



Message from the Superintendent—Mr. Jonathan J. Cleaver

It is always wonderful to welcome our staff and students back to begin a new academic year. During the first week of school I found enthusiastic teachers and high-spirited students at each one of the district's six buildings. It is exciting to feel the energy that comes with the start of the new school year and even more exciting knowing that our students, over the next ten months will gain a wealth of knowledge from our dedicated and committed staff.

As we start the new school year we are also welcoming a new group of kindergarten students into the Lehigh School District Family. We are pleased that so many families with young children are choosing to become part of our school district. I believe that the enrollment increase is an acknowledgement of the district's "commitment to excellence" and the dedication of our staff and school board with our overall academic performance and planned improvements to our educational facilities.

Over the next several months you will see a lot of activity taking place in and out of the classrooms. Please make sure you allow extra time if you are planning to drop off students at the middle school and/or high school campus. The construction of the new Multi-Purpose Athletic Stadium has begun and is scheduled to be completed at the end of November. Following the completion of the stadium project, we are anticipating the Middle School and High School renovation projects to begin and take approximately 16-18 months to complete. We are excited about the planned improvements to our facilities and even more excited about the opportunities that our Lehigh Students will have from our district moving forward and making progress.

I would like to wish everyone "Good Luck" as we begin, what I am sure will be another great year for the Lehigh Educational Community.

Curriculum & Instruction—Mr. Timothy M. Tkach, Coordinator of Curriculum

Hello and welcome to another exciting school year in the Lehigh Area School District. It is hard to believe that another summer has come and gone for the LASD Community. I'm always impressed with the amount of teachers and staff that come in over the summer for trainings and to work on their classrooms and/or curriculum. We will be going through some major building changes at the middle school and high school and a new reading series at the elementary level. In addition, we will be addressing our writing curriculum K-12 during the upcoming school year and increasing its rigor. These building improvements and curriculum initiatives will have a positive impact on the students and community, but we are asking for your patience and understanding especially with the building renovations. One thing I can assure you is that the professional and support staffs of this district are hard at work this summer and the entire school year as we prepare to instruct and support your child or children during this school year. Our first priority is to provide a conducive learning environment so all children can learn. We are providing professional training and support to achieve and maintain this goal. At all levels, High School, Middle School, & Elementary, the staff continues to work on their common assessments, curriculum maps, and SLO's (Student Learning Objectives). They are making sure the curriculum is aligned with the PA Core Standards.

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At the high school level, teachers, department heads, and administrators have been working very hard and implementing a very thorough and complete remediation/enrichment afterschool program to help Junior's and all students as they prepare for the Keystone Exams. Our scores in Algebra I, Biology, & Literature have been increasing and we will continue to strive for excellence. We will continue to run the program this year and look for ways to help all of our students attain academic success. We've added another AP course and we are looking to add AP Chemistry for the 2016-2017 School Year.

At the elementary and middle school levels we will continue to strive for academic excellence. I know there has been a lot of discussion involving the new PSSA's that were administered this past school year and decline in the number of students who attained the status of Proficient or Advanced. Some key points to remember: the new PSSA's administered in English Language Arts and Mathematics were developed to meet the more challenging demands of the PA Core Standards and the 2015 assessment was the first to be fully-aligned to the PA Core; final approval of the standards was not official until late 2013 giving school districts a very limited timeframe to develop and implement the new curriculum; a decline in the student's performance level does not mean that he/she is learning less. Transition takes time, including curriculum development and resources and the 2014-2015 school year was only year one of the new assessment. You cannot compare students' scores from the old to the new assessment because they are aligned to different standards; finally results on standardized tests are not the sole indicator of student achievement. Students have different strengths and flourish in different ways. It is important to evaluate students in a holistic manner, using a variety of performance measures.

This fall, during the month of September, we will be offering a night where a group of teachers will be meeting with parents and administration. It will be a basic introduction to the course content material, how it is presented to the students, and what they can do as a parent to help their child at home. Also, we will be introducing in Grs. K-4 our new Reading Series "Journey's" and we will start staff professional development and training in January, 2016 for the 5th grade teachers. In November, we will be offering a night for parents to meet with a group of teachers and administrators to review the series and what parents can do to help their child at home. Finally, as a staff and district we will be addressing our writing needs and concerns K thru 12. We will be clarifying our writing expectations and goals, for students, at each grade level as well as writing rubrics, assessments, etc.

Lehighton Education and Athletic Foundation (LEAF)

LEAF is an independent nonprofit organization which has been privately established to cooperate with the Lehighton Area School District in supporting educational programs and extracurricular activities that are outside of the school district's operational budget.

Our Mission Statement: The LEAF is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support for students and programs and promoting creativity, innovation, and excellence in LASD.

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Our Goals:

- ◆ Provide scholarships to LASD graduates.
- ◆ Award competitive program grants to LASD teachers and administrators for innovative curricular activities.
- ◆ Provide financial support for promoting and maintaining enrichment and remediation programs.
- ◆ Enrich the fine arts, extra-curricular, and athletic programs.
- ◆ Expand the use of technology in the classroom.
- ◆ Promote innovation.

LEAF is a 501(c) 3 non-profit, tax exempt, charitable organization that will be funded through:

- ◆ **Fundraising**—although we are separate from the school district, we will be engaging in fundraising activities to assist all the students in grades K-12 to achieve their maximum potential.
- ◆ **EITC Credits**—a tax credit (not a deduction) is available for businesses that make donations to local educational improvement organizations such as LEAF.
- ◆ **Donations**—tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted from any person or organization who contributes to LEAF.

How you can help:

Volunteers—the framework of LEAF has recently been completed. We have established the following committees in order that we may move forward toward achieving our goals. We now need caring individuals who share our views to step up and join us. The following is a brief description of the focus for each of our committees.

- ◆ **Endowment and Legacy Society**—provides for the establishment of specific “endowment funds” for academic purposes and long-term stability.
- ◆ **EITC, Major Gifts, and Grant Writing**—charged with attracting contributions through the PA Tax Credit Program, major gifts from individuals, and grants from private foundations and corporations.
- ◆ **Alumni**—provides for the long-term success of the Foundation through the creation of an Alumni Association for both short-term (annual giving) and long-term (endowment giving).
- ◆ **Information Technology**—supports the Foundation’s website and database management of donor relations.
- ◆ **Public Relations and Advocacy**—promotes, markets, communicates, and improves the image of the Foundation and student achievements within the school district and community.
- ◆ **Allocation**—establishes a priority list of needs for the school district, which the Foundation could support.
- ◆ **Governance**—recruits qualified individuals in all areas of the foundation and ensures that all financial reporting requirements are met and publishes an annual report.
- ◆ **Giving Campaign**—contacts donors for annual solicitation campaigns.
- ◆ **Special Events**—creates events to generate funds for the Foundation to include an annual “Signature Event”

Donations:

- ◆ **Monetary Donations**—the Foundation welcomes all monetary donations including matching funds, grants, and gifts by alumni, local businesses, and the Lehigh area community.

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- ♦ **“In Kind” Donations**—the Foundation gratefully accepts donations of “goods and services” to carry on the daily business of the Foundation. Office equipment and supplies, printing, advertising, and design services, or gifts and prizes that can be used at our fundraising events are very much appreciated.
- ♦ **Memorial Donations** —you may honor a loved one by making a gift in his or her name. You may also create a gift within your estate for the foundation or establish an endowment fund.

In the event that you are interested in joining the LEAF team or in receiving more information about LEAF, please visit our website at www.LEAF-foundation.org or e-mail at info@LEAF-foundation.org.

Parent’s Advisory Committee for Title I

This summer members of the Lehigh Area School District’s Parent Advisory Committee for Title I had the opportunity to attend the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC), at Seven Springs Resort. The conference spanned three days and included keynote speakers and individual workshops and lectures. The workshops ranged from Title I Policy and Procedures to How to Get Parental Involvement. Families selected the workshops based on their needs and individual interests. Many of these were hands on and engaging. The families were given information and resources to assist in working with their children at home.

The families agreed that the environment of the conference was warm, welcoming and family friendly. The training classes left them with lasting impressions and have helped them to become more confident in their abilities as parents. They have obtained valuable information and networking opportunities that have provided parents, teachers and administrators the ability to work effectively for the families in the Title I program.

The parents of the Advisory Committee for Title I encourage anyone who would like more information on Title I services to stop by any table that is set up at any school event. They have many resources and informative tools to assist in any questions you may have.



From Left to Right: The Bravo Family,
The Heckman Family
The Hansler Family

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LASD Guidance

RED RIBBON WEEK OCTOBER 26-30, 2015

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated each year in the guidance department throughout the district, focusing on making healthy choices to end drug use and bullying. It began many years ago after a tragic incident with a teen and drugs, as a way to begin teaching more positive coping skills. This year's theme nationwide is: "Respect Yourself, Be Drug Free". The kids in grades 3 and 4 have an annual poster contest where they incorporate the national theme and earn prizes. Student ambassadors are also chosen from grades 3 and 4 for being good role models, and they get prizes and special privileges.

The counselors are being proactive by having several speakers in to focus on bullying prevention and cyber safety. At all four elementary buildings, Louise Keller from the Domestic Violence Service Center will be visiting the third and fourth graders in September to present strategies for handling these issues. Janene Holter, an agent with the attorney general's office, will speak about cyber safety and bullying at Shull David and Mahoning in November, and East Penn and Franklin in the spring.

LASD School Board—Mrs. Gloria Bowman, President

Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year

On behalf of the Lehigh Area School Board Directors, I would like to welcome everyone back to the 2015-16 school year. Each year brings the promise of excitement, hope, and change. This year is no different as those in the past, as the district continuously looks for ways to improve educational programs and district facilities. It is evident that "Commitment to Excellence" continues to sustain our district motto.

Under the leadership of the superintendent and business office, the district and board remain committed to sustaining quality programs and resources throughout the district while being fiscally responsible to the community. The board committees, and the board as a whole, have worked hard this past year to promote excellence for our students and support community use of district facilities. We are very excited about the renovations at the Middle School and High School as well as the newly designed all-purpose stadium, where not only our students will benefit from the facility, but our community at large. As we continue moving forward, know that we, the school board and all staff, are committed to "Educating together to prepare our students for life's journey". Please visit the district website for all board minutes and to remain updated on school happenings. Board minutes can be accessed under academics, left side quick links: files and documents under district. We also welcome and encourage your attendance at board meetings and committee meetings.

The School Board would like to thank the parents/guardians and the community for the support that you provide for all of our district programs. We also thank the staff for their educational commitment to Lehigh, the students, and the community. As always, a special thank you to our students, who simply are the best. We continue to be **TRIBE PRIDE!**

Have a great school year.

Gloria J. Bowman
School Board President

Facilities Update—Mr. Joseph Hauser, Supervisor of Plant Operations

The start of the 2015-2016 school year has come about quickly. The summer work crews and regular staff have worked very hard to restore our facilities with that fresh-look appearance. The Administration is proud to be associated with all the staff and we say **THANK YOU** for a job very well done, for our students, staff, and community.

Along with routine summer maintenance, the Lehigh Area School District has many projects that have been completed: Started asbestos abatement at the Middle School. District staff has prepared the Middle School for the start of the school year. The construction of the new Multi Use Stadium is underway. The High School and Middle School renovations have been bid and are under School Board review for approval.



All regulatory criteria by the EPA and DEP have been met. The results of the Air monitors cleanse tests are posted on the District Website.

There are many other smaller maintenance projects that have been completed that are not listed.

Safety and Environmental Information:

The district will be complying with the new EPA/DEP water testing regulations starting in 2012. These regulations are for facilities supplied by on-site well water. The facilities are Mahoning Elementary, East Penn Elementary, and the Field House.

The **Asbestos Management Plan** and inspection reports are on file at the District Administration Building in office of the Supervisor of Plant Operations; as well as East Penn Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Mahoning Elementary, Shull-David Elementary and the Middle School Main Offices.

Potable Water test results and reports are in compliance with DEP regulations and are on file at the District Administration Building in the office of the Supervisor of Plant Operations.

Right to Know (Chemical Awareness) are annually updated. Information is located in the main office of each school facility and in the office of the Supervisor of Plant Operations.

Lead Based Paint Inspection Reports are on file at the District Administration Building in the office of the Supervisor of Plant Operations. The District is in accordance with 40CFR 745.225 EPA Lead Rule.

District-Wide Safety Committee-Safety is of the greatest importance to the District. For more information contact the Supervisor of Plant Operations.

Fire Protection Systems (Main Building Systems, kitchen exhaust hoods and fire extinguishers) are inspected annually.

Athletics—Kyle Spotts, Director of Student Services and Facility Planning



Introduction

I want to start off by welcoming everyone back to school and to the beginning of a great year! The new year offers many opportunities to participate in athletic and/or extracurricular programs. I encourage all students to be involved in a program outside of the classroom. It is statistically proven that students involved in activities outside of the classroom perform better academically and have less behavior issues. If you are interested and seek further information please stop in my office. We can find an activity to meet the interest of any student!

Lehighton Athletics

Many exciting games and events are ahead for our fall programs! Please join us and share in the INDIAN school spirit and support our teams. Our student-athletes and coaches work very hard to achieve success. They deserve respect and encouragement on and off the field. Let's cheer them on! Remember always cheer for the Indians and never against the opposing team officials! Go Indians!



Mark your Calendar:

August 26th “**Meet the Tribe**” 7:00pm @ Football Stadium - Introduction of all student-athletes and coaches participating in a Fall sports program, including a performance by the Indian Band and cheerleaders.

September 4th First day of regular season competition for fall sports.

September 4th First home football game vs. Mahanoy Area – 7pm

October 31st Homecoming



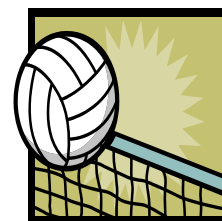
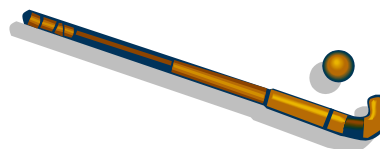
Athletic Information

Lehighton Athletics Website: <http://www.lehighton.org/athletics.cfm>

The Lehighton Athletics Website is your hub for all Lehighton Athletics Information. Team schedules are accessible off the main page of the athletics website.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or inquiries. My door is always open.

I hope to see each one of you at a contest supporting our wonderful student-athletes and coaches. Good luck and have a great year!



Technology News—Mr. Marcus Statham—I.T. Director

The summer of 2015 was another busy summer for the members of the Information Technology (IT) members of the school district. Some of the bigger projects we tackled are;

- Update Apple laptops at the High School to include new RAM and Solid-state drives
- Add 30 new Apple laptops/cart at the High School
- Update the Windows laptops at the Middle School to include Solid-state drives
- Update the Windows laptops at the Elementary School
- Add additional access points (wireless network) at all district locations
- Upgrade Power over Ethernet injectors at all schools
- Install iPads at Shull-David Elementary
- Archive student files
- Support summer school programs
- Support teachers' professional development summer classes
- Roll-over/update students' accounts
- Replace the older printers
- Added over 200 laptops to the Elementary schools
- Provide earbuds to all Elementary students
- Increase random access memory (RAM) in Dell desktop computers
- Update all PC's to Windows 7

We hope your summer was a bit more relaxing than ours but we hope what we have done spurs on a great year of learning.



Lehigh Area School District is pleased to announce the implementation of a new program called *InfoSnap*. We introduced the program with Kindergarten registration in March. It was a huge success. Parents registered their child online before scheduling their face to face appointment.

Our Returning Student Registration eliminates the need to print paper packets every year by updating submitted information. By the time your child returns to school, all applicable information is updated. No need to fill out those endless stacks of paper you receive on the first day of school.

Returning students will be accessed through Power School's Parent Portal. If you do not have a username or password for the Parent Portal, please contact your school's secretary.

The **New Student Registration** link can be found on our website www.lehighton.org under Registration.

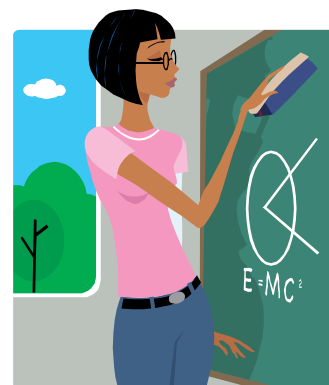
Mahoning & Shull David Elementary—Mr. Aaron Sebelin, Principal

Shull-David and Mahoning Elementary Schools Welcome You Back to School! Aaron Sebelin Elementary Principal Shull-David and Mahoning

It is a very exciting time as we approach the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. On behalf of the staff of Shull-David and Mahoning Elementary Schools, I would like to welcome you “BACK TO SCHOOL!” We are ready to start a new school year with your children, and it is only with your support and cooperation that together we can ensure your child/children will have a successful and prosperous school year.

Elementary school sessions will begin on Monday, August 24, at 8:15 A.M. and dismiss at 3:10 P.M. Your child’s regular attendance and punctuality throughout the year is **critical** to academic success. It is important that the students understand the necessity of attending regularly to help them be successful in school and life. You will be receiving further information on our attendance policy and the procedures followed for chronic absence or tardiness.

At the start of this school year you may notice some changes to our staff. We wish Mrs. Marsha Long and Mrs. Marie Reese a relaxing retirement after many years of teaching in our district. At Mahoning, Mrs. Felicia Fischer is our new Itinerant Learning Support teacher who is transferring from Franklin. Mrs. Sherry Hoffman joins the Title One Reading department as our Reading Specialist and has had experience teaching at LAMS. Congratulations to Mrs. Sarena Gray, who welcomed a daughter, Addison Joy this summer. Mrs. Bonnie Helmer and Mrs. Kim Ahner will be traveling between Shull-David and Mahoning as paraprofessionals. Shull-David will now support three 3rd grade classes. We welcome back Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Candace Gandy. Miss Colleen Hoppes joins our 3rd grade staff. Miss Hoppes taught 4th grade last year. Mrs. Michelle Blasiak will be working with Mrs. Matika in Title One Reading. Michelle is moving from Mahoning to Shull-David. Mrs. Melissa Volcskai will be supporting all four elementary buildings in helping to implement the Success Maker program for grades K-4. We know these changes will benefit our programs and look forward to new beginnings!



Our schools will continue many of the programs conducted in the past:

- Grade level family, monthly luncheons
- Student of the Month Lunch with the Principal
- Student of the Month Assemblies
- Principal’s List recognition
- Common Intervention/Enrichment times
- Use of technology in classrooms
- Family events sponsored by the PTO
- School Wide Celebrations
- SHINE

We will also be working on the following initiatives:

- Guided reading centers and other small group projects and activities during I/E
- Adoption of a new reading series (Journeys)
- Using the Success Maker computer program grades K-4

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(Mahoning & Shull David continued)

- Focusing on PA core standards
- Providing more technology opportunities for all students in the form of new iPads and Laptop computers

We will be conducting “Meet the Teacher” from 6-8 P.M. during the first week of September. Shull-David’s date is Tuesday, September 1. Mahoning’s will be held on Thursday, September 3. This is a night that you can come in and meet your child’s teacher and the staff that will be working with your child. Please save the date and make it a priority to attend this important event at your child’s school.

On the first day of school your child will receive your Student-Parent School Handbook and a packet of information and forms. I urge you to read the handbook with your child, and please return the last page to school with your signatures on it. Please complete **ALL** forms and return them to the school office as soon as possible. We will be sending home-individualized school information throughout the year. Please be sure to look through all paperwork and refer to our school website.

As always if you ever have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at 610-377-7880 (SD) or 570-386-4678 (MA). I look forward to working with you again. Have a wonderful year!

A.M. Drop-Off

- ♦ Teachers will be positioned in front of the building to assist children in and out of vehicles and buses. Please do not exit your car when dropping children off while in the driveway. This will cause traffic to become stagnant. All parents are asked to stay in an orderly line during parent drop-off and pick-up. Students are asked to exit all vehicles on the passenger side so they are not walking between traffic. It is suggested that students wait inside of the vehicle until they are at or near a teacher at the front doors to exit the vehicle.
- ♦ Students may enter the building at 8:15 A.M. Do not bring students to school before 8:10 A.M. Those students who arrive after 8:30 will be considered tardy and must be accompanied by a parent to be signed in at the office. Consistent tardiness will not be tolerated and violators subject to discipline.

P.M. Pick-Up

- ♦ Parents should park in the rear lot (outside of the 4th grade doors). Please keep the driveway open in the front of the building as to not impede bus and parent traffic.
- ♦ Any parent who will be picking up their child at the end of the day will wait outside of the 4th grade wing doors. Teachers will dismiss children to parents as they arrive at the doors, beginning at 3:05 p.m. Only students who have written permission for pick-up will be dismissed. All others parent pick-up will be done in front of the school **after** the buses depart.
- ♦ Only school buses will be permitted park in the driveway from 2:55-3:05 p.m. All bused students will be loaded onto the buses. Once all the buses have exited the school, parents may drive through to pick-up children. Remember that students should enter all vehicles on the passenger side so they are not walking between traffic. It is suggested that students wait to enter the vehicle until it pulls up to the school entrance area and comes to a complete stop. The children know to wait until cars come to a complete stop.
- ♦ When students enter your vehicle to leave school, please make sure your child is buckled in the proper seat to follow state seat belt laws.

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(Mahoning & Shull David continued)

*** **REMINDER—We have worked hard to create a safe, smooth traffic pattern to ensure all students are safe during drop-off and pick-up times. Please adhere to all traffic patterns. It may take a few weeks for everyone to become familiar with our new format. Give yourself ample time in the morning and afternoon for these changes. If you have any questions about our traffic procedures, please do not hesitate to call the school office at 570-386-4678 to speak with Mr. Sebelin or Mrs. Rodgers (head teacher).**

East Penn & Franklin Elementary—Mrs. Suzanne Howland, Principal

THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

On behalf of the East Penn and Franklin elementary communities, it is truly my pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you as we begin the 2015-2016 school year in the Lehigh Area School District. August is the time of year to reconnect with old friends and welcome new friends. We at East Penn and Franklin are very pleased to welcome everyone to the 2015-2016 school year! To those students and parents who are new to our buildings, we extend, a warm welcome and best wish for an exciting and productive year in your new school. We hope that you will quickly feel at home and will choose to become involved in the school activities through the PTO and your child's classroom.

I am filled with excitement and optimism as I begin my fourth year as principal of both Franklin and East Penn Elementary. Administrators and staff pledge to work diligently with parents and students to foster an atmosphere promoting a learning community characterized by child centered instruction and decisions. Academic excellence, trust, respect, community involvement, open communications and recognition of both student/staff achievements will continue to be a top priority. I am committed to working in collaboration with you to continue to develop and implement this shared vision. Working together as a team, we will move forward with our mission to create a nurturing, disciplined, and challenging environment in which all students can learn at their highest levels and become responsible members of society.

Please remember, our volunteer rules and mandates have changed due to Pennsylvania state requirements. Please refer to our school district policy #916 School Volunteers on the district webpage at www.lehighton.org/files/filessystem/916. The law has been altered multiple times since its implementation this spring. At this point, if you would like to volunteer for an after-school or evening activity, or want to be considered for becoming a field trip chaperone, you will need clearances. If you volunteer during school hours, under the supervision of staff, you will not need clearances. The clearances need to be submitted to our Administration Building to be kept on file.

This summer the school district continued to upgrade our technology by increasing network access points in both buildings and purchasing new laptops. The Franklin PTO and the school district worked together to buy 24 new horseshoe tables for our classrooms. These tables make differentiated learning and small groups more manageable. The East Penn PTO purchased a new outdoor movie screen to use for both indoor and outdoor assemblies and events. I would like to thank all of our custodial staff for their stellar work in making our schools clean and safe. Our teachers have spent countless hours, this summer, preparing their classrooms to be clean, warm and inviting places for your child's continued success.

This year we will be implementing a new reading series aligned to the Pennsylvania Core standards through a rigorous instructional design. Houghton Journeys is a leading-edge program providing digital tools and results-driven instruction. The program has a unique close reading routine that builds better readers while also providing intervention for struggling students. Journeys has core-based instruction integrated into every unit and lesson, while scaffolding and differentiating to meet the needs of all students. SuccessMaker will be utilized district wide in grades K-6 as an online supplemental learning tool. The online program uses adaptive software to match the instructional needs of each student. The programs difficulty level adjusts automatically, in response to the student's answers, so the learning experience is not too easy or too difficult. As always, student data, learning and growth will be studied through our RTII program. The RTII program will then provide enrichment, on level and remedial instruction.

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East Penn & Franklin Elementary—Mrs. Suzanne Howland, Principal

(East Penn & Franklin continued)

This year we do not have any new staff, but some teachers have switched grade levels due to enrollment bubbles in both buildings. At Franklin, Mrs. Hedash will be teaching kindergarten, Mrs. Strausberger will be teaching third grade and Mr. Fritz will be teaching fourth grade. We wish the best to Mrs. Fischer who was transferred to Mahoning and Mrs. Fox-Meyer who transferred to the Middle School to instruct special education students. At East Penn, Mrs. Breiner will be teaching third grade. I am confident that these changes will help our students grow academically.

Several of our teachers welcomed babies this summer. At Franklin, Mrs. Rheinhardt welcomed a healthy baby girl at the end of the school year and will be taking some time off. We welcome Mrs. Carpenter who will be her substitute teacher until she returns. At East Penn, Mrs. Bruch had a healthy baby girl, at the end of the school year and will be taking some time off. Ms. Galasso will be her substitute teacher until she returns. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Mrs. Lichtenwalner's baby. She is due any day now. Mrs. MacMillan will be her Title One Reading substitute teacher.

Our first day of school is August 24, 2015. School begins at 8:30 am and ends at 3:10 pm. Please look for bus schedules in the Times Newspaper. Parent pick up will continue as it did last year, with walkers/riders being dismissed after the last bus. All parents will be expected to wait in the all-purpose rooms at both buildings with no loitering in the halls. At Franklin, parking will continue to be in the back of the building, while at East Penn parents are encouraged to park on side of the all-purpose room, not blocking bus traffic. Mrs. Gerber, will continue to be our head teacher at Franklin, while Mrs. Bruch will be our head teacher at East Penn. During Mrs. Bruch's leave, Mrs. Zerbe will assume the head teacher duties and responsibilities. During our first week of school, we will reinforce our Tribe Pride rules. Tribe pride rules encourage students to be respectful, safe and kind. Please refer to the school website to review our school behavior matrix with your children.

I am excited and privileged to greet all of our students and staff on our first day. It is soon time to start learning, growing and celebrating success. Let's make this year exceptional and remember to encourage our kids/students to never settle for mediocrity.

With Warmest Regards,
Suzanne Howland
Principal
East Penn and Franklin Schools

Our Student Day:

- 8:15AM - children may enter the building; breakfast begins
 - 8:30AM – Announcements begin
 - (You will be marked tardy after 8:30 am)
- 3:05 PM- dismissal of buses (after last bus is called walkers/riders will be dismissed- parents/guardians must report to all-purpose room for dismissal)

Middle School News—Dr. Mark McGalla, Principal

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year!

It has been a great summer and our hope is that everyone was able to enjoy time with those people that matter most to them. The best thing about starting a new school year is that everyone starts fresh – students and staff alike, and all are invited to make the most of the experiences that are afforded to them. As a middle school parent, you will receive a letter explaining some changes that are coming to LAMS as a result of an extensive renovation project that will beautify and update our school and carry us far into the future. For now, please note that the main office has changed locations and is now located directly across from the main entrance doors. The letter and this link will explain all the pertinent information related to the renovation project: <http://www.lehighton.org/MiddleSchool.cfm?subpage=312027>.

We are excited to welcome your student back to school and wish them the best for a great start to the 2015-2016 school year. If there is anything we can do to be of assistance to you or your student, please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

Thank you,

Dr. McGalla and Mr. Bachert

Welcome Mrs. Dietz and Mrs. Andrew!

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome Mrs. Dietz to the LAMS team in her position as an 8th grade Language Arts teacher. Mrs. Dietz is excited and thankful to the Lehighton Area School District for providing her with the opportunity to continue her teaching career here. Prior to coming to Lehighton Middle School, she taught at Reading High School, Mahanoy Area High School, Schuylkill Haven Middle School, and Connections Academy. In her spare time, Mrs. Dietz enjoys spending time with family, especially attending her son's baseball and basketball games. She also enjoys shopping and cooking. We look forward to many wonderful years with Mrs. Dietz at LAMS.

Another warm welcome is extended to Mrs. Andrew who will be the new School Nurse at Lehighton Area Middle School. She has a background in both education and nursing. Mrs. Andrew began her career as a teacher working for an afterschool program in Lehighton. Then, she took a leap and decided to become a registered nurse to continue to educate others, but in a more health related field. After spending a year as a hospital nurse, she is thrilled to begin this position which combines her two passions. Mrs. Andrew is looking forward to meeting and caring for the children of our community.

High School News—Mr. Craig Reichl, Principal

Hopefully your family has enjoyed the summer months and the excitement is building for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. The staff has worked hard over the summer to enhance our programs and offer students various opportunities to learn. We would like to inform you about some changes that will be occurring for the upcoming year at the high school:

- The biggest change will be occurring with the realignment of our daily schedule. We will no longer have homeroom in the morning. Students will enter the building and be required to report to their first block class at 7:35. Any student arriving after 7:35 will be late for class. All class work that is missed for an Unlawful Tardy will be graded as a zero.
- We also extended our enrichment block at the end of the day by 10 minutes. Seniors will still be allowed to leave after 4th block if they are in good academic standing.

Leighton Area High School will operate on a 6 day rotating schedule: Day 1, Day 2, PRIDE DAY, Day 3, Day 4, PRIDE DAY. Students will return to the class during enrichment on the day stated in the rotation. If it is Day 2, students will return to their second block class during enrichment. We will offer clubs and activities on PRIDE Days throughout the year. Students will sign up for these clubs for an entire semester and report directly to their club of choice. If a student is academically ineligible, they will lose their privilege of club participation. Seniors that are in good academic standing and have met all obligations will be able to leave school early beginning September 14th with parent permission. Students that do not sign-up for clubs will be placed in a working and SILENT study hall during this time. PRIDE stands for

A Tribe is:
Prepared
Responsible
Inspired
Determined to
Excel

More information will be made available for the start of the school year. The updated student handbook is now available through InfoSnap on the school district website. We will no longer be using printed handbooks. All student/parents/guardians will be able to access our handbook online. Parents/guardians will click that they have read and understand the handbook and the rules and regulations. We will print the text for any parents/guardians that request a hardcopy. We now have five distinct sections, Policy and Pupil Service, Discipline, Athletics and Co-Curricular, Academics and Guidance, Student Assistance Programs.

Changes to the handbook

- We will have a dedicated line to the Attendance Secretary with voicemail to report student absences. Please call 610-377-6180 extension 2410. Even if you call a student out for an absence, you will still be required to provide an excuse blank within 3 days of the absence.

Students will be allowed to wear shorts all year. Previously they were not allowed to wear shorts after Sep. 30th until April 1st.

- We changed our weighted grading scale from a 7.0 scale to a 4.0 scale. The previous scale did not allow for additional points for heavily weighted classes. The 4.0 scale is recognized by most colleges and universities.
- Cheating and Plagiarism will now be placed in a students' discipline file.
- Vapes were added to the Tobacco section and now subject to disciplinary actions.
- We expanded the explanation of student responsibilities in the Athletic and Co-Curricular sections.
- Previously if students skipped a final exam they failed the class with a 40%. Now they will receive a zero for the exam and receive the natural grade after averaging all the grades together.
- We added the possibility to conduct Commencement outdoors with administrative approval.

We changed the grading scale from a 5.5 under the 7.0 scale to a 3.7 under the 4.0 scale for consideration for National Honor Society.

(continued on next page)

(High School continued)

Last school year select members of the staff and students began to implement a School Wide Positive Behavior initiative. We built opportunities for growth and enhancement for positive and acceptable behaviors. We want to acknowledge students when they make the right choices and reward them for setting a positive example. Students will be rewarded with PRIDE tickets for making good choices and being positive role models. These tickets will be able to be redeemed for snacks and used in quarterly drawings for prizes. We want to put emphasis on the majority of our students that make the right decisions and engage those students who are disengaged.

During the school year, The Nutrition Group will be implementing a few new programs and items, as well as enhancing some programs from last year. Each morning there will be a breakfast cart with grab and go breakfast items available for all students. Students have permission to eat in the lobby area during this time before their first class at 7:35AM. There will be tables with chairs along with new high-standing café tables for students to gather around. This program will begin during the third week of school. A new addition will also be coffee, hot chocolate, and cappuccinos, which are available daily during both breakfast and lunch. There will be a variety of cappuccino and hot chocolate flavors, as well as flavorings and flavored creamer for coffee.

The after school meal program that was implemented at the end of last year will begin the fourth week of school (September 14). The program will now be available each day to ANY grade-level student who is at the High School from 2:20-3:00PM. Sports teams and clubs will also have the ability to order food for away games. However, there is a mandatory 1-week prior notification period for pre-packaged meals for students to grab before leaving for a game. All slips for orders will need to be turned into the main office Attn: HS Cafeteria or brought to the cafeteria directly. If any students, staff members, parents, or guardians have questions about any of these programs, please feel free to contact Food Service Director Lauren Williams by email (nutritiongroup@lehighton.org) or phone (610-377-4490 extension 2200).

There is a potential for a minor building project at the high school that will last for approximately 15 months. All classrooms will have their heating and air-conditioning units replaced along with updating the windows to make the rooms more energy efficient and cost effective. Classes will have to be relocated throughout the year and we will do everything we can to minimize the disruption to your child's academics. If you have any questions regarding these projects please contact the high school administration.

Some other items that need to be mentioned before the beginning of this school year are the reminder that the school will no longer be supplying locks to the students for their lockers. However, it is HIGHLY suggested that they have a lock on their locker. Students will be able to access the school WIFI during the school day for educational purposes in class and during all lunches. If a student violates our Acceptable Use Policy they will lose their privileges and receive further consequences. This is a privilege and should be treated accordingly. All schedules and updated Keystone scores will be available through PowerSchool on August 3rd. If you have any questions about your student's schedule, please contact their guidance counselor. Finally, the last item deals with our "student dress". Prior to purchasing school clothes for the upcoming school year, please refer to the section of the student handbook with reference to "Student Dress". Please make sure all clothes are tasteful in nature and are not too revealing. Also, pants with exposed skin above the knee are not acceptable. Violators of the student dress policy will be required to change their clothes before reporting to class or will remain in in-school suspension.

We will continue to put our focus into evaluating, updating, and improving our curriculum to exceed the state standards. We will strive to increase the level of learning for all students at Lehighton Area High School and prepare them for college, employment, and life. Our program of studies is rigorous, but built with some flexibility to meet your child's individual needs. This is a total team effort and we need your support, involvement, and parental guidance if we want to see their continued success through their high school years.

In closing, we are thrilled to have you with us this coming school year and we want to assure you that we will do everything in our power to help your child experience academic, social, and emotional growth. With your help and cooperation, this will be an excellent school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 610-377-6180.

Sincerely,

Craig Reichl
Principal

Jennifer Evans
Assistant Principal

(High School continued)

Important dates

August 25th: Special agent Janene M. Holter, of the state attorney general's office, will be visiting Lehigh Area High School at 1:20pm to talk with the students regarding Bullying. Below is a link to an article regarding Ms. Holter's presentation.

<http://citizensvoice.com/news/cyberbullying-forum-educates-local-parents-1.1388187>

September 16th: Camfel Productions will be here to present their 3-Screen multimedia presentation "Quest for Respect". Their engaging programs use real stories, featuring real students overcoming real problems that will resonate with our students in a very powerful way. Their programs provide positive role modeling, encourage interaction with our presenters, and develop a climate of change throughout schools. Not only will students have an opportunity to participate in a highly engaging assembly, but teachers will also be provided with materials to continue the conversations in their classrooms. This will be an amazing experience for the students, staff, teachers, and administration.

First day for students August 24th!!!!

Back to School Dance August 28th

UPCOMING TESTING DATES:

ASVAB TESTING FOR GRADE 10: Tuesday, October 27, 2015

PSAT TESTING: PSATs will be offered to all 11th graders (at no cost) in October 2015

SAT TESTING: Sat., Oct. 3, 2015; Sat., Dec. 5, 2015; Sat., May 7, 2016

ACT TESTING: Sat., October 24, 2015

CCTI CED Orientation - D125

4:30pm Wednesday, August 26, 2015

CCTI - GED Preparation courses D126 & D130

5:30pm Monday, October 05, 2015

5:30pm Wednesday, October 07, 2015

5:30pm Monday, October 19, 2015

5:30pm Wednesday, October 21, 2015

5:30pm Monday, October 26, 2015

5:30pm Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Meet theTribe

7:00 pm Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Homecoming Dance

6:30pm Processional

7:00 pm Saturday October 31 2015

LAHS Band Parent Expo Show (Auditorium)

6:00 pm Friday, August 28, 2015

FCCLA HS Dance

7:00pm Friday, August 28, 2015

CCTI - GED Preparation courses D126 & D130

5:30pm Monday, September 14, 2015

Lifetouch Senior Potraits - stage

9:00am Tuesday, September 15, 2015

LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 Union Street
Lehigh, Pennsylvania 18235
610-377-4490 (telephone)
610-577-0032 (fax)

Newsletter information:
rkarpowicz@lehighton.org

East Penn Elementary

610-377-6094
610-577-1008 (fax)

Franklin Elementary

610-377-6163
610-577-0067 (fax)

Mahoning Elementary

570-386-4678
610-577-1009 (fax)

Shull David Elementary

610-377-7880
610-377-0908 (fax)

Lehighton Middle School

610-377-6535
610-377-6503 (fax)

Lehighton High School

610-377-6180 (main office)
610-377-0303 (fax)
610-377-7600 (guidance)
610-377-1852 (fax)

School Hours:

Elem. 8:30 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
M.S. 7:25 a.m.-2:14 p.m.
H.S. 7:35 a.m.-2:20 p.m.
Adm. 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

George's Bus
Transportation
610-377-5511

Important Dates

8/17/15	-	Shull-David New Student/Kindergarten Open House - 5:00-7:00 p.m.
8/18/15	-	East Penn New Student/Kindergarten Open House - 5:00-7:00 p.m.
8/18/15	-	Mahoning New Student/Kindergarten Open House - 5:00-7:00 p.m.
8/19/15	-	Franklin New Student/Kindergarten Open House - 5:00-7:00 p.m.
8/18-20/15	-	Teacher In-Service Days
8/19/15	-	Meet the Teacher Night/New Student Orientation-Middle School-6:00 p.m.
8/20/15	-	Meet the Teacher Night/9th Grade Orientation - High School - 6:00 p.m.
8/31/15	-	Franklin Meet the Teacher Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
8/21/14	-	Mahoning New Student/Kindergarten Open House - 5:00-7:00 p.m.
8/24/15	-	Students' First Day
8/26/15	-	Meet the Tribe Night - 7:00 p.m. - Stadium
9/1/15	-	Shull-David Meet the Teacher Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
9/2/15	-	East Penn Meet the Teacher Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
9/3/15	-	Mahoning Meet the Teacher Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
9/7/15	-	Labor Day Holiday
10/12/15	-	Teacher In-Service (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
10/13-15/15	-	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Elem. Middle & High School)
11/26-30/15	-	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
12/23/15	-	Early Dismissal (MS-12:10, HS 12:15, Elem. 1:10)
12/23-31, 1/1/16	-	Winter Holiday (No School)

Administrators

Jonathan J. Cleaver, Superintendent
Brian Feick, Business Administrator
Tina Holmes, Asst. Business Administrator
Timothy M. Tkach, Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Grants
Sean LeDonne, Supervisor of Special Services
Floyd Brown, Asst. Supervisor of Special Services
Joseph Hauser, Supervisor of Plant Operations
Craig Reichl, High School Principal
Jennifer Evans, Asst. High School Principal
Mark McGalla, Middle School Principal
Charles Bachert, Asst. Middle School Principal
Aaron Sebelin, Mahoning & Shull David Elementary Principal
Suzanne Howland, East Penn & Franklin Elementary Principal
Kyle Spotts, Director of Student Services and Facilities Planning

Board of Directors

Gloria Bowman, President
Larry Stern, Vice President
Andrew Yenser, Treasurer
Rocky Ahner
William Hill, Jr.
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