

# Southern York County School District **CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

2020-2021

Annual Report to the Community



# SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

In order to empower our students to reach their full potential, we believe in encouraging passion, expressing voice and choice, developing problem solving skills, allowing risk taking and permission to fail, and teamwork and collaboration. We are committed to providing an environment in which all students will develop skills to benefit them in their futures and develop their lifelong love of learning.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Front row: Kelly Jarvis, Michael Wolford, President Robert Schefter,  
Elizabeth Dauberman, Samantha Hall

Back row: Treasurer Bruce Bauman, Marylee Hall,  
Vice President James Holley, Danielle Weaver-Watts

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Members of the Southern York County Community,

I am proud to present the 2020-21 Southern York County School District Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to communicate to you how well our School District is performing, as well as to highlight many of our student accomplishments, both inside and outside the classroom.

August of 2020 found us returning to school with different modes of learning. Educational growth remained our focus and due to the ongoing pandemic, we had the opportunity to find new ways to implement learning while keeping everyone safe. Some students transitioned to our Digital Academy while others navigated a hybrid learning environment through two groups, A and B, which alternated between two days of in-person instruction and three days of virtual instruction. Although this was a challenge, it showed us the resiliency of our students, families, and staff.



Our Digital Academy instructors did an outstanding job and were recognized by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) for their work. They were asked to present to their peers at the PSBA Conference, and we could not be more proud of the progress they made during 2020-2021.

We remain committed to the education, growth, and success of all students in the Southern York County School District. Ensuring our students reach their greatest potential, while feeling valued and respected, is everyone's goal.

I hope you enjoy reading through our annual report. I take great pride in our students' academic success and the success of our District. We look forward to a continued partnership with our students and families as we continue to commit ourselves to build the best school district possible.



Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra L. Lemmon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Sandra L. Lemmon  
Superintendent of Schools

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Sandra Lemmon, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Robert Bryson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Susan Green, CPA, Chief Financial & Operations Officer, Board Secretary

# THE UNFORGETTABLE 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 school year is one that will not soon be forgotten. The pandemic, which closed buildings in March of 2020, continued to challenge us and present us with opportunities every step of the way. Not only did we learn how much perseverance we have as a district and a community, we also learned to work together and keep moving forward.

With thousands of students to educate, and restrictions on how many of them could be in the buildings at one time, the A/B hybrid learning model was developed. Group A attended school on Mondays and Tuesdays while group B attended on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays were the day to thoroughly clean between the two groups. Our Digital Academy played a key role in the learning process as more than 750 students stayed home and learned virtually 100% of the time.

Education and safety remained the top priorities here in Southern York County School District, but we also wanted to make sure our students had as “normal” a school year as possible. Families, staff, faculty, and community members all came together to give of their time and energy. Athletic events continued throughout the year with limited spectators, while free breakfast and lunch was still packaged and distributed both in school, and through a grab and go pick up lane at the high school. Our technology department worked countless hours ensuring students had Chromebooks, and teachers answered emails, took video calls, and adapted to an ever-changing landscape. Through it all, our nurses never stopped caring for everyone while doing all they could to keep us safe.

At the end of the year we looked back on all that was accomplished. We held outdoor concerts, watched virtual theatre performances, held online field trips, hosted thousands of hours of video calls and conferences, and our graduating seniors were still able to celebrate during an outdoor ceremony at the stadium by walking the stage and receiving their hard-earned, well-deserved diplomas.

We thank you for your support and patience through it all!





# BLENDED LEARNING

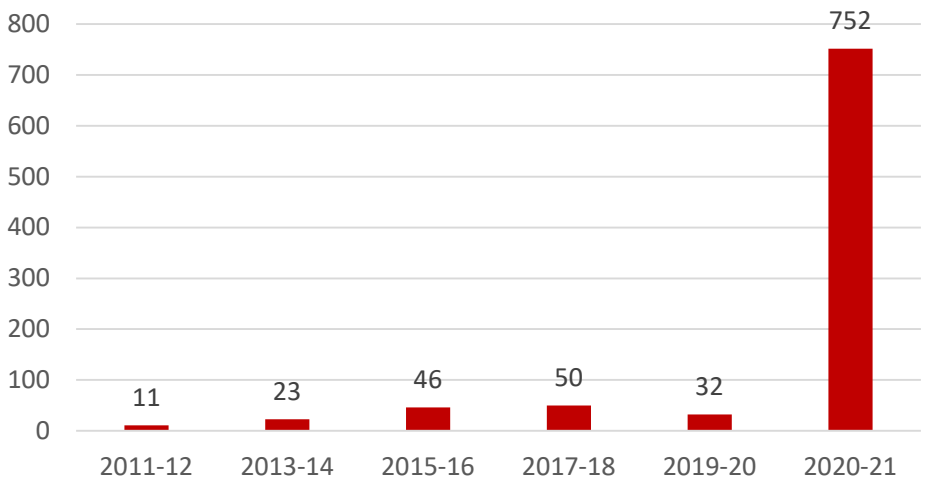
## DIGITAL ACADEMY ESTABLISHED IN 2011

Southern York County School District recognizes that some students learn better in environments outside of the traditional school setting. We support blended learning environments and offer students choices to fit their educational needs, including our online Digital Academy and Dual Enrollment programs. During the 2020-2021 school year, the Digital Academy played a key role in education as hundreds of students learned from home during the pandemic.

OPTION TO ATTEND CLASSES ON CAMPUS

PERSONALIZED ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

### ENROLLMENT



# HIGH STUDENT **ACHIEVEMENT**

Susquehannock's Advanced Placement (AP) program had another successful year with 255 high school students participating in AP Testing in 2021. Students can earn college and university credits in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

**16 GRADUATES  
RECOGNIZED AS  
AP SCHOLARS**

**6 GRADUATES  
RECOGNIZED AS AP  
SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION**

**7 GRADUATES  
RECOGNIZED AS AP  
SCHOLARS WITH HONOR**

**255 SHS  
STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATED IN  
AP TESTING**

**48% OF SHS GRADUATES  
SCORED 3 OR HIGHER ON AP EXAMS  
AND EARNED COLLEGE CREDIT**



**WHATEVER  
IT TAKES**

**FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CLASS OF 2021:**

**76 %**

CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

**21%**

EMPLOYMENT

**2%**

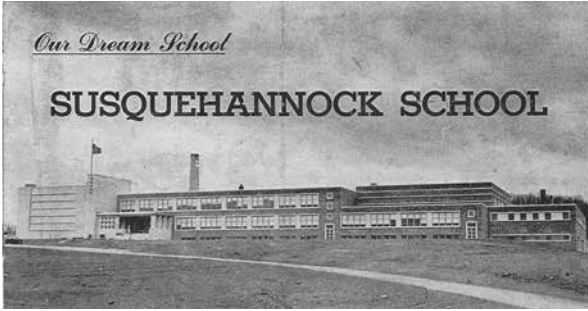
ARMED FORCES

**1%**

APPRENTICESHIP  
PROGRAMS

# SUSQUEHANNOCK HIGH SCHOOL

# BUILDING PROJECT



1952: "...for the students who will be the homemakers of tomorrow."



Susquehannock High School opened in 1952. Major building alterations occurred in 1988 and 2001. Neither of the two previous projects were complete building renovations. Much of the building architecture remains unchanged from the original building of the early 1950s. After years of planning, the renovation is underway.



STUDENT COMMONS





*"Provide our Warriors with programming that replicates the necessary technical and social skill sets that will prepare them to be career ready."*

## ADDRESSING STUDENT NEEDS

- Current classrooms from 1952 design are undersized for student needs. New classrooms will be "flexible and adaptable spaces," capable of supporting short- and long-term instructional needs
- Larger spaces support music practice rooms, group lab rooms, and open student work areas
- Classrooms designed as student-centered environments that support both the academic and career readiness needs of all students
- Classrooms model a 21st Century work environment that enables students to collaborate in all phases of production (i.e.-design, prototyping, construction, and finishing)
- Updated mechanical and HVAC systems play a major role and will create a safe and comfortable learning environment by regulating indoor air quality, humidity, and maintaining comfortable temperature levels
- Increased ventilation is associated with higher student performance





## BUDGET

The District has a long-term plan in place and the majority of the millage needed for the project has been phased into the budget over the last several years.

## DISTRICT LONG-TERM BUILDING PLAN

The District has a long-term building renovation project plan, which includes all buildings. The remaining buildings (Shrewsbury Elementary School, Southern Elementary School, and Southern Middle School) will follow the Susquehannock High School Project and are planned renovation only projects.

## SCHEDULE

Schematic design and design development are complete.

The plan was released for bid in the fall of 2021 with construction starting in early 2022. The estimated construction will take approximately 34 months. Campus preparation projects began in the summer of 2021.



*"Should provide students the ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams. We ask them to assume shared responsibility for collaborative work, and value the individual contributions made by each team member as they work collectively to achieve a goal."*

Details and frequent updates are available on the District website at [www.sycsd.org/domain/461](http://www.sycsd.org/domain/461)

# SYCSD FOUNDATION

The Southern York County School District Foundation was organized in 1997 as a charitable organization under laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

While many school district foundations work only to obtain scholarship funds for the benefit of graduating seniors, the Southern York County School District Foundation provides giving opportunities for scholarships, projects, equipment, supplies, and other purposes for the benefit of students in the Southern York County School District.

An overarching goal of the Board of Directors is to maintain its financial viability into perpetuity through cultivating long-term relationships with donor-partners and to build our endowment fund. The scholarship program now features 44 permanently endowed scholarships and continues to grow!

The Foundation also actively seeks grants and gifts for specific school district projects. Such funds recently were used to purchase technology for all elementary schools and to fund innovative classroom projects through a competitive grant program.

For further information, please contact Susan Green, Executive Director, Southern York County School District Foundation, PO Box 128, Glen Rock, PA 17327. Email address: [susan.green@syncsd.org](mailto:susan.green@syncsd.org).

Donations may be made online: [www.syncsd.org/donate](http://www.syncsd.org/donate) or call 717-235-4811, Ext. 7278



**\$1,942  
FOR  
4  
INNOVATIVE  
GRANTS**

**145 SCHOLARSHIPS  
TO  
85 STUDENTS**



**\$3,307  
RAISED DURING  
GIVE LOCAL YORK**

**44  
ENDOWED  
SCHOLARSHIPS**



**NET  
ASSETS  
OVER  
\$1.1 MILLION**



**OVER \$1 MILLION IN  
CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE  
PAST 5 YEARS!**

# EXCELLENCE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

## **BAND, SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Five SMS students were members of the SHS Warrior Marching Band



- One SMS student participated in the PMEA District Band Festival (This is only the second time in ten years that a middle school student from SMS has auditioned successfully into this ensemble)
- One student participated in the York Junior Symphony Orchestra
- Students performed in both a winter and spring virtual concert

## **BAND, SUSQUEHANNOCK HIGH SCHOOL**

- Three students qualified for the PMEA District 7 Band Festival



- Jazz Band performed four outdoor community events
- The Marching Band performed "The Elements" in three live clinics with area college band directors
- Indoor guard performed in two virtual KIDA adjudicated events
- Indoor Drumline performed in three virtual KIDA adjudicated events
- Indoor Drumline performed in a clinic with famed percussionist Eric Carr

## **CHORUS, SUSQUEHANNOCK HIGH SCHOOL**

- One student earned a spot in the PMEA District 7 Chorus Festival (held virtually)

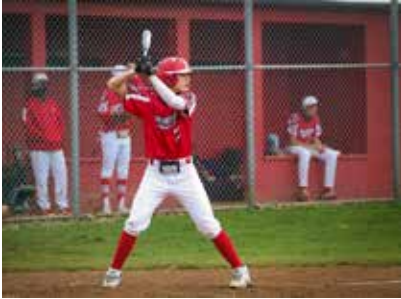
## **THEATRE**

- SHS Theatre presented a virtual performance of "Holmes and Watson: The Game's Afoot"
- SHS Theatre presented a virtual performance of "The Addams Family: School Edition"



## BASEBALL

- Ended the regular season tied for second in YAIAA Division II



- Qualified for the PIAA District III Championships
- Three students named to First Team All-Stars

## BASKETBALL, GIRLS

- One player selected as Gametime PA YAIAA Second Team All-Star

## BASKETBALL, BOYS

- One student hit the 1000 career point mark. He was the first boys basketball player to do so in 17 years
- Qualified for the 5A PIAA District III Championships
- One player selected as Gametime PA YAIAA First Team All-Star



## CHEERLEADING

- Three cheerleaders were selected to cheer as part of the Big 33 Football Classic



## CROSS COUNTRY

- Girls Cross Country YAIAA Runner-Up



- Boys Cross Country finished 4th at 2A PIAA District III Championships
- Three athletes earned medals at the 2A PIAA District III Championships
- One student finished 25th and earned a medal at the PIAA State Championships

## FIELD HOCKEY

- YAIAA Division II Runner-Up





# EXCELLENCE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

## GOLF

- Undefeated regular season and YAIAA Division II Champions



- Two players named to YAIAA Division II All-Stars

## LACROSSE, BOYS

- First team in York County history to reach the PIAA District III Championship game
- Qualified for the PIAA 2A State Championships



- One student named First Team All-Star
- One student named Second Team All-Star

## LACROSSE, GIRLS

- Ended the season YAIAA Runner-Up

- Placed third at PIAA District III Championships
- Qualified for PIAA 2A State Championships



- Five students named First Team All-Stars
- Two students named Second Team All-Stars

## SOCCER, BOYS

- Undefeated regular season and YAIAA Division II Champions



- Reached the PIAA District III Semi-finals
- Three players named to YAIAA Division II All-Stars
- One student named YAIAA Division II Player of the Year
- One student named All-State

## **SOCCER, GIRLS**

- YAIAA Division II Runner-Up
- Two players named YAIAA Division II All-Stars



## **SOFTBALL**

- Three students named First Team All-Stars



## **SWIMMING AND DIVING**

- Warrior Girls Swim Team ended the regular season as YAIAA Division II Champions
- Two Warrior divers set new school records



## **TENNIS, GIRLS**



- YAIAA Division II Runner-Up

## **VOLLEYBALL, BOYS**

- YAIAA Division II Runner-Up
- One player named YAIAA Division II First Team All-Star

## **WRESTLING**

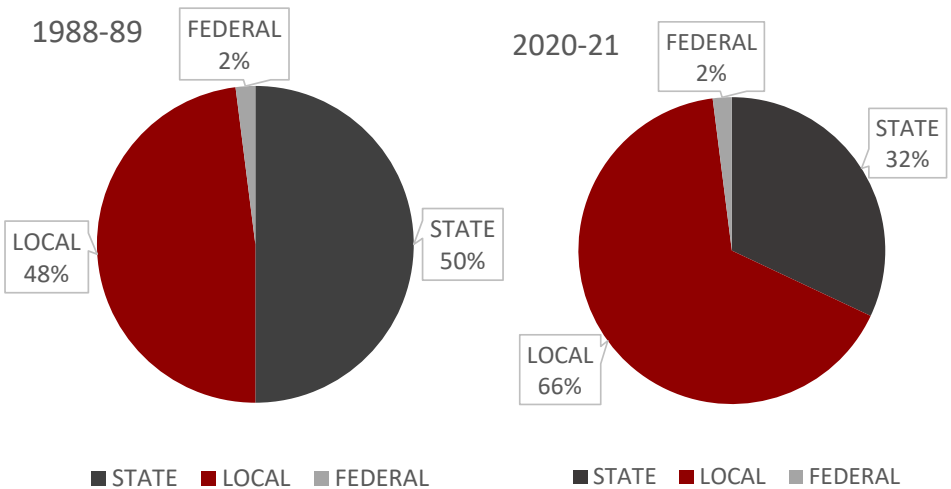
- One student finished 4th at the PIAA District III Sectional Tournament



# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Southern York County School District Board of Education and Administration understand that the resources for the community's schools are funded by our community. Since the Free School Act of 1834, a large share of public education has been paid by local communities and that continues today. As shown in the graph below, 66% of the cost of education for 2020-21 was funded from local dollars, 32% from state, and only 2% from federal and other revenue.

## REVENUE SOURCES BY PERCENT

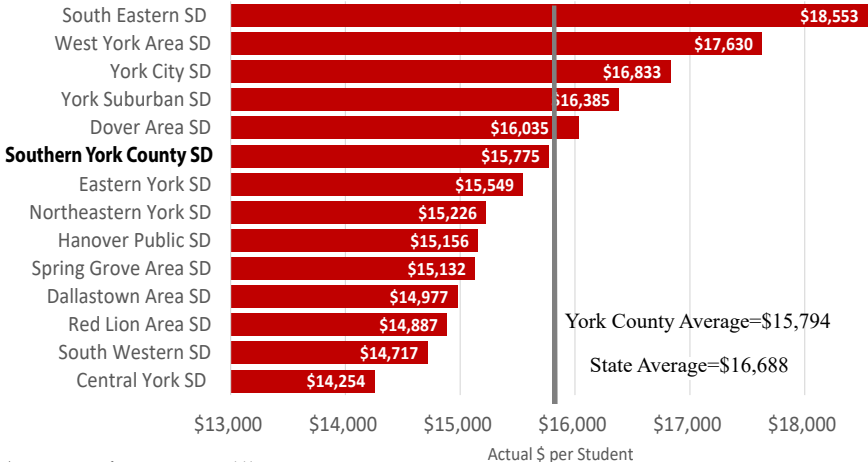


The District is proud of its sustained record of good stewardship of the community's funds as evidenced with the following:

- 2020-21 Audit
  - Unmodified opinion - best opinion an auditor can give
  - No findings in audits
- General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance exceeds 5% of budget target – Necessary for cash flow in uncertain times
- Fund Balance reserved for future building renovations allowing slow phase in of millage for projects and reduced borrowing
- High quality educational program at a reasonable cost per student

# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cost to Educate a Student - FY 2019-20



Comparative Data for FY 2020-21 not yet available

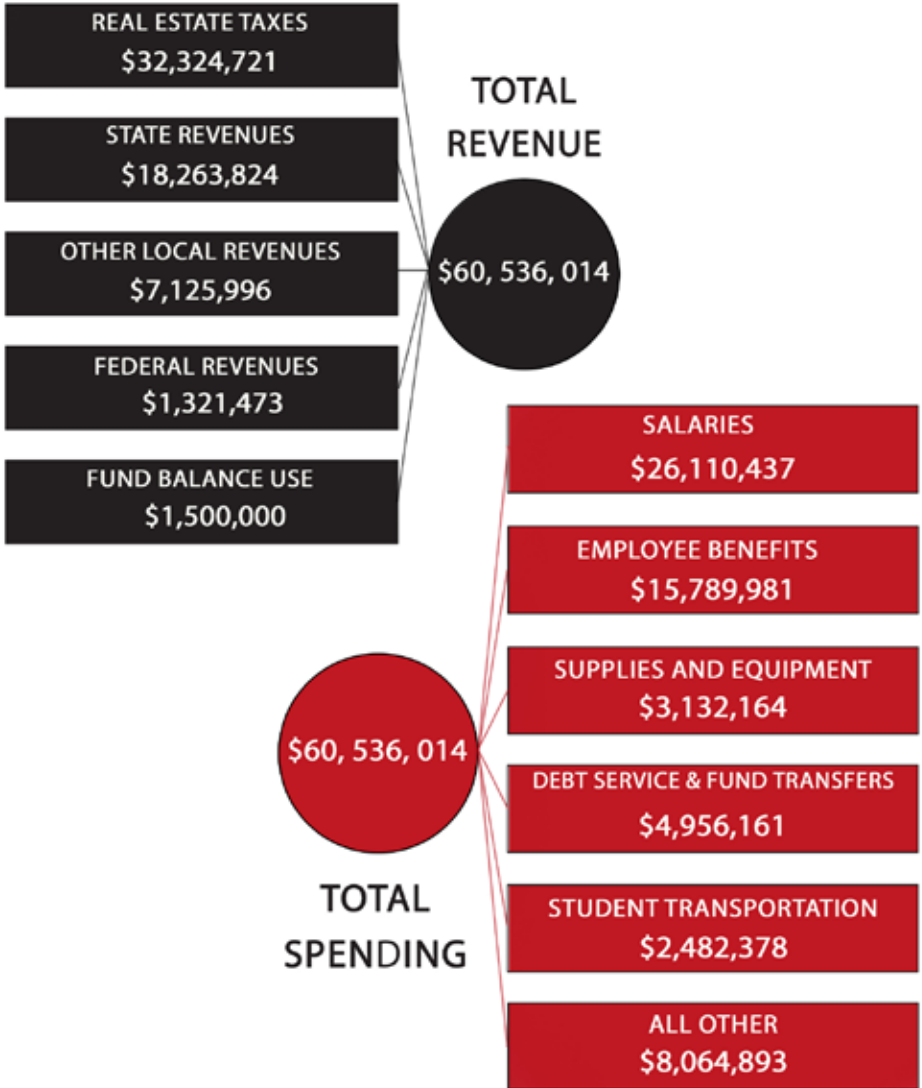
## COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT

The chart shows the most recent information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which shows Southern is ranked just below average in costs per student for both the county and state. Southern prides itself on putting as many of our resources into the education of our students as possible.



# 2021-22 BUDGET

Southern York County School District works hard to provide a rigorous, high-quality education for each and every student while adhering to fiscally responsible ideals. When budgeting, the District looks at the impact of decisions on the current year, but also the impact to the community for the future.





# 2021-22 **MILLAGE RATES**

A mill levy is the number of dollars a taxpayer pays for every \$1,000 of assessed value. The current 2021-22 real estate tax rate of 19.91 mills results in a tax bill of \$1,991 for a home assessed at \$100,000. The table below shows the real estate tax mills of the District in comparison to other York County districts in the Lincoln Intermediate Unit.

For more information on assessed value and the components of real estate please visit our website at [www.sycsd.org](http://www.sycsd.org).

<b>District</b>	<b>Millage 2021-22</b>	<b>SYCSD Additional Collection - with this Millage Rate</b>
York City	35.8561	26,460,078
Northeastern	26.6900	11,250,358
Eastern	24.6900	7,931,668
Dallastown	24.5800	7,749,140
West York	24.2238	7,158,081
York Suburban	24.0967	6,947,179
Spring Grove	24.0922	6,939,712
Dover	23.7150	6,313,807
Hanover	23.0600	5,226,936
Red Lion	22.2791	3,931,154
South Eastern	22.2503	3,883,365
South Western	21.0900	1,958,027
Central	20.3300	696,925
<b>Southern York</b>	<b>19.9100</b>	<b>-</b>

# EXCELLENCE IN ALTRUISM



FES STUDENTS ASSEMBLE HUNDREDS OF BAGS OF HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, SOCKS, AND TOILETRIES FOR THE "A HOLIDAY SMILE" EVENT



SMS STUDENTS HOST DRIVE THROUGH VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



STUDENT COUNCIL RAISED FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY WELFARE FUND AND THE SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Please contact the School District at 717-235-4811, ext. 7278 or [susan.green@syicsd.org](mailto:susan.green@syicsd.org) if you have any questions, concerns, or would like information related to our School District.