



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: February 25, 2013

- A contingency of teachers, administrators, and technology staff representing all levels/buildings recently attended the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C). During the conference the attendees were able to choose from a wide variety of sessions to help them integrate technology into their classrooms. Our team participated in sessions on flipped classrooms, apps for education, Discovery Education in the classroom, project based learning and digital media to name a few. As always, teachers will be sharing what they learned with their colleagues in their buildings by offering Academies, sharing at faculty meetings and working in their teams to share and demonstrate what they learned.
- Mr. Hayes and I did meet with Representative Simmons concerning ACCESS funding for students with IEP's eligible for medical assistance and frustrations with the new vendor on March 13 at the Capitol Building. Several members of the House, PDE, and Board of Education joined us, along with Superintendent Roth from Salisbury and Phil Fiore from CLIU. We presented documents that summarized our collective frustrations and were assured the company would be making improvements in the near future.
- Our Communication Intern has linked all individual sports schedules on the athletic page. This should help communicate the latest changes in sports schedules for the community.
 - The latest updates are also posted on the *Breaking News* page under Athletics:
 - Girls Basketball team finished as Colonial League Champs for the 3rd year in a row. They continue to AAA Semi-finals for District- playing North Schuylkill this Wednesday 6PM at Allen HS.
 - Four Varsity Wrestlers are moving on to District competition- this Friday at Freedom HS.
 - The Swim team is moving on to Districts- this Friday/Saturday at Parkland HS

- We also have one diver moving to Districts and one eligible for State competition.
 - Our Rifle team was the Northeast PA Rifle Association League Season Champions for the 2nd year in a row.
- We recently learned that PDE is requiring all staff involved with administration of PSSA/Keystone exams to complete a 45 minute video with a quiz. We are asking all administrators, teachers and instructional assistants to complete this training.
- Friday March 1st is teacher in-service day. K-8 buildings are focusing on professional development related to aligning curriculum to the Common Core Standards. The high school will be working with consultant, Michael Rettig, Professor in the College of Education and the Director of the Center for School Leadership at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to plan for teaching in the new schedule being implemented next year. Several teachers from surrounding schools who have been teaching in a block schedule will be sharing their experiences through a panel discussion.
- I received a complementary letter from Mr. Jim Wood, a former resident/parent of Southern Lehigh graduates regarding one of our high school students and the HS job shadowing experience- a part of the graduation project. This is one example of the great experience the shadowing provides for our students and also demonstrates another opportunity for our students to shine. In this case, Emily Kasarda is to be commended for her work in the field of journalism.
- I'd like to encourage everyone to attend the 2nd annual Middle School Academic Student Showcase on Wednesday, Feb. 27 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This showcase will highlight what is going on throughout our building. Here are just a few of the things that you can do; listen to live music and poetry, broadcast from a TV studio, go on a QR code scavenger hunt, and learn about Chinese and Arabic cultures. Come hungry and join us from 4:30 to 6:00pm for Empty Bowls Night. All proceeds will be donated to Betty Lou's Food Pantry in Coopersburg.
- I'd also like to encourage everyone to attend the HS Broadway Musical, 42nd Street which kicks off on Wednesday evening with the Senior Citizen's Performance and continues through Sunday with a 2PM Matinee performance.
- A reminder for Board Members... next Tuesday, March 5th is visitation day at the elementary buildings.