

# 2020

PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

# **P**RAMS REPORT

# 2021



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pennridge Community,

Welcome to the 3rd annual Rams Report! In the 2020-2021 Rams Report, we will highlight some student and staff accomplishments as well as provide an update on the Pennridge School District. We will share with you highlights from the previous school year, goals for the 20-21 school year, and an overview of the fall academic plans in place. We are proud to share with you the work of our students and staff, and celebrate the positive impact they have on our community.

We hope you enjoy this insight into our school district and if you would like to learn more, please visit our new website at [www.pennridge.org](http://www.pennridge.org) for all updated information regarding the exciting things happening at Pennridge!

Pennridge Proud!

David A. Bolton, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## Website

*We are very excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website!* The new site is live at [www.pennridge.org](http://www.pennridge.org). Our goal with this new website is to provide our community, families, students, and staff with an easier way to learn about our district's exciting news. Among the new features, the site contains integrated social media buttons, a consistent look and feel, clear navigation, an integrated calendar feature, and is mobile friendly. We hope that this website becomes a central place for communication, family resources, and information.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Pennridge Community,

The Pennridge School Board is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment that meets the individual needs of all students and prepares them to be well-rounded, lifelong learners with the 21st century skills necessary to succeed on any path they choose. Each new initiative takes into account what is in the best educational interest of the kids; how to provide staff with the tools and training necessary to carry it out; and the most cost effective way to meet these goals.

The worldwide pandemic turned the education world upside down in the early spring of 2020, and presented the staff and students with unprecedented challenges caused by the sudden closure of all schools under Governor Wolf's order. Sound, long-term planning enabled us to be prepared with the technology and infrastructure which enabled the district to quickly pivot and move to an on-line model for delivery of instruction, and additional devices were distributed to the elementary students to help them stay connected with their teachers.

As we started the 2020-2021 school year, our schools have a very different look, and have implemented a health and safety plan that allows our families and students choose the educational setting best suited for the student and family. We have also learned many lessons from the early days of the closure in the spring, and the staff continues to improve the delivery of the curriculum. We are fortunate to work with such talented staff, at all levels and in all positions, who share our passion and are dedicated to carrying out these goals.

The community is an integral part of driving improvement to the educational product delivered. There are many talents and areas of expertise that serve to strengthen our schools and engage students in various fields of interest, better preparing them for their future. We have made all non-confidential documents public, and have started live-streaming our committee and board meetings so YOU can participate in our meetings.

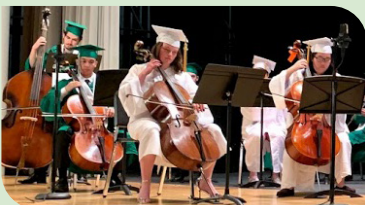
We welcome YOUR input on how we can make things at Pennridge even better! You can communicate with the entire board by emailing us at [PSDSchoolboard@pennridge.org](mailto:PSDSchoolboard@pennridge.org).

Kind regards,

Bill Krause  
Pennridge School Board President



*From Left to Right: Lisa Walters, Ryan Gerhart, Megan Banis-Clemens, Robert Cormack, Sherry Thompson, Joan Cullen (Vice President), William Krause (President), David Reiss, David Bolton (Superintendent), Katy Dolan*



## Best Communities for Music Education in 2020

The Pennridge School District was named by the National Association for Music Merchants as one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education in 2020. This award is an incredible honor as it reflects on the work of our entire music community K-12. It highlights the dedication and efforts of our students and staff from K through 12. At Pennridge it is important to foster a positive environment for music teaching and learning throughout all levels in our district.



# NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

## Graduation

The Class of 2020 graduation was an incredible representation of our students, staff, and community. Although our seniors did not get a traditional graduation, the community rallied around them to make it special. Caps and gowns were delivered personally by teachers and staff, a display of fireworks at 20:20 military time on the night of graduation, a senior dinner where local business donated dinner and dessert, and their graduation ceremony was recorded and broadcast for families to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes. We are so thankful to the Pennridge Community including, Luberto's, Landis Supermarket, The Perk, Café @ The Mill, Hawkeye's, Chiaro's Pizza, J.T. Bankers, Vincent's Pizza, Sapori, and the Hickory Stick for their generosity throughout graduation season.



## Fall Academic Plans

In the Fall of 2020, the Pennridge School District provided families with three academic plans for students.

**Five Day Return** - 45% of our students began the year with a full return to classroom instruction every day with appropriate safety protocols. Masks are required at all times when students and staff are inside our buildings and mask breaks are provided during lunch and outside when appropriate. Classroom desks are spaced apart with an average distance of 4.5 feet. Students are excited to have the opportunity to experience in classroom learning with their teachers. This academic plan is offered at the elementary and middle schools.



**Hybrid** - 35% of our students began the year with a hybrid model of two days of classroom instruction, one day of live remote learning, and two days of teacher provided on-line assignments. All students meet remotely with their teacher on Monday or Launch Day with half the students attending in the classroom on Tuesday/Thursday and the other half on Wednesday/Friday. On-line assignments are completed on the days the student is not assigned to class. This academic plan is offered at the high school level and in some elementary grade levels.

**Remote Learning** - 20% of our students are currently in full-time remote instruction led by a Pennridge teacher that includes both synchronous (live video-instruction) and asynchronous (self-paced) instruction with regularly scheduled virtual office hours where students can receive assistance from a teacher. Remote instruction engages students in virtual learning from home and utilizes Pennridge curriculum to ease any transition back to face-to-face instruction. Students continue to have access to all aspects of being a Pennridge student (activities, sports, clubs, events) and were provided with a school device, if needed. This academic plan was offered to students in grades kindergarten through 12.

The Pennridge School District is dedicated to the safety of our students and staff as well as our mission to care for, protect, and educate our students. The implementation of all three academic plans proved possible with the hard work and collaboration of our administration, staff, and families. A copy of our full Health and Safety Plan can be found on the district website under Fall Planning.

## Nationally Recognized Unified Sports Program

Special Olympics Pennsylvania has announced that Pennridge High School, a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, is receiving national banner recognition for its efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for students with and without disabilities. Pennridge High School is receiving this honor as a result of meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy, and respect. Pennridge High School is the first in Bucks County to reach this nationally approved status. We are Pennridge Proud of Mrs. James, Mrs. Fehnel, and the Unified Athletes and Club Members!

## Major Goal Areas for 2020-2021

### Elementary Literacy Programs

For the 2020-2021 school year, all seven elementary schools have implemented three new literacy programs: Making Meaning; Being a Writer; Words Their Way. These programs provide a balanced literacy approach that stresses reading, writing, and word study.

### Continue Curriculum Evaluation and Revision in all Content Areas

The Pennridge School District embarked on a large-scale review and redesign of curricula across all subject areas beginning in the 2018-19 school year. Since that time, all teachers have been provided with professional learning sessions with Internationally Renowned Curriculum Leaders, Dr. Heidi Hayes-Jacobs and Dr. Bena Kallick.

Teachers, Supervisors, Coordinators and the Assistant Superintendents are using this new framework to update the curriculum in each content area. The goal is for all curricular documents to be revised by 2024.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Pennridge continues the important work in the areas of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). This summer, approximately 200 staff members completed 1,244 trainings and all teachers received a training on culturally responsive teaching in October.

Our DEI team has been expanded to include students and parents and will continue to lead the District's work in this area. See additional resources on our website at [www.pennridge.org/pupilservices](http://www.pennridge.org/pupilservices) under the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion tab.



# 2020/2021 Pennridge School District **RAMS REPORT**

## PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT BY THE NUMBERS

### Live Stream

Pennridge is increasing our use of livestreaming to allow members of the community to safely stay connected to Board meetings, school sports, and activities.

All School Board meetings can be viewed at <https://youtube.com/c/PennridgeSchoolDistrictBucksCountyPA>.

Information on livestreaming for winter sports and events can be found at <https://www.pennridge.org/domain/1496>

### Staff

- 517 Teachers (89% with advanced degrees)
- 547 Support Staff

### Property Tax Rebate Program

On July 1, 2020, the Pennridge School District began receiving applications for year one of the Pennridge School District Property Tax Rebate Program. The program will allow some taxpayers to benefit from tax relief. To date, the Pennridge School District has refunded 150 residents more than \$12,000. For detailed information and program requirements, please visit our website at [www.pennridge.org/business](http://www.pennridge.org/business) under the Property Tax Rebate tab.

### 2020-2021 Enrollment

- 6,811 Students
  - 2,748 Elementary School Students
  - 1,681 Middle School Students
  - 2,382 High School Students

### Class of 2020

Graduates: 527

#### Post High School Plans

- Four-Year College 52%
- Two-Year College 18%
- Entering the Workforce 25%
- Entering the Military 3%
- Other 2%

### 2020-2021 Budget

**\$143.8 million dollars**

For only the second time in at least two decades, the Pennridge School Board has adopted a District Budget that does not increase property taxes, does not include a structural deficit, and does not include new borrowing. All of that while continuing to provide for the educational needs of the students. This is the fourth year in a row without a tax increase.

### SAT Statistics

	Reading	Math	Total	State Avg	Nat. Avg
<b>2020</b>	591	582	1173	1082	*
<b>2019</b>	589	586	1175	1086	1059
<b>2018</b>	572	567	1139	1047	1067

### ACT Statistics

	English	Math	Reading	Science	State Avg	Nat. Avg
<b>2020</b>	22.9	23.8	24.6	23.8	*	*
<b>2019</b>	23.7	23.9	24.6	24.4	23.6	20.9
<b>2018</b>	22.0	22.8	23.1	22.9	22.8	20.8

\*National 2020 SAT and State and National 2020 ACT statistics were not available at the time of printing.

### Advanced Placement Test Statistics

- 365 students took 651 AP Exams
- 83.3% of these students received a score of 3 or higher

### Contact Us


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 215.257.5011

 [www.pennridge.org](http://www.pennridge.org)

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