



The new student day brought a STEM curriculum to elementary schools.



**To Prepare Students for Lifelong Success
Through Excellence in Education**

The Year in Review



Annual Report

2018-2019

Superintendent's Note

Thank you for your interest and strong support of State College Area School District schools. The district serves a diverse community united in a commitment to striving for excellence in education. The value of a SCASD education goes beyond high test scores and extraordinary acceptance rates at post-secondary institutions. A SCASD education is about engaging the whole student — fostering relationships, promoting growth, and encouraging exploration in order to develop skills for life. This includes experiences within our broad array of curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular programs.

The citizens of tomorrow will live in a society that will no doubt be very different from our own. Therefore, our mission of preparing students for lifelong success remains critically important.

We're proud of what we offer and invite you to call a school for a personal tour. In the months and years ahead, we look forward to having your family be a part of our community.

Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell, Superintendent of Schools



First Grade Tree Planting: In an annual tradition, first-graders from each elementary school plant a tree representing their graduating class. Bringing it full circle, each student is accompanied by a senior who took part in first grade.

Four Pillars

The district's instructional focus, or road map, is based on four pillars, its prime objectives:

- » Culture of Trust, Relationships and Collaboration
- » Responsive Teaching and Learning
- » High Expectations for All
- » Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive Climate for Learning and Work

Demographics

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Pacific Islander: .01% | Multi-Racial: 6.3% |
| Native American: .2% | Asian: 8.1% |
| African American: 2.5% | Caucasian: 78.9% |
| Hispanic: 3.9% | |
-
- English Language Learner: 3.3%
Special Education: 10.9%
Economically Disadvantaged: 19.7%
Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP): 2.8%

Our District



Situated in the heart of Pennsylvania, the State College Area School District reflects the growing community it serves. The district draws its students from a 150-square mile attendance area, Centre County's Centre Region, encompassing the Borough of State College and five surrounding townships.

During the 2018-2019 year, SCASD worked toward completing the new State High campus as well as updated buildings at Corl Street, Radio Park and Spring Creek elementary schools, the last of which will replace Lemont and Houserville. A \$14 million renovation of Memorial Field began to upgrade the facility for student-athletes and spectators in time for the 2020 fall season.

Changes occurred across the district. New student days started elementary schools 30 minutes earlier, allowing for more learning opportunities, and secondary schools shifted to later start times in line with research showing the benefits of more sleep for adolescents. A new elementary math curriculum was introduced. State High was approved for the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career-related programmes as options for juniors and seniors starting in 2019-2020.

Throughout the year, the district continued to provide instruction with a teacher-to-student ratio developmentally appropriate to the needs of students and based on the nature of the courses. In recent years, SCASD has claimed local, state and national teachers of the year, and district schools annually are highly ranked in state and national lists for instruction and learning opportunities. Four State High students in the past decade have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars, a rare honor, and each class typically includes National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Above: The district launched a new elementary math curriculum, Bridges in Mathematics, which emphasizes thinking through problems in multiple ways to deepen understanding of math concepts. For the first time, each elementary grade level exceeded its projected growth in math at the mid-year point. Each grade's growth was 10 percent higher, on average, than any year since the district began annually using Measures of Academic Progress assessment tests in 2011.

Quick Facts

- » 2,041 People employed
- » 658 Teachers
- » 6,891 Students
- » 566 State High graduates
- » 4th Largest Centre County employer
- » Average elementary class size: 20
- » Average grades 6-8 class size: 23
- » Average years teaching: 15
- » National Merit: 15 finalists, 2 winners
- » Teachers with PhDs: 15
- » 32nd best school district in Pennsylvania out of 496: Niche.com

Elementary Schools

Corl Street Elementary

235 Corl Street
State College, PA, 16801
Charlotte Zmyslo, principal
Dr. Kelly Mark, started June 17
814-231-1185, Enrollment: 250

Gray's Woods Elementary

160 Brackenbourne Drive
Port Matilda, PA, 16870
Dr. Kristen Dewitt, principal
814-235-6100
Enrollment: 432

Mount Nittany Elementary

700 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA, 16801
Mark Feldman, principal
814-272-5970
Enrollment: 357

Easterly Parkway Elementary

234 Easterly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Danielle Yoder, principal
814-231-1170
Enrollment: 332

Houserville Elementary (3-5)

217 Scholl Street*
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Todd Dishong, principal
814-231-5026
Enrollment: 176

Park Forest Elementary

2181 School Drive
State College, PA, 16803
Tom Weed, principal
814-231-5010
Enrollment: 482

Ferguson Township Elementary

215 West Pine Grove Road
Pine Grove Mills, PA, 16868
Shelly Buckholtz, principal
814-231-4119
Enrollment: 341

Lemont Elementary (K-2)

675 Elmwood Street*
Lemont, PA, 16801
Dr. Todd Dishong, principal
814-231-5034
Enrollment: 190

Radio Park Elementary

800 West Cherry Lane
State College, PA, 16803
Zac Wynkoop, principal
814-231-4115
Enrollment: 372

Middle Schools

Delta Middle Level (5-8)

154 West Nittany Avenue*
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1000, Enrollment: 102

Mount Nittany Middle School

656 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA, 16801
Brian Ishler, principal
814-272-4050, Enrollment: 760

Park Forest Middle School

2180 School Drive
State College, PA, 16803
Dr. Karen Wiser, principal
814-237-5301, Enrollment: 748

High Schools

State College Area High School

650 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Curtis Johnson, principal
814-231-5020, Enrollment: 2,183

Delta Program

154 West Nittany Avenue*
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1000, Enrollment: 152

State College Virtual School

154 West Nittany Avenue*
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1002, Enrollment: 14



The Central Office building located at 131 W. Nittany Ave. in State College was razed as part of the Memorial Field Project.

*Starting with the 2019-2020 school year, Houserville and Lemont combined into Spring Creek Elementary located at 217 Scholl St., State College, PA, 16801, 814-231-5026. The Delta Program and virtual school moved to 653 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA, 16801.



New Student Day

In the fall of 2018, the district introduced new days at both the elementary and secondary levels.

Elementary schools began at 8:10 a.m., a half hour earlier than before, and dismissed at 3 p.m. In contrast, the middle schools and high schools started later, at 8:40 a.m., but kept the same length.

The days had been approved by the SCASD Board of Directors on Dec. 18, 2017 following months of discussion, including community forums. For elementary schools, the goal was to add more time for core subject learning, as well as a fifth weekly special. The later secondary time aligned with sleep research showing that adolescents benefit from more rest. Transportation requirements also necessitated staggering the days.

By extending the elementary day, the district made time for STEM instruction, which parents favored over other options. High school changes included offering a morning zero period to give students more flexibility with scheduling courses.

STEM Fifth Special

As part of the new elementary day, the district launched a K-5 STEM (science, technology, education and mathematics) curriculum for a fifth weekly special period. Developed with resources and direction from the Boston Museum of Science's acclaimed Engineering is Elementary program and its director, Penn State professor Christine Cunningham, the curriculum focuses on solving engineering problems within real-world contexts. The curriculum's scope and sequence — which include Technology In Action units for robotics and coding — adhere to national Next Generation Science Standards, aligning with the district's math and science curricula and building a progression toward secondary science and technology classes.

International Baccalaureate Approved

In 2018, SCASD joined a worldwide community by adding a high school academic option. International Baccalaureate, an educational organization that offers a globally-focused curriculum, approved State High to be an IB World School, starting in 2019-2020 with two options for juniors and seniors: the IB Diploma Programme and the IB Career-related Programme.



Student Engagement K-8

With the start of a new school day, SCASD elementary schools implemented several measures intended to enhance the academic performance and socioemotional well-being of students.

The extended day enabled schools to have daily recess for all grades, as well as a second 15-minute recess for grades K-2. More time also helped teachers roll out a new math curriculum and allowed them to work together in professional learning communities to improve learning experiences. Other changes included an extra 10 minutes for specials and dedicated time for kindergarten developmental play. Throughout the year, teachers and librarians continued to add and diversify titles in classroom and school libraries.

In light of the longer day, the district took the opportunity to revise its homework policy, making sure guidelines kept daily amounts from being too demanding while still adequately preparing fourth- and fifth-grade students for middle school levels.

Adding to technology's role, the district purchased smart boards for teachers to support a new health and physical education curriculum, and extended its One-to-One Technology Initiative to kindergarten so that all students had access to Chromebooks.

Growing all Learners

SCASD's commitment to all students is reflected in our district-wide Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment results. In addition to the MAP, the district uses multiple assessments to evaluate students' performance in order to adapt instruction continually.

According to MAP, each of our quartiles of elementary and middle



Easterly Parkway Elementary teacher Courtney Simpson leads her students through the sensory walkway. The new addition to the school provides students with a unique way to get movement breaks throughout the day.

Another addition was the SecondStep counseling curriculum focused on social-emotional learning. In support of the curriculum, the district assigned a counselor and psychologist to each school for the first time. Also helping students, school-wide positive behavior support programs to enhance school climates became more consistent across the board.

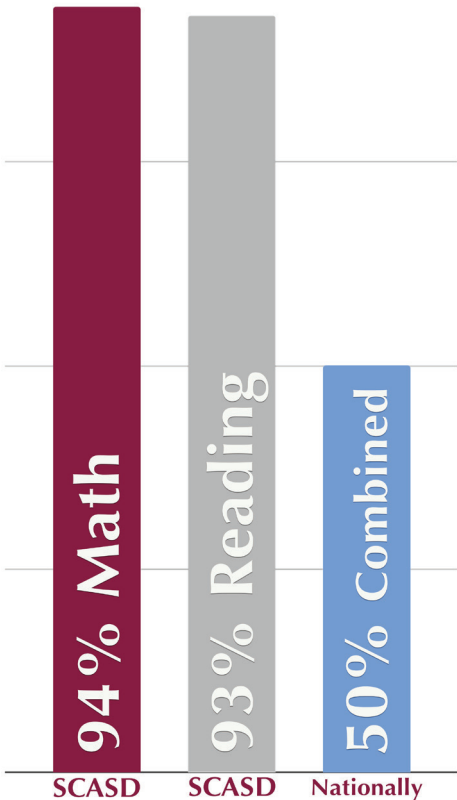
Also during the year, the district embarked on a master planning process for playgrounds, exploring design options that would increase the diversity of play experiences and ensure accessibility for students with physical challenges.

New Student Day Times

Elementary: 8:10-3:00
Middle School: 8:40-3:40
High School: 8:40-3:40

school students demonstrated an average of a year or more worth of growth in math and reading in 2018-2019.

Right: Overall, students in grades 2-8 performed at the 94th percentile nationally for math and at the 93rd percentile for reading, compared to the national average of the 50th percentile for both.



Secondary Learning 9-12

State College Area High School provides challenging academic courses, comprehensive vocational/technical programs, and diverse extracurricular activities. Niche.com ranks it 26th out of 672 high schools in the state. SAT scores annually surpass state and national averages, ranking in the top 5 percent of schools statewide, and athletic teams, music ensembles and clubs consistently garner honors. The 2019 graduating class of 566 had 185 Faculty Scholars (GPA of 4.00 or 3.75 unweighted).

During 2018-2019, nearly 63 percent of students took rigorous courses, compared to the statewide average of 58 percent. Learning also occurred outside classrooms. Dozens of students received off-campus enrichment opportunities beyond the scope of the traditional curriculum, including Learning Enrichment, Advanced Option, independent study, research, lab experiences, Penn State courses, mentorships and internships.

State High consistently places graduates in the nation’s top universities and colleges. From the Class of 2019, 302 were accepted at Penn State, including eight to the Schreyer Honors College.

Profile of State High

- » 2,183 Total students 9-12
- » 93.8% 5-year cohort graduation rate
- » 22 National AP Scholars
- » 74 Activities and clubs
- » 19 Bands, orchestras, choirs, string ensembles and rock ensembles
- » 30 Athletic teams
- » 64 Advanced Placement and advanced courses
- » 14 Career and Technical Center programs

SAT Scores	Reading and Writing	Math
SCASD	595	593
State Average	545	537
SCASD ranks 21st in the state out of 681 high schools for SAT scores		

Advanced Placement

1,177 AP tests were taken with a maximum score of 5

- 83% Scored a 3 or higher
- 193 AP Scholars with an average score of 4.15



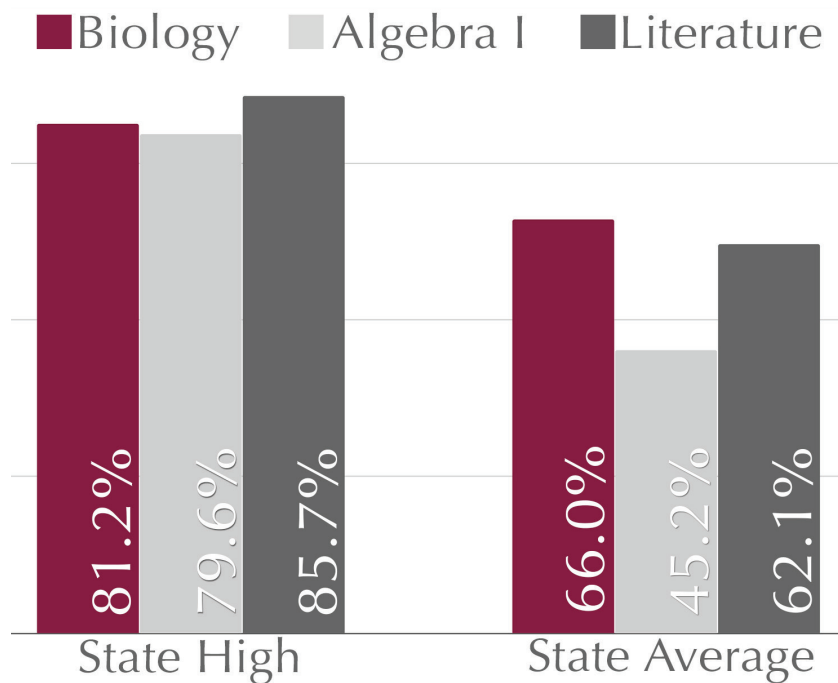
Baron Cao and Jasmine Cao were National Merit Scholarship recipients. Overall, State High had 15 finalists.

566 Graduates

- » 79% Attended college
- » 4% Entered the workforce
- » 2% Joined the military
- » 15% Gap year/unknown

The Keystone Exams

State College Area High School students annually outperform the state average on the Keystone Exams. The chart below shows a comparison of State High students vs. the Pennsylvania state average for Keystone test scores.



Career and Technical Center (CTC)



From the bacon-infused aroma the collard greens seemed ready, but Chef Zach Lorber, above, wasn't convinced. Lorber, or "Chef" as his culinary arts students call him, asked ninth-grader Bianca Poulson for her opinion. More lemon juice and hot sauce, she said after nibbling a sample. Lorber nodded in agreement, and at that moment, Poulson tasted something else: empowerment.

As the culinary arts program's new instructor, Lorber sought to blend confidence with knowledge and create a recipe for future success in the foodservice industry. "The goal is to get students ready to enter the workforce," Lorber said.

Formerly a university executive chef, Lorber brought 17 years of experience, as well as a rare credential: He's one of 3,500 executive chefs nationwide certified by the American Culinary Federation. As such, he strove to inspire creativity in his classes, as when he encouraged a student's Latvian-French fusion potato dish. "Cooking is very experiential," Lorber said. "You can watch a cooking show, you can read a cookbook, but you don't learn until you do it. So my goal is to get the kids deep into it."

Taught by experts in their fields, CTC courses offer career exploration opportunities and preparation for post-secondary programs or workforce employment. Job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, work for credit and school enterprises such as the Roar Store give many students work-

based learning experiences. During 2018-2019, the CTC received more than 2,000 course requests for a wide array of course offerings, including new Oracle Academy certification courses for computer programming. About 85 percent of students take at least one CTC course in a school year.

WE SUPPORT CentreREADY™

Eighteen CTC students graduated from the inaugural CentreREADY initiative, a partnership between the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County and the county's public school districts and career/technical training institutions. The initiative certified students with workforce skills desired by local employers, focusing on six specific core attributes.

2018-2019 Course Offerings

- » Accounting and finance
- » Agricultural science
- » Architectural drafting and design
- » Automotive technology
- » Building construction
- » Cisco Networking Academy
- » Computer programming
- » Culinary arts
- » Diversified occupations
- » Early childhood education
- » Engineering
- » Health professions
- » Marketing
- » Supply chain management

The Delta Program



Since 1993, when the district's 19-year-old alternative school was renamed, the Delta Program has been a community-oriented, democratic school fostering choice, voice and diversity of thought to develop engaged citizens and inspired leaders.

Delta's democratic nature shines through the Advisory Council, comprising parents, teachers, and students representing their clumps,

the "districts" within Delta, joining together to make school-wide decisions. Additionally, discussions and votes on school issues occur at the weekly All-School Meeting.

Delta students also may take State High classes or create independent contracts, and must complete 30 hours of community service per year and a graduation project. During 2018-2019, enrollments were 152 and 102, respectively, for

Above: Delta Program Middle School students in Randy Edelman's construction technology class toured the new Delta building site for an inside look at materials and methods.

the high school and middle schools. The year's highlights included the first Delta Middle Level Career Day and senior Adam Schram finishing second in the state Poetry Out Loud - National Recitation Contest.

Social Justice Institute

While friends splashed at pools, 45 State High and Delta Program students plunged into deeper waters.

Attending the district's inaugural Social Justice Summer Institute, they spent a week of summer vacation learning about identity, discrimination, cross-cultural competence and the concerns of marginalized groups, focusing on people of color and people who identify as LGBTQ+. They discussed leadership strategies, practiced facilitating small group talks about racial and gender issues, and learned tactics for attaining reforms.

Along the way, they pursued a mutual goal: to serve as peer advocates who help classmates in need. "Kids will often talk to peers before they will talk to us," said Seria

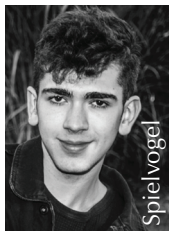


Chatters, the district's director of equity and inclusivity, who started the institute with assistance from the Penn State College of Education's Office of Multicultural Programs.

Awards & Recognitions

Arts

Baron Cao and Drew Spielvogel were among the 710 National YoungArts Foundation award winners in 2019. Cao received an honorable mention for classical piano and Spielvogel received an honorable mention for visual arts.



Spielvogel



Newsies

The State High Thespians received 12 Isaac Awards, one in every category, out of 14 nominations for the spring musical "Newsies," which was named the best overall production. Emilia Brannen, Bree Clark, Nicolas Cole, Taylor Elliot, Kate Leous, Abigail McGuire and Sadie Sublett took home individual awards, and the show also garnered awards for best ensemble, best featured dance and best musical number. Modeled on the Tony Awards, the Isaac Awards celebrate regional high school musical theatre productions.



Zhang & Wagner

Ari Osgood Cox won three Gold Key awards for her photography in the 2019 Scholastic Art and Writing Northeast Region-At-Large competition. Carin Carrion, Jackie Li, Margo Novikov, Allaina Wagner and Shirley Zhang also won Gold Keys. Overall, 52 works by State High students were recognized.



Following her 35 years of service with SCASD as the family outreach specialist, Connie bench on the Mount Nittany Elementary School playground.

Technology

Park Forest Middle students Elijah Adu, Zac Mroz and James Wright won the Technology Bowl Challenge at the 41st Annual Pennsylvania Technology Student Association Leadership Conference and Competitions. Adu and Mroz also teamed to win the Coding Challenge.



Technology Bowl

Park Forest Middle students Zac Mroz, Joseph Knutelsky and Cooper Price teamed to win the middle

school division of the 2019 IU10 K'Nex Challenge, qualifying for state competition.



K'Nex

World Languages

State High sophomore Paulina Tabachikova earned a perfect score on the National Latin Exam for the second year in a row. Only 698 students out of nearly 130,000 from 24

countries achieved the feat on the 2019 exam.



Latin



Connie Schulz was honored with a buddy



Margo Novikov, Taran Samarth and Albert Zhang registered qualifying exam scores for the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad invitational round, earning a chance to represent the United States at the International Computational Olympiad. Ten percent of students taking the qualifying exam nationwide advanced, and the trio's scores were in the top 5 percent of qualifiers.



State High's Science Olympic team placed second at a regional competition by winning 13 medals to advance to the state competition.

Faculty & Staff

Kristen Burnett, the Delta Program; Matthew Peterson, Gray's Woods Elementary; and Tara Pollick, Mount Nittany Elementary, were among the 100 teachers from PA chosen to attend the Keystone Technology Innovator Summit. Participants were selected for their demonstrated passion for education and technology.



School Resource Officer John Aston was named a Centre County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2018.



Science

State High students Claire Jin, Tori Sodeinde and Jessica Zhang formed a team that was among the top five finalists out of 789 submissions in the national 2019 Genes in Space competition to have a DNA-focused science experiment on the International Space Station.



Natalia Carrasco and Ty Todd won first place and \$2,500 scholarships after presenting their science project at the EnvironMentors national conference.

CTC

Career and Technical Center Health Professions and Sports Therapy and Exercise Science program students won eight gold medals at the HOSA PA State Leadership Conference: Ellie Kim (nutrition), Supriya Kumar (dental terminology), Jessica Irwin (sports medicine), Britney Peachey (pathophysiology), Jesse Torbic (physical therapy), Roshni Raj (transcultural health care), Raylene Reed (pharmacology) and Joelle Rush (nurse assisting).



State High DECA chapter members Ben Brauser, Sebastian Caceres, Kelton Fedor, Iris Li, Zach Martin, Liz Orlova and Payton Treaster won first places in events at the state DECA conference, qualifying them for 2019 DECA International Career Development Conference.



State High teacher Troy Alesi was selected as Penn State's 2018 Homecoming Parade Honorary Grand Marshall.



Mary Smith, Alex Raup, Holli Jo Weber, Mardi McDonough and Joe Walker were honored during Penn State's annual Educator Appreciation Day at Beaver Stadium for their dedication and service.

Excellence in Education

If the difference between a swamp and a bog seems muddy, just ask Houserville Elementary School fifth-graders. They gained a clearer picture from a hands-on lesson.

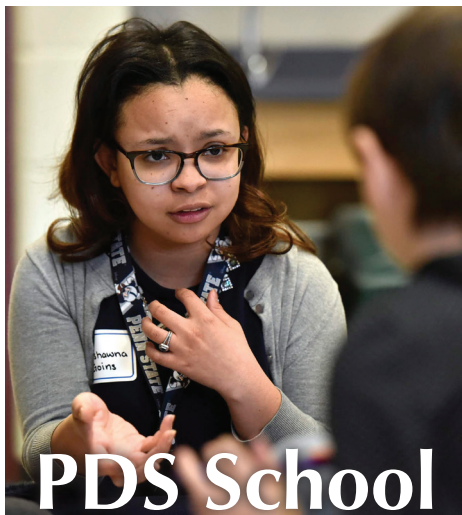
Sixty students in a trio of fifth-grade classes spent a morning learning about wetlands and the nearby Spring Creek watershed during an annual water study program taught through a cross-generational collaboration.

State College Area High School Environmental Club students visited Houserville for the program, joined by Adam Smith from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, members of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Principal Todd Dishong. Rotating among three stations, the fifth-graders studied water quality, macroinvertebrate organisms, the impact of pollutants, and the characteristics of swamps, bogs, fens and marshes. Smith, a fish and wildlife biologist, and Susan Braun, a biology and



environmental science teacher who advises the club, returned to participate. Braun's club collected Spring Creek macroinvertebrates the night before, netting mayflies, caddisflies, sowbugs, aquatic

worms, New Zealand mud snails and even a sculpin. Classifying the samples, Houserville's aspiring biologists learned how macroinvertebrates reveal a stream's health.



PDS School

For the 21st year, the award-winning Professional Development School program paired several dozen Penn State College of Education students with mentor teachers for a year-long internship. In contrast to traditional student teaching, PDS interns fully collaborate with their mentors while taking pedagogical courses and completing inquiry projects.

When Deana Washell, Colleen McCracken and Anne Elrod Whitney saw elementary students struggle with writing, they wondered whether a change of perspective would help. Instead of staring at a blank page, what if these novice writers looked back on their past attempts? Could that make a difference?

It did, and out of their success came a new classroom resource. McCracken and Washell, both Easterly Parkway Elementary School teachers, and Whitney, a Penn State professor of education, created "Teaching Writers to Reflect: Strategies for a More Thoughtful Writing Workshop." Published in 2019, their book

advocates incorporating reflection into writing assignments to inspire engaging prose.

Drawing from their classroom experiences, the authors present a three-step process for employing reflection:

remembering past writing practices, describing writing with precise terms for better assistance, and acting on the knowledge gained. Ultimately, they say, reflection

builds classroom community, confidence and independence.

"The process has made me a better teacher because we really have, through collaboration, dug deep into what we were doing with writing," Washell said.





Photo courtesy Centre Daily Times

Celebrating Shared Success

State titles from the State High boys' indoor and outdoor track and field teams, the first year in school history with both, highlighted a year of individual and team accomplishments.

Coached by Artie Gilkes, above, the outdoor team captured its second title in four years. The Little Lions got gold medals from Luke Knipe in the pole vault and Lance Hamilton in the long jump. Hamilton also placed second in the long jump, while Conrad Moore was third in the high jump.

For its part, the indoor team won the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association state meet, thanks to a triple jump brothers act. Stan Hamilton took the gold medal while Lance Hamilton claimed the silver.

In other highlights, volleyball players Leah Henderson,

Jess Irwin and Kacy Sekunda earned first team all-state honors. Wrestler Cole Urbas won a regional title in his weight class at 195 pounds, his third straight regional championship. Tennis players Owen Lloyd and Drew Cagle won a district doubles title, making Lloyd the first player to win four consecutive District 6 3A doubles championships.

District titles were won by both the boys' and girls' outdoor track and field, cross country, volleyball, soccer, golf, lacrosse, tennis, and swimming and diving teams, as well as football, boys' basketball, baseball, indoor track and field, and cheerleading.

In addition to the high school athletic program, the district offered interscholastic sports at the middle level and intramural sports for elementary students in fourth and fifth grade.

Matt Brownstead, left, turned in his own historic gold medal performance, setting a state record and Bucknell University pool record in the 50-meter freestyle at the PIAA Class 3A Swimming and Diving Championship with a time of 19.55 seconds. Brownstead also won a gold in the 100 freestyle, joining teammates Noah Witt and Foster Heasley as all-state selections.

During the spring, Witt was named a 2019 National High School Coaches Association Academic All-American for his athletic and academic achievements.



Photo by Abby Drey/CDT



State High music teacher Jim Robinson, above, was named a State College Magazine Teacher of the Year in 2019.

Music Education

For the 15th year, and sixth consecutive, the district was named one of the National Association of Music Merchants Best Communities for Music Education in 2019.

During 2018-2019, State High ensembles turned in several outstanding performances. At the 2019 Worldstrides OnStage Performance Adjudication Festival in New York City, the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Master Singers, OMA Choir, Cecilian Singers, String Orchestra and Rock Ensemble earned five gold ratings and two silver ratings. In addition, the Master Singers and Symphonic Band were honored as the top vocal and instrumental ensembles. Overall, State High's music department received the Program Sweepstakes Award as the best program among the participating schools from seven states and three provinces.

In Pittsburgh, 16 State High students performed in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Honors Ensembles and the National Association for Music Education All-East Honors Ensembles after qualifying from several auditions. Gabe Herrera played the trombone in three

PMEA ensembles: orchestra, band and jazz band. Other all-state orchestra participants were Audrey Clement, Jon Lin, Krista Chen and Emily Redmond, while Megan Russell made the all-state band. Nicholas Cole, Sarah Devan, Taylor Elliot, Riley Finkle, Declan Flanagan, Dylan Henderson, Emma Neely and Russell sang in the all-state chorus. William Hurtz joined the NAFME band, and the NAFME chorus included Will Fecko and Tynan Butler.

Another feather in the district's cap was the State High Chamber Singers' invitation to the prestigious Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Festival in Pittsburgh.

Mount Nittany and Park Forest middle schools offered band, orchestra and choir opportunities. At the Music in the Parks adjudication festival, Mount Nittany's Symphonic Band and Clef Hangers received superior ratings and best-in-category awards. Elijah Snyder (jazz soloist) and Daniel Liu (student accompanist) won overall awards in their categories.

At the elementary level, the district continued the long-running Partners in Music program in which Penn State School of Music faculty and students conduct fifth-graders through a series of workshops culminating in a concert.



Special Education



After 23 years in SCASD, Mount Nittany Middle School Life Skills and Multiple Disabilities Support Teacher Lisa Pazak, left, was named a State College Magazine Teacher of the Year in 2019.

“It is a privilege to do something that makes a difference to students, their families, and their communities. I love empowering kids and watching them grow.”

-Lisa Pazak

For students with disabilities, the district provided a full range of service and support options, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, adaptive PE, nursing services, audiologist services, counseling and family training.

At State High, students took the Wild Dream Team life skills class or belonged to the Best Buddies club, which fosters friendships between students with disabilities and their peers. In its 16th year, the LifeLink PSU program afforded students with special needs, ages 18-21, opportunities to interact with college student mentors to cultivate academic growth, social development and independence.

For grades K-3, the Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) program helped our most at-risk populations with reading, having the goal of all students being proficient readers by third grade. SCASD is one of the few districts in the state approved to determine Specific Learning Disability eligibility based

on RtII data in kindergarten through third grade. The district also employed the READ 180 literacy program for 185 students in grades 4-8.

The district's Integrated Mental Health (IMH) program, a collaboration between our Pupil Services Dept. and a variety of community agencies, provided individual counseling during school for students experiencing mental health and behavioral challenges. Two full-time Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) behavior specialists supported school teams and students experiencing significant behavioral challenges.

Special Education supports 788 students with varying disabilities.

- » 64 Teachers and 160 Paraprofessionals
- » 10 Psychologists
- » 9 Speech Therapists
- » 2 Brailleists, 1 Sign Language Interpreter and 1 Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Community Education

In its sixth year, the Community Education Extended Learning (CEEL) program continued its service to our families by expanding in January to Corl Street Elementary School for students who had previously been at the Easterly Parkway Elementary CEEL program. CEEL provides learning experiences, including art, languages and STEM, and recreational opportunities before and after school for a nominal cost.

The Community Education office also oversaw the In-Car Driver Education, Summer Camp Offerings and Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Tutoring Center programs.

Enrollments

- » CEEL Program - 632
- » In-Car Driver Education - 222
- » Summer Camps - 1,162
- » Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Tutoring Center - 126

Gifted and Learning Enrichment

Gifted and Learning Enrichment services ensure that the district enhances the development of gifted and talented learners so that each one achieves their fullest potential.

To provide the most focused screening process, the district evaluated all students in grades 2 and 4, as well as any new, potentially gifted student who moved into the district in grades 2-8. This was done to determine recommendations for a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation, which assesses their eligibility and need for gifted services and specially designed instruction. From these enrichment courses, students developed higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills through exposure to content, methods and instructional techniques.

In our middle schools, gifted support teachers focused on specially designed instruction for high ability students and their teachers. Academic Quiz Bowl, the Geography Bee, and the K'Nex Challenge are some examples of teacher-supported enrichment activities that challenged students beyond the regular curriculum.

At the high school level, the Gifted



Park Forest Middle School Gifted Support/Learning Enrichment Teacher Lori Brown works with students building cars for the Great Solar Car Challenge.

Support Program benefited students with a continued need for specially designed instruction. In addition, the Learning Enrichment program flexibly met the needs of more than 400 gifted and talented students with different interests, skills, and educational goals. Students

worked with teachers to explore opportunities that enhance learning through various avenues. Many also participated in Learning Enrichment ARTsmART, a Learning Enrichment Program extension, for students with interests or gifts in music, visual and/or performing arts.

Education Foundation

In its fourth year, the foundation raised \$278,531 in total revenue, a 55 percent increase from the previous year. This included \$3,418 from donors contributing through the annual Centre Gives campaign. The foundation paid \$15,012 in expenses while the district provided \$107,402 in support.

Through fundraising, the foundation continued to enhance the educational opportunities of students by providing financial support for innovative learning experiences and initiatives with widespread impact. The second Maroon and Gray Society Banquet,

along with honoring distinguished district alumni and employees, generated more than \$50,000



for the foundation's Mental Health Matters Fund. Corporate donations via the state's Educational

Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program contributed \$45,000 for two designated beneficiaries: Oracle Academy computer programming curriculum courses at State High and materials and equipment for the K-5 STEM curriculum.

The first Student Opportunities Grants awarded approximately \$15,000 to 11 educator-proposed projects or initiatives. With \$1,600 from the Bill Cahir Memorial Scholarship Fund, three journalism students attended a national conference and participated in competitions.

Facilities



Spring Creek Elementary

Elementary School Projects

Construction continued on Corl Street and Radio Park elementary school renovations and on the new Spring Creek Elementary School, progressing toward an anticipated finish before the 2019-2020 school year. At mid-year, move-ins occurred in completed sections of Corl Street and Radio Park. Lemont and Houserville elementary schools, which will be replaced by Spring Creek, held open houses for their communities to say goodbye to the buildings. Houserville, built in 1959, was scheduled for demolition and Lemont, dating to 1939, awaited a negotiated sale.

In the fall of 2018, the district worked with Metcalfe Design to begin a playground master planning process focused on updating eight elementary school playgrounds. Metcalfe was selected because of its expertise in natural play elements. A playground task force, composed of principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, district administrators, Citizens Advisory Committees representatives, and a school board director, was established for reviewing community input and plans stemming from Metcalfe's site evaluations.



State High Campus

After four years of construction, the State High Project began drawing to a close with two final phases. Phase 3, ending in December, built the art wing, counseling suite, library and part of a central corridor. While the music wing and auditorium were under construction, the music program used the library for rehearsals. Phase 4 during the spring and summer centered on the performance and athletic wings, including the auditorium and a fitness center, as well as the Delta Program building, locker rooms and an athletic field on the north side of the campus. At the intersection of Westerly Parkway and Logan Avenue, a traffic light and enhanced crosswalks were installed for pedestrian safety.

Memorial Field

On March 26, 2019, following a public update the previous month, the SCASD Board of Directors approved construction bids for the Memorial Field renovation project, advancing the approximately

\$14 million effort to improve the stadium for student-athletes and spectators. Additionally, the board approved a construction schedule calling for the field to be closed during the 2019-2020 year. Work began in the late spring with the Nittany Avenue Building's demolition.



Finance

Historically, SCASD schools have benefited from strong community support for public education and consistent revenue streams from a stable economy centered around Penn State. The 2018-2019 tax increase of 2.4 percent was the third lowest tax increase in 10 years. In its fourth year, the district's Supplemental Property Tax Rebate Program issued 263 rebates totaling \$84,220. Additionally, each approved district homestead and farmstead received approximately \$109 in tax relief.

86%

of the budget is used directly to support student learning.

while nonrecurring costs tied to transportation and curriculum were approximately \$390,000.

The revised student day and a \$6.8 million transfer in state grant dollars to the capital project fund partially accounted for the most notable expense increases. Recurring expenses from the new student day were approximately \$1.3 million,

Other expense increases resulted from a new K-5 math curriculum, an elementary counselor for a comprehensive elementary counseling curriculum, a rise in students identified as gifted, additional security services, and staffing changes. The district's

Revenue Sources

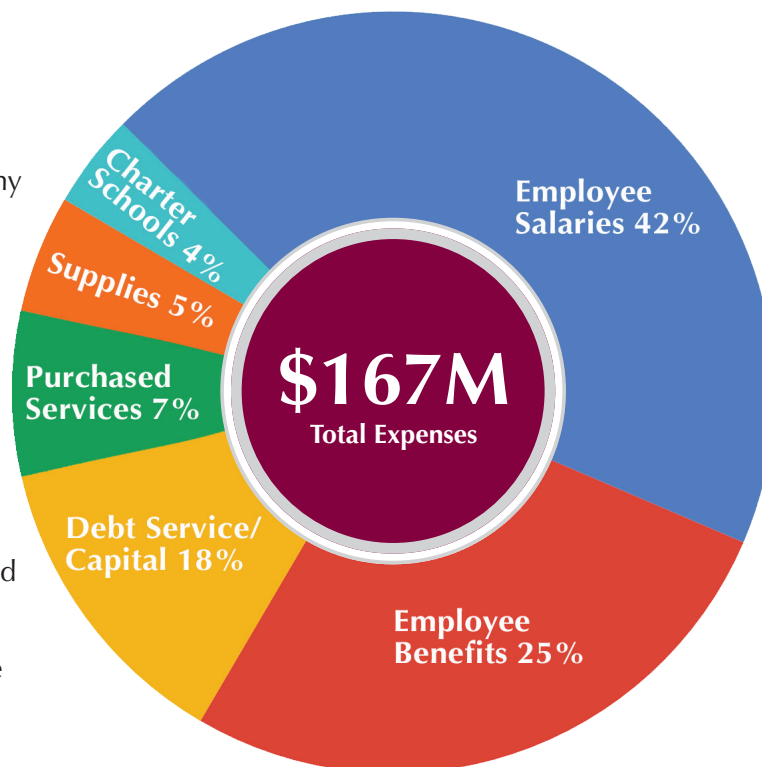
Local: \$130,199,417: 78%

State: \$35,452,531: 21%

Federal: \$1,471,051: 1%

Pennsylvania State Employees Retirement System expenses continued to rise because of increases in salary expenses and the state-mandated contribution rate.

Debt service included payments on the \$85 million high school referendum borrowing and additional borrowing to fund the remainder of the high school project and three elementary school projects. The district continued setting aside resources for funding these expenditures as part of a long-term capital plan.



Charter School Expenses

The district's payment of \$6 million to charter schools for 347 students represented 4 percent of the budget. The amount was based on a state formula calculated using the district's actual per capita costs. While the district funds charters as required, it maintains no financial, academic or operational supervision, nor evaluative authority over them.



Payments to charter schools rose from \$3.3 million in 2009 to \$6 million in 2019, while enrollment over that span went from 311 to 347. During 2018-2019, enrollment dropped by 70, decreasing expenses by \$715,000.

Centre County School Tax Comparison

District	Mills	Median Assessed Value	Real Estate Tax	Earned Income Tax*	Total Tax
SCASD	45.2060	\$71,960	\$3,253.02	\$536.43	\$3,789.45
Bellefonte	48.9639	46,245	2,264.34	592.89	2,857.23
Bald Eagle	57.9800	34,730	2,013.65	1,157.55	3,171.20
Penns Valley	48.0995	44,255	2,128.64	734.06	2,862.70

*EIT Based on Centre County Median Income of \$56,466

Board of Directors

Amber Concepcion, President
Dr. Amy Bader, Vice President
Elected Dec. 3, 2018

Lori Bedell
Gretchen Brandt
Dr. Dan Duffy
Scott Fozard
David Hutchinson
Jim Leous, Previous Vice President
Laurel Zydney



Email: all-board@scasd.org

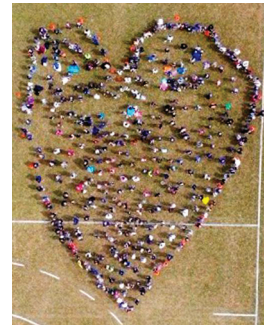
Administration

Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell
Superintendent of Schools
Vernon Bock
Assistant Superintendent of
Elementary Education
Randy Brown
Finance and Operations Officer/
Open Records Officer

Linda Pierce
Director of Human Resources

Dr. Will Stout
Assistant Superintendent of
Secondary Education

In memory of
Nancy Ulba, a
Mount Nittany
Elementary
School third
grade teacher
who passed away
March 21, 2019,
the entire MNE
community came
together to form the shape of a heart
outside the school in her honor.



Directors

Deirdre Bauer, Director of Curriculum K-5
Dr. Seria Chatters, Director of Equity and Inclusivity
Dr. Jon Downs, Director of Educational Alternatives
Jonathan Klingeman, Director of Gifted, Learning
Enrichment, and Title 1 Services
Jeanne Knouse, Director of Student Services
Jacquelyn Martin, Director of Curriculum 6-12
Christine Merritt, Director of Curriculum 6-12*

Dr. Sharon Perry, Director of the CTC
Edward Poprik, Director of Physical Plant
Chris Rosenblum, Director of Communications
Dr. Sharon Salter, Director of Special Education
Megan Schaper, Director of Food Services
Van Swauger, Director of Transportation
Chris Weakland, Director of Athletics

*Replaced Jacquelyn Martin on May 1, 2019

Registration

The district's registration office is open year-round to accept new students. Each spring, we host registration events for the next school year, including kindergarten. For the latest information please call our office at 814-231-1017 or visit our registration website. We look forward to welcoming your child.

www.scasd.org/Registration



240 Villa Crest Drive
State College, PA, 16801
814-231-1011
www.scasd.org





The Senior Parade is an annual tradition where graduating seniors return to their elementary schools and walk through the halls in their caps and gowns. Corl Street Elementary first grade teacher Pat Shoffner hugs a former student, Isabella Messina, during the parade.

6,891

Student Enrollment

2,041

People Employed

4th

Largest County
Employer

\$167M

Total Expenses



2018-2019 Annual Report

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