



ONE TOWN
ONE TROJAN
COMMUNITY



www.casdonline.org

Phone: (717) 263-9281

Fax: (717) 261-3321

Dear CASD Families and Community Members,

As we embrace the cold winter season, I want to take a moment to share some important updates and highlight upcoming changes that will continue to enhance the educational experience at the Chambersburg Area School District.

I am excited to share that we are moving forward with several key initiatives aimed at improving our schools and supporting our students. These changes include facility improvements, upgrading our security and safety measures, increasing interventions for reading, and expanding school counseling services.

These initiatives are just a few of the exciting changes that will shape the future for "Schools of Distinction by 2030". We believe that by working together, we can create a learning environment that encourages success for all students, builds stronger partnerships with families, and provides opportunities for growth within our community.

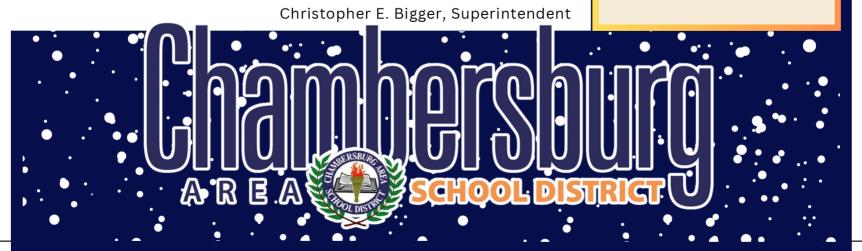
As always, I am grateful for your ongoing support. Together, we will make this winter season one of growth and progress for every student in our district. Let us hope the snow days are in the rear view mirror.

CHAMBERSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRIC

435 STANLEY AVENUE CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- + Chambersburg Engagement Center
- + Timeframe of Grade Configuration Changes
- + Financing the Facility Improvements
- + Performance Highlights by Division
- + Staffing Enhancements
- + Hiring Blitz
- + Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities
- + Enhanced Safety and Security
- + Artificial Intelligence
- + CAEF News
- + 2024/2025 Academic Calendar



THE CHAMBERSBURG ENGAGEMENT CENTER FOR SCHOOLS IS OPEN!

Our new Chambersburg
Engagement Center (CEC)
located in downtown
Chambersburg is conveniently
located in the heart of
Chambersburg for families to
register their children for
school, screenings,
interpretation support and
requests, immunization
appointments/ consultations,
physicals, and much more!



Mark your calendars for February 27, 2025, the Cumberland Valley Business Association will be doing a ribbon cutting ceremony with CASD at 1:00 PM. We will be doing tours for everyone to see how beneficial this center will be for CASD.

Kindergarten

Online Registration is Open!



Click here to register your
Class of 2038 Kindergartener.
(2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR)



20 South Main St. Chambersburg, PA 17201



Parking Directions:
Driving West on Route
30 toward the
Downtown Square,
before reaching
South Main St, turn
left on South Central
Ave. The third parking
lot on the right is
CEC designated
parking. Check in
with Receptionist
upon your arrival.









- Kindergartener eligible for giveaway prizes.
- Tentative school building assignment given.
- Kindergarten Kickstart invitation and information received in a timely manner.
- Tentative school building assignment given.
- Kindergartener permitted to attend Kindergarten Kickstart AND their assigned first day of







SURVEY RESULTS ON GRADE CONFIGURATION

71%

of the Community are supportive of the grade reconfiguration of K-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12.



of the community felt they received enough information from the community forum presentations and Q&A sessions to determine their level of support for the proposed changes.

The Board of Education has approved the new grade configuration as follows:

- Current K-5 (Elementary), 6-8 (Middle) and 9-12 (High) grade spans.
- New K-3 (Primary Elementary), 4-6 (Upper Elementary), 7-8 (Middle), 9-12 (High School) grade spans.

The new grade configuration will focus our efforts on becoming Schools of Distinction with a relentless focus on all students reading by 3rd grade, moving 6th grade into upper elementary school, and providing enhanced course offerings and opportunities in grades 7-12. The expansion of FCCTC and CMS offerings will conclude the K-12 school experience with required Credentials, Internships, and Apprenticeship prior to graduation to upgrade the value of a High School Diploma.

As a reminder, the Elementary Schools are full and at capacity in 9 of our 13 elementary schools as we continue to grow by 1% or 100 students per year. The middle school buildings infrastructure systems are approaching end of life and our high school CTE and CMS programs need expanding. This will take 3-7 years to fully complete all changes.

TIMEFRAME OF GRADE CONFIGURATION CHANGES

2025-2030

Build a 4th grade - 6th grade Upper Elementary School on 76 acres of land owned by CASD in Green Village near the current Grandview Elementary School.

Renovate and add on to CAMS North or CAMS South to house the 1400 7th grade - 8th grade students. Build/Renovate Grandview Elementary School and expand capacity to 400-600 students. Expand seats at CMS and FCCTC with 8 additional programs at FCCTC and 300 more seats at CMS

Depending on the timing and completion of each project above, the schools we would repurpose include Lurgan, Guilford Hills, Falling Spring, Buchanan and CAMS North or South. When fully implemented the grade configuration and educational programming will be updated as we bring all of our students together in one school starting in 4th grade. This approach will create enrollment capacity for the next 10-15 years and provide the most flexibility.

One Town and One Trojan Team!





FINANCING THE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS WHERE ARE WE NOW AND HOW WILL WE GET FULLY FUNDED.

The current physical footprint of the Chambersburg Area School District includes 17 school buildings totaling 1,656,038 square feet. Over the past two decades, CASD has worked to make needed facility improvements of our buildings and in some instances, building consolidations. This needed work has resulted in the District's annual debt payment is \$11,420,019.

Planning for the Schools of Distinction by 2030, we have identified a future footprint of the District. While we are still early in the planning process, we have identified the need for significant additional capital; and we have started the process of working with our Financial Advisor. We will need to increase our annual debt payments from \$11,420,019 to approximately \$24,618,890.

A preliminary model of borrowing additional capital would require the District to phase in borrowings over a 4 year period starting in the Fall of 2025 and ending in the Spring of 2028. The School Board anticipated this need for the past 3 years with a resolution to set 1% of revenue to build up the debt service fund. In addition, we have allocated approximately 40% of the 8.2 million dollars in reoccurring state subsidy funds towards future debt payments.

The closing/repurposing of four elementary schools and one middle school would certainly bring financial savings by increasing efficiencies in staffing and operational costs while also increasing educational opportunities for all students.

The question is, can we afford this and how can we get to the required level of debt service in the budget? The answer is yes, but is dependent on several factors:



Will the State of Pennsylvania follow through on the Fair Funding formula, which will send to Chambersburg significantly increased state revenue thus lessening the reliance on local tax efforts?



Will the economy stay strong with historically low unemployment rates in Franklin County thus providing strong Earned Income Taxes to the District and strong collection rates for Real Estate Taxes?



How much time will it take to build the footprint of 2030?





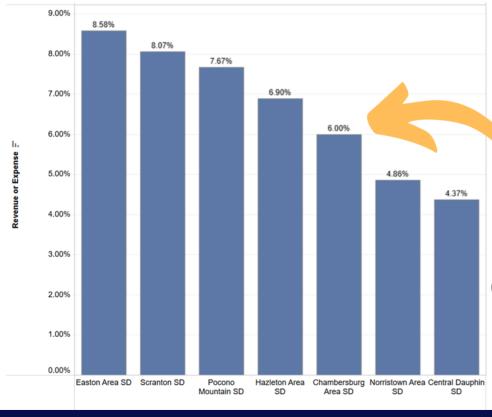
DEBT SERVICE FUND

So how do we get to \$24,618,890 of debt service by the end of fiscal 2028? For the past few fiscal years, the District has been building both the Debt Service Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund. While these funds are one-time revenue and not recurring, both will help sustain the District's capital needs for the future. Additionally, we are planning for the recurring debt service requirement by building additional expenditures into the general fund budget. The chart below shows one path the District can take to reach the goal of \$24,600,000.

	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	Total New Debt Service		
Additional Debt Service	\$6,5000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$13,000,000		
Total Budget Debt Service	\$17,920,000	\$19,920,000	\$21,920,000	\$24,420,000			
Needed Debt Service	\$11,420,000	\$15,394,399	\$19,833,353	\$24,618,890			
Difference	\$6,500,000	\$4,525,601	\$2,086,647	(\$198,890)			
	Total Funds Available for Future Debt Service or Capital Projects						

Total Funds Available for Future Debt Service or Capital Projects \$23,760,365

CASD DEBT COMPARED TO OTHER SCHOOLS LIKE US



Only 6% of CASD annual expenses are for debt.





^{***} All numbers are assumptions based on current information and will change

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS BY DIVISION FOR 2024



Elementary Schools

- 8 of 13 Elementary Schools improved in performance based on PDE School Performance Profile (SPP)
- Guilford Hills and Hamilton Heights both recognized as Award Winners by US News and World Reports as nationally high performing schools.
- Buchanan and Stevens schools designated as schools needing improvement by PDE and Federal DOE.



Middle Schools

 CAMS North and CAMS South U.S. News and World Report Award winners.



High Schools

- Both High Schools identified by Pennsylvania Department of Education as schools needing targeted improvement plans:
- · CASHS: Focus on Attendance/Subgroup Growth and Graduation Rates.
- · CMS: Focus on ESL and Special Education Growth.



NEW STAFFING ENHANCEMENTS TO MEET AND SUPPORT STUDENTS

Dean of Student Affairs: Each elementary school will have a dean of student affairs (replacing the head teacher model) to provide targeted support for interventions, assisting in student behavior, mentoring new teachers, and ensuring access to quality education for all students within the elementary division. (Safer Schools)

Counselors: The addition of 3 elementary counselors will align the student to counselor ratio with the middle and high school level to 1 counselor to 350 students. (Healthier Students)

Interventionist: The addition of 4 interventionists will provide targeted support in reading to meet the district goal of all students reading, comprehending, and writing by the end of 3rd grade. (More Students on Grade Level)

Content Specialists (non supervisory): These 35 Content Specialists will provide essential expertise, foster professional development, ensure curriculum alignment, address diverse learner needs, and leverage data for continuous improvement. Investing in Content Specialists will ultimately lead to a more effective, and enriching educational experience for all students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in an ever-changing world. The Content Specialists will be assigned grade level bands (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12). (Improved Student Learning)

Directors: Director of Early Childhood (K-3), Director of Mid-Level (4-8), Director of College and Career Readiness (9-12), Director of Educational Services. The directors will ensure continuity, drive academic excellence, and support succession planning. We will be eliminating 3 administrative positions and repurpose the funds to these positions.





HIRING BLITZ - WHY CASD AND POSITIONS NEEDED

Here at the Chambersburg Area School District (CASD), we believe our schools are the heart of the community and our employees are the heartbeat of the District. Our staff allows us to provide the best free and public education to students.

Working for CASD means playing an essential role in shaping the future of our community. Whether you're a teacher, support staff member, or administrator, your contributions directly impact the lives of students and their families. The District is dedicated to providing a workplace where every employee feels valued and respected. There is no greater reward than knowing that your work helps inspire and prepare the next generation!

A critical part of deciding on a new career opportunity is considering the benefits that you could be eligible for upon employment. CASD offers a comprehensive benefits package that prioritizes the well-being of our employees, including:

<u>Healthcare:</u> Medical, including Prescription Drug, Dental, and Vision insurance plans ranging from individual to family coverage

Retirement: Employees are eligible through the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement Services (PSERS) where they can profit from having a guaranteed benefit payment from one of the largest public pension plans in the nation.

Paid Time Off

<u>Tuition Reimbursement:</u> Helping employees reach their educational goals

<u>Employee Assistance Program:</u> Providing free wellness support



Check out our employee testimonials on our website at: https://www.casdonline.org/Page/19787

Our District's mission is to be considered Schools of Distinction by 2030. CASD is looking for those who are ready to be a part of our team, leading the charge towards a better educational future - a future that provides the best educational experiences for our students and empowers our students to achieve excellence. To accomplish this mission, we are in need of staff members for nearly every role, each one playing an integral part in the District becoming Schools of Distinction by 2030.

When you work for CASD, you're not just joining an organization – you're becoming part of a family...ONE TOWN ONE TROJAN TEAM.

If you're looking for a career where you can make a meaningful impact, grow professionally, and feel connected to a vibrant community, CASD is the place for you. Explore our current job openings and learn more about what it means to work with us by visiting our website or contacting the Human Resources Department at hr@casdonline.org.

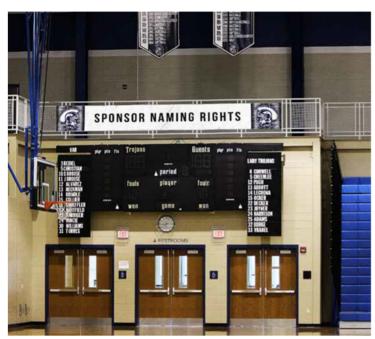
Together, we can shape the future and ensure success for every student, every day.





CHAMBERSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The district's sponsorship and advertising program is an innovative way for businesses and organizations to support our students while gaining valuable exposure in the community. Funds raised through sponsorships are allocated to a special revenue fund, designated exclusively to benefit student extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and programs. This means that every sponsorship directly enhances the educational, athletic, and developmental experiences of our students.



The district offers multiple high-visibility locations for advertising and sponsorships. These include locations for signage in the CASHS Trojan Stadium, the CASHS Field House, and the main CASHS building. For example, the scoreboard in the CASHS Field House has premium advertising spots available directly above the scoreboard. These placements ensure your business

reaches a broad audience of students, families, and community members during athletic events and school functions.



In addition to physical locations, online advertising opportunities are available that allow sponsors to reach a wider digital audience. The CASD website receives millions of impressions annually and is a trusted resource for local families seeking school news and information. By placing targeted website advertisements, sponsors can connect directly with



Chambersburg residents and families, ensuring their messages reach a community-focused audience.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our current sponsors: Chick-Fil-A, F&M Trust, Orrstown Bank, Patriot Federal Credit Union, Orrstown Bank, WellSpan Health, Advanced Graphix, ESS, Pictures Plus, and UPMC Workforce. If your business or organization is interested in becoming a sponsor, please visit our sponsorship page or contact Brian Miller at brian.miller@casdonline.org for more information.





ENHANCED SECURITY AND SAFETY

The Federal ESSERS Grant is coming to an end and has enabled us to purchase counseling/trauma response kits, surveillance cameras, pa systems, portable radios, classroom go-kits and more.

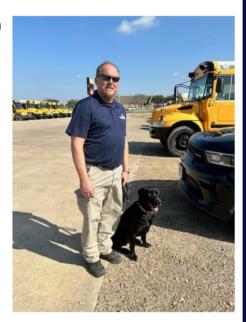
Chambersburg Area School District has been fortunate to use several grants to keep our safety and security updated around our campuses.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 has enabled us to install LED Lighting for all building parking lots and playground fencing at the elementary schools.

The Meritorious Grant in the amount of \$45,000.00 enabled us to purchase and install additional surveillance cameras. The high school has 165 new cameras and each of the middle schools have about 40 cameras each.

Recently, the Board approved a new Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant that is available to us in the amount of \$277,000.00 on January 28th. This will enable us to add a K-9 officer for the District. The K-9 will be certified in narcotics detection. The dog will be around to all the schools and will be more of a community service based project for us with service work that we feel is critical to the district.

We will also have a metal detection system to use at athletic events and other events held at the schools. We piloted the detection system in October and it was very helpful in preventing potential issues in a large sporting event. This is a detection system that picks up all ferrous metals within 36" from the pole. Safety bollards are also being considered for entrances at some of the schools.



DY the NUMBERS 2024-2025 SY

132

Safe-to-Say calls

221

Children and youth referrals



Cyberbullying and bullying cases



Life safety (welfare checks)





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Our district's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy is designed to help staff and students use AI tools responsibly and ethically, while safeguarding student privacy and data. AI can enhance learning, streamline tasks, and assist with administration, but it must be used carefully and within established guidelines. The new CASD policy establishes guidelines for transparency, accountability, and a safe environment.

Teachers are responsible for providing students with notice of whether AI use is permitted on a particular assignment or project. Students should be using the AI assessment scale below which will be provided when completing assignments. If students receive a teacher notice on the inappropriate use of AI, any violation is subject to discipline.

NO AI

The assessment is completed entirely without AI assistance. This level ensures that students rely solely on their knowledge, understanding, and skills.

Al must not be used at any point during the assessment.

GENERATION AND STRUCTURING

AI-ASSISTED IDEA AI can be used in the assessment for brainstorming, creating structures, and generating ideas for improving work. No AI content is allowed in the final submission.

AI-ASSISTED **EDITING**

All can be used to make improvements to he clarity or quality of student created work to improve the final output, but no new content can be created using AI.

AI can be used, but your original work with no AI content must be provided in an appendix.

AI TASK COMPLETION, HUMAN **EVALUATION**

Al is used to complete certain elements of the task, with students providing discussion or commentary on the Al-generated content. This level required critical engagement with AI-generated content and evaluating its output.

You will use AI to completed specified tasks in your assessment. Any AI created content must be cited.

FULL AI

Al should be used as a 'co-pilot' in order to meet the requirements of the assessment, allowing for a collaborative approach with AI and enhancing creativity.

You may use AI throughout your assessment to support your own work and do not have to specify which content is AI generated.







Our Mission:
To advance educational opportunities
by securing and providing independent support that enhances student academic and career development.

Who We Are:

Founded with a vision to enhance educational opportunities for students, the Chambersburg Area Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources, grants, and programs that go beyond the CASD's funding. The foundation collaborates with schools, local businesses, and community partners to support innovative learning initiatives, student scholarships, teacher grants, and other special projects.

One special project is the Trojans Care Fund, a collaboration between CASHS Student Government and the Foundation. This fund provides one-time funding for students who have experienced an unexpected life experience such as a house fire, death of parent or guardian or a medical emergency. More than \$50,000 has been provided to District students since the Fund's inception.

How You Can Get Involved:

CAEF thrives on community support, and there are numerous ways for parents, businesses, and individuals to get involved:

- Donate
- Volunteer
- Attend Events
- Corporate Sponsorships

The F. Joan Bowen Archives



Did you know that our District's Archives is one of the largest and most comprehensive of all public schools in PA and we are always looking to add memorabilia and historic artifacts? You may just have that unique item perfect for our collection! Pick-up of items is available. We are also happy to assist with your personal research pertaining to education in Chambersburg from 1874 to the present.

For more information, contact Angela Lynch at angela.lynch@casdfoundation.org.



Important Dates:

March 21, 2025 - Student Scholarship Deadline May 5, 2025 - 31st Annual Golf Outing @ Chambersburg Country Club

For more information about our programs and services, please visit:

www.chambersburgfoundation.net or contact Angela Lynch, Executive Director, at angela.lynch@casdfoundation.org.





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 Updated February 13, 2025

AUGUST 2024

S	М	Т	W	Т	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

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

S	М	Т	W	Т	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					

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

JANUARY 2025

W

08

11 18

24 25

31

OCTOBER 2024

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
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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	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		1				

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

DECEMBER 2024

						1
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

02 PD Staff Flex Day, Schools 03 Closed

23-31 Christmas, Schools Closed

- 20 2 Hr. Early Dismissal
- Thanksgiving, Schools Closed
- 1-2 New Year's, Schools Closed PD Staff Flex Day, Act 80 Day, Schools Closed
- 6-7 Snow Days, Schools Closed

19

26

- 2 Hr. Early Dismissal 16 End of 1st Semester and
- 2nd Marking Period
 - MLK Day, Schools Closed

FEBRUARY 2025

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
						01
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16	(17)	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

- Snow Day, Schools Closed
- 1st Makeup Day from January 6th, Schools in Session
- Snow Day, Schools Closed
- 2nd Makeup Day from January 7th, Presidents Day, Schools in Session

JUNE 2025

MARCH 2025

S	М	Т	W	Т	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					

- 3rd Makeup Day from February 6, 2025, Schools in Session
- 4th Makeup Day from February 12th, Schools in Session w/2 hr. early dismissal.

Snow Days Used, Schools Closed

25 End of 3rd Marking Period

APRIL 2025

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

MAY 2025

	!		!	5		
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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 End of 4th Marking Period
- 30 Tentative Last Day of School
- 02 Closed

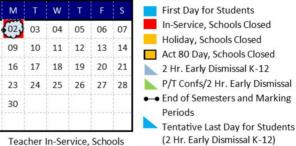
15

22

29

- 02 Makeup Day

KEY



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.





Chambersburg Area School District

435 Stanley Ave ~ Chambersburg, PA 17201 (717) 263-9281 www.casdonline.org

Non-Profit Organ. U.S. Postage PAID Chambersburg, PA Permit No. 88



Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open!

Head to <u>www.casdonline.org/kregister</u> for the live link to online registration. We're ready to make the upcoming year great, Class of 2038!

Directory Information

-			,	,
SCHOOLS		ADMINISTRATION		BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Andrew Buchanan Elementary	717-261-3430	CASD Administration Office	717-263-9281	Ed Norcross, President
Benjamin Chambers Elementary	717-261-3442	Superintendent's Office	717-261-3301	Faye Gaugler, Vice-President
Falling Spring Elementary	717-261-3439	Assistant Superintendent - Elementary	717-261-3420	Sherian Diller
Fayetteville Elementary	717-352-2774	Assistant Superintendent - Secondary	717-261-3423	Stephanie Gouss
Grandview Elementary	717-261-3445	Business Office.	717-261-3309	Stephanie Harbaugh
Guilford Hills Elementary	717-352-2124	Human Resources	717-261-3304	Michael Hayduk
Hamilton Heights Elementary	717-261-3448	Special Education	717-261-3425	Carl McKee
Lurgan Elementary	717-532-6125	Technology	717-267-4490	Benjamin Raber
Marion Elementary	717-375-2360	K-12 Curriculum	717-709-2321	Lance Walker
New Franklin Elementary	717-261-3454	Communications/Marketing	717-261-5663	
Scotland Elementary	717-261-3460	Buildings and Grounds	717-261-3412	
South Hamilton Elementary	717-261-3466	Transportation	717-261-3462	
Thaddeus Stevens Elementary	717-261-3469	Food Services	717-261-3416	
Middle School North	717-261-3366	Registrar	717-709-4084	
Middle School South	717-261-3385	Athletics	717-261-3332	
Senior High School	717-261-3322			
Career Magnet School	717-261-5656			



