

Lehigh Area School District



INDIAN PRIDE

A Message from the Superintendent's Office

Mr. Jonathan J. Cleaver

It is with great pleasure that the Lehigh Area School District presents the 2019 Spring Newsletter. After a long winter we are all glad spring is in the air, and with this time of year comes many celebrations throughout the school district. There is much to be excited about and proud of as our 2018-2019 school year comes to an end. Our entire staff has worked hard to again give our students countless opportunities throughout the year to promote themselves in all areas of their educational experience, a number of which you will find profiled in this newsletter.

It is hard to believe that the Lehigh High School Class of 2019 is already in the planning phases for the Commencement Exercise that is scheduled to take place at the Multi-Purpose Stadium on Friday, June 14th beginning at 7 p.m. On behalf of the Lehigh Area School District Community we would like to congratulate the entire class of 2019 for their accomplishment and wish them nothing but success in their future endeavors.

As another successful school year comes to a close, I would like to take the time to thank the Lehigh Educational Community for all their support and assistance with many of the programs that have taken place throughout the year. The amount of volunteerism and effort that is offered to our district from community individuals and/or organizations is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your support. We are fortunate to have such a positive school and community relationship when it comes to our students and the programs that they are offered. With this type of effort, the Lehigh Community will continue to attract families by providing educational opportunities, facilities, and choices that meet the needs of all our students.

A Message from the Assistant to the Superintendent's Office

Mr. Timothy M. Tkach

Teach Me to Read at Home:

Six Elementary Staff members of Lehigh Area School District participated in two days of training with Step-by-Step Learning personnel for a program titled; "Teach Me to Read at Home". This program and training were provided with the help of Title I Funds through Parent Engagement. These teachers will now be able to provide the training to our parents in the school district.

Teach Me to Read at Home Continued:

This program is a family literacy program designed by Step by Step Learning. It provides families with literacy activities so they can support their children's reading development at home. The program delivers knowledge of developing basic reading skills, promotes discussion about the school district's assessment and data collection, and prepares families for delivering effective reading activities at home. It helps families promote literacy at home and collaborate with classroom teachers, connecting home activities back to the classroom. Some of the early literacy skills addressed in this program are: Oral Language, Letters and the sounds of each letter, Vocabulary, Phonemic Awareness, and Print Awareness.

Lehighton Area School District Police:

The Lehighton Area School District, with the help of a "Safe School Grant" were able to hire two (2) police officers for the protection and safety of our students, staff, and school. One of the first tasks that they were involved with was the ALICE training. They and four (4) district administrators went for the training in the summer of 2018. They are all now certified ALICE instructors and are able to provide training to our entire staff and/or outside organizations on how to handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter.

The ALICE training stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Whether it's an active attack by an individual or a group, our staff and students were trained on how to become active responders. This is completely opposite of the traditional lockdown drill. The Middle School and Elementary staffs were trained on October 8, 2018, and the High School staff on November 7, 2018. In addition, our entire student body was trained in different techniques related to this training practice. The safety of our students and staff, while creating an environment that is conducive to education is our top priority. As a district, we will continue to have interactive and online trainings for all staff while continuing to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment to all students. In addition, drills are being conducted throughout the entire school year on all levels: High School, Middle School, & Elementary.



Officer Salerno

Officer Kazakavage

A Message from the STEAM Coordinator

Mrs. Melissa Volcskai

K-12 STEAM Update:

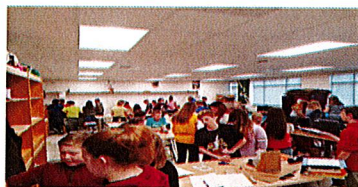
PaSmart:

Over the next decade, seven in 10 new jobs in Pennsylvania will require workers to use a computer and an estimated 300,000 STEM jobs will be available in the commonwealth by 2026. To meet this projected demand, Governor Tom Wolf launched PaSmart, a new initiative to invest in the commonwealth's existing and future workforce.

In December, LASD applied for a PaSmart Targeted grant, which would help fund and support increased computer science opportunities for our students. We were notified in January we were awarded the grant to expand Computer Science in our High School and introduce it in the MS for the 2019-2020 school year. The grant will cover all teacher training costs and supplies for the classrooms. The computer science courses we will be offering will be through Project Lead the Way. Computer Science will be incorporated into 8th grade computers and technology, and in the HS a new course called Computer Science Essentials will be offered to all 9th grade students.

Project Lead the Way:

At the Middle School we introduced a new STEAM course this school year through Project Lead the Way. In the PLTW course, Design and Modeling, students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Next year we will offer a different PLTW course to our 7th and 8th graders called, Green Architecture. Incoming 6th grade students will take the Design and Modeling course. Teacher training in Green Architecture will take place this summer and funding for the new module will be through our original Project Lead the Way grant made possible by Bemis.



A Message from the High School Principal

Mrs. Suzanne Howland

Lehigh Area High School is changing its daily schedule beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year. A team of teachers, administrators, and scheduling professionals collaborated to build a new model after creating a list of goals based on school data, feedback from students and parents, and information gleaned from visits to other high schools. We are moving away from the block schedule and toward a model called a "rotating drop." Students are assigned to eight classes; however, only six meet in a given day. The classes rotate in morning and afternoon sessions divided by an hour-long period in the middle of the day used for lunch, club meetings, academic enrichment, academic intervention, tutoring, and other student-centered activities.

The new schedule has allowed LAHS to offer more sections of courses as a means of reducing scheduling conflicts. We are now able to offer more opportunities for students to become well-rounded as the new schedule has made room for new and revised courses across multiple subject areas. Additionally, class sizes in several subject areas have dropped, creating a more favorable student-teacher ratio.

Career Pathways

As a means of better preparing students for life after high school, LAHS is adjusting its curriculum to be centered on a Career Pathways model. This approach to curriculum is designed to better prepare students for future endeavors in college, trades, and/or the workforce by more closely aligning classroom experience to student goals, thus creating a more individualized education. We are calling this approach S. P. E. A. R. – "Student Pathways for Engagement, Advancement, and Readiness."

The SPEARs to be offered at Lehigh Area High School will be as follows:

- Arts, Media, and Communications
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- STEAM for Science and Medical
- STEAM for Industry and Manufacturing
- Human, Family, and Community Services
- College Scholars in Partnership with LCCC

Students will begin high school in what we are labeling "foundational years." Ninth- and tenth-grade student will focus on core classes in order to provide the skills needed for any future pathway. Some electives may be taken during these years in order for students to explore their interests prior to their upperclassmen years.

During sophomore year, students will meet with their guidance counselors to choose a particular career pathway and an individualized schedule of course progression will be designed. During eleventh- and twelfth-grades, students will have greater elective freedom to enroll in courses more closely aligned with their unique goals and ambitions.

A Message from the Middle School Principal

Mr. Floyd Brown

*Our LAMS Student Advisory Council recently donated \$2900 to the American Cancer Society. They raised this money by organizing various events throughout the school year (volleyball tournament, dances, dodgeball tournament, and a Pink-out.

*In November the MS Student Council hosted a luncheon for our Veterans that came in for our Veterans Day program.

*Our 8-ACE team took first place in our local competition

*The Mobile Ag Lab visited the MS in late February. All of our science students were able to take part in the lab activities.

*Our MS and HS guidance counselors hosted an informational night for 9th grade course selection. This was for parents of our current 8th grade students.

*MS FBLA will be organizing the LAMS Talent Show, which will take place on May 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

*We will be doing a school wide career day here at the MS on 6/3.



8 Ace Team

A Message from the Primary Principal

Mr. Aaron Sebelin

The Lehigh Area School District is host to Pre-K Counts for the second year, 2018-2019. This year, we have 36 families. Out of these families, 9 children were referred for Early Intervention through the IU. All students who were three years old last year, returned to the program this year. We have separate report cards for the three and four year olds to show parents what we hope to accomplish each year as we get their child ready for Kindergarten.

We have gone on field trips to Foothill Farms and the Mahoning Valley Cinema: many of our students have never been to a movie. We are having a field trip to the Lehigh Area Memorial Library so those students who are 5 years of age may get their library card. Mrs. Hawk will also come and do stories and activities with both our a.m. and p.m. classes. Parents are encouraged to be a guest reader to our class, which is most enjoyed by each student.

We also hold family nights. These nights are to serve three main functions: to get parents to create bonds with other families (play dates, etc.), to show our school is not a scary place to come to, and hopefully learn something. We held a recycling night, where 20 stations were set up as games made out of recycled materials. We are also holding a health and safety night with the state police in attendance, information about tooth care and free toothbrushes, how important fine motor practice is, and we hope to give away bike helmets and a free scooter, donated by Walmart. The Nutrition group is making healthy cookies and providing literature about healthy eating. Our social worker Carrie Kenny will also be attending.

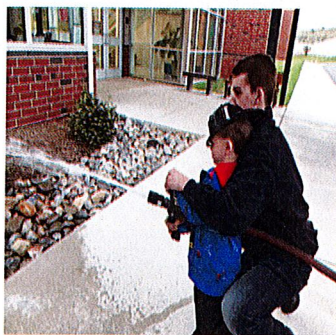
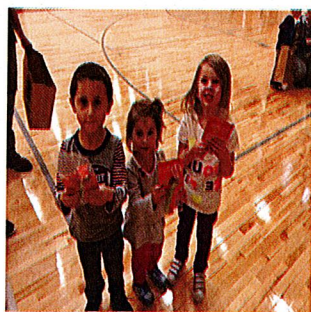
We also hold a Meet the Kindergarten Teacher Night where ALL students in Pre-K are invited to meet our Kindergarten teachers and do a craft, game or activity with each one.

Many activities, including visiting special teachers before the end of the year, serve as a start for MOVING UP activities as our older students get ready to move up to the big school. Our PTO has been very welcoming and invites us to many activities to include us as part of the school.

We have a daily schedule where we teach Reading readiness and Math readiness, as well as serving our children a breakfast or lunch each day. We have a curriculum based on the series "Big Day for Pre-K" which came highly recommended by our mentor school, Jim Thorpe. The Jim Thorpe School District has successfully used this program for 10 years.

Here is our Mission statement as spelled out in our Pre-K Counts Handbook:

"Our philosophy at Lehigh Area Pre-K Counts is that children are active learners. With this in mind we build our program to incorporate a variety of hands-on activities that promote growth in all areas of development including intellectual, social, emotional and physical. We also feel it is important to provide a safe and nurturing environment that encourages each child to be independent, creative and self-assured. It is our goal to make this experience a positive one for each and every child"



Pre K Counts Photos

A Message from the Intermediate Principal

Dr. Mark McGalla

On Thursday, April 11th the Elementary Center had their first annual Art Show, Book Fair and Title I Night. Leading up to the event students were able to participate in art themed spirit days and watch as their school was being transformed by their very own colorful works of art. Every student had at least one piece of artwork on display outside of their classroom and the ramps leading to the cafeteria were turned into self-portrait galleries. High school students from the National Art Honor Society were there to provide face painting to students, there were also small art activities throughout the halls, and photo opportunities. Many families came out to enjoy their student's artwork, it was a great experience!

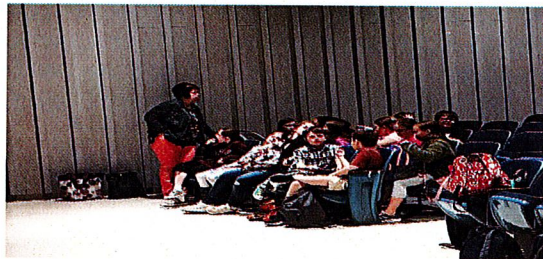


We had an overwhelmingly successful book fair this spring! The students were very excited to shop for books and visit with "Dog Man"! We would like to thank the volunteers as well as the families for supporting the love of reading! We will be adding many new titles to our library collection for our students to enjoy!



Reading Olympics

A team of fourteen students from fourth and fifth grade participated in the 2019 Reading Olympics on May 2, 2019 at Northern Lehigh Middle School, Slatington. The students placed fifth out of nine teams from Carbon and Lehigh counties. Students were tasked with reading books from a prescribed list of titles and then had to answer various questions about what they read. There were three rounds of competition, with each round consisting of twenty questions. Team captains were Molly Zacharias, Jed Cordes, and Konner Nalesnik. Team members were Bella Moyer, Lorelai Norelli, Marissa Lilly, Charlotte Griffiths, Savanna Marx, Trevor Roth, Alexander Reid, Hayleigh Hudak, Caely Hinkson, Hailey Heimbach, and Connor Dugan. The team moderator was Mrs. Searfoss.



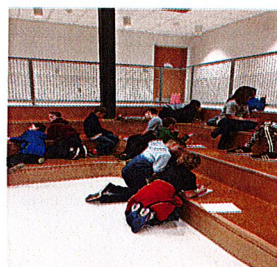
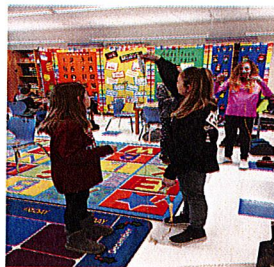
Classroom Guest Speaker:

On Friday, May 3 students in Mr. Fritz's and Mrs. Wentz's classes had the opportunity to interact with local guest speakers. Related to our social studies curriculum, Mr. Paul shared his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail. He has thru-hiked the trail twice. Students viewed photos, looked at hiking equipment and learned what it is like to hike for months on end. Related to our social studies curriculum, Cobe Frycklund showed us a wide variety of reptiles. Cobe is a young entrepreneur with a reptile breeding business. Students learned about animal adaptations, habitats, life-spans and eating habits. They were able to touch many reptiles and even watch them feed.



Math Club

This year about 45 students participated in Math Club. Students in 4th and 5th grade had the opportunity to explore mathematics in a variety of ways. We played games, experimented, solved problems, and had fun while doing it!!! Some of you may have witnessed or even participated in one of our favorite activities- The Barbie Bungee Jump. A group of the 5th graders assisted that station at the Art Show/Title 1 Night in April. The goal of the club was to help students look at math in a different, positive way. Special thanks to all the parents who brought those students to school early and went out of their way to help make the club a success!



Lehighton Area School District

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Lehighton Elementary Center

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Lehighton Middle School

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610-377-6503 (fax)

Lehighton High School

610-377-6180 (main office)

610-377-0303 (fax)

610-377-7600 (guidance)

610-377-1852 (fax)

Important Dates

School Hours:

Elem. 8:30 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

M.S. 7:25 a.m.-2:28 p.m.

H.S. 7:35 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Adm. 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

5/27— Memorial Day Holiday

6/12— Early Dismissal— EC —1:10, MS—
12:20, HS— 12:15

6/13—Early Dismissal—EC —1:10, MS—
12:20, HS— 12:15

6/14—Early Dismissal—EC —1:10, MS—
12:20, HS— 12:15

George's Bus Transportation

610-377-5511

Administrators

Jonathan J. Cleaver, Superintendent

Timothy M Tkach, Assistant to the Superintendent

Patricia Denicola, Business Administrator, CPA

Tina Champ, Asst. Business Administrator

Mark McIntyre, Supervisor of Special Services

Suzanne Howland, High School Principal

David Hauser, Asst. High School Principal

Floyd Brown, Middle School Principal

Stephen Ebbert, Dean of Students

Aaron Sebelin, Primary Elementary Principal

Dr. Mark McGalla, Intermediate Elementary Principal

Kyle Spotts, Director of Student Services and Facilities Planning