



2022-23 Year in Review



Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board



The nine members of the Colonial School Board are elected at-large to serve the citizens of Conshohocken Borough and Whitemarsh and Plymouth Townships. The Board holds several committee meetings and one general meeting each month. General Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of Colonial Elementary School. Board meeting minutes and agendas can be found online via BoardDocs, which can be accessed through colonialsd.org/boarddocs.

Administration

Superintendent: Dr. Michael Christian
Director of Pupil Services and Special Education: Karen Berk
Director of Technology: Andrew Boegly
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Rosemarie Gregitis
Director of Human Resources: Michelle O'Reilly
Business Administrator: Mark Digian
Director of Operations: Joseph Lally
Equity and Advancement Officer: Melissa Figueroa-Douglas
Curriculum Supervisors: Edward Merk, Joseph Pacitti, Maria Wileczek
Supervisor of Special Education, 6-12: Timothy Murch
Supervisor of Special Education, K-5: Dr. Caitlin Gilmartin
School Psychologists: Kristin Burstein, Robyn Fishbein, Dr. Meghan Garrett, Kimberly McNamara, Dr. Beth McWilliams
Director of Food Services: Lori McCoy, RD, SNS
Director of Transportation: Christopher Brown
District Safety Officer: Timothy McDonald
Community Relations Coordinator: Jessica Lester
Assistant Public Relations Coordinator: Kim Newell

Mission Statement

For students to learn, grow, and serve in a school community that is welcoming for all.

Superintendent's Greeting

Dear Families,

While the end of the school year is often a hectic and emotional time, it is also an opportunity for us to look back at everything we accomplished.



We are proud to celebrate the successes of our school community in 2022-23. We are especially proud of the members of the Class of 2023 and have included information about their achievements and intentions throughout this newsletter. We have also included highlights from the Food Services Department, the Colonial School District Education Foundation and more.

You will also find news about the budget, a proposed addition to Colonial Elementary School, and a new website. I hope you will take some time to learn more about all we have planned. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Sincerely,
Michael L. Christian, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Graduates Celebrated at June 14 Commencement

Three-hundred forty-five students were awarded diplomas at the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Commencement ceremony held on June 14 at Colonial Field.

The evening included an address by Olivia Bell, a poem by Olivia Wellmen, and the alma mater as sung by Madison Coleman, Azzareya Crumpton, Kaitlin Parris, and Julia Zarzoso.

The graduates were congratulated by three speakers, each of whom shared a bit of advice and much praise. Superintendent Dr. Michael Christian reminded the students of the wisdom of kindergarteners and the value of second chances; Lawrence Williamson Jr., Class of 1973 Distinguished Graduate, spoke to the students about their potential and the importance of learning from others; and Dr. Jason Bacani, Principal, noted many of the accomplishments from the Class of 2023. Here are a few of those highlights:

- 92.1% are going to four- or two-year colleges/universities (for a map of where seniors are headed following graduation, see page 11)
- Four students are going into the military
- The Class of 2023 has received a one-year total of \$4,430,453 in scholarship and award money, and a four-year total of \$18,043,086
- More than 40 percent of the class graduated with a 4.0 grade point average or higher
- Nearly 100 students were named AP Scholars by the College Board
- 10 seniors were named National Merit Scholarship Commended Students



CSDEF Raises Funds to Support Students and Teachers

The Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF) continued its dedication to Colonial students by raising approximately \$74,000 and funding several projects, events, and scholarships during the 2022-2023 school year.

Food For Thought

Food for Thought was the largest and most rewarding effort this year, with \$50,000 raised through individual donations, a \$10,000 matching grant from Firsttrust Bank, approximately \$12,000 from Subaru of America's "Share the Love" event and John Kennedy Subaru, and a generous donation from the Meersman family.

Money raised was used to pay for more than 6,300 lunches for families who just missed the government cutoff for free meals. The remaining money from the \$50,000 will be used to continue the program next year.

Teacher Grants

The CSDEF gave out \$7,250 in teacher grants to pay for free reading libraries in Spanish, French, and Latin for the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School World Languages Department; a Grief and Divorce library for elementary counselors; and specially weighted stuffed animals that help relieve anxiety at the elementary level.

The annual Feel the Love campaign (that recognizes school staff each February) brought in \$4,100 to help refill the teacher grant bucket.

Giving to Each School

The CSDEF donated \$1,200 to each principal and \$750 to each school's librarian to help cover whatever needs they had. For example, Principal Rose Rock at Colonial Elementary School purchased portable pickleball courts for the playground. Conshohocken



High School AVID college tour also



The CSDEF awarded multiple scholarships to graduating seniors during the Senior Awards ceremony. Top row: Olivia Bell was the recipient of the Boys of 92 Scholarship. Second row: In the photo on the left is Ethan Broad, winner of the CSDEF Scholarship. On the middle right is Tara Patel, winner of the Mike Brenner Scholarship. Third row: In the photo on the left is Isabelle Jones, winner of the Mark Canale AVID Scholarship. In the photo on the right is Benson Davis, winner of the Schwab Family Scholarship. On page 5 is Patrick FitzGerald, who received the Sal's Barbershop Underdog Scholarship.

Elementary School Library Media Specialist, Nina Pratowski, picked up kits that allowed students to build robots and learn about gears. The annual Plymouth Whitmarsh

received \$6,000 from the CSDEF toward costs. In addition, Colonial Elementary Schools will be able to upgrade the technology available in their
Continued on bottom of page 5 →

PW Graduates Awarded \$32,500 in Scholarships

Twenty Plymouth Whitmarsh High School seniors were awarded \$32,500 in scholarships through the Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF). The CSDEF has taken on the mantle of awarding scholarships following the dissolution of the PW Scholarship Fund.

Scholarships are awarded to students attending technical schools, two- and four-year colleges, and other post-secondary institutions.

Recipients must have a grade point average of 3.8 and are selected based on their academic achievements, involvement in activities or work, and an essay they submit. This year's recipients are:

Adam Balasko
Sevita Beer
Olivia Bell
Ethan Broad
Luke Caucci
Gracelyn Clark



Benson Davis
Andrew Dobrowolski
Caitlin Dougherty
Olivia Ekbatani
Emma Freedman
Evan Friedman
Luke Hildebrand
Isabelle Jones
Ethan Markow
Tara Patel

Jordan Son
Harrison Spector
Margaret Tomassetti
Sara Zelaya

Anyone who would like to offer financial support for PW graduates through the Scholarship Fund can go online to colonialsd.org/foundation. Select "Donate" and then "Scholarship Fund."

Continued from page 4
innovation labs with a gift from ASTM International.

Scholarship Fund

In addition to funding 20 scholarships, the CSDEF brought in \$5,000 to help continue providing these gifts in the future.

Partnership with Subaru of America

John Kennedy Subaru selected the CSDEF as a Hometown Charity recipient for its annual Subaru Share the Love Event. For almost two months leading up to the end of the year, customers who purchase or lease a Subaru can select the CSDEF to receive a \$250 donation. This year, the CSDEF received more than \$20,000.

Colonial School District libraries also received between 200-300 science books, thanks to Subaru Loves Learning and the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books.

Additional Fundraisers

- The return of Foundation Day brought in more than



\$6,800 and offered visitors the chance to tour the new middle school and enjoy fun children's activities, performances, and food trucks.

- The number of staff making contributions through payroll deductions increased by nearly 50%.
- A new partnership with the Philadelphia Union created game nights where more than 100 tickets were sold.
- The Conshy Adult Prom committee donated \$1,732 to the CSDEF.



Senior Awards Presented at PW in May

Plymouth Whitmarsh High School honored members of the Class of 2023 at the annual Senior Awards Ceremony held on May 30. Please read on to learn about the students who received recognition this year.

Zane Al-Saleem

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Skyler Alten

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Catherine Balkiewicz

Walterian Theoretical Gummed Star Award

Justin Barrer

Colonial Orchestra Award

Cayce Becker

DECA Scholarship

PW Service Award

Sevita Beer

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Olivia Bell

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit
Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP Award

CSDEF Boys of '92 Scholarship

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PWHS Leadership Award

Roger J. Allan & Lee T. Allan Scholarship
Sons of the American Revolution
Outstanding Student of American History Award

Christopher Bernard

Adam M. Wilson Memorial Scholarship
John Philip Sousa Award

Kelsey Bowman

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Stephanie Brach

Maurice Anthony Doroba Memorial Award

**Kailey Brenner**

Class of 1962 Award to Outstanding Senior

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Ethan Broad

Colonial School District Education Foundation Scholarship

Avery Broggi

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Connor Capizzi

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Grace Carney

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Memorial Business Award

Luke Caucci

Denise Cotteta Memorial Scholarship
Whitmarsh Baseball Association Scholarship

Mohamad Charabi

Freedom Valley Award for Community Service

Gabriella Clark

Clark Doeblor Memorial Scholarship

Mason Clatterbuck

George Purvis Memorial Soccer Award

Madison Coleman

Colonial Chorus Award

Adam Conti

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Brian Costa

Colonial Player of the Year

Julia Couzens

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

GenVest Strategy Group Scholarship

Azzareya Crumpton

Colonial Chorus Award

Denise Cotteta Memorial Scholarship

Mark Anthony LaPera Scholarship Award

Benson Davis

Schwab Family Scholarship

Sophie Davis

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Miabella Delaney-Lipschutz

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Sophia DeLone

National Art Honor Society Award, Honorable Mention

Andrew Dobrowolski

John H. Loughridge Memorial Award in Technical Drawing

Caitlin Dougherty

Language Arts Department Award for Excellence in English

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PTSO Richard Coletta Sr. Science Award

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Maya Drossner

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Social Studies Award

Dalya Dunoff

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Whitmarsh Lions Club English Award

Samantha Earl

PWCC Coaches Award

Continued on top of page 7 →



*Senior Awards continued from
page 6*

Jonah Eckert

Colonial Chorus Award

Abigail Edwards

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PW Orchestra Achievement Award

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Athletic Award

Katherine Edwards

AP Statistics Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PW Orchestra Achievement Award

Olivia Ekbatani

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

Plymouth Township Police Association Scholarship Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

David Epstein

Keith M. Stimson Memorial Scholarship

President's Award for Academic

Achievement

Whitemarsh Lions Club Band Award

Raynah Fandozzi

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Georgia Fay

United States Marine Corps Semper

Fidelis Award

Hailey Fayda

President's Award for Academic

Achievement

Gregory Feinberg

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Athletic Award

Elizabeth Felgoise

State Senator Maria Collett Good

Citizen Award

Alexandra Fergus

Excellence in Photography Award,

Honorable Mention

Patrick FitzGerald

Sal's Barbershop Underdog Scholarship

Emma Freedman

President's Award for Academic Excellence



Evan Friedman

John R. Kilpatrick Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Luke Gartland

Whitemarsh Baseball Association Scholarship

Lee Goldberg

Daughters of the American Revolution History Award

Kyle Goodman

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Michael Gubler

AP Computer Science Award

Nicholas Gwiazda

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Jinuk Han

National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Anna Harrington

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Jaimee Highland

Whitemarsh Lions Club Fine Arts Award

Luke Hildebrand

Whitemarsh Baseball Association Scholarship

Brian Jeong

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Adam Johnson

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean

Good Citizen Award

Carleigh Jones

The Publications Award

Isabelle Jones

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

The Mark Canale AVID Scholarship

Madison Jones

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Jaiden Kelman

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken Award in Business

Naomi Kim

Joe Murray Memorial Art Award

Carly King

Herbert C. Mayson Memorial Award

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

James Knapp

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter #6779 Senior Service Award

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*Senior Awards continued from
page 7*

Victoria Lee

La Grande Médaille Molière Award
PW Orchestra Achievement Award

Lauren Lewis

Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP
Award

Jaden Lieberman

Colonial Chorus Award
James J. Doyle Memorial Award

Owen Link

PW Business Department Award

Ferra Liu

Miriam & Milton Prince Memorial
Scholarship

Phi Beta Kappa Book Award

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Hannah Loewenstern

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication
Award

Tri-M National Music Honor Society
Chapter #6779 Senior Service Award

Riley Magda

President's Award for Academic
Achievement

Spoon Magliente

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship

Abigail Manning

PW Orchestra Achievement Award

Zane Alexander Mannings

BCA Club Award of Merit
President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Ethan Markow

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Daniela Martinez

Junior Women's Club of Conshohock-
en Scholarship

Frederick Mattioni

Beanie Bounce Entrepreneurial Schol-
arship

Mollee McCann

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship
Society of Women Engineers Award,
Highest Honor

John McDonald

United States Marine Corps Semper
Fidelis Award



Gracie McEwan

Keith M. Stimson Memorial Award in
Technical Theater Craft

Jade McFadden

President's Award for Academic
Achievement

Nickolas Mettimano

Sydney's Soldiers

Benjamin Moldovsky

John R. Kilpatrick Award
President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Student Council Scholarship,
Achievement

Thomas Montemayor

AP Calculus Award
National Merit Commended
President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Norah Myerow

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

William Myerow

Excellence in Photography Award
PW Jazz Band Award

Tara Nori

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean
Good Citizen Award

Aiden O'Brien

Nick Salamone Memorial Award

Ashleigh O'Brien

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication
Award

Devon Orensky

Cardin D. Brown Most Courageous
Athlete Award

Anthony Palma

Kathy Tavani Social Studies Award

Devon Palmer

BCA Club Award of Merit

Kaitlin Parris

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit
Colonial Chorus Award
DIVE Consulting-Plant Family Senior
Award

Tara Patel

CSDEF Mike Brenner Memorial
Scholarship
Plymouth Township Police Associa-
tion Scholarship Award
President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Leah Pedraza

President's Award for Academic
Achievement

Tori Pettine

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence
PTSO Richard Coletta Sr. Science
Award

Lilian Phan

Greater Conshohocken Business &
Professional Women Award

Jaclyn Porter

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence
Society of Women Engineers Award,
High Honor

Olivia Prusky

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship
Language Arts Department Award for
Excellence in English

National Council of Supervisors of
Mathematics Award

President's Award for Academic Ex-
cellence

Yassine Rafih

Financial Literacy Award

Bryan Renneisen

Ed Swetkowski Social Studies Award
Miriam & Milton Prince Memorial
Scholarship

Summer Rieser

Bright Futures Award

Evan Rosenstein

Thomas Manuel Golf Award

Reese Rupprecht

John H. Loughridge Memorial Award
in Design and Innovation

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Four Graduates to Serve Military Upon Graduation



Seen here, from left to right, are Adam Johnson, Axel Carbajal, and Samantha Jo Tunstall. Not pictured is Ryan Taylor.

Four Plymouth Whitemarsh High School graduates will be moving on to serve their country.

Adam Johnson has the unique distinction of having received appointments to two military academies: the United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. He decided to attend West Point where he hopes to major in mechanical engineering.

Axel Carbajal and Samantha Jo Tunstall will be joining the Marine Corps. Ryan Taylor will be joining the Navy. Colonial School District thanks these students for their service to the country.

Senior Awards continued from page 8

Laura Sanchez Meza

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken Award in World Language
President's Award for Academic Achievement

Arilise Santiago

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Abigail Sharpe

United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Nicholas Sherlock

Colonial Chorus Award
Fall Drama Dedication Award

Jordan Slutsky

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Jordan Son

President's Award for Academic Excellence
PW Orchestra Achievement Award
Science Award for Excellence in Chemistry

Emily Spause

National Art Honor Society Award, First Place
President's Award for Academic

Achievement

Harrison Spector

Student Council Scholarship, Distinguished

Sevé Spruill

BCA Club Award of Merit
United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Lillian Staneruck

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship in Honor of Susan Castle

Neve Straff

Donna Ray Zuck Scholar-Athlete Scholarship

Abigail Swider

Cardin D. Brown Most Courageous Athlete Award

Kristian Taylor

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit

Eleanor Teeters

Latin Language Award
National Merit Commended
President's Award for Academic Excellence

United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award

Margaret Tomassetti

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation

College Scholarship

National Art Honor Society Award, Second Place

PWCC Spirit Award

Genevieve Tone

National Art Honor Society Award, Third Place

Juliette Toneatto

Society of Women Engineers Award, Honor

Jules Tulio

Nick Salamone Memorial Award

Madeline VanBuren

Herbert C. Mayson Memorial Award
National Merit Commended
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Sean Williams

Art Teachers Award

Joe Francisco Choreographer's Award

Ashton Wittenberg

Mark Combs Memorial Scholarship

Stephen Wolford

Colonial Band Award

Kate Yocom

George Purvis Memorial Soccer Award

Julia Zarzoso

Colonial Chorus Award

Robert Reilley Spirit Award



Twenty Athletes Plan to Compete in College

Twenty Plymouth Whitmarsh High School graduates will continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level this fall. Four students will go on to play at NCAA Division I institutions (denoted by asterisk below). Congratulations to all these hard-working students on their accomplishments!

- Justin Bainbridge, Iona University*, Lacrosse
- Grace Carney, Gwynedd-Mercy University, Softball
- Luke Caucci, Lafayette College*, Baseball
- Mason Clatterbuck, West Chester University, Soccer
- Amanda Conti, Sacred Heart University*, Swimming
- Samantha Earl, Shenandoah University, Cheerleading
- Michael Flamm, Clarion University, Diving
- Mia Flemming, Arcadia University, Track and Field
- Luke Gartland, Dickinson College, Baseball
- Olivia Giambalvo, Widener University, Swimming



- Ryenn Mamrosch, Albright College, Volleyball
- Dylan McCourt, Bridgewater College, Lacrosse
- Molly Moore, Holy Family University, Softball
- Aiden O'Brien, Muhlenberg College, Football
- Alexandra Papadopoulos, Gwynedd Mercy University, Track/ Field
- Kaitlin Parris, American University*, Cheerleading
- Abby Sharpe, University of Pennsylvania*, Basketball
- Sevé Spruill, Morehouse College, Football
- Neve Straff, Albright College, Volleyball
- Jason Stumpf, Goldey-Beacom College, Track/Field

PW Alumni Offered Numerous Ways to Stay Engaged

As this year's graduates become alumni, it's a good time to remind the community of the many ways former students can stay in touch.

PW Alumni Newsletter

This past school year, Colonial School District started a PW Alumni Newsletter that featured stories about alumni who are making the news, reunion information, and ways for alumni to stay connected to the district. If you are a PW alum who would like to receive our newsletter, please be sure to sign up for it by filling out the Alumni Directory form on our website (go to colonialsd.org/alumni to find it). If you have content you think might

be relevant for the newsletter, please be sure to let us know! We are always looking for ways to highlight the outstanding achievements of our former students. Email us at alumni@colonialsd.org.

PW Colonials Alumni Facebook Page

We also have an Facebook page for alums. Follow "PW Colonials Alumni," where posts include information about upcoming reunions, events, news about alums, and fun #ThrowbackThursday photos.

Distinguished Graduates Organization

We invite all alumni to make nominations for the Distinguished Graduates

Organization (DGO). The DGO inducts successful PW alumni who have been out of high school for at least 10 years and excel in one or more of the following areas: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Business, Humanities, and Public Service. You can submit names for consideration by completing our online DGO nomination form.

Each year, DGO inductees are celebrated through a luncheon and ceremony held at the high school in the spring. This year's inductees included Salvatore Giannone (Business), Al Lepore Sr. (Business), and Lawrence "Larry" Williamson Jr. (Arts/Humanities). You can

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Graduates Bound for Colleges Near and Far

Over 92 percent of Plymouth White-marsh High School's graduating class is going on to pursue post-secondary education. The map at right shows where our students will be headed in the fall. Many will be spread out across the country. Read on for the entire list:

Albright College
American University
Appalachian State University
Arcadia University
Bridgewater College
Bucknell University
Chestnut Hill College
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Community College of Philadelphia
Culinary Institute of America
Delaware Valley University
Drexel University
Duke University
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Fairfield University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida State University
Franklin and Marshall College
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Goldey-Beacom College
Gwynedd Mercy University
Immaculata University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
James Madison University
Kutztown University
Lafayette College



Lehigh University
Liberty University
Millersville University
Misericordia University
Monmouth University
Montgomery County Community College
Morehouse College
Neumann University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
The Ohio State University
Ohio Technical College
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Regent University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Savannah College of Art and Design
Shenandoah University
Southern Methodist University
Stevens Institute of Technology

Syracuse University
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
Thomas Jefferson University
Temple University
United States Military Academy
University of Arizona
University of California
University of Delaware
University College Dublin
University of Florida
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Tampa
Ursinus College
Villanova University
Washington University
West Chester University
West Virginia University
Widener University
William and Mary College

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read more about them on our website (colonialsd.org/alumni).

Business Partnerships

Another way in which alumni can maintain their ties to the district is through becoming a business partner. Professionals from the regional busi-

ness community are sought to offer students a glimpse into the “real world” and the kinds of career opportunities that may be available to them. As a business partner, you could:

- Participate in Career Day activities
- Offer job shadowing experiences
- Provide internships

Complete our online form to express interest. Go to colonialsd.org, select “Community” and “Business Partnerships” to find the form. Being an alum is not required.



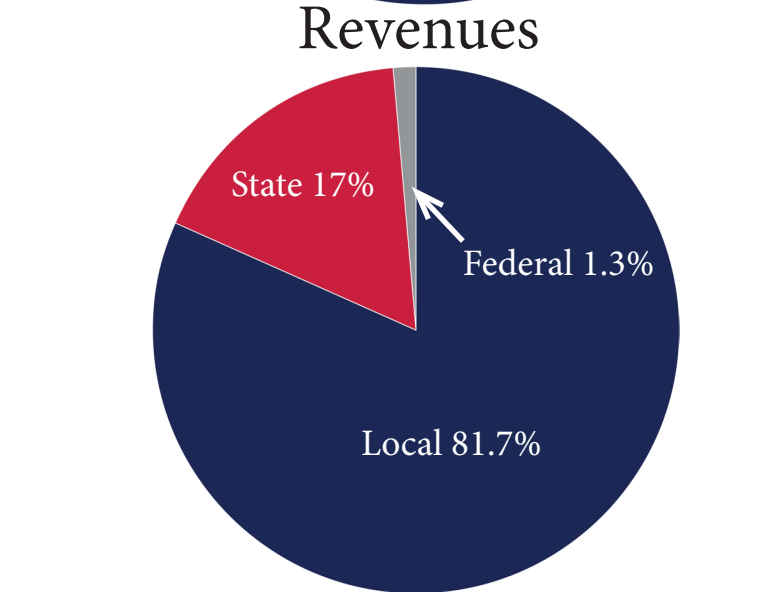
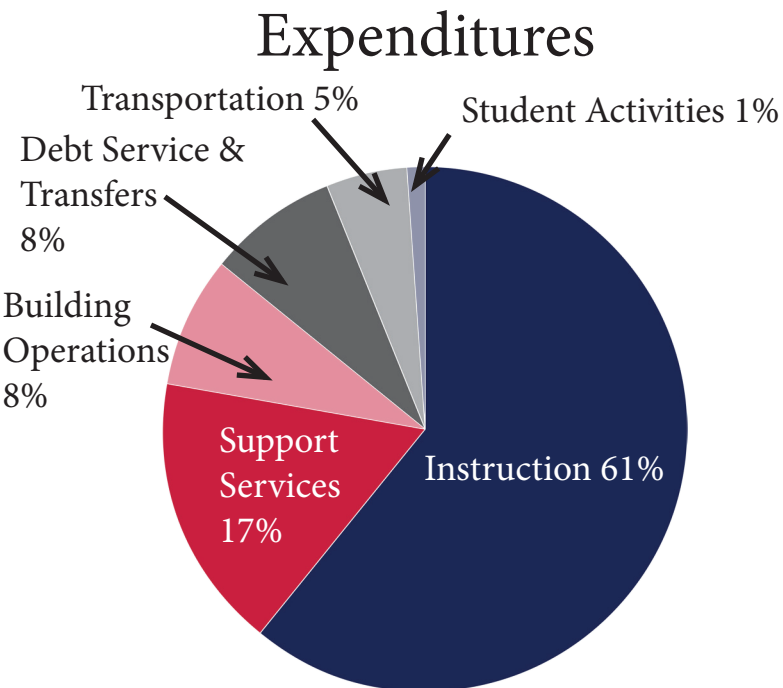
2023-24 Budget Includes New Positions to Address Rising Enrollment

The Colonial School District Board of Directors approved the 2023-24 budget at the May 25, 2023 meeting, establishing a spending plan that will enable the District to maintain its rigorous instructional program while also limiting the impact to taxpayers.

The \$151,153,201 budget will result in a 2.56-percent tax increase, which is well below the Act 1 index (tax cap set by the state) of 4.1 percent. For a homeowner with the median assessed value of \$152,850, this would result in an additional \$95.46 in taxes. Colonial maintains one of the lowest tax rates in Montgomery County.

The budget includes five new teaching positions to address increasing enrollment. Expenditures for the 2023-24 school year are 4.1 percent higher than last year, with inflation and rising student enrollment driving some of that increase. Other factors affecting the rise in costs include collective bargaining agreement obligations, healthcare contributions, special education mandates, and charter school tuition.

For budget documentation, please visit the Finance Department page at colonialsd.org.



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Programs Available for Eligible Residents

Some Colonial School District residents may be eligible for tax relief through state and school district Property Tax/Rent Rebate Programs.

The state program has been in effect since 1971 and is funded by state lottery and slot machine proceeds. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 a year for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650 (this amount may change depending on legislation that was pending at the time this publication went to print).

Colonial offers an additional discount of up to 75 percent of the state rebate base amount.

To qualify for the discount, applicants must be:

- homeowners with a household income of no more than \$35,000 annually (half of Social Security income is excluded); or renters with a household income of \$15,000 annually (half of Social Security income is excluded); AND
 - be age 65 or older
- OR

- be a widow/widower aged 50 or older
- OR
- be permanently disabled and age 18 or older

To apply, prepare form PA-1000 (Property Tax or Rent Rebate Claim). Go to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue site to learn more about online and paper applications: www.revenue.pa.org

Send a duplicate copy of your PA-

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CSD Website Gets New Look, Improved Features

Following a communications survey conducted in spring of 2022, the Community Relations Department has been working to modernize and update one of its biggest communication tools - the website (colonialsd.org).

Take some time before the school year begins to check out the new look of our site. You'll notice that while the navigation structure is similar to our old site, we've included some newer features, such as icons for quick and easy access to popular content, and a color-coded calendar. Our entire site will be responsive, meaning that you'll be able to view it and navigate easily regardless of the device you are using.

Here are some pointers on using our website and getting the most out of it:

- **Calendar customization:** To filter the calendar, click on the calendar icon to open the calendar page. Just above the calendar grid on the right, you will see a set of three icons. Click on the funnel icon (blue background) to filter. Select the calendars you wish to see and then click "apply." To get alerts about calendar changes, click on the bell (orange background), and select which calendars you want to receive alerts from and which email you would like to have the alert sent to when changes are made.
- **Get news alerts:** If you want to be notified when news items are added to our site, you can subscribe for alerts. Wherever you see

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1000 and a copy of your paid tax bill to the Colonial School District: c/o Business Office, 230 Flourtown Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

When you receive the state rebate

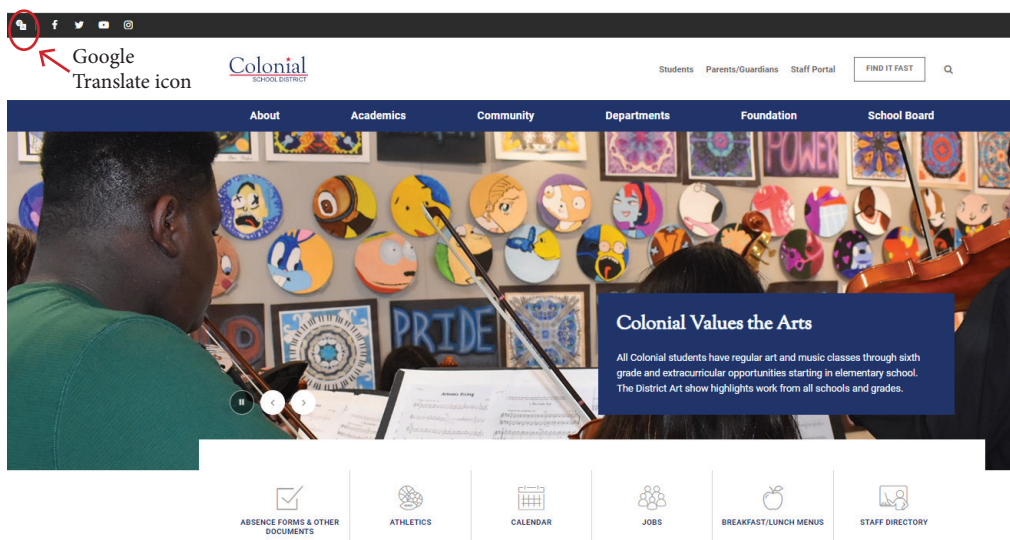
District App to be Available for Download This Fall

If your phone is your primary way of accessing our content, you'll be glad to know that we will be rolling out a district app this year. The app will provide you with a way to customize your experience with our website content so that you get news and information that is most relevant to you. It will also serve as a "one-stop shop" for access to the different portals that students and parents/guardians may use.



In addition, we intend to use the app for push notifications. Those who download the app will be able to sign up for notification from specific schools, as well as the district level - very handy when you're waiting for that decision on a snow day!

We hope to launch the app at the start of the school year. Stay tuned for announcements that will include instructions on how to download and use this new communication tool.



news items, you will see a bell icon above the first item. Click on the bell and select which topics you would like to get alerts for.

- **Translation:** If you need to translate our site, click on the "Google Translate" icon that is at the top left of each page. Select the lan-

guage you want to use and the page will be converted.

If you happen to see something that's not working properly, please contact us at webmaster@colonialsd.org. The site is live but we are still working to make changes.

(most likely after July 1), submit proof of deposit by providing a copy of the check or an official bank statement to the address above.

Once all the required information is received, Colonial School District will

produce a rebate check and mail it to the address on your PA-1000 form.

Any questions can be directed to Mark Digian, Business Administrator, 610-834-1670, ext. 2121, or mdigian@colonialsd.org.



CES Addition Planned to Address Growing Enrollment

To accommodate an anticipated bump in enrollment, the Colonial School District Board of School Directors has approved a renovation project at Colonial Elementary School that would add approximately 18 new classrooms.

At the June 12 meeting, the Board authorized the architect to develop plans for the renovation project following several months of discussions at the Facilities/Maintenance/Transportation (FMT) Committee level. Initially presented with many different options, the FMT Committee narrowed choices down to two options - one that would add 15 classrooms, and one that would add 18. Other differences between the two options included the arrangement of the main entrance to the building and where administrative offices would be located.

In the end, the committee agreed that the larger addition would be more practical, given that there is more flexibility with regard to how offices might be arranged, and that it strengthens the safety and security of the building by moving the main entrance of the school to the side of the building. The renovation would also involve moving the location for the district administrative offices.



Enrollment projections have shown that Colonial Elementary School's population will grow by 100 to 125 students over the next two years. A renovation project is being planned.

Currently located toward the back of building on the first floor, the district office spaces would become classrooms. A portion of the gym would be used to build new district administrative offices on the front corner of the building, and space on the second floor would also be converted to offices. This enables the district office to have its own separate entrance - offering another enhancement to the security and safety of the building.

Enrollment projections have indicated that Colonial Elementary School will grow by approximately 100 to 125 students by the start of the 2025-26

school year. To meet this demand, the district's architect, GKO, will draw up plans this summer, with the intent to seek construction bids in fall of 2023. The majority of the renovation work would take place during the summer of 2024 so as not to disrupt the main part of the school year.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$20 and \$22 million. The Board authorized a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$15 million in June to help pay for the project. The remaining cost for the project would come from the district's Capital Reserve Fund.

Bus Drivers Needed for Next School Year

Colonial School District is in search of bus drivers. The shortage exacerbated by the pandemic continues, and transportation contractors like First Student are offering incentives to attract more drivers.

Paid training for a commercial driver's license is being offered at \$15 an hour, and when drivers are ready to begin, the pay increases to \$25 an hour. To find out more, visit workatfirst.com. To learn more about what it's like to be a bus driver and the perks that go along with it (summers off, anyone?), visit our website for testimonials: colonialsd.org/busdrivers



Food Services Department Visited by State Officials

The state's universal free breakfast program was celebrated in June at Colonial Elementary School, where students were greeted by Gov. Josh Shapiro, state lawmakers, and representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Education as they entered the cafeteria for their morning meal.

The visit was part of Gov. Shapiro's push to continue the free universal breakfast program, which started last year. Colonial was chosen by the state as a location for the governor's visit because the school district has seen a 175-percent increase in breakfast participation at Colonial Elementary School and Plymouth Whitmarsh High School since 2018.

Part of this is due to the free meals, but it is also due to the many offerings that students get to choose from at Colonial School District. Hot breakfast options, 100-percent juice boxes, fruit cups, bagels, and many other items are available.

In addition to serving free breakfasts, Colonial School District has been providing assistance to families who may need it to pay for school lunches. Recognizing that not all families qualify for free/reduced meal guidelines, the Colonial School District Education Foundation provided funding to the



district to assist families who may not make the cut-off but are still experiencing financial hardships. About 100 students a day received lunch for free in 2022-23, thanks to this funding.

Families who would like to continue receiving free and reduced-price meals for students starting this fall will need to complete an application

Summer Meals Available
Children in the district under the age of 18 are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch July 10 through July 27, Monday through Thursday at Conshohocken Elementary School. Breakfast will be served from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No paperwork or pre-orders are required. Families can find additional sites that serve children by calling 1-866-3HUNGRY or texting "summer" or "verano" to 914-342-7744.

online. Visit schoolcafe.com or contact the Food Services office for a paper application: 610-834-1670, ext. 8207.

Make Sure We've Got Your Contact Information for Mass Notifications

When the new school year begins in September, parents and guardians will be asked to complete their returning student registration form through PowerSchool. This is the best time to make sure your email and phone numbers are correct and to ensure that you'll receive our emails, texts, and phone calls throughout the year.

This year, we'll be inviting parents/

guardians to choose the language in which they prefer to receive messages, as our mass notification system has a translation feature.

Finally, a reminder that if you ever accidentally opt out of our messages, or if you miss one of our phone calls, here are some helpful instructions:

- Voice message retrieval: Call 855-

269-0502 to get messages sent within the past 30 days.


- Opt back into texts: Reply START to 60680 from the phone line that has been opted out.
- Opt back into phone calls: Call 855-502-STOP (7867) from the phone line that has been opted out.



Colonial


SCHOOL DISTRICT

230 Flourtown Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462




Colonial School District

At A Glance




Municipalities Served

Conshohocken Borough
Plymouth Township
Whitemarsh Township




District Population

Total population: 47,546
2022 Estimate from U.S. Census Bureau Data



Class Sizes

Average Class Size: 18-23
Student/Teacher Ratio:
Less than 13-1




Our Schools

Conshohocken Elementary School (Gr. K-3)
Plymouth Elementary School (Gr. K-3)
Ridge Park Elementary School (Gr. K-3)
Whitemarsh Elementary School (Gr. K-3)
Colonial Elementary School (Gr. 4-5)
Colonial Middle School (Gr. 6-8)
Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (Gr. 9-12)


Accolades

PW ranked 24th in the state by Niche.com
PW among U.S. News & World Report's 50 Best High Schools in Pennsylvania
Whitemarsh and Ridge Park Elementary Schools hold Blue Ribbon of Distinction
All schools designated as No Place for Hate schools by the Anti-Defamation League
Named as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation
Colonial Middle School teachers named Grand Prize winners in the Citadel Heart of Learning contest in 2021-2022 and 2022-23




Our Students

Total enrollment: 5,265
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0.1%
Asian: 6.2%
Black: 9.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%
Hispanic: 6.7%
White: 71.3%
2 or More Races: 5.9%
Special Education: 15.7%
English Language Learner: 2.1%
Economically Disadvantaged: 21.6%
Data from the Future Ready PA Index 2021-22



Our Employees

Total: 748
of Teachers: 438
of Administrators: 47
of Support Staff: 263
92% of teachers have a Master's Degree



Residents 65+ Eligible for Gold Cards

Are you 65 or older and a resident of Colonial School District? If so, we invite you to join our Gold Card program. Gold Cards allow senior citizens free access to one Adult Evening School class per session and free admission to regular season home athletic events, concerts, musicals, and other District activities. A winter concert and spring matinée performance of the high school musical also occur annually just for Gold Card members. Complimentary meals are offered at both events. To request a card, please complete our online application at colonialsd.org/goldcard, or call Jessica Lester at 610-834-1670, ext. 2115.

Adult Evening School Registration to Open Week of Aug. 21

The 2023 Fall Session for Adult Evening School begins in September, and registration will open online the week of Aug. 21. Check your email or our website for updates. A printed brochure will also be sent in late August with the full listing of classes.

Colonial

SCHOOL DISTRICT