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Dear Pennridge Families and Students,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that your summer was filled with rest, joy, and special memories. As the new school year begins, I'm excited and optimistic about the journey ahead. It is my genuine pleasure to welcome you back to school on behalf of the entire Pennridge School District. Our commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students remains as strong as ever. This year promises new learning opportunities, innovative programs, and a renewed focus on helping every student grow and succeed. We are dedicated to creating a nurturing and engaging environment where students can thrive and reach their full potential.

Over the summer, our hardworking staff has been busy preparing for the upcoming year. Our goal is to ensure that each student is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in an ever-changing world. In addition to academic excellence, we are deeply committed to the overall well-being of our students.

Our schools will continue to be safe and supportive spaces where every student feels valued and respected. We believe in the importance of open communication between families and staff and are here to address any concerns quickly and effectively.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our teachers, administrators, and support staff. Their dedication and passion for education drive the District's success. You have my assurance that we will work tirelessly to make this school year a memorable and rewarding experience for all. I encourage you to stay engaged and involved in your child's education. Your support and partnership are key to our collective success. Thank you for trusting us with your children's education and development. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and to celebrating the many achievements of our students.

My best,

Angelo Berrios  
Superintendent – Pennridge School District





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## 2024 CONVOCATION RESONATES WITH OUR STAFF

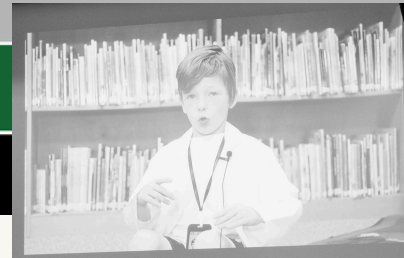
Hundreds of staff members from all eleven schools and departments in the Pennridge School District enthusiastically returned to the District on Monday morning after their Summer Break. Using words like, "unified", "empowering", and "refreshing", the staff spent the morning getting to know more about Superintendent Angelo Berrios and his goals, mission and plans to energize staff members for the 2024-2025 School Year as well as time to set the tone for a new school year.

Mr. Berrios also asked Dr. Mark Hoffman, Director of the Bucks County IU, to be the Keynote Speaker. Berrios, who officially started his role as Pennridge Superintendent at the end of October 2023, says he wanted his first Convocation at Pennridge to be about connections and the importance of all staff to having an event that brings them together in many ways. He added, "The energy and enthusiasm among the Pennridge School District staff are truly inspiring. Dr. Hoffman's role as our keynote speaker at this year's convocation was an honor, setting a positive and ambitious tone for the academic year ahead. With this momentum, we are well-positioned to make a meaningful impact on our students' educational experiences. I am proud to lead this district as we continue to prioritize student success and growth."

In addition to Berrios and Hoffman, staff also heard motivating messages of encouragement from Pennridge School Board President, Ron Wurz, Pennridge Educational Foundation President Jim Valletta, and a very special guest, "Dr. Oscar."

Oscar Schumacher, a second-grade student at Guth Elementary School, one of Pennridge's seven Elementary schools, was the star of a video that can be seen here. In it, he gives the staff members *"7 Tips from Dr. Oscar. How to Have a Great School Year."*

Schumacher received a standing ovation from the hundreds of staff members after his video played and the event concluded with the McFadden and Whitehead hit, "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now" as the staff attended a complimentary breakfast before heading to their schools for Professional Development.





## DR. PALMER EARNS HIS DOCTORATE

Congratulations to Dr. Bradley Palmer! Earlier this Summer, Dr. Palmer successfully earned his doctorate. In the words of Superintendent Berrios, "Successfully defending your dissertation marks a significant and remarkable achievement in your academic and professional journey. Completing a doctoral program requires extraordinary dedication, perseverance, and intellectual rigor. Your ability to navigate this challenging path and emerge victorious is a testament to your commitment to excellence and passion for your field of study."



**#RIDGEWORKS**

### WE ARE HIRING

ELEMENTARY TEACHER-1ST GRADE  
GRASSE



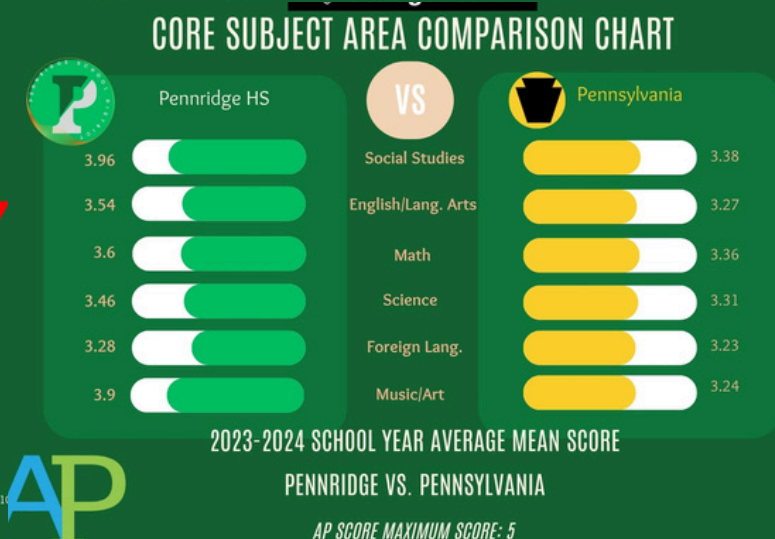
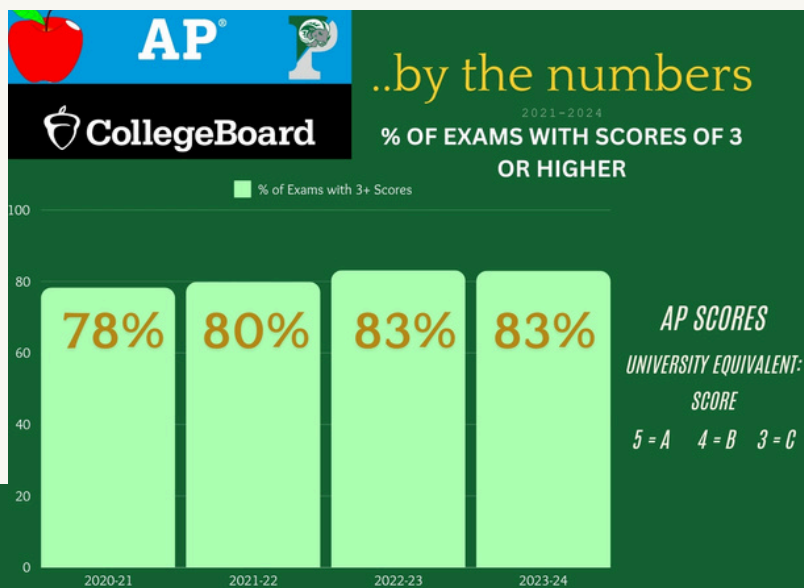
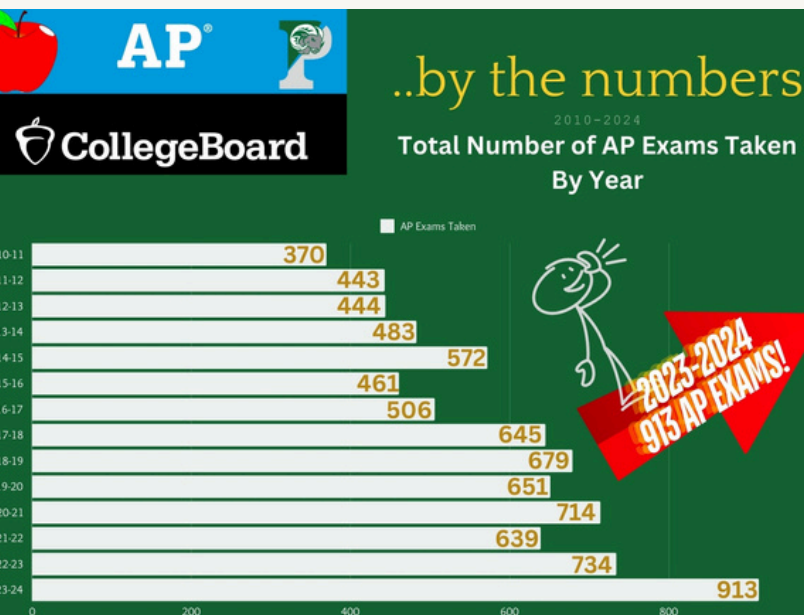
SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO APPLY

## #RIDGEWORKS HELPS FILL PSD POSITIONS

The #RidgeWorks program continues to help our Human Resources Department fill open positions throughout the School District. Each week, we choose a handful of vacancies, spotlight them on social media, and provide a link to all current openings. Our School District has also established an active LinkedIn account to attract the best candidates to Pennridge.

## PHS CONTINUES TO RAISE THE A-P BAR FOR OUR STUDENTS

PHS continues to thrive and increase opportunities for students to earn college credits through AP courses and Dual enrollment! We are so proud of our incredible students and our dedicated professional teachers for achieving these excellent AP test scores and believe it's just a part of why Pennridge schools are amazing places to educate our children.







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## PENNRIDGE HEATS UP OVER THE SUMMER- AND GOES CAMPING!

The Pennridge School District keeps students busy over the summer break with more than half a dozen summer camp options.

The camps offer students of all ages a wide variety of fun, educational activities, including sessions on arts and crafts, music, sports, and STEM-related themes.

Several camps help students maintain and strengthen academic, social, and behavioral skills over the summer break, with one camp specifically designed for English language learners!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN CAMP







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## EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR, ENRICHMENT, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CAMPS







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### CAMP INVENTION AND MUSIC CAMPS







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## PENNRIDGE STAFF GET ALL SCHOOLS READY TO ROLL THIS FALL!

Whether servicing thousands of laptops, cleaning every inch of our buildings, landscaping, fixing anything that supports our school staff, or performing countless other duties, our staff worked tirelessly over the Summer months.

When one thinks of a School District, it's easy to think about what happens between late August and early June, but, for many of our staff members and Administrators, the Summer months are just as busy and productive.





# THE ANNUAL ‘RAMS REPORT’ IS SENT TO THOUSANDS OF PENNRIDGE HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Our annual “Rams Report” was created and distributed to nearly 15,000 homes and businesses in the Pennridge region at the end of Summer.

This year’s publication highlights some of the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff over the 2023-2024 School Year. From two State Championships, higher AP scores, a National Merit Scholarship winner, and our “Pennsylvania Great School” designation feel free to check out why we are #PennridgeProud daily!

Here’s the link to the electronic version of our report.



And we have extra copies available at our District Administration Office as well.



Dear Pennridge Community,

Since I arrived in the Pennridge School District last October, I have been graciously welcomed, and I am writing to convey my gratitude for your kindness and support. Frankly, it is an honor to serve as your Superintendent. Reflecting on the Class of 2024's commencement ceremony, I was profoundly moved by the spirit and pride our graduates and their families exhibited. Witnessing their joy and achievements has reinforced my belief that the strength of our district lies in our collective dedication. The commitment of our staff, students, and families forms the foundation of our many accomplishments and distinguishes Pennridge as exceptional.

Our students and staff have reached significant milestones throughout the year and celebrated numerous successes. From academic achievements to extracurricular triumphs, each moment has contributed to our shared vision of making Pennridge one of the premier districts in Pennsylvania. These achievements are a testament to our collective efforts and fill us all with Pennridge Pride. I am pleased with what we have accomplished together and look forward to building on this momentum.

As my team and I prepare for the upcoming year during this summer break, we are excited about the developments and updates we will bring you in August. In the meantime, I encourage you and your families to relax, recharge, and enjoy each other's company. Your support and partnership are essential to our success.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful summer.

*Angelo Berrios*  
Angelo Berrios

**Eight Years Without a Tax Increase**

For the eighth straight year, the Pennridge School District continues to provide an incredible scholastic experience to its students and support for its Professional staff while remaining a cost-effective resource for our Community! Pennridge will spend more than \$159 million in expenditures including higher salaries for Teachers and Support Staff as well as robust Educational programs during the 2024-2025 School Year, but with no tax increases for our area residents.

For detailed information and program requirements, please visit our website at [www.pennridge.org/business](http://www.pennridge.org/business).

**2024-2025 Budget: \$159.1 million dollars**

For the eighth year in a row, the Pennridge School Board has again 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 occurred while continuing to provide for the educational needs of the students as well as exciting programs for our school's professional and support staff members.

**The Pennridge School District is Officially a "Great PA School"**

The Pennridge School District is a GREAT School District! After an extensive process, in Spring of 2024, Pennridge received the "Great Pennsylvania Schools" (GPS) designation which recognizes Pennsylvania public schools that provide students with access to rigorous programming, are community-centric, demonstrate financial well-being, and display resilience by the Pennsylvania School Board Association. The Great PA Schools honor distinguishes Pennridge as one of the best districts in Pennsylvania based on a variety of factors and we retain this honor for 4 years, 2024-2028.



## MAJOR GOAL AREAS FOR 2024-2025

### Block Scheduling & New Graduation Requirements Coming to PHS in Fall of 2024

The Block Scheduling Committees were formed three years ago and were comprised of Students, Teachers, Administrators, Parents, Coaches, the Athletic Director, and School Board members. As a result of several months of evaluations, the Pennridge Block Scheduling Team made a unanimous decision to present the following presentations at School Board meetings in 2023 and it was approved by our School Board. Additionally, the Pennridge School District is among many school districts across the region and country that looked into ways to implement later secondary school start times, a practice being recommended by many organizations as a way to get students in that age category more sleep and improve their academic performance, among other benefits. The addition of a "flex" period at the start of the school day was an option after the recommendation of Pennridge's "Late Start and Sleep Committee" work in 2021. The transition to block scheduling allows Pennridge High School students to take and earn more credits than previously possible. The graduation requirements have changed because of this. Over the next four years, each graduating class will have an increased credit requirement until we reach a total of 28 for the Class of 2028. The requirements meet and exceed those specified by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education.


Beginning with the Class of 2028, Pennridge High School students will have the opportunity to earn a Scholar's Diploma which allows students to earn 30 credits. More specific information can be found in our PHS Program of Studies.

### Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Goals

The Pennridge School District builds academic rigor in all grade levels K-12. In addition to gathering and analyzing multiple data points regularly, we have chosen to focus on specific goals in math and reading over a two-year period. At the Elementary level, the district focused on the 3rd Grade Reading/ELA PSSA scores by striving to increase the number of students scoring proficient or advanced by 10% by the end of the 2023-24 school year. In secondary Math, we focused on increasing the number of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Math PSSA at the Middle School level and the Algebra I Keystone at the High School level by 12% and 10%, respectively. We met and exceeded all of these goals.

### Advanced Placement (AP) and College Readiness scores once again, rank higher than PA and National Averages

We are so proud of our incredible Pennridge High School students and our dedicated teachers for continuing to improve and achieve excellent AP test scores. From 2021-2024, Pennridge continues to expand AP Course curricula as well as the amount of students taking AP Exams each year. In the 2023-2024 School Year, 475 students took 913 AP Exams and 83% of them earned College Credit by scoring a 3 or higher on their tests. Pennridge also continues its long streak of earning AP scores that exceed both the State and Global Mean scores. (see chart)



### New Kitchens and Other Projects "Pave" the Way of Progress at Pennridge

Our Pennridge schools and grounds continue to receive important upgrades. In the Fall of 2023, work was completed on a new \$2.5 Million State-of-the-Art kitchen at Pennridge South Middle School. In the 2024-2025 School Year, work will begin on a similar project in the Grasse Elementary School kitchen. The Grasse project is a complete renovation that includes all new cooking equipment, a new walk-in box cooler, new serving lines, and other appliances. The space is being reconfigured for ADA compliance as well as a more cohesive workflow. Pennridge will also complete the 3rd and final phase of paving restoration on the high school campus this summer. The entire project cost is \$2.7M and includes various forms of asphalt restoration from full depth replacement to crack sealing and seal coating, re-stripping, and all the wayfinding signage will be replaced from the areas around Pennridge High School, North Middle School, and the District Support Center building.