

New Middle School Schedule Offers Developmentally Appropriate Experiences

The 2019-2020 school year has been an exciting time for middle school students, faculty, and families with the implementation of a new schedule and redesigned curriculum. The goal of the reimagined student experience is to provide a schedule that is developmentally appropriate for each grade level and provides grade-specific transitions from elementary school to middle school and then high school. Additionally, the new schedule provides specific time for intervention and support, increased instructional time in the core areas, and a greater variety of related arts for students at each grade level.

The new middle school curriculum integrates rigorous content objectives with evidence-based instructional strategies that focus on the whole child. A particular point of pride in the schedule is the emphasis on STEM learning opportunities for students at each grade level. In addition, a new 8th grade STEM offering was developed that



Middle School Students participate in hands-on activities during morning FOCUS block.

provides a semester of pre-engineering and a semester of introduction to coding. This course enables students to explore and build STEM skills while earning high school credits.

The new schedule includes a 30-minute FOCUS block positioned at the beginning of the day that provides a flexible opportunity for intervention and extension. One additional purpose of this block is a Monday Advisory period. All students report to their year-long Advisory teacher who engages their class in lessons that focus on Social-Emotional Learning. The Advisory block sets a positive tone to energize the learning community and creates a sense of belonging for all.

Full Day Kindergarten Plans Moving Forward

For well over a year, the Administration and School Board have been studying the feasibility of implementing Full-Day Kindergarten. The first phase of this study was identifying the key themes in the research on the effectiveness of a full-day program including an increase in school readiness, higher academic achievement, improved social and emotional outcomes, and a reduction in retention. The next phase of the study will be evaluating the facilities and developing a staffing plan that will coexist within our budget, with the goal of implementation in the 2021-2022 school year.



Girls' Field Hockey in Top Spot This Fall

This Fall provided many opportunities to cheer on our student-athletes. The high school girls' hockey claimed the Suburban One Continental Championship - the first time since 2004! The cross country, girls' soccer, tennis, golf and water polo teams all competed at either in the conference or district level, and our football team had one of its best years ever! The Souderton Football team finished the regular season 8-2 with a second place finish the Suburban One Continental Conference. They made it to the district playoffs and lost to Coatesville High School.



Souderton “Big Red Picnic” Program Provides Summer Meals For Students

Thanks to the generous support of the community, eligible students in the Souderton Area School District were able to have free lunches throughout the summer. This first year of the “Big Red Picnic” program helped support families faced with the expense of providing meals after school closes in the early summer and students don’t have access to the school lunch program.

Healthy bagged lunches were available for pick up at both E.M. Crouthamel Elementary and Indian Crest Middle schools on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The meals included a sandwich, chips, fresh fruit, cookie and drink.

Bag lunches were packed by teacher volunteers with supervision from the District Food Service department. Volunteers from the District and community were on hand at the lunch sites to distribute the bags. Approximately 1,200 lunches were served from June through August.

The “Big Red Picnic” program was a collaborative community creation between the Souderton Area School District, Indian Valley Education Foundation, Souderton Area Community Education, Keystone Opportunity Center and the Bean Bag Program. The coalition worked to raise funds, train volunteers and communicate with the schools to encourage participation by students. Plans are underway for Summer 2020 with the hope of feeding even more children through the program. Watch the District website for online donation opportunities.

Vernfield Elementary Honors Local Veterans

On Friday, November 8, 2019, students, faculty and staff at Vernfield Elementary School gathered to honor nearly 100 veterans. The veterans were invited by students to attend this special event. Each grade-level prepared a special presentation for the assembly. Presentations included songs, poems, and videos. The Fifth Grade had a special presentation that involved an interview with Mr. Freda who is Vernfield’s music teacher. Mr. Beer, Vernfield’s facilities manager, was also recognized for his service. Vernfield Elementary was proud to honor the sacrifices and commitment made by veterans in service to our country

Salford Hills “Buddies” Build Community

Buddies are an integral part of the culture at Salford Hills. Meeting monthly, students in upper grade level classrooms are paired with younger students. Additionally, each buddy class plans and facilitates a school meeting together. We find that buddy classes send an important message to younger students that their older school-mates are helpers and someone to count on. Older students feel a sense of community and generosity sharing their talents and kindness with their younger buddies. In this picture, fifth grade students help their first grade buddies complete a Fall project.



Oak Ridge Clothing Drive Benefits Many

Oak Ridge Elementary Home and School Association hosted a Fall Clothing Drive for student families to clean out closets and share outgrown clothing. The school collected 2,740 pounds of clothing which was distributed to needy families in the tri-state area.



EMC Elementary students program their Ozobots to follow lines and paths.

Indian Crest Shares in Community



Students Pose for a C3 photo during the Community Challenge Week.

On Wednesday, October 4th Indian Crest hosted the fifth annual Crest Community Challenge (C3). The Crest Community Challenge (C3) is a day where students focus on learning through community service, giving to others, team work, and being a positive citizen. Students participated in an educational assembly, community service, and a challenging obstacle course. Money was raised through obstacle sponsorship and donations. All proceeds raised were directed towards families in our community who are struggling or who are experiencing a hardship. We are proud to have supported over 15 families since our first C3 as well as local non-profits and local police.

EMC Ozobots Make Coding Lots of Fun!

Students in grades kindergarten through five get creative with their Ozobots in Technology classes. They draw lines and put color codes within the lines to program the Ozobot to do different things like turn, jump to another line, spin like a tornado and do a backwalk.

According to Technology teacher Anthony Molettiere, "In the future we will be connecting the Ozobots to the computers. We will use block-based coding to write code on the computers to control the Ozobots." Adding the Ozobots to the coding classes makes it fun for all ages.

Safe Schools Grant Funds Allow District to Employ Three School Police Officers

Over the course of several years, the Administration and School Board have focused on keeping our schools safe. This year's budget allowed us to add a third School Police Officer as well as provide additional funding for training and equipment. We collaborate closely with local and county officials and have received over \$150,000 in safe school grant money to support our work.

School Board Incumbents Return to Serve

The elections in November saw victories for all incumbent board members. These committed community members will continue to serve the District in the upcoming year:

Ken R. Keith	Board President
Donna M. Scheuren	Board Vice President
Courtney Barbieri	
Nicholas A. Braccio	
William J. Brong	
Janet Flisak	
Matt Holiday	
Thomas A. Kwiatkowski	
Stephen Nelson	

Several members of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors were recently recognized by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (P.S.B.A.) as having achieved **The Honor Roll of School Board Service**. Board member Tom Kwiatkowski was recognized for twelve years and Bill Brong and Donna Scheuren, each for eight years of service to the Souderton Area School District.

Indian Valley Offers Career Café for Middle Schoolers

Indian Valley's first Career Cafe provided a time for students to attend a "lunch and learn" with presenters who shared about their careers and educational journey! Lots of good questions and food!



Franconia Celebrates Character and Community



Franconia Elementary School hosted Fall Festival for families and community members to celebrate "Character Counts" and meet local community members like the Franconia Township Police.

June 15 to August 14, 2020

Summer Adventure Day Camp & Club Workshops

Warm your winter with summer plans to attend Souderton's exciting Summer Adventure camp!




Join us and bring a friend for an adventure of a lifetime!

Space is limited in all programs, so be sure to register early. Watch for Online Registration deadlines by early March 2020 - www.soudertonsd.org/community/education