



Superintendent's HOPE Note - October 2022



"Communication works for those who work at it." **Jim Rohn**

Begin with the End in Mind

Our district has always been committed to decisions and actions that will prepare every learner with the knowledge, skills, and disposition needed to succeed. As I shared during our Opening of School Address, our **Portrait of a Susquehanna Township Graduate (POG)** was developed in the spring of 2022 and serves as our north star for graduate success.

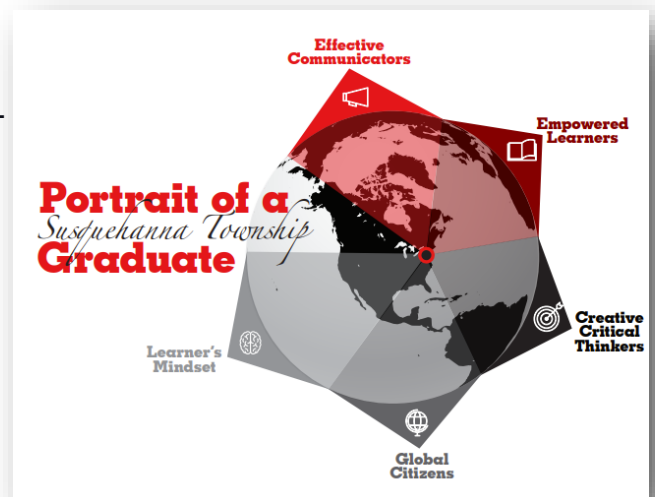
Upon graduation, we intend that graduates will demonstrate that they are:

- Effective Communicators
- Empowered Learners
- Creative Critical Thinkers
- Global Citizens, and
- Have a Learner's Mindset

Each month, I will highlight one of the five desired characteristics of our graduates and ask that you familiarize yourself as well. Why? Because it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that every learner is successful.

Learners should arrive at school ready and excited about learning! Staff should come to school confident that they possess the training and resources to meet the needs of every learner. Families should send their learners to school, convinced that they will receive an education that will prepare them for success in life. We are committed to seeing these statements become realities across the district.

At Susquehanna Township School District, we resolve to improve our schools' quality, effectiveness, and outcomes, establishing ourselves as a world-class school system where every learner is safe, challenged, engaged, and prepared for success in life.



Visit the district's webpage to see the [Strategic Plan](#) and the full [Portrait of a Graduate](#)

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Graduate Characteristic: **Effective Communicators**

- Articulate thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills in a variety of forms and contexts.
- Listen effectively to decipher meaning, including knowledge, values, attitudes, and intentions.
- Use communication for a range of purposes and audiences (e.g. to inform, instruct, motivate, and persuade).

5 Benefits of Effective Communication:

1. **Career opportunities.** Effective communication increases the chance of employees moving up the career ladder within an organization. When seeking a position or promotion, good communication skills are also crucial in the job interview process.
2. **Builds Trust.** Effective communication fosters trust with others. The ability to listen attentively and embrace different points of view helps others trust that you are making optimal decisions for everyone in your group.
3. **Solves Problems.** More often than not, conflict happens because of poor communication. Communicating effectively plays a significant role in resolving disputes and preventing potential ones from arising. The key is to remain calm, make sure all parties are heard, and find a solution that is ideal for everyone involved.
4. **Provides Clarity and Direction.** With practical communication skills, you can deliver clear expectations and objectives. This involves finding constructive ways to point out when something is not working and providing helpful feedback to get people back on track. Teammates or co-workers will understand their specific tasks and responsibilities, as well as those of others, which will help eliminate conflicts and confusion.
5. **Builds Better Relationships.** Good communication improves relationships on the job and in your personal life with friends and family members. Listening carefully and offering quality feedback helps people to feel heard and understood. This, in turn, nurtures mutual respect.

Our Portrait in ACTION:

Win a \$50 gas card!

Are you an STSD team member who would like to win a \$50 gas card? Tell us where you've seen our learners *demonstrating* effective communication skills as described in our POG. The Core Team will review all entries and select a winner at the end of the month. Just scan the QR code to submit your entry. Good luck!



Piece of the Puzzle



Join me in recognizing the Food Services Department's hard work and dedication to learners AND staff! Each year, our food services staff participate in rigorous inspections conducted by the Township, which reports its findings to the PA Department of Agriculture. Once again, they received perfect health inspection reports for all four buildings for the 2022-2023 school year! Thank you, Jackie McMichael, for leading the department and every food services staff member for upholding the highest standard in preparing meals for our learners and our team. We appreciate you!