



NEWSLETTER

DERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

ISSUE 01 | QUARTERLY | FEBRUARY 2023



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You may have heard of National Chocolate Day but did you know there are many national days that recognize school staff? We'll let you know which ones are coming up here!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February to April 2023

Feb 1 - 6:00PM - Kindergarten Information Webinar

Feb 13 - 4:00PM - School Board Curriculum Council

Feb 13 - 5:00PM - School Board Policy Committee

Feb 13 - 7:00PM - School Board Meeting

Feb 20 - No School for Students

Feb 21 - 2 Hour Late Start

Feb 23 - 5:30PM - HES Science Fair

Feb 25 - 7:00PM - HHS Winter Semi-Formal

Feb 27 - 4:00PM - School Board Communication Committee

Feb 27 - 5:00PM - School Board Finance Committee

Feb 27 - 7:00PM - School Board Meeting

Feb 28 - End of Second Trimester (Elementary)

Mar 2 - 6:30PM - HHS Musical Senior & Family Night

Mar 3 - 7:30PM - HHS Spring Musical *Oliver*

Mar 4 - 7:30PM - HHS Spring Musical *Oliver*

Mar 9 - No School for students K-5

Mar 10 - No School for Students

Mar 11 - PMEA Region Orchestra

Mar 13 - No School for Students

Mar 13 - 4:00PM - School Board Curriculum Council

Mar 13 - 5:00PM - School Board Athletics and Activities Committee

Mar 13 - 7:00PM - School Board Meeting

Mar 14 - 2 Hour Late Start

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AN INTRODUCTION

BY: DR. WINSLOW, SUPERINTENDENT



Hershey Middle School Students at Annual Turkey Trot



Welcome Everyone!

By Dr. Winslow, Superintendent

Welcome to the first Derry Township School District newsletter. We recognize the importance of effective communication and engagement with families and the community in ensuring the success of our students and schools. To this end, we are committed to implementing a number of strategies to improve communication and engagement within our district.

First, we plan to establish and continue regular communication channels with families and community members, including this quarterly newsletter, regular meetings with community leaders and organizations through Community Forums (see below for



the schedule), and continued monthly Building Advisory Meetings at each school. These channels will provide important updates on district news, events, and initiatives, as well as opportunities for families and community members to provide feedback and ask questions.

In addition, we have been utilizing technology to enhance communication and engagement. This includes increasing the use of online platforms, such as our district's website and social media accounts, to provide timely information and updates, as well as implementing parent portals that allow families to access their child's grades, schedules, and other important information.

Post-pandemic, we are eager to welcome volunteers back into our buildings through a variety of avenues including classroom assistants and Junior Achievement programming. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer in our schools, please remember that you must complete your Volunteer Clearances (<https://www.hershey.k12.pa.us/Page/5087>).

Finally, we will work closely with our community partners, such as local

businesses and organizations, to create mutually beneficial partnerships that will support our students and schools. This includes establishing mentoring programs, internships, and other opportunities for students to connect with community members and gain real-world experience.

We believe that by implementing these strategies, we can create a more engaged and informed community, which will ultimately lead to improved student outcomes and success. We look forward to working together with our families and community members to achieve this goal.

With much appreciation and Trojan Pride.

Warmly,
Stacy L. Winslow, Ed.D.



PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



Want to see more photos from around our district? Follow us!

 DTSDnews  DTSD_news



COCOA PRINCIPLE: COMMUNITY

Community, opportunity, citizenship, ownership and academics remain an integral part of our values and mission as a school district. As this newsletter is meant for our school community, it felt appropriate to start with *community* as our first COCOA Principle highlight.

The Importance of a Strong School Community in Public Education

By Sarah Karpel, Supervisor of Community Relations and Engagement

Public education is an integral part of our society, providing children with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. However, a strong education system is not just about the curriculum and the teachers, it is also about the community that surrounds it. A positive school community can have a significant impact on student learning and development.

A school community is made up of all the people who are involved in the education of a child. This includes students, teachers, parents, staff members, and community members. When these groups work together, they create an environment that is conducive to learning. A strong school community can provide students with a sense of belonging, support, and encouragement, which can help them to achieve their full potential.

If you are looking for a way to become more involved in our school community, there are a number of opportunities. You can support our student athletes throughout the school year. We host a number of music performances, including our upcoming High School Musical, Oliver. We are always looking for more volunteers across all buildings and grade levels along with our School Board Citizen advisors. Our website and this newsletter contains plenty of information about upcoming school events and resources to volunteer.

WAYS WE STAY CONNECTED TO THE HERSHEY COMMUNITY



When our Boys Varsity Soccer Team won the state championship, our local Fire and Police Department helped celebrate this amazing achievement with the team, their families, coaches, staff, students.



During Middle School Career Day, we had many members from our community take time out of their work day to speak with our students so they could learn more about their post-secondary options.



Every year many members of our Hershey PTO and Elementary school parents spent countless hours setting up our Scholastic Book Fair. They do a beautiful display in the entrance, collect gift cards so all students can participate and host a family night for everyone to enjoy!



Our students regularly organize and participate in fundraisers for the Hershey and Greater Harrisburg community, including High School and Middle School Mini-THON, Walk For Clean Water and more.



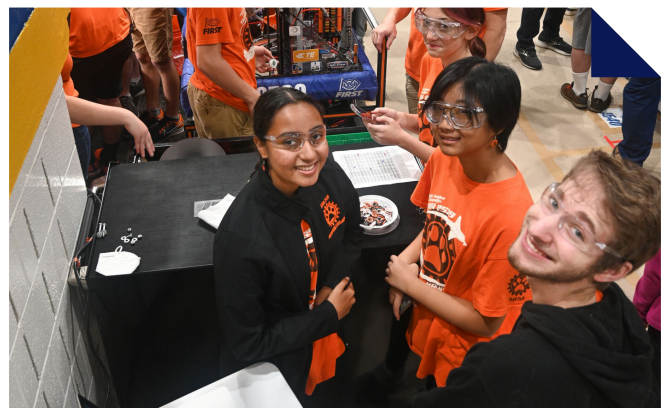
MEET THE CLUB: HHS'S ROBOTICS TEAM, TEAM 2539

Robotics Season Kicks Off for Team 2539 Krypton Cougars.

By Zoe Latham, Media Team, Krypton Cougars

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2539 - Krypton Cougars are an official club of both Hershey and Palmyra High School. The team was part of the 2nd place alliance at the 2022 World Championships in Houston. Team 2539 recently finished their off-season by winning all 4 of their competitions. FIRST robotics (www.firstinspires.org) is an organization where students build robots and compete with other teams in their region, district, and world. On Saturday, January 7, 2023, the team tuned into the worldwide kick-off of the new season, along with over 3200 other teams. The “kick-off” event revealed this year’s game challenge. Over 35 Hershey and Palmyra high school students took part in this year’s event. These students and mentors spent their day at the robotics build-site in Hershey brainstorming, strategizing, and beginning to design the new robot.

At this year’s competitions, audiences will experience multiple robots zipping across the field to pick up and place game pieces in scoring zones in order to “complete electrical circuits”. Along with the game pieces,



teams can also score in the first 15 seconds, when robots drive themselves to score points without driver control, and near the end of the match, when robots will attempt to climb and balance a “seesaw” before the clock runs out. The team expects scoring will be challenging in this strategy-heavy game, with robots all trying to out-maneuver each other and quickly score game pieces into their respective scoring zones. Visit the link here to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zpflsYc4PA>

The Krypton Cougars team is divided into sub-teams consisting of Programming, Mechanical, Design/CAD, Electrical, Strategy, Business, and Media, each with its own mentors. These mentors are experienced adults who help run the team, however, the robot is still designed, built, and programmed by the students all in a short span of time. The build season is an intense 8-week period during which the team builds an entirely new robot, specified to the challenges of this year’s game. The team’s first competition will be held March 3-5 in Hatboro-Horsham, PA.



All are welcome to stop by the build site at the Granada Gym, 30 E Granada Ave, Hershey, and see what these amazing high school students are building for this year’s competition. Team members are present at the site 6-9pm, Monday-Thursday, and Saturday 10am-2pm throughout the build and competition season. The team is always accepting new members, mentors, and those who are willing to donate. For more information, visit the Krypton Cougars’ website: <https://www.team2539.com>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February to April 2023

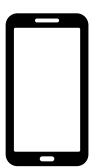
Mar 15 - HHS Music Department Concert
Mar 24 - End of Third Marking Period (Secondary)
Mar 27 - 4:00PM - School Board General Services
Mar 27 - 5:00PM - School Board Finance Committee
Mar 27 - 7:00PM - School Board Meeting
Mar 31 - 7:00PM - Hershey Middle School Play

Apr 5 - Apr 10 - Spring Recess
Apr 11 - 2 Hour Late Start
Apr 11 - 4:00PM - School Board Curriculum Council
Apr 11 - 7:00PM - School Board Meeting
Apr 13 - DTSD Jazz Night
Apr 14 - Hershey Elementary School Celebrating our Cultures Family Night
Apr 24 - 28 - PSSA Testing English Language Arts Grades 3-8
Apr 24 - 4:00PM - School Board Communications Committee
Apr 24 - 5:00PM - School Board Finance Committee
Apr 24 - 7:00PM - School Board Meeting

SPORTS SCHEDULE



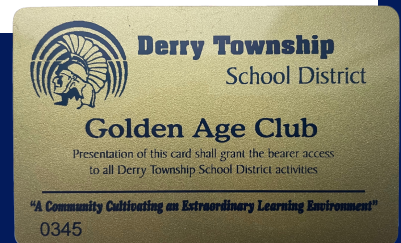
**SCAN
ME**



We are currently hiring for multiple coaching positions. Please see our website for more info!

DID YOU KNOW?!

Derry Township senior citizens get free admission to **all** DTSD events through our "Golden Age Club". You can pick one up for free at our District Office (30 E Granada Ave, Hershey). This includes all regular season home sporting events, concerts, general admission seating for musicals and plays.



CELEBRATING OUR STAFF



Feb 6 - 10 - National School Counseling Week

Feb 8 - National Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

April 3 - 7 - National Principal's Week

April 4 - School Librarian Day

April 5 - National Paraprofessional Day

April 20 - Volunteer Recognition Day

April 25 - School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

April 26 - National Administrative Assistant Day



Thanks for all that you do!