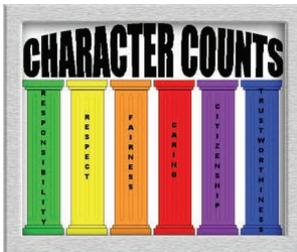


From the Superintendent District Celebrates Character and Generous Community Giving

#SASDPride has become a familiar tag for many Twitter users in the Souderton community because we have so many wonderful things to be proud of. Our Character Counts Initiative was evident in all of our schools during the week of October 16-20th as many of our students, faculty and staff could be seen wearing the colors representative of these character attributes! A Women's Symposium was held at the high school for young women where female guest speakers empowered our students with positive messages of development and confidence and several of our schools honored our own local heroes with special assemblies and lunches celebrating Veteran's Day. One of the most memorable and notable events occurred in November when we were recognized as a *National Banner Unified Champion School* by Special Olympics. Our High School is the first school in Pennsylvania to be showcased for our commitment to Unified Sports and student inclusion (See story at right).



As winter begins to bear down on us, we are grateful for the community support from our local auto dealers and their *Driving Away the Cold* campaign which provided more than 400 brand new coats to our students at E.M. Crouthamel Elementary School! This outpouring of support is just another example of the thoughtful and caring attitudes that make up our wonderful community and fill me with pride.

Frank T. Gallagher, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools



Souderton Area High School Recognized by Special Olympics as an Excellent Inclusive School Community



On Thursday, November 30, 2017, Souderton Area High School (SAHS) was the first school in Pennsylvania to be recognized as a National Banner Unified Champion School by the Special Olympics' International headquarters. This award is bestowed on only a few select schools throughout the country that have met ten established standards of excellence demonstrative of a commitment to promoting inclusion.

The banner was presented by Tim Shriver, CEO of Special Olympics, during an all-school pep rally. Souderton is one of only four schools in the country to be highlighted nationally through such a banner presentation.

SAHS Athletic Director, Dennis Stanton, along with Supervisor of Special Education, Megan Zweiback, spearheaded the effort to bring Unified Sports to Souderton. Dennis Stanton indicated, "Unified Sports has been a great addition to Souderton Area High School's culture of inclusion. Our Unified Track and Unified Bocce teams have created amazing opportunities for our student-athletes and have had a positive impact on the entire student body. We are excited to be recognized and are committed to growing our program in the future."

Unified Sports has teams of typical and special students who compete side-by-side in interscholastic competition. SAHS first instituted Unified Track and Field in the 2015-

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Indian Valley Student Makes a Difference for Children with Cancer

Indian Valley Middle School eighth grader and childhood cancer survivor, Peter Zucca, was recognized for his generous contributions to help children with cancer. At the November 15 Philanthropy



Peter Zucca, eighth grader at Indian Valley Middle School received the "Youth in Philanthropy Award" for his fundraising efforts.

Day Celebration in Wilmington, Delaware, he was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Brandywine Chapter which issues awards each year to recognize the contributions that philanthropists make in the community. The *Youth in Philanthropy Award* is awarded to individual youths and/or youth groups, 22 years of age and under, who have made a significant impact on a cause or program through fundraising and volunteer activities.

The Nemours Fund for Children's Health nominated Peter for this award because of his support of Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children through his foundation, the *Peter Powerhouse Foundation*. Peter founded the organization in 2014 with a mission to improve the lives of other children who are fighting pediatric cancer.

First, he raised \$20,000 so he could purchase and donate 100 wagons to duPont Hospital for Children. Kids use these wagons when they are traveling around the hospital for treatment. Then, he raised an additional \$75,000, which the hospital used to secure Cinemavision goggles. These wearable devices allow children to watch movies while they are receiving an MRI, which can reduce their anxiety and often allow them to avoid sedation.

As it that was not enough, Peter provides gift cards to the cafeteria and to the gift shop and has donated Xboxes, books and toys during the holidays and throughout the year. He also organizes regional blood drives and provides scholarships to children going to camps that specifically support pediatric cancer patients. Peter raises funds online and through a multitude of golf tournaments and special events.

Crest Community Challenge—C3 Provides Service and Funds for Community

Developing a sense of community service extends beyond what is taught in a classroom setting. At Indian Crest, we are encouraging students to actively participate in the community in which they live. Our emphasis is on developing an awareness of the needs of others in the community, cultivating a sense of responsibility to address these concerns, and helping to develop the skills needed to make an effective contribution to society. Therefore, at Indian Crest Middle School we believe that it is important to venture beyond the classroom and make a positive contribution to our community.

For that reason, we have undertaken a school wide community service project called the *Crest Community Challenge (C3)*. The goal of the project is to raise money by means of sponsors and pledges with students participating in an obstacle course challenge in addition to volunteering throughout the community. The money raised will be used to help provide assistance to the underprivileged residents within the townships and boroughs surrounding Indian Crest Middle School. For this purpose, students and staff are working in conjunction with the Keystone Opportunity Center, Souderton-Telford Rotary, and Franconia, Telford, and Souderton municipalities.

On Wednesday, October 4, 2017 Indian Crest held the 3rd annual Crest Community Challenge. The day was a great success as our students completed community service at twenty different community locations, raised close to \$7,000 for families in need, and participated in a character development assembly.



Developing 21st Century Learners in Souderton



Souderton's classrooms are preparing students for college and career by providing students with a wide range of **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities and challenges that require creativity, innovation and problem-solving.

Salford Hills Apples Afar Challenge

Students used materials such as pencils, craft sticks, rubber bands, clips, and a file folder to build a cantilever to suspend an apple. Groups were successful if their structure held an apple for at least 10 seconds.

Indian Crest Waterslide Activity

Students in our 6th grade participated in a design challenge by creating a waterslide from a variety of materials. They used design thinking strategies to create and collaborate with classmates during their investigation.

Souderton High School STEM Post

This is a series of workshops designed for girls in grades 9-12 who are interested in learning more about career opportunities in STEM fields. The girls work directly with professionals to discuss real-world career experiences and engage in a variety of STEM activities.

#SoudySTEM

Franconia is "Throwing Kindness Like Confetti"



Souderton is a school district where character counts. For this reason, Franconia must equip its students and staff with strategies to fulfill this message and build character. Building kind citizens is an important goal of our teachers and parents. Recent studies have found that kind people are not only happier, they are healthier. Kindness will grow if we infuse it into all that we do. Therefore, each month, our teachers will be reading literature focusing on building a force field



of kindness. Recently, classrooms have read the mentor text, *The Kindness Quilt* written by Nancy Wallace and participated in morning discussions on what it means to be kind. Throughout the day, all staff members are encouraged to recognize students when kindness is demonstrated in words or actions. **Together, we will cultivate kindness in our children and school!**

Salford Hills Learning and Playing with Big Blue Blocks



We're using our brains all the time at Salford Hills, even during recess!

Purchased by our Home and School Association, our Big Blue Blocks encourage critical thinking and spatial dynamics in addition to cooperation and socialization. Other than that, they're just plain fun to play with!

16 school year, and then added Unified Bocce during the 2016-17 school year. Souderton's Unified Track and Field team won the State Championship in 2017!

According to SAHS principal, Sam Varano, "In Souderton we have always prided ourselves, first and foremost, on being a very accepting and supportive school for all members of our community. Unified Sports, however, has catapulted the camaraderie between our typical and special needs students to new levels."

Superintendent Frank T. Gallagher commented, "I am so proud of our high school. Receiving this award is another example of the inclusivity of the school district and of Souderton's commitment to focusing on the whole child."

Generous Students and Staff Provide Hurricane Relief at Vernfield



Vernfield students, faculty, and staff collected supplies to help provide relief for those affected by the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. The collection effort was coordinated by the Vernfield Student Council.

EMC Focuses on "Student Stars" as Construction Project Focuses on Completion

At EMC, we created an outside theater. Several of our students along with a few high school students, our Art teacher and Reading Specialist painted an outside theater for students to use. The students are encouraged to showcase their talents during recess or even use it for Reader's Theater as a classroom activity. This has been a huge success at EMC. We have many talented children—Shining Stars!



While students, staff and community members learn and work around the building renovations at E. Merton Crouthamel Elementary School this school year, they are all eager to be part of the updated facility, scheduled for completion by August 2018.



According to Frank Ball, Supervisor of Operations in the District, the renovations are on track to meet the summer goal. With the exterior walls and roof finalized in January, the focus during the cold weather months will be the interior finishing. Warmer weather will see work on the new parking lot and playgrounds beginning.

Over the summer, final pieces to the project will be completed for the new kitchen, cafeteria and gym, as well as the new classrooms replacing the current modular rooms.



Supporting Public Education Together

The mission of the Indian Valley Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization serving the Souderton Area School District, is to ensure the highest level of educational opportunity for students through a community partnership with public education.

IVEF Volunteer Opportunities

Show your support for public education. Volunteering at the Indian Valley Education Foundation is a meaningful way to serve the Souderton Area School District.

For More Information Visit IndianValleyEF.org

