



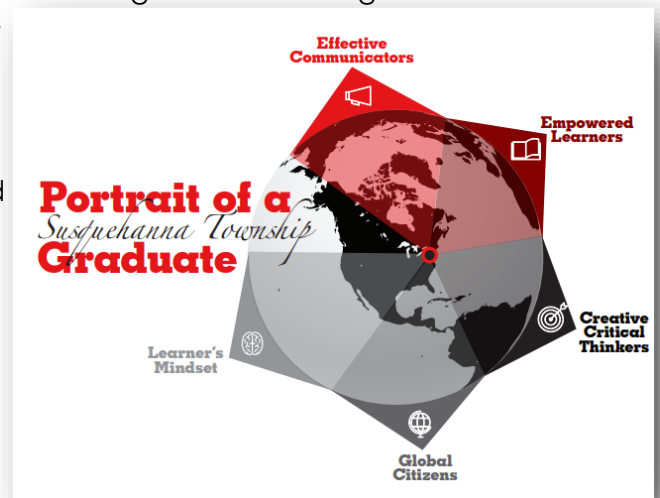
Superintendent's HOPE Note - February 2023

Paying it Forward. Thinking Beyond Ourselves.

What are your impressions when you hear, "They graduated from Susquehanna Township School District"? Whatever your impression, ask yourself, "What role did our district play in that graduate's development as a citizen?" What role have you played in that learner's development? World views are shaped through a collection of life experiences. Thus, learning experiences are critical to learner success.

It is naïve to suggest that our schools are solely responsible for preparing learners to be Global Citizens, as described in our Portrait of a Graduate. We recognize that we must partner with our families to ensure that graduates meet the demands of a rapidly advancing global society. However, we should never underestimate the impact that learning experiences and school culture will have in shaping our graduates. Debate, volunteering, Socratic seminars, and problem-based learning to name a few, provide opportunities for our learners to consider how their actions and perspectives impact others. These activities allow students to regulate their thoughts and behaviors in response to their peers and the more significant needs of the community.

Success is wider than academic proficiency. True success includes social and emotional well-being and the capacity to engage effectively with the larger world for the greater good. I challenge each of you to seek opportunities to truly engage (not just talk to) our learners, providing them with opportunities to develop empathy, integrity, and humility. Our world needs more global citizens!



Portrait of a Graduate Characteristic: **Global Citizens**

- Establish a pro-social moral compass.
- Value and embrace diverse cultures and unique perspectives through mutual respect and open dialogue.
- Demonstrate personal, civic, social, local, and global responsibility through ethical and empathetic behaviors.
- Contribute and take action to make the world a better place.

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

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Developing Global Citizens: Practical Applications



When Alex Scott who was diagnosed with childhood cancer just before her first birthday, was 4, she told her parents she wanted to set up a front yard lemonade stand. Her plan: to give the money to doctors to help them find a cure. Her first "Alex's Lemonade Stand," held with the help of her older brother Patrick, raised an astonishing \$2,000 in one day. While bravely battling her own cancer, Alex and her family continued to hold yearly lemonade stands in their front yard to benefit childhood cancer research. News spread of the remarkable sick child dedicated to helping other sick children. People from all over the world, moved by her story,

held their own lemonade stands and donated the proceeds to Alex and her cause. In 2004 when Alex passed away at the age of 8 — her stand and inspiration had raised more than \$1 million towards finding a cure for the disease that took her life.

Source: Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer [Read Alex's full story](#)

"Children and teenagers naturally have the capacity for empathy, but that doesn't mean they develop it on their own. They learn how to notice, listen, and care by watching and listening to adults and peers, and they take cues from these people about why empathy is important. All school adults – teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, administrators, and others – play a role in helping students develop and display empathy. "

Source: (2018) S. Jones, R. Weissbourd, S. Bouffard, J. Kahn, and T. Ross Anderson of the Making Caring Common Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. [Read the full article](#)

"Research suggests that the growing emphasis on social-emotional learning (SEL) in schools can lay the foundation for more active civic engagement among our youth. . "

Source: (2018) A. Eva. Greater Good Science Center, University of California at Berkeley
[Read the full article](#)

Piece of the Puzzle



Deb Osswald and Jody Wray

First impressions do matter. Walking into the school administration building has turned into a serene, organized, clean, friendly and décor savvy experience with Jody and Deb manning the front desk. Each are willing and happy to assist with anyone walking through our doors. They are our front line and first defense. Both are quick to lend a hand and their organization skills extend wherever they touch. We are grateful for their kindnesses and wish to thank them for taking the initiative to help when pieces are falling off our plates. Every time we walk into the lobby in the morning and out of the lobby in the afternoon, it smells and feels put together and conveys the impression of first class. Thank you for being critical pieces of our puzzle!