

**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL EVERYONE!**

*August 2024*  
**Summer Edition**



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

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# START OF SCHOOL

**IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024**

We are excited for the 10,000 students we serve in the Chambersburg Area School District to return to formal learning on Thursday, August 22, 2024. If you attend a CASD school in person, are homeschooled, participate in Chambersburg Virtual Academy (CVA), are dual enrolled in college and high school, attend Franklin County Career Tech, or if you attend a private or charter school; we look forward to each and every student learning every day. We have good schools and we want to have Schools of Distinction by 2030. In order to have schools of distinction we will need to reset some of the basic essential conditions of attendance, behavior, academic expectations, and technology. This newsletter is a call for your help and support in partnering with education and our schools.

**CHAMBERSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

435 STANLEY AVENUE  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201

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## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

In recent years we have seen increase absences in school and a lowering of academic learning expectations, especially for students who are missing more than 18 days of school per year. We are here to turn that around starting this school year. We need students in school every day and the research shows missing school/classes over multiple years triples the chances students will not graduate from high school or earn a living wage in the future. Education is the only guaranteed and statistically safe way students can dream about the future they want instead of the future they will be given. This dream starts with a relentless focus on learning content and learning with classmates and teachers. We need your help, your commitment, and your dedication for students to attend all school days.

We have enhanced our efforts around attendance for the 2024/2025 school year. Yes, we will be bugging you with texts, phone calls, and emails because we care. We have also started an "alternative instruction" approach for grades 6-12 designed to make sure all students who do make mistakes and get in trouble receive and complete their academic work assignments and keep up with their learning. We are also starting the Chambersburg Education & Engagement Center called "CEEC" downtown connected to the old F&M Bank in the square. This center is designed to engage and re-engage students whether you are new to Chambersburg, if you are homeless, struggling with school attendance, falling behind, and need assistance with engaging in school. Please "CEEC" assistance in our new downtown center set to open in early October 2024. More information to come closer to the opening of the center.



20 S. Main Street,  
Chambersburg, PA

coming  
OCTOBER 2024  
soon

*Chambersburg  
Education & Engagement Center*



CEEC WILL BE AT THE WEST  
ENTRANCE IN BACK OF THE BUILDING.



## TECHNOLOGY, SCREEN TIME, AND CELL PHONES

We are making an effort to limit screen time and learning to match the latest research. We will use technology to enhance learning and access content. We will not use technology to replace the teacher in the classroom. You will see increased direct instruction moving forward from our staff. In grades K-8 we will be keeping Chromebooks in the classroom and will not be sending them home at this time. We have eliminated any fees associated with receiving a Chromebook, unless a student has intentionally damaged a device. In grades 9-12, all high school students will have iPads starting this fall with a \$10 annual fee. We want to limit screen time for all students to a reasonable amount during school and outside of school. A great rule of thumb is  $\text{student age} \times 10 = \text{max number of minutes in front of a screen for the entire day}$ . Screens include laptops, computers, televisions, tablets, and cell phones.

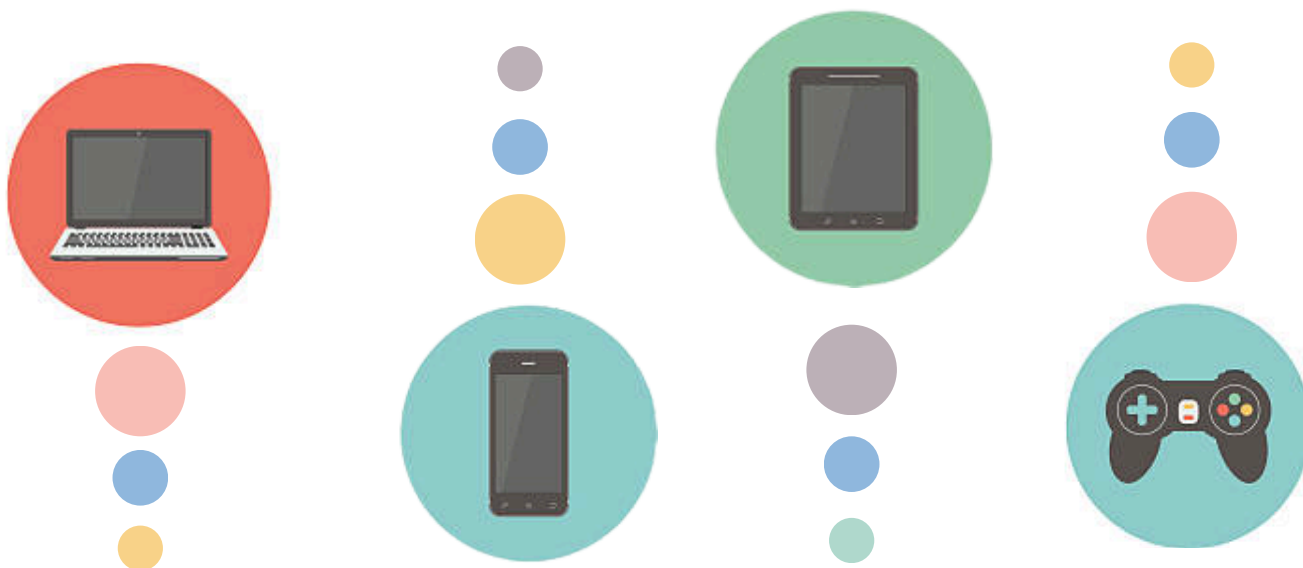
### For example:

6 years old = 60 minutes for the entire day.  
12 years old = 120 minutes for the entire day.  
18 years old = 180 minutes for the entire day.



We have also tightened up on our cell phone policies to eliminate distractions in the classroom. Cell phones are not allowed to be used in any K-12 classrooms for any reason other than extreme emergencies. Updated policies and procedures will be shared with students and parents via the student handbooks and open houses.

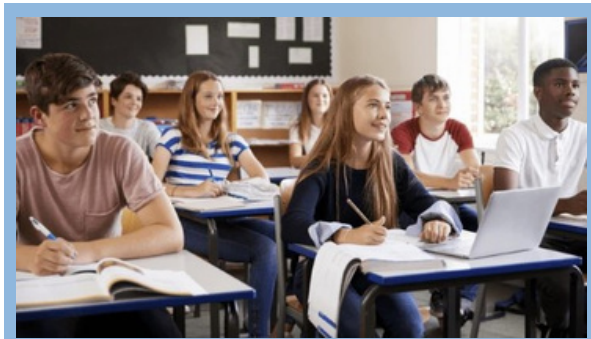
Parents, we need your full cooperation and support to help reinforce our partnership on this topic. Please do not message your child during the school day unless it is an emergency. Parents may call the schools' main office to get a message to students. Phones will be allowed for use before and after school to assist with pick-up and drop off transportation communications with families. In the high schools there will be allowable time during lunch and hallways for use of cell phones to check in with families.





## RAISING EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR

We want to reinforce the importance of raising expectations for learning and performance in the classroom in addition to behavior. First and foremost, we will not accept disruptions in the classroom that interrupt the learning of other students. When students are in a classroom free of cell phones and distractions they are able to focus on the classroom lesson and learning for the day. Each and every day we will expect students to listen,

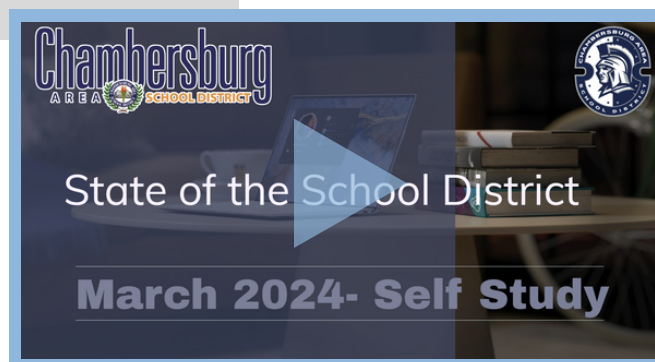


interact, read, and write to expand their knowledge and understanding of the academic standards and content. With your help and partnership we will strive to have Schools of Distinction by 2030. This is Step 1 on our path towards excellence in all schools.

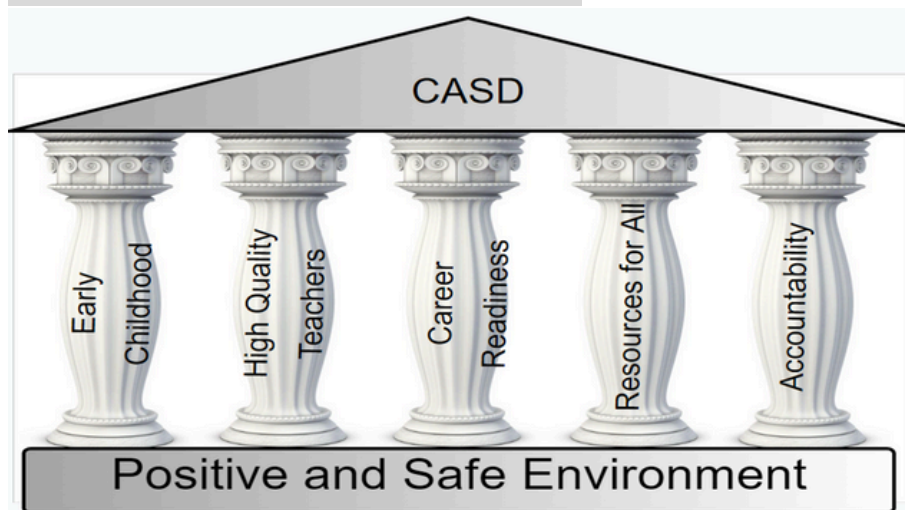


## THE FUTURE OF CASD SCHOOLS AND CREATING SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION BY 2030

We are designing and redesigning our educational landscape by focusing on a quality educational experience. Please view the full State of the District study to the right by clicking on the arrow.



## THE 2030 CASD BLUEPRINT



Our focus over the summer and upcoming months is building the CASD Blueprint to achieve schools of distinction by 2030. We have identified five pillars encompassing a positive and safe culture as our underlying structure.

On August 6, 2024, CRA Architects presented an updated study of our district to the School Board.

This presentation and past presentations since March 2024 are on our website under the 'About Us' Tab, then click on [2030 CASD Blueprint](#).



# 2024-2025 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

*Administrative Offices*  
435 Stanley Avenue  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17201  
Telephone (717) 263-9281



Board Approved - January 2024  
**2024-2025 Academic Calendar**



## AUGUST 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

19-21 Teacher In-Service,  
Schools Closed  
22 First Day for Students

## SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

02 Labor Day Holiday, Schools  
Closed  
11 PD Staff Flex Day, Act 80 Day,  
Schools Closed

## OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14 Columbus Day, Staff In-Service  
Day, Schools Closed  
23 2 Hr. Early Dismissal  
25 End of First Marking Period

## NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

6-8 P/T Conferences K-5, 2 Hr.  
Early Dismissal  
11 Veterans Day, Schools Closed  
27 2 Hr. Early Dismissal  
28-29 Thanksgiving Break, Schools  
Closed

## DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

02 Thanksgiving, Schools Closed  
03 PD Staff Flex Day, Schools  
Closed  
20 2 Hr. Early Dismissal  
23-31 Christmas, Schools Closed

## JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1-2 New Year's, Schools Closed  
03 PD Staff Flex Day, Act 80  
Day, Schools Closed  
08 2 Hr. Early Dismissal  
16 End of 1st Semester and  
2nd Marking Period  
20 MLK Day, Schools Closed

## FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

12 PD Act 80 Day, Schools Closed  
12 Makeup Day w/2 Hr. Early  
Dismissal  
17 Presidents Day, Schools Closed  
17 Makeup Day

## MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

14 Spring Break, Schools Closed  
14 3rd Makeup Day  
19 PD Act 80 Day, Schools Closed  
19 Makeup Day w/2 Hr. Early  
Dismissal  
25 End of 3rd Marking Period

## APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

04 P/T Confs K-5 & 6-12 Plan-  
ning, 2 Hr. Early Dismissal  
17 2 Hr. Early Dismissal  
18-21 Easter, Schools Closed

## MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

26 Memorial Day, Schools Closed  
30 Tentative Last Day of School  
30 End of 4th Marking Period

## JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

02 Teacher In-Service, Schools  
Closed  
02 Makeup Day

### KEY

- First Day for Students
- In-Service, Schools Closed Holi-  
days, Schools Closed
- Act 80 Day, Schools Closed
- 2 Hr. Early Dismissal K-12
- P/T Confs/2 Hr. Early Dismissal
- End of Semesters and Marking  
Periods
- Tentative Last Day for Students  
(2 Hr. Early Dismissal K-12)

### ACCESS/PSSA/KEYSTONE EXAM SCHEDULE

ACCESS for ELL - January-February 2025 TBD  
PSSA - Eng Lang Arts April 21-25, 2025 Grades 3-8  
PSSA - Mathematics, Science & Make ups - Apr. 28-May 2, 2025, Grades 3-8  
Keystone Exams - Alg I, Bio, Lit- Jan. 6-17, 2025  
Keystone Exams - Alg I, Bio, Lit- May 12-23, 2025

Inclement Weather/Emergency Days (provided  
the cancellation is at least ten school days  
before the next make-up day. Additional  
makeup days beyond five days will be added at  
the end of the school year.

