

Exciting Updates for the 2024-2025 School Year



From the Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Taranto



With the 2024-2025 school year quickly approaching, we are excited to share with you some new opportunities for our students and additions to our schools to help us further our mission of educating the whole student.

Our teachers, staff and administrators are already working hard to make this school year the best one yet, and we cannot wait to see everyone back at school on August 22nd.

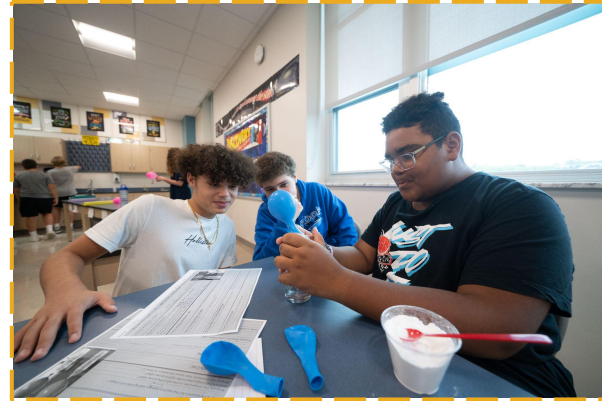
Sincerely,

Greg Taranto, PhD
Superintendent

Overview

Updates across the District

- New procedure for **Remote Days** (previously Flexible Instruction Days or FIDs)
 - In case Chromebooks cannot be sent home in advance, relevant paper packets will be sent home monthly for students in Grades 2-6, equivalent to a normal day of instruction
 - District will communicate via email at the time they call a Remote Day whether students should use Chromebooks or packets
 - K-1 and 7-12 will continue as is



- New course and club offerings
- Home side bleacher expansion with a press box
- New textbooks and digital academic resources
- Updated technology for seamless digital learning

Technology Updates

- Network equipment upgrades at South Central and Canon-McMillan High School
 - Improved network performance and reliability
 - Enable faster and more efficient communication
- Cloud-based hosting solution offering numerous benefits — scalability, reliability, security, accessibility, automatic updates, disaster recovery and integration with other cloud services
- 400 new Chromebook devices for Grade 9
 - Ensures students have access to tools for effective learning in the digital age
 - The removal of outdated devices addresses security concerns and reduces maintenance costs, allowing the district to focus resources on providing high-quality education



K-6 Updates

Science

- New Science Program in Grades 1-6 in line with Pennsylvania's new STEEL standards
- Elementary science taught on a regular basis again
- Using Amplify Science in Grades 1-5 and OpenSciEd in Grade 6

Reading

- Second year of our structured literacy program placing a heavy emphasis on *learning to read in K-2* and *reading to learn in grades 3-6*
- Canon-McMillan is proud to offer this model structured literacy program with reading screeners three times a year in grades K-4
- New Reading Screener providing more in-depth analysis reporting



Writing

- New emphasis on teaching writing in grades K-2 where our writing is connected to reading. This is an emphasis on explicitly teaching sound writing mechanics
- As part of this approach, Kindergarten adopted Heggerty's Bridge to Writing Program

K-6 Updates Cont.

Platooning Teaching Structure

- Teachers are eager to continue the successful platooning structure in Grades 3-4 and move to the second year with fine tuning procedures
- The platooning format has allowed our teachers to develop a more in-depth development of their concentration areas resulting in robust learning and growing

Whole building
air-conditioning at
Hills-Hendersonville



24-25 School Year Teacher professional development:

- Science Training
- Literacy Update Training
- Continue Science of Learning Focus
- Kindergarten Writing Training

7-12 Updates

- New CMHS course offerings
 - Introduction to eSports
 - Forensic Science II w/ Lab
 - CHS Child Development: Birth to 9 Years
- New textbooks in several AP courses
- New science textbooks and lab kits in Grades 7-8



#WinAtSocial, a web-based, peer-to-peer gamified learning platform incorporated into Middle School Issues (7), Health (8) and Social Studies (8) will help students navigate their social world offline and online, with a focus on teaching **digital citizenship** and promoting **cyber etiquette** while relating these important issues to current events

7-12 Updates Cont.

ALEKS (CMHS)

- Adaptive learning program assessing students' individual strengths in mathematics
 - Creates an individualized learning path for each student
 - Remedial tool for students who did not score proficiency on the Algebra I Keystone
 - Also used in our new Applied Mathematics course allowing each student to receive targeted instruction and support

Albert.io

- Program to facilitate instruction, remediation and preparation for standardized assessments
 - Used in class and provides access to Advanced Placement (AP), Keystone and SAT/ACT test prep



7-12 Updates Cont.

New club offerings

- **Pickleball:** A fun, fast-paced sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong
- **Astronomy:** Explore the wonders of the universe and mysteries of space
- **Linguistics:** Discover the fascinating world of languages and enhance your communication skills
- **Wellness:** Focus on health and wellness through various activities promoting physical and mental well-being
- **The Kilted Kup:** A *student-run coffee service* (coffee served to adults) to provide students with hands-on experience in retail and customer service, while also fostering a positive school climate (CMMS)



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