



2024-25
YEAR IN
REVIEW
Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colonial families,

When I addressed the Class of 2025 at this year's Commencement ceremony, I invited our graduates to think about the little moments that stood out to them over their school careers. Perhaps it was the time a teacher stayed late to help them after class or just simply asked if they were OK.



I asked them to think about these small gestures because I wanted them to recognize the contributions of our teachers, but also to help them realize that those little moments are sometimes just what is needed to propel future success.

What you will see in this "Year in Review" publication is a collection of some of the District's biggest achievements from 2024-25, including graduation, Senior Awards, the completion of our Colonial Elementary School renovation project, the approval of a new Comprehensive Plan, and the successful passage of a fiscally responsible budget.

But these big milestones really represent the sum of many smaller actions taken by our team over a period of time. A school renovation project doesn't happen overnight, for example – it takes many, many months of planning and construction before the big moment comes to open the doors.

Small actions over time can often have lasting impact. That is what I tried to remind students of as they set off to college, serve the military, or join the workforce. Undoubtedly, our students will have the opportunity to guide, mentor, and lead, and contribute in ways that are both small and large. I am confident they will do so based on the foundation they have established here at Colonial – a foundation built one small moment at a time through interactions with our teachers, support staff, administrators, School Board members, community members, and families like your own. Thank you for providing the necessary support and engagement that lead to our biggest and proudest moments.

Sincerely,
Michael L. Christian, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Our School Board



Rick Carpenter

Chris Epstein

Sharon Marino

Mark Marsico

Beth Patruno
President



Gail Plant
Vice President



Jeremy Schwartz

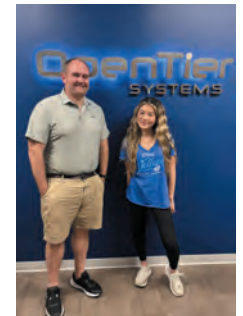


Rasheda
Randall



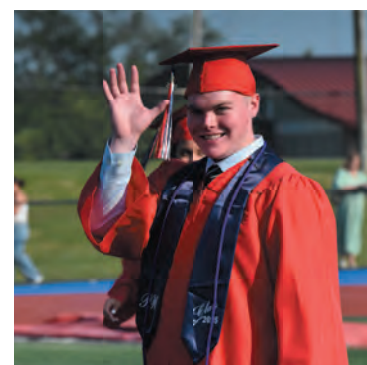
William
Winchester

The nine members of the Colonial School District Board of Directors are elected at-large to serve the citizens of Conshohocken Borough and Whitmarsh and Plymouth Townships. The Board holds several committee meetings and one general meeting each month. General Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of every month (unless adjusted for holidays). Meetings are held in the General Meeting Room at Colonial Elementary School and are advertised on our website calendar. For Board meeting agendas and minutes, go to colonialsd.org/boarddocs.



INDEX

Commencement Wrap-up.....p. 3	CES Renovation Update.....p. 18
Class of 2025 News.....p. 4-9	Food Service Updates.....p. 19
2023-24 Academic Report....p.10-14	CSDEF News.....p. 20-22
Cultivating Belonging at CSD....p. 15	Gold Card Info.....p. 23
2025-26 Budget Update.....p. 16	Adult Evening School Info.....p. 23
Tax/Rent Rebate Info.....p. 17	Points of Pride.....p. 24



Hopes Are High for Class of 2025

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2025 during Commencement held on June 11 at Colonial Field.

This year's ceremony featured speeches by Class of 2025's Sierra Tirendi, Dr. Michael Christian (Superintendent), and Dr. Jason Bacani (Principal). Poet Laureate Gianna Morgan-Johnson and Class President Carley Lefkowitz also presented.

Here are some interesting facts about this year's graduating class:

- 402 students accepted diplomas
- 91 percent are going to four- or two-year colleges/universities (80 percent to four-year institutions and 20 percent to two-year institutions)
- 9 percent are going into the military, entering the job market, or considering options through a gap year
- The Class of 2025 received over \$9.3 million in scholarships
- 38 percent of the class graduated with a weighted cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher
- The Class of 2025 includes nine National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students, seven National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists, and two National Merit Scholarship Program Recipients



Senior Awards Ceremony Celebrates Student Achievements in Academics, Arts, Athletics

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School honored members of the Class of 2025 at the annual Senior Awards ceremony held in May. Please read on to learn about the students who received recognitions this year.

Bashiru Adams

John R. Kilpatrick Award
Mark Combs Memorial Scholarship
President's Award for Academic Achievement

Ethan Agnew

Miriam & Milton Prince Memorial Scholarship

Luce Allen

National Merit Commended
President's Award for Academic Excellence

August Alquiros

Art Teachers Award

Mikayla Bailey

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Ry Bass

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

Ashley Berger

Colonial Chorus Award

Kayla Birkmire

Clark Doeblor Memorial Scholarship
PWCC Spirit Award

Donald Boone

Colonial Chorus Award

Haley Braun

Colonial Player of the Year
President's Award for Academic Excellence
Student Council Scholarship, Achievement

Caleb Bridgeman

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit

Amelia Buffington

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Debra Delano Brenner Grit Award

Amanda Busk

Cardin D. Brown Most Courageous Athlete Award

Gabriella Caintic

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

Jacob Casey

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PW Business Department Award

Gabriel Caucci

Heritage Wealth Advisors Scholarship Award

United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Whitemarsh Baseball Association Scholarship

Kalina Childers

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Athletic Award

Aubrey Choi

PW Service Award

The Milestone Publications Award

Justin Cohen

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Alexandra Cook

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Sophia Daneau

PW Orchestra Achievement Award

Andrew Daoud

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship

Award in Memory of Peter Hendrick

Victoria Davies

John R. Kilpatrick Award

Keith M. Stimson Memorial Award in Technical Theater Craft

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Melina Day

PWCC Coaches Award

Jackson De Guzman

Herbert C. Mayson Memorial Award

National Merit Commended

Plymouth Township Police Association Scholarship Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Julie Dinofa

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Colum Dougherty

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Natalie Dyck

Class of 1962 Award to Outstanding Senior

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Roger J. Allan & Lee T. Allan Scholarship
Science Award for Excellence in Chemistry

Alexa Earl

PWCC Coaches Award

Rachel Eddinger

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Continued on next page





Graduates invited to join the PW Alumni Association

Hats off to the Class of 2025! Before you embark on your next journey, be sure to join PW Alumni Association to stay informed about reunions and alumni news, and buy merch!



Go to our website: www.colonialsd.org/alumni to sign up, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Continued from previous page

Victoria Escobar-Martin

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship in Honor of Susan Castle

James J. Doyle Memorial Award
PTSO Richard Coletta Sr. Science Award

Cassidy Fagan

Colonial Chorus Award

Ellen Fang

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Student Council Scholarship, Distinguished

James Fassbender

AP Macroeconomics Award
Covanta Award-CSDEF
Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

Molly Feinberg

PWCC Spirit Award

Aiden Findley

Bright Futures Award
Joe Robinson Music and Community Award-CSDEF

Kieran Flanagan

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship in Honor of Helene Pillegi

Juliana Frustillo

Covanta Award-CSDEF

Lily Goldberg

Society of Women Engineers Award, High Honor

Shamir Goldman

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit

Rhianna Gooneratne

AP Microeconomics Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Thomas Manuel Golf Award

Dakota Green

Sal's Barbershop Underdog Scholarship-CSDEF

Remi Haberle

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Judy Hafez

Greater Conshohocken Business & Professional Women Award

Jack Hanson

Adam M. Wilson Memorial Scholarship
Colonial Band Award
Colonial Chorus Award
John Philip Sousa Award
PW Jazz Band Award
Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter #6779 Senior Service Award

Kevin Hegarty

Cardin D. Brown Most Courageous Athlete Award

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Leilani-Marie Hernandez

Colonial Chorus Award

Carmine Hildreth

Whitemarsh Lions Club Band Award

Emma Hoffman

Colonial Orchestra Award
Most Valuable Player Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence
Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter #6779 Senior Service Award

Naomi Hoffman

President's Award for Academic Excellence
United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award

Christina Hurtado

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit

Zachary Jagher

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Luke Jones

Braun Littman Theater Award for Theater Excellence

Jadon Joseph

Mark Anthony LaPera Scholarship Award

Eliana Kaganovsky

PW Orchestra Achievement Award

Bailey Kassis

Colonial Orchestra Award
Congresswoman Madeleine Dean Good Citizen Award

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Memorial Business Award
Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter #6779 Senior Service Award

Myles Kaye

AP Statistics Award
Boys of '92 Scholarship-CSDEF
Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship
Award in Memory of Peter Hendrick
Financial Literacy Award
George Purvis Memorial Soccer Award
National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Award
National Merit Finalist
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Social Studies Award

Ronnie Keene

Daughters of the American Revolution History Award
National Merit Scholar Recipient
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Bruno Kim

La Grande Médaille Moliere Award
President's Award for Academic Achievement

Noah Kim

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Daine Knittel

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean Good Citizen Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Addison Kwon

The Stanley Shire Through the Lens Award

Continued on page 6



Continued from page 5

Isabelle Lambrou

Whitemarsh Lions Club Fine Arts Award

Maximillian Lancaster

United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award

Ava Latterner

Excellence in Photography Award, Honorable Mention

Violet Laverty

National Merit Commended

Carley Lefkowitz

PWHS Leadership Award

Natalie Lieberman

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PTSO Richard Coletta Sr. Science Award

Kieran Long

John H. Loughridge Memorial and CPW Rotary Club Award in Design and Innovation

Madeline Lucks

Colonial Chorus Award

Kathryn Lukens

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship
Award in Memory of Peter Hendrick
George Purvis Memorial Soccer Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

United States Marine Corps
Distinguished Athlete Award

Jescie Mabe

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Alexis Mangat

Latin Language Award

Andrew Manges

AP Calculus Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Nera Martin

Excellence in Photography Award, Honorable Mention

Elizabeth Mascaro

Joe Murray Memorial Art Award
National Art Honor Society Award, First Place

Gabriel McDevitt

Roger J. Allan & Lee T. Allan Scholarship

Kathryn McQuirns

National Art Honor Society Award, Honorable Mention

Wendi Mendoza

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken
Award in World Language

Laila Methratta

National Art Honor Society Award, Second Place

Rosalie Montemayor

Denise Cotteta Memorial Scholarship
Miriam & Milton Prince Memorial
Scholarship

President's Award for Academic Excellence

The Mike Brenner Memorial
Scholarship-CSDEF

Shayna Moore

The Mark Canale AVID
Scholarship-CSDEF

Shi-Nobi Morffiah

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Steven Munsey

President's Award for Academic Achievement
The Milestone Publications Award

James Munz

National Merit Commended

Zackary Murphy

John H. Loughridge Memorial and CPW
Rotary Club Award in Technical Drawing
Sons of the American Revolution Outstanding Student of American History Award

Kara Murray

Colonial Chorus Award

Madison Murray

Joe Francisco Choreographer's Award

Marikit Negron

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Aaron Nguyen

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Lukas Nosal

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Azlyn Ortiz-Grossman

Colonial Chorus Award

Giacomo Paladino

President's Award for Academic

David Palmer

Colonial Orchestra Award
National Merit Commended

Dhruv Patel

National Merit Finalist
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Tyler Patrick

Colonial Chorus Award
Keith M. Stimson Memorial Scholarship

Rican Jillian Paule

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken
Scholarship

Alexis Peng

Colonial Orchestra Award
National Art Honor Society Award, Honorable Mention

William Pereira

Plymouth Jr ABA League Victor Negron
Scholarship
Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Athletic Award

Rian Reed

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken
Outstanding Young Women Scholarship

Saige Reed

Nick Salamone Memorial Award
State Senator Maria Collett Good
Citizen Award

Anastasia Reid

DIVE Consulting-Plant Family Senior Award
Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship
Kimberly Lee WOC Empowerment
Scholarship-CSDEF
Scottiworks Future Leaders
Scholarship-CSDEF
Student Council Scholarship, Achievement

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Dylan Reid

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Jonah Reid

DECA Scholarship

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Olivia Reilly

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Akhil Roy

National Merit Finalist

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Kirthi Roy

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Riley Rupprecht

Whitemarsh Lions Club English Award

Astrid Santiago

Society of Women Engineers Award, Honor

Alana Santoro

National Art Honor Society Award, Third Place

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Alexis Shubin

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship

Award in Memory of Peter Hendrick
Plymouth Township Police Association
Scholarship Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Noah Smith

Maurice Anthony Doroba Memorial Award

National Merit Finalist

Kaylin Smyth

Donna Ray Zuck Scholar-Athlete
Scholarship

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship

Kathy Tavani Social Studies Award

Charles Spause

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship

Julia Stanczak

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Andrew Szperka

AP Computer Science Award

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship

Award in Memory of Peter Hendrick
National Merit Finalist

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Cecilia Taylor

Colonial Chorus Award



Olivia Teeters

Language Arts Department Award for
Excellence in English

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Gianna Testa

President's Award for Academic
Achievement

Koseli Thakali

National Council of Supervisors of
Mathematics Award

National Merit Scholar Recipient
President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Sierra Tirendi

Freedom Valley Award for Community
Service

Junior Womens Club of Conshohocken
Award in Business

Noah Tunstall

Bright Futures Award

Sachita Upadhya

National Merit Commended

Phi Beta Kappa Book Award

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Social
Studies Award

Society of Women Engineers Award,
Highest Honor

Student Council Scholarship,
Achievement

John Henry Van Wie

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Giana Venezia

Excellence in Photography Award

Seth Walcoff

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Thomas Warshaw

Director's Choice Award

Ed Swetkowski Social Studies Award



President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Walterian Theoretical Gummed Star
Award

Chase Welliver

Denise Cotteta Memorial Scholarship
President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Robert Reilley Spirit Award

United States Marine Corps Scholastic
Excellence Award

Julia Werner

Colonial Chorus Award

Fall Drama Dedication Award

Jayden Williams

President's Award for Academic
Achievement

Aniya Wood

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit
Beanie Bounce Entrepreneurial

Scholarship

Jenna Yablon

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Jack Yamashita

National Merit Commended

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Vincent Yang

President's Award for Academic
Excellence

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Athletes Commit to Play at the Collegiate Level

Twenty-six Plymouth Whitemarsh High School athletes have committed to playing for their university or college starting in the 2025-26 school year. Division I schools are denoted below by an asterisk.



Julian Alderfer



Isaiah Bainbridge



Megan Bergin



Kayla Birkmire



Amanda Busk



Gabrielle Caintic



Gabe Caucci



Kalina Childers



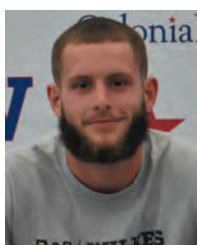
Hayden Domers



James Fassbender



Rhianna Gooneratne



Kevin Hegarty



Jadon Joseph



Chloe Mamrosch



Ava Matthias



Madison Moran



Shi-Nobi Morffiah



Eddie Moyett



Rian Reed



Michael Rex



Aidan Smith



Chase Smith



Kaylin Smyth



Sam Stolzer



Jared Thomas-Payne



Max Vizza

- Julian Alderfer, Diving, West Chester University
- Isaiah Bainbridge, Lacrosse, Liberty University*
- Megan Bergin, Cheerleading, Towson University*
- Kayla Birkmire, Cheerleading, University of Louisville*
- Amanda Busk, Volleyball, College of Charleston*
- Gabriella Caintic, Rowing, High Point University*
- Gabe Caucci, Baseball, Gettysburg College
- Kalina Childers, Softball, Thomas Jefferson University
- Hayden Domers, Lacrosse, Stevenson University
- James Fassbender, Tennis, Ursinus College
- Rhianna Gooneratne, Golf, University of Delaware*
- Kevin Hegarty, Football, Wilkes University
- Jadon Joseph, Football, Long Island University*
- Chloe Mamrosch, Volleyball, Catholic University of America
- Ava Matthias, Field Hockey, Shippensburg University
- Madison Moran, Softball, Rider University*
- Shi-Nobi Morffiah, Football, Wilkes University
- Eddie Moyett, Football, Ursinus College
- Rian Reed, Softball, Clarion University
- Michael Rex, Soccer, FC Odisea Football Academy (Spain)
- Aidan Smith, Swimming, Dickinson College
- Chase Smith, Football, Ithaca College
- Kaylin Smyth, Lacrosse, Shippensburg University
- Sam Stolzer, Baseball, University of Scranton
- Jared Thomas-Payne, Football, Delaware State University*
- Max Vizza, Football, Dickinson College



Seniors Receive Scholarships Awarded through the Colonial School District Education Foundation

During a special event held on June 3, eight Plymouth Whitemarsh High School seniors were celebrated for receiving scholarships awarded through the Colonial School District Education Foundation. To read more about these scholarships, see page 21. From left to right are James Fassbender, Anastasia Reid, Myles Kaye, Rosalie Montemayor, Juliana Frustillo, Aiden Findley, and Charles Green. Not pictured is Shayna Moore.

Class of 2025 Spreads Out Across the Globe for Further Study

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School graduates are attending colleges near and far starting this fall. Some have even opted to go “across the pond” to attend universities in the United Kingdom. We wish all our graduates the best in their future endeavors.



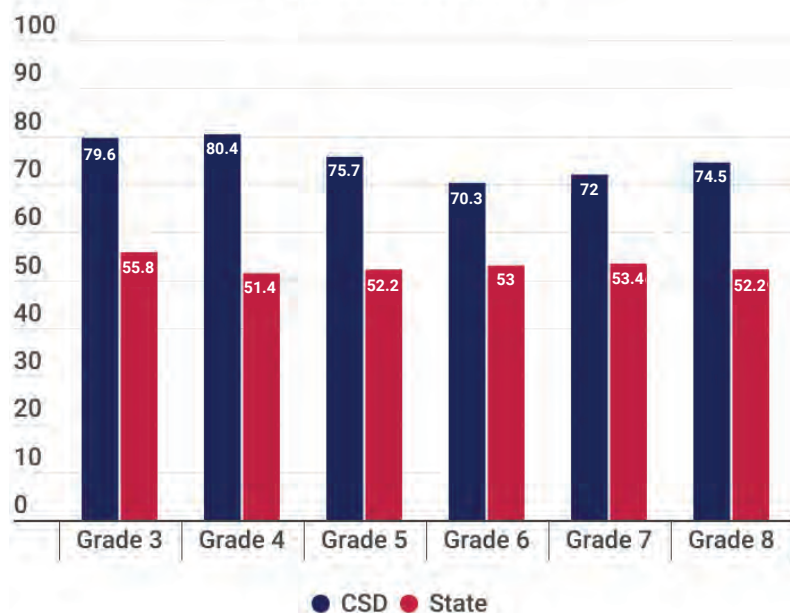
Arcadia University
Beauty Institute - Ambler, PA
Bloomsburg University
Boston University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Catholic University of America
Cheyney University
Clarion University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
Cornell University
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China
Duquesne University
East Stroudsburg University
Gettysburg College
Grove City College
Gwynedd Mercy University
Harcum College
High Point University
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Howard University

Immaculata University
Indiana University Bloomington
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Kean University
Kutztown University
LaSalle University
Lincoln University
Long Island University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University of Maryland
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Middlebury College
Millersville University
Mississippi State University
Montgomery County Community College
Moore College of Art and Design
Neumann University
New York University
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
Northampton County Community College
Pace University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Parsons School of Design
Penn Foster
Penn State Abington
Penn State Berks
Penn State University Park
Pennsylvania College of Art and Design
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Sciences
Rider University
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Shippensburg University
Skidmore College
St Joseph's University
St. Mary's University, Twickenham, London
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stevenson University
Stockton University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University

Temple University
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
The Ohio State University
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Scranton
Thomas Jefferson University
Towson University
United States Coast Guard Academy
Universal Technical Institute
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Exeter (UK)
University of Florida
University of Louisville
University of Maryland
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Valley Forge
Ursinus College
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Walnut Hill College
Washington University - St. Louis
West Chester University
West Virginia University
Widener University
Wilkes University
William & Mary

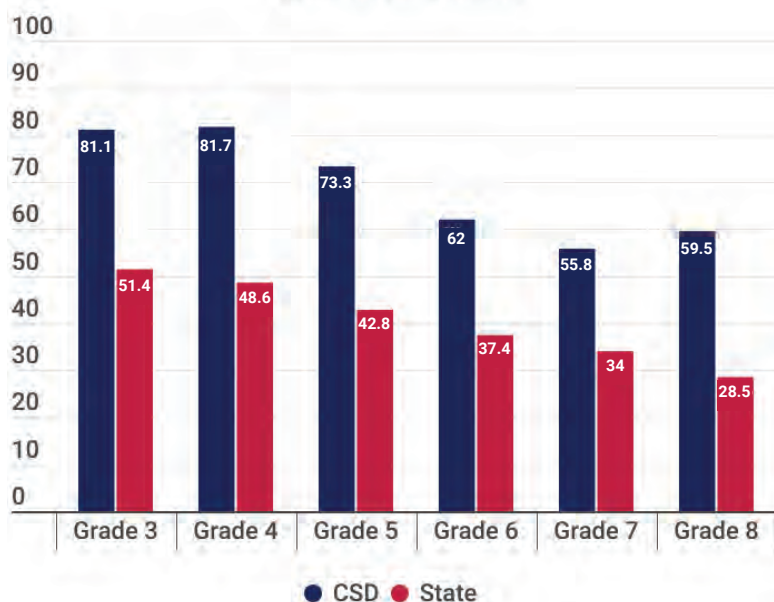
English/Language Arts PSSA

Percent Proficient/Advanced



Math PSSA

Percent Proficient/Advanced



The charts on this page show how our students performed on the PSSA exams, which evaluate student proficiency in the subjects of English/Language Arts (ELA) and math in grades 3 through 8, Science scores for grades 4 and 8 can be found on page 11. As you can see, district averages far surpassed state averages for the 2023-24 school year. Tests are taken in the spring and scores are typically released by the state the following fall. Look for 2024-25 scores to be shared in next year's publication.

Colonial Students Outperform State in ELA, Math, Science

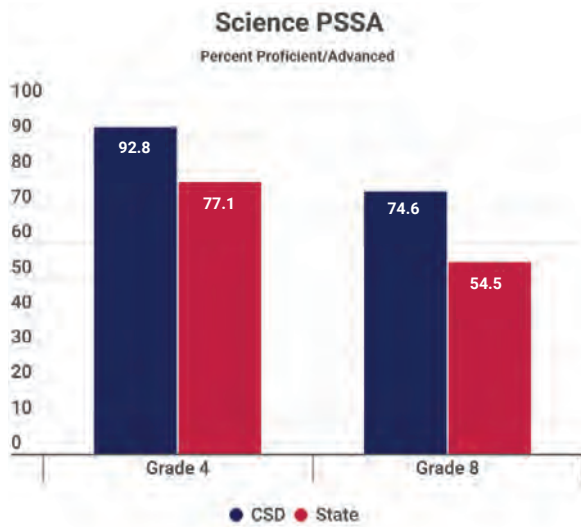
Colonial School District uses data collected annually through standardized tests, benchmark and curriculum-based assessments, formal/informal observations, and other records to identify strengths and areas that need improvement.

One of the data points is the information released annually each fall through the Future Ready PA Index. The index evaluates school performance based on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS), attendance rates, and graduation rates. Here are some highlights:

- When looked at from the district level, Colonial School District's proficient and advanced combined scores were higher on average than both the county and state in all three categories of English/Language Arts (ELA), math, and science.
- The overall performance of Colonial School District students (Gr. 3-8) on the PSSA in 2023-24 increased in science over the previous year. Scores for math remained the same as in 2022-23 and scores for English/Language Arts decreased by a percentage point.
- Colonial Middle School saw gains in academic scores for students in math and science in 2023-24, and its highest-performing students demonstrated growth in 8th grade math.
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School exceeded standards for academic growth in literature, algebra, and biology for the sixth year in a row. The high school also outperformed the state in all areas, and was ranked in the top five Montgomery County high schools for academic proficiency.
- Ridge Park Elementary School students made gains in the number of students achieving proficiency in English/Language Arts and math.
- Colonial Elementary School's subgroups

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Academic Report



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(students with IEPs, economically disadvantaged, students of color) all demonstrated growth in ELA, math and science.

- Whitemarsh Elementary School met the 2033 state-wide goal for proficiency in ELA.

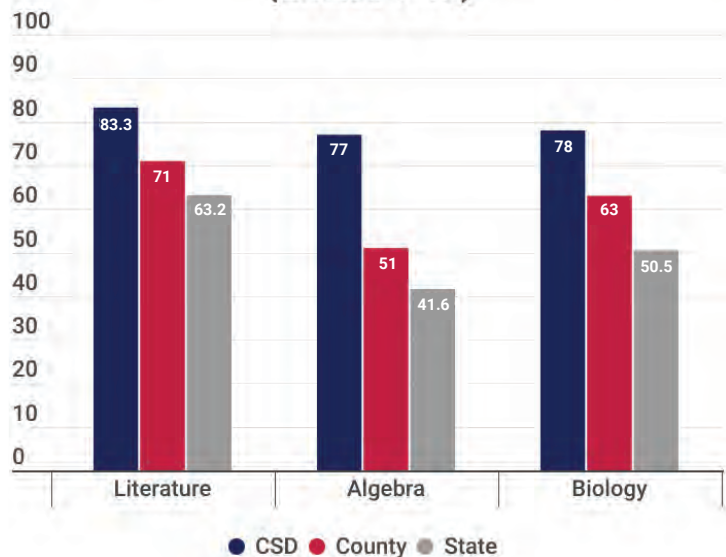
The Future Ready PA Index is the latest tool used to assess public school performance and incorporates a number of different variables when determining a school building score. It was launched in 2018 and is meant to take a more holistic view of school and student performance when evaluating academic achievement and progress. Schools are evaluated based on their academic achievement in grades 3-8 on the PSSA in the subjects of math and English/Language Arts (ELA), as well as science (only grades 4 and 8 were tested in 2023-24). Academic growth is also accounted for through the PVAAS scores, which measure how student cohorts perform year-to-year. At the high school level, Keystone Exam data is used to evaluate student achievement in the areas of algebra, literature, and biology. Data compiled through the index is used to determine school building level scores, which are factored into the Educator Effectiveness tool used to evaluate teacher and principal performance.

Future Ready PA Index information is reviewed annually in the winter at Curriculum Committee meetings. This past winter, each building presented a look at their achievement and growth data, and provided a more in-depth look at the performance of student subgroups. Highlights of School Improvement Plans were also shared. While the state does not require Colonial to develop such plans, they are prepared every year so that the district can continue to target areas for improvement and cultivate student achievement and growth.

High School Data

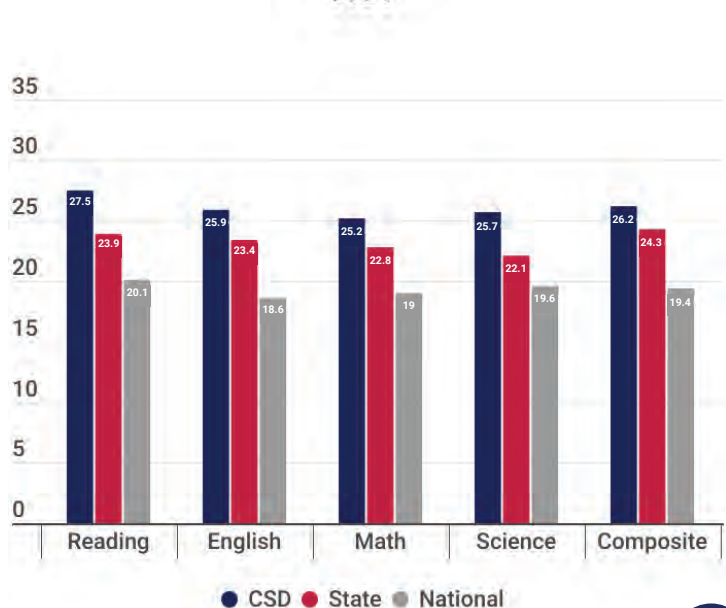
High school students do not take the PSSA. Instead, their academic performance is based on Keystone Exams that are administered in the subjects of literature, algebra, and biology. As you can see below, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students performed above both the county and state averages for each subject.

Keystone Exams - Percent Proficient/Advanced (Grades 9-12)



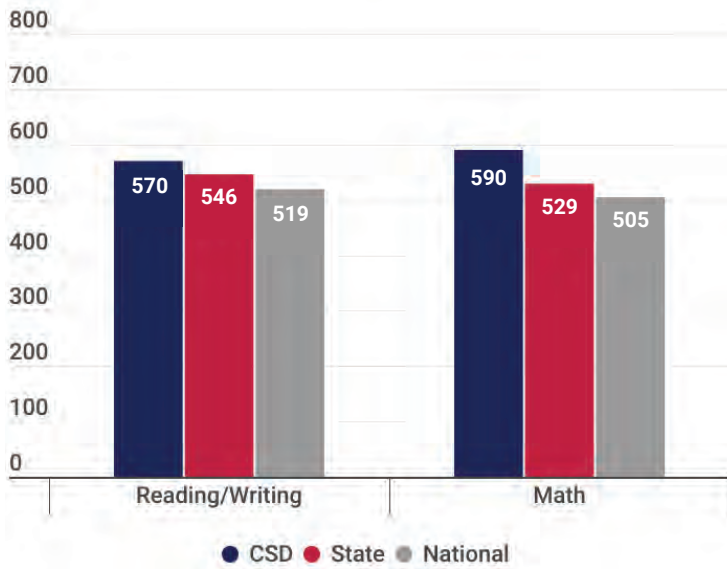
Some high school students take the ACT as part of the college admissions process. The ACT is broken down into English, Math, Reading, and Science. The highest possible score is a 36. As you can see from the chart below, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students surpassed county and state averages.

ACT



High SAT Scores Lead to Nation

SAT



The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a college entrance exam commonly used as part of the admissions process. The test consists of Math and Reading/Writing sections that are worth 800 points each. The highest possible score is a 1600.

Students often take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) before taking the SAT. Based on these scores, students may be eligible for recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Program.

In the 2024-25 school year, a number of Plymouth White-marsh High School students received recognition through this program based on their 2023 PSAT Scores. There are several levels of recognition – Commended (students who are among the top 34,000 highest scoring students), Semifinalists (who are the top 16,000 highest scoring students), and Finalists (who move on from the Semifinalist round based on an application process). Finalists are eligible to win scholarships.

Nine Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students were named Commended students and seven were named Semifinalists and Finalists. Two of the Finalists, Ronald Keene and Koseli Thakali, received scholarships.

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Students Honored by National Merit Scholarship Program



The students above were honored for being named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program, which is based on PSAT scores from the previous year. From left to right in the back row are Luce Allen, Violet Laverty, Jack Yamashita, and James Munz. In the front row, from left to right, are Sachita Upadhya, Kirthi Roy, Jackson De Guzman, Natalie Dyck, and David Palmer. All the students were part of the Class of 2025.



The students in this picture were named as both Semifinalists and Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. From left to right in the back row, are Akhil Roy, Andrew Szperka, Ronald Keene, and Beth Lynch (School Counselor). In the front row, from left to right, are Dr. Jason Bacani (Principal), Noah Smith, Koseli Thakali, Dhruv Patel, and Myles Kaye. All the students were part of the Class of 2025.

Academic Report

National Recognition for PW Students

Continued from previous page

The College Board National Recognition Program also honors students based on their PSAT scores, as well as their grades, and their background. Plymouth Whitemarsh was proud to celebrate the accomplishments of 15 students who were named as College Board honorees last year:

- Ethan Agnew, 12th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Alyssa Avery, 11th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Alexandria Awong, 12th grade, National First-Generation Recognition Program
- Isabel Caceres, 11th grade, National Hispanic Recognition Program
- Samara Chew, 11th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Aubrey Choi, 12th grade, National First-Generation Recognition Program and National Hispanic Recognition Program
- Amber Cook, 11th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Kennedy Dingle, 11th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Caleb Jeon, 11th grade, National First-Generation Recognition Program
- David Kim, 12th grade, National First-Generation Recognition Program
- Jescie Mabe, 12th grade, National First-Generation Recognition Program
- Na'il Noel, 12th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Jasmine Ray, 11th grade, National African American Recognition Program
- Sierra Tirendi, 12th grade, National Hispanic Recognition Program
- Kumba Tonguino, 11th grade, National African American Recognition Program and National First-Generation Recognition Program



From left to right, in the front row, are Alyssa Avery, Ethan Agnew, Sierra Tirendi, Jescie Mabe, and Aubrey Choi. From left to right in the middle row are Jasmine Ray, Caleb Jeon, Alexandria Awong, Isabel Caceres, and Kumba Tonguino. In the back row, from left to right, Dr. Jason Bacani (Principal), Samara Chew, Na'il Noel, Amber Cook, Kennedy Dingle, and Beth Lynch (School Counselor). Not pictured is David Kim.

To be selected for College Board recognition, students must have:

- a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- scores on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 that are within the top 10 percent of assessment takers in each state for each award program, or a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams by the end of 10th grade
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, be a first-generation college student, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native American.

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School's Jim Muscarella wins Citadel Heart of Learning Award



A major factor contributing to student academic success is outstanding teachers. In May, Colonial School District was proud to celebrate Jim Muscarella, engineering teacher at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, for being nominated to receive the Citadel Heart of Learning Award. The award is given to teachers who engage and challenge students through authentic learning experiences.

2023-24 Academic Report

PW Students Take Advantage of AP Offerings

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School offers 36 Advanced Placement (AP) or pre-AP courses. AP courses allow high school students to experience college-level courses and gain college credit.

Students can often gain credit at universities or colleges if they score 3 or higher on the AP exam administered at the conclusion of their course. Plymouth Whitemarsh has long had a goal of increasing the number of students taking AP courses and exams each year, and the strategies employed to do this have worked. In 2023, 333 students took an AP exam. In 2024, 425 students took an exam.

Increasing the number of students taking AP classes led to the high school being awarded the AP Access Award and a silver AP School Honor Roll award last fall.

Not only are more students taking AP courses and exams, but they are also performing well when they do. Ninety



percent of students who took an AP exam in 2024 earned a 3 or higher.

Below is a list of the students who have been named AP Scholars, AP Scholars with Honor, and AP Scholars with Distinction. These students are to be commended for their outstanding performances on rigorous AP exams.

AP Scholar

AP Scholars achieve a score of 3 or better on three or more exams.

Class of 2024

Julia Bertin
Anastasia Beshitaishvili
Cienna Bloom
Abigail Boegner
Isabella Godin
Jordyn Goss
Rose Harrington
Zach Hermann
Mallory Lannie
Laura Makoid
Emily Moore
Molly Moser
Zoya Pyszlak
Anna Quirus
Emily Reilly
Michael Roche
Ethan Simeral
Nick Steward
Emma Sugalski
Jade Zhang-Wong

Class of 2025

Alexandria Awong
Juliana Frustillo

Rhianna Gooneratne

Naomi Hoffman

Noah Kim

Daine Knittle

Maximillian Lancaster

Carley Lefkowitz

Andrew Manges

Scott Margulies

Gabriel McDevitt

Tyler McLafferty

Rosalie Montemayor

Marikit Negrón

Giacomo Paladino

Justin Reibstein

Alexis Shubin

John H. Van Wie

Jenna Yablon

Vincent Yang

AP Scholars with Honor

AP Scholars with Honor receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Class of 2024

Nicholas Bak-Boyчук

Brooke Busk

Cole Etzel

Mokeyra Gekonge

Mallory Markow

Julia Sciotto

Malcolm Roach

Sonia Taglianetti

Dilan Taneja

Colin Wagner

Jared Wagner

Class of 2025

Haley Braun

Lauren Elgart

Aaron Nguyen

Julia Stanczak

AP Scholars with Distinction

AP Scholars with Distinction achieve a score of 3.5 or better on all exams taken and achieve scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Class of 2024

Zakhar Paulousky

Chloe Markus

Sameer Moudgal

Sophia Somers

Parker Powley

Elise Barbay

Hope Nasatir

Colin Brady

Samantha Coke

Caitlyn Dinh

Olivia Eaton

Younguk Han

Bennett Kavalow-Huie

Leena Krayyem

David Rhodes

Nina Ruggiero

Charles Steward

Devyn Cohen

Dylan Kim

Amber Kinsey

Kemith Perera

Zoey Zalcmán

Armin Zarbaft

Class of 2025

Jackson De Guzman

Ellen Fang

Ronald Keene

Natalie Lieberman

Dhruv Patel

Andrew Szperka

Koseli Thakali

Cultivating a Sense of Belonging at Colonial

Every three years, the Colonial School District takes part in the comprehensive planning process to develop a document that will help guide decision-making into the future. A team of stakeholders worked over the 2024-25 school year to draft a new plan, with a mission, vision and a set of educational values that all reflect a commitment to fostering acceptance, a sense of belonging, and supporting all students in their educational journey.

Much research has shown that when students feel like they belong to a school community, it can have a positive effect on academic performance, personal development, behavior, and engagement. This is why district stakeholders made sure to weave the district's commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging (EIB) throughout the new Comprehensive Plan that was adopted by the School Board this past March.

While the plan is new, Colonial's commitment to these ideals is not. For many years, Colonial School District schools have initiated programs and curriculum changes to reflect the changing world that our students inhabit. Here are some examples:

- Each school maintains a No Place for Hate designation from the Anti Defamation League (ADL), and must complete three school-wide activities each year to promote anti-bias and anti-bullying education.
- Classroom libraries are consistently updated to include books and other reading material that may introduce students to underrepresented voices.
- Employees are sent resources and information monthly about cultural celebrations and awareness campaigns with ideas for incorporating them into their classrooms.
- Secondary students are surveyed using the Psychological Sense of School Membership framework, and the data is used to determine strengths and areas for improvement as they relate to school climate.



Dr. Melissa Figueroa-Douglas, Equity and Advancement Officer, speaks during the spring Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee meeting.

- Students may engage in extra-curricular clubs and organizations that promote cultural awareness and offer ways for them to enhance the sense of belonging in their schools.
- Secondary students participate in regional workshops and conferences - such as Dreaming Forward and Voices for Education - to learn how other schools are addressing EIB issues.
- Secondary students also meet monthly with Equity and Advancement officer Dr. Melissa Figueroa-Douglas to discuss concerns and ideas.
- EIB teams at each school meet monthly to discuss ways in which they can incorporate equity, inclusion, and belonging lessons and activities into class.
- The district meets twice a year with a larger EIB committee to discuss ongoing initiatives, promote what is taking place at the school level, and allow for student voices to be heard.
- Members of the district administrative team also meet regularly with area religious leaders to address concerns and questions.

Even with all of the efforts taking place to encourage acceptance and foster belonging, Colonial School District is not immune to incidents involving bias and bigotry. That is why the work must continue and is embedded into the Colonial's plan for the future.

Mission

For students to learn, grow, and contribute to a supportive school community that is welcoming for all.

Vision

To prepare open-minded, resilient, lifelong learners and leaders who will enrich our world.

Educational Values

- **Students:** Students will foster acceptance by amplifying diverse voices while engaging in community efforts to create a supportive and collaborative school environment.
- **Staff:** Teachers and staff will foster a nurturing space to facilitate the growth of all students as self-directed learners.
- **Administration:** Administration will lead with integrity while cultivating an effective environment for teaching and learning. Administration will encourage collaboration and ensure open communication with stakeholders.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Family members and caregivers will model positive behaviors in and outside the school environment. Family members and caregivers will support the school community in the growth and development of lifelong learners.
- **Community:** The School Board will represent the community and support student-centered decision-making around policies and funding.

Some of the additional actions that will take place in the new school year include providing ADL training to the administrative team, rewriting portions of the student handbooks to identify consequences for name-calling/hate speech, discussing Colonial's commitment to belonging at fall open house events for parents and guardians, and holding small group discussions with middle school and high school students about discriminatory language and the consequences that will be enforced if it is used in school.

Colonial School Board Approves 2025-26 Budget

The Colonial School District Board of Directors approved the 2025-26 budget in June, establishing a spending plan that will enable the district to maintain its rigorous instructional program while also limiting the impact to taxpayers.

The \$162,997,782 budget will result in a 3.18-percent tax increase, which is below the Act 1 index (tax cap set by the state) of 4 percent. For a homeowner with the median assessed value of \$155,115, this would result in an additional \$126.67 in taxes.

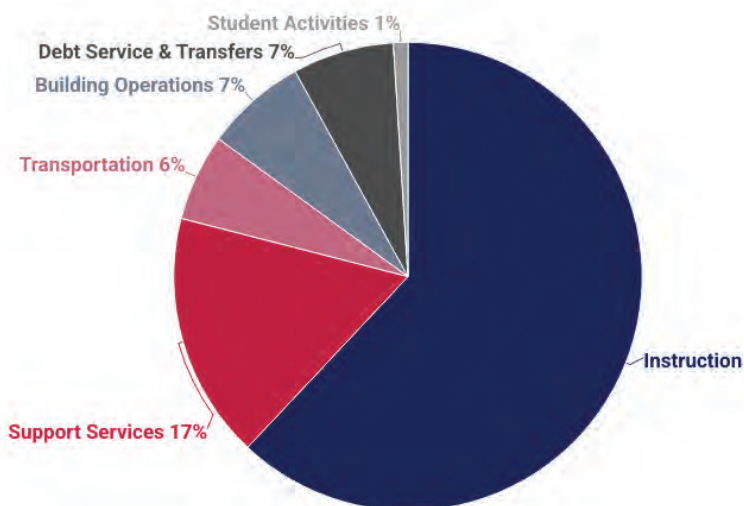
The budget includes additional professional certified staff to address increasing enrollment. Expenditures for the coming school year are approximately 3 percent higher than last year, with rising student enrollment driving some

of that increase. Other factors affecting the rise in costs include collective bargaining agreement obligations, increasing health care costs, technology needs, and safety enhancements, as well as rebate programs that reduce tax income from certain populations.

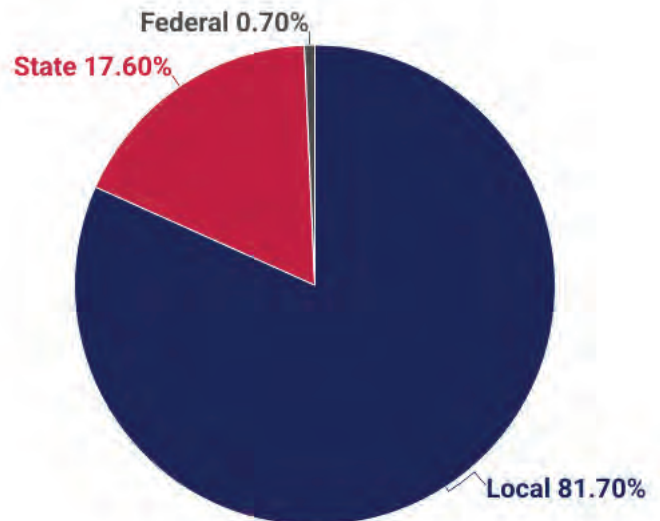
Through the refinancing of a bond, the use of fund balance, and responsible planning over the budget development process, the School Board and administration were able to adjust for these budgetary changes without requiring a significant tax hike. Colonial maintains the third lowest tax rate in Montgomery County.

For more detailed budget information, please visit the Finance Department page on the website at colonialsd.org.

EXPENDITURES



REVENUES



Making Tax Payments in Person

Residents who wish to pay their real estate tax bill in person are welcome to bring their bills and check payments to Colonial Middle School, 716 Belvoir Road in Plymouth Meeting, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on the following dates:

July 31	Sept. 2
Aug. 15	Sept. 30
Aug. 22	Oct. 31

Contact Elite Revenue Solutions if you need more information: 484-681-9231.

Sign Up to Receive District News

The majority of our residents don't have students in our schools, which is why we send out publications like this "Year in Review" on an annual basis. We believe it is important to inform the community of how we are using your tax dollars.

Another way for our community to learn about what we are doing is through the District News, a bi-weekly email that is sent out to anyone who provides us with an email address. If you want to get a newsletter every two weeks about what's going on in Colonial, please go to www.colonialsd.org/enews to get on our distribution list.

You can also download our free app to your smart device for easy access to news, calendar items, and more! Or you may follow us on social media. We post regularly to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Property Tax/Rent Relief Options Available to Residents

There are two ways some taxpayers in the Colonial School District can benefit from tax relief:

1. Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The existing Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been in effect since 1971 and is funded by state lottery and slot machine proceeds. The income limit is \$46,520 a year for homeowners and for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$1,000.

Here is what you could receive from the state, if you qualify:

- \$1,000 if your income falls between \$0 and \$8,000
- \$770 if your income falls between \$8,271 and \$15,510
- \$460 if your income falls between \$15,511 and \$18,610
- \$380 if your income falls between \$18,611 and \$46,520

2. Colonial School District's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The Colonial Board of School Directors has unanimously approved a property tax rebate program that will see an additional discount of up to 75 percent of the State rebate base amount for homeowners and renters.

Colonial School District homeowners and renters must qualify for the state rebate program to qualify for the District rebate program.

Qualifying and Applying for Rebates

To qualify for the discounts, applicants must be:

- homeowners and renters with a household income of no more than \$46,520 annually (half of Social Security income is excluded); AND
- be 65 years of age or older; OR
- be a widow and widower aged 50 years of age or older; OR
- be permanently disabled and 18 years of age or older.

To apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate programs:

Prepare Form PA-1000, Property Tax or Rent Rebate Claim. Go to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue website to learn more about online and paper applications: www.revenue.pa.org

Send a duplicate copy of the PA-1000 (along with Rent Certificate if applicable) to the Colonial School District Business Office at the following address:

Colonial School District
c/o Business Office
230 Flourtown Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM



Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

When you receive the State Rebate, submit proof of the deposit by providing a copy of the check or an official bank statement reflecting your deposit amount to the Colonial School District Business Office. The deposit will most likely be received after July 1.

Once all of the required information is received and verified, Colonial School District will produce a rebate check in the amount equal to 75 percent of the State Rebate base amount and mail the check to the address on the form PA-1000.

Any questions regarding the Colonial School District Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program can be directed to Mark Digian, Colonial School District Business Administrator, at 610-834-1670, ext. 2121, or mdigian@colonialsd.org

Firefighters, EMS Volunteers May Qualify for Rebate under Act 91



The Colonial Board of School Directors is proud to announce the implementation of the Act 91 Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Tax Rebate Program effective for the 2025-26 school year. Volunteers of locally-operated firefighter and EMS organizations are now eligible for a tax rebate up to \$500 based on their involvement in their local volunteer organization. Individuals must satisfy the requirements as mandated by the program; filing deadline for eligibility is Sept. 30, 2025, for the period January to December 2024. Any questions regarding the program can be directed to Mark Digian, Colonial School District Business Administrator, at 610-834-1670, ext. 2121, or mdigian@colonialsd.org.

Colonial Elementary Renovation Project Nears Completion

Colonial Elementary School's renovation project will be nearly complete when school begins on Aug. 25.

The renovation, which was needed to accommodate additional students, began in March of 2024. All of the office spaces that were once located on the first floor of Colonial have been transformed into bright, spacious classrooms featuring state-of-the-art touchscreen boards, handicapped-accessible desks, bathrooms, and moveable furniture. Brand-new lockers line the classroom hallways for easy storage of student belongings.

In addition to providing students and teachers with new learning spaces, the renovation changes are meant to make the building safer. For example, new girls and boys bathrooms have been installed on the first floor near the doors to the playground, so that students no longer have to go around to the side of the building to access restrooms.

Other office space on the first floor that used to house the Pupil Services Department has been converted to the school's new Main Office. The proximity of the principal and assistant principal's offices to areas like the cafeteria and playground will be a benefit for all.

The school's main entrance, which was renovated and opened for the start of the 2024-25 school year, allows for visitors to remain at the front of the building without having to walk down a long hallway to check in. Visitors also no longer have access to the gym or auditorium without being admitted by building personnel.

Another security enhancement to the building's renovation is the creation of a separate office area for district administration. This section of the building will feature its own entrance separate from the school. ADA-accessible ramps are also being added to the entrance for the district office, as well as to the side entrance for the elementary school.

Some additional exterior changes were made to enhance the signage above the school's main entrance and to add a digital sign to the area near the parking lot to advertise the school's upcoming events.



Part of the renovation project included new signage to clearly indicate the main entrance for the school.



The main entrance to the school was renovated to enhance safety and administrative offices were moved to the first floor.



New windows were installed in the gym to allow for natural light. The remaining pictures show the new classrooms.



Food & Nutrition Services Dept. Wins Accolades in 2024-25

Colonial School District's Food & Nutrition Services Department continues to receive accolades from state and national organizations for providing nutritious meals to students.

The 2024-25 year started off with recognition at the Governor's Mansion, where Colonial Elementary School was honored for being a Governor's Breakfast Champion. School districts were challenged to increase student participation in the universal free breakfast program by using promotional strategies, identifying service methods that allowed for greater student access to breakfast, and incorporating hot breakfast items and foods that were locally sourced and lower in sugar. The top 10 schools across the state that had the highest increase in breakfast participation from January through March 2024 were invited to be recognized in Harrisburg.

Colonial Elementary School's breakfast participation rate in-



creased by about 25 percent between those three months. Two key elements to the school's success have been Principal Dr. Rose Rock, who has improved access and overcome time constraints by allowing students to take breakfast to their classrooms, and Head Cook Christine Troutman, who encourages student participation through prize giveaways and positive interactions with students.

The Department was also honored by the United States Department of Agriculture and Action for Healthy Kids with two awards during the 2024-25 school year - a Healthy Meals Incentives Award and an Innovative School Lunch Makeover Award.



From left to right, are Dr. Michael Christian, Superintendent; Lori McCoy, Director of Food & Nutrition Services; Dr. Rose Rock, Principal of Colonial Elementary School, and Christine Troutman, Head Cook at Colonial Elementary School. They were honored at the Governor's Mansion in Harrisburg last September for receiving the Governor's Breakfast Champion award.

Free Student Breakfast to Continue in 2025-26

As a new school year approaches, the Food & Nutrition Services Department would like to remind families about universal free breakfast and free and reduced price meal programs.

For Your Information

Lunch prices will not increase for the 2025-26 school year.

- Elementary lunches: \$2.85
- Middle school lunches: \$3.05
- High school tiered lunches: \$3.50 or \$3.75 (premium)

Every student is eligible to receive a free breakfast at school. Students must select enough items to make a meal to receive breakfast free (rather than be charged a la carte). All meal offerings include five components: protein, grain, fruit, vegetable, and milk. Federal regulations require that students choose a combination of at least three components (one of which must be a fruit or vegetable) to qualify for a free meal.

Every school cafeteria offers breakfast options daily. Breakfast is served from 8:50 to 9:05 a.m. in elementary school cafeterias. The middle school serves breakfast via kiosks from 7:40 to 8 a.m. and the high school serves breakfast from 7 to 7:30

a.m. in the cafeteria, coffee shop, and via kiosks. Menus can be found on our website.

Families who would like to receive free and reduced-price lunches this fall are reminded to complete an application online. Visit schoolcafe.com or contact the Food & Nutrition Services office for a paper application: 610-834-1670, ext. 8207.



Thanks for Rounding Up at GIANT Registers!

Colonial School District received over \$11,000 to provide students with meals during the summer, thanks to the GIANT Company's Feeding School Kids initiative.

The funds were generated by customers who elected to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and/or convert CHOICE points to a donation. Giant then matches the donations.

Colonial School District Education Foundation Celebrates Successful 2024-2025 School Year

CSDEF Combats Food Insecurity with Food For Thought Campaign

Hungry Colonial School District children benefited from free lunches, weekend, and summer meals again this year, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of more than 175 donors who contributed to the Colonial School District Education Foundation's Annual Campaign, Food For Thought.

The CSDEF set a goal of \$10,000 for the six-week campaign, which launched during American Education Week in November. The amount was strategically chosen to match a \$10,000 donation from Firsttrust Bank. A week before winter break, the fundraising total was still shy of the goal by more than \$1,000.

"We were amazed by the outpouring of support as the campaign neared its end," said CSDEF President Annette Swartz. "A number of incredibly generous donors stepped forward in the final days, helping us not only surpass our \$10,000 target but actually double what we hoped to raise."

The 2024 Food For Thought campaign ultimately brought in \$21,386—the highest total in three years. Combined with Firsttrust Bank's matching gift, the CSDEF received more than \$30,000 for families who face food insecurity.

"A heartfelt thank you to every donor who made this success possible and to the entire Colonial Community for coming together in such a meaningful way," added Mrs. Swartz. "Your support makes a world of difference for our students!"

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Foundation was able to purchase more than 6,000 lunches and supply \$9,000+ toward weekend meals.

John Kennedy Subaru Recognized for Supporting CSDEF

Since 2017, John Kennedy Subaru



The Colonial School Board formerly recognized John Kennedy Subaru for its contributions to the Colonial School District Education Foundation at a meeting in March.

has donated more than \$175,000 to the Foundation, helping to pay for meals for students in need, and other projects, such as the Colonial Middle School's outdoor classroom.

To recognize this generosity, the Colonial Board of School Directors welcomed a representative of John Kennedy Subaru, along with members of the Colonial School District Education Foundation board, to the March 20 meeting for formal recognition. Foundation President Annette Swartz presented a plaque in appreciation of the dealership's ongoing support. In return, Subaru presented the Foundation with this year's donation of approximately \$35,000.

John Kennedy Subaru's contributions are made possible through Subaru of America's "Share The Love" event, which runs alongside the Colonial School District's Annual Campaign from November through early January. During this period, customers who purchase or lease a vehicle can direct a \$250 donation to a charity of their choice. Since the initiative began, the Colonial School District Education Foundation has been designated as the dealership's Hometown Charity.



Students get ready to race in the 2025 Foundation 5K held in April.

2025 Foundation 5K Hit the Ground Running

Participants of all ages braved the mist and cool temperatures in April to raise \$6,895 through the Colonial School District Education Foundation's inaugural Foundation 5K, 1.5 Mile Walk, and 1.4-Mile Kids' Dash.

CSDEF Board Member and Race Director Alyson Stern was excited about the turnout of 170+ runners.

"We tried to make it an event that was inclusive of all ages and abilities, offering a distance and race for everyone," she said.

Continued on next page

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Funding for Music, Art, and Library Programs

For several years, the Colonial School District Education Foundation has been giving each school library \$1,000. The librarians have purchased graphic novels, replacements for well-worn favorites, supplies for the makerspaces, and other items to encourage literacy and creative thinking.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Foundation also gave each school an additional \$800 to split between the school's music and art programs.

At Colonial Elementary School, the school's music teachers used the donation to buy new sets of mallets to use with the drums and keyboard instruments that they use in general music class.

"With the volume of students coming in and out of the music room here at CES (over 800!), maintaining our equipment so all students can have a great experience is a top priority," said music teacher Genevieve Kaplan. "It's so wonderful that we have a partner in the CSDEF to keep the arts accessible to all our budding musicians!"

2024-2025 Teacher Grants

The Foundation offers grants to teachers to help fund projects that come up during the school year. This year, the CSDEF supported six grants:

- Two new 3D printers for the Makerspace at the Colonial Middle School library (\$4,156)
- A set of three novels for each student participating in the morning Book Chat at Colonial Elementary School (\$2,000)
- Furnishings for a Sensory Room at Plymouth Elementary School that gives students a space to develop coping, self-regulation, and social-emotional awareness skills (\$1,723)
- The book "Uniquely Wired" by Julia Cook for all Ridge Park classrooms to promote awareness and understanding during Autism



Colonial Elementary School students show off the mallets that they use in music class. The mallets were purchased using Foundation funds.

Awareness month (\$344)

- The book "The Caged Bird" by visiting author Gregory Tino for each classroom at Conshohocken Elementary School to prepare for Inclusion Awareness Month and the assembly with the guests from SEEN (Spellers Empowering Education for Nonspeakers)
- Support for the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Interact Club to host a symposium for student leaders (\$450)

Feel the Love Fundraiser

Teacher grants are funded by the February staff recognition program called Feel the Love, which supplies a personalized certificate of appreciation to any teacher or staff member for a \$5 or more donation. This year, Feel the Love raised \$4,080.

Scholarships and Awards

The Colonial School District Education Foundation sponsored 10 awards totaling \$10,000 for graduating Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students. Donations for the scholarships were made by Covanta, Mark Canale, the family of Joe Robinson, Kim Minor, Sal Giannone, ScottiWorks, the Brenner family, and the Boys of '92.

The Foundation also received \$2,540 in donations to the PW Scholarship Fund, combined with an annual con-



A student helps deliver a Feel the Love certificate. This annual initiative raised over \$4,000 for the Foundation.

tribution of \$25,000 from the Ottinger Trust. The CSDEF was able to supply scholarships for 25 graduating seniors through the Fund.

Other Donations

The Foundation provided funding to support these initiatives as well:

- Martin Luther King Day of Service (\$1,000)
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) elective college tour (\$6,000)
- Projects at Colonial Elementary, Colonial Middle School, Conshohocken Elementary, and Ridge Park Elementary (\$21,500)



Save the Date for 2025 Foundation Day: Oct. 5

Bring the family to Foundation Day on Sunday, October 5, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for a day of entertainment including inflatables, arts and crafts, food trucks, face painting, performances, and more!

Last year, CSDEF raised \$5,725 for Colonial School District

schools through the Foundation Day event. Look for announcements from the schools for when the bracelets go on sale and save money by purchasing early. Also, keep an eye out to register for a Cornhole Tournament at Foundation Day sponsored by the PW Alumni Association!

CSDEF Thanks Donors for Their Generosity

The Colonial School District Education Foundation is grateful to the generosity of its donors, who make the grants and initiatives funded by the Foundation possible. Please scan the code below to see those who contributed to the Foundation's efforts.

Add your name to the list by contributing to the Annual Fund, honoring a teacher or loved one with a teacher tribute or memorial gift, supporting the PW Scholarship Fund, donating to the Teacher Grant program, or funding a larger project or program. Go to colonialsd.org/foundation to make your donation today!



From left to right are Linda Colantonio, Michele Stingle, Susan Moore, Kim Newell, Brian Rosenfeld, and Erin Saulino.

PW Alumni Association Seeks Members

The PW Alumni Association organized an All Alumni Picnic at last year's Foundation Day event as a way to bring together alums from across the decades. PW alumni are invited to get involved with this group to help plan events like this and other initiatives that are beneficial to both graduates and current students. Visit www.colonialsd.org/alumni for more information.

Don't have time to serve but want to stay connected to your alma mater? Then be sure to join the PW Alumni Association for free and receive reunion updates and a quarterly email newsletter, and follow the PW Colonials Alumni accounts on Facebook and Instagram, as well as the group on LinkedIn.

Adult Evening School Registration to Open in August

The fall session of Adult Evening School will start the week after Labor Day and is being planned as you read this!



This year, we are launching a new registration system that will allow for a more streamlined registration process and lower fees. The new system will also enable better messaging capabilities in the event that changes occur

with scheduling. We look forward to sharing more information about this new platform with you soon.

In the fall, we'll have a variety of classes to offer, including yoga, water aerobics, kickboxing, dance aerobics,

grant writing, improvisation, dance, charcuterie, and more!

Watch your mailbox in August for the brochure, keep an eye on your email inbox, and watch the website and social media for registration information.

Residents 65+ Invited to Apply for Gold Cards

Are you 65+ and a resident of Colonial School District? If so, we invite you to join our Gold Card program. Gold Cards allow senior citizens to take free or reduced-price classes with the Adult Evening School program, as well as gain free admission to regular season home athletic events, concerts, musicals, and other district activities. If you're on our list, we'll also send you invitations to a winter concert and spring matinee performance of the high school musical. Complimentary meals are offered at both events.

Gold Card members must be 65 or older and reside in the district. Apply to be a Gold Card member online by going to colonialsd.org/goldcard or call 610.834.1670, ext. 2115.



The picture on the left is from the 2025 Spring Musical Matinee Luncheon held for Gold Card members in March. Above, Gold Card members viewed the photo mural at Colonial Middle School following the Winter Concert and Breakfast.

Find School Supply Lists, Summer Meal, and Summer Math and Reading Links Online

Get prepared for the next school year by taking advantage of resources on the Colonial School District website designed to keep student skills sharp over the summer.

Visit colonialsd.org/summer to find links to summer reading lists, as well as links to websites you can visit to practice math skills at any grade level.

High school students can make use of the "Summer Skill Builder" resources to stay fresh.

Families who may need assistance with meals over the summer can also find phone numbers and links to agencies providing meals.

Finally, if you want to take advantage

of back-to-school sales, all of the school supply lists for elementary and middle school students have been posted on the summer page.

As a reminder, the first day of school will be Monday, Aug. 25. Check out calendars online as well: colonialsd.org/calendar, or download our free app to access!

Points of Pride from the 2024-25 School Year

- Colonial School District was named an Outstanding Visual Arts Community by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association
- Colonial Elementary School was honored as a Governor's Breakfast Champion (see page 19)
- 15 Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students received College Board National Recognition
- Nine Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students were named National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students
- Seven Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students were named National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists and continued on to be named Finalists; two of the finalists also received scholarships (see page 12)
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School earned a silver AP School Honor Roll and the AP Access award (see page 14)
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Football Coach Dan Chang was named Eagles' Coach of the Week
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Marching Colonials won first place at the Cavalcade of Bands Championship
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Katie Abai qualified for the PMEA District 11 Orchestra, Band, and Chorus ensembles
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Ace Cratin qualified for the PMEA District 11 and Region IV Orchestra, Band, and Chorus Ensembles and performed in Chair 1 for the PMEA State Orchestra
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School cheerleaders won the Suburban One League Championship
- Colonial Middle School Math Club member Andrew Zhong placed fourth in the state and 74th nationally in the MATH-COUNTS competition
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Melanie Daloisio won the Suburban One League American Conference Individual



The Marching Colonials at the Cavalcade of Bands Championship.



Plymouth Whitmarsh High School cheerleaders celebrate their league championship win.



Above, the Colonial Players perform at the Independence Awards. Below is the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School softball team, which won a league championship.



Bowling Tournament

- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's 4X800 Meter Relay team broke the school record by nine seconds
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School student Julia Stanczak won first place in the 42nd Annual James J. Doyle Oral Proficiency Contest
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Unified Bocce won the league title
- Plymouth Whitmarsh Ice Hockey Club's Middle School won the league championship
- Colonial Middle School basketball teams won the Montgomery County Athletic Conference Championships
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School World Languages Department won the 2025-26 PSMLA Golden Globe Award
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School teacher Jim Muscarella won the Citadel Heart of Learning Award
- Colonial School District named a Best Community for Music Education
- Six Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students qualified for national DECA competition
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's softball team won the Suburban One League Championship
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School tennis players James Fassbender and Jinay Sheth won the Suburban One League Doubles Championship and Jinay won the Suburban One League Singles Championship
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Colonial Players claimed six Independence Awards
- District was ranked #1 in Montgomery County for the best teachers, and #4 all-around best school district by Niche.com
- District was ranked #2 in Montgomery County and #22 in the state by the Pittsburgh Business Times