroom. Mr. Netwall engaged students in demonstrations and videos to connect rocket science to their current studies.

6th grade visit

On May 25, 2022, our 6th grade students from the JPLIS paid their annual visit to the Middle School. These visits serve a very specific purpose. The visits are intended to help the upcoming sixth grade students to feel more at home. The day consisted of introductions of people who will prove helpful to the students in their new home. These introductions were followed by walking tours of the building and ended with a video presentation demonstrating

PEAK

The P.E.A.K program (Planned Extracurricular Activities for our Kids) rounded out its year with a dumpling-making activity on May 12th. Students gathered after school in the Family and Consumer Sciences room to make and enjoy Chinese dumplings with Ms. Zhu and Ms. Eidemuller. Some of this year's P.E.A.K activities included fishing in the Saucon Creek, holiday cookie baking, a trip to FreeFall Trampoline Park, D.I.Y macramé plant hangings, among others. P.E.A.K is excited to build on this list next school year and get back to our normal schedule of afterschool activities - a schedule that has been greatly impacted these last two years. Many thanks to all of our students and staff who helped make this year's P.E.A.K activities so successful!

Impact Program

The Impact project is partnered with the Lehigh County Juvenile probation department and Lehigh County Police departments to provide community based diversion programs.

Community Justice panels provide opportunities for youth who are first time offenders to make amends to their victims and to also avoid the criminal justice system.

The youth offenders are only eligible once for the program and Impact follows up with the officer to make sure the youth has completed the Impact program. An arrest only happens when Impact is not completed Southern Lehigh Middle

School cooperates with this initiative of Lehigh County and supplies meeting space for the interview process when needed.

STUCO (Student Council)

In September, we held a successful fundraiser through Club's Choice Fundraising. There were many incentives, including famous ducks like Bob Ross and Peppa Pig; the grand prize was a limo ride and lunch at Red Robin. Thank you to all who participated! With the earned funds, Student Council is purchasing a new laminator for the building, paid for a celebratory afternoon for the 8th graders and also paid for supplies and lighting for the Glow dance, reducing the ticket cost for students.

Over the course of the school year, Student Council sponsored many spirit days, averaging to 2 or 3 per month. Our most popular spirit day seemed to be Twin Day, based on the amount of student participation. Additionally, we held 2 spirit weeks, one in November for Red Ribbon Week and one in December before the winter holidays.

Our 1st dance in 2 years happened in March and we had a sellout crowd of over 200 students - the most to attend a dance in recent history! In April, we hosted a tiny-THON in support of the high school's mini-THON happening in May. Teachers and staff were treated to a SL blanket for Teacher Appreciation Week and finally, our 8th grade send-off event was held on the afternoon of May 13. Students were treated to a movie and an ice cream treat from the SoCool Bus, compliments of Student Council.

We want to wish the best to our eight graders as they continue their academic journey at the high school next year. We have a lot of events planned for next year and are looking forward to a "normal" school year!