

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

AUGUST 2025

This year brings new learning opportunities across all grades!

Welcome back to a new school year! We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and opportunities for our students. This year brings several exciting updates to our curriculum that will further enhance the educational experiences we provide. We are proud of these curriculum updates and the opportunities they provide for our students. Our teachers have been working diligently to prepare for these changes, and we are confident that they will have a positive impact on student learning.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. We look forward to a successful school year ahead.

Dr. Mary Carole Perry
Assistant Superintendent

New Assessments

This year, our district will transition from NWEA MAP assessments to the **Renaissance STAR** assessment, a nationally recognized tool for measuring student growth.

Students in grades K-8 will be assessed in math and reading, and the program will now expand to include 9th and 10th grade English as well as Algebra I. Benchmarks will be administered three times per year, providing timely data to guide instruction and support student success.

Artificial Intelligence - AI

Last year, our teachers began professional development focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it can support their teaching. This year, they will continue that work by exploring a variety of AI platforms to help streamline tasks and enhance classroom instruction.

All students will receive Artificial Intelligence Literacy training in age-appropriate ways as we embrace the role of AI in the classroom and careers.

Personal Finance Requirement

In accordance with **Act 35 of 2023** students are now required to complete a personal finance course as part of their graduation requirements. Beginning this school year juniors or seniors will be required to enroll in *Personal Finance in the Stock Market*, a course designed to give students essential financial literacy skills for their future.

English Language Arts Pilot

Our Journey's ELA program is set to expire at the end of this school year. In order to be prepared for adoption next school year, we are piloting a new reading series, **Amplify - Core Knowledge Language Arts** (CKLA 3rd Edition) K-5 and **Amplify ELA** (6-8). This program is fully aligned with Pennsylvania's requirements for **Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading**, the program emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction in phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. The CKLA/ELA approach provides students with a strong foundation in reading skills while building background knowledge across a range of topics.

Tier I Phonics Grades K-2

Our 1st and 2nd grade teachers will be using newly adopted Tier I Core Phonics materials from **95% Group**.

This expansion builds on last year's adoption in kindergarten, as well as the resources already in use in our special education and reading classrooms. This integrated literacy ecosystem helps bridge learning gaps by providing consistent, targeted phonics instruction across multiple grade levels and learning environments.

New Science Standards

Pennsylvania has adopted the **Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability (STEELS) Standards**, which reflect the latest research in science education and career readiness. This year, our teachers in grades 6-9 will begin implementing these standards using **OpenSciEd**, a high-quality, inquiry-based curriculum that emphasizes hands-on exploration and real-world problem solving. Through this approach, students will develop critical thinking skills, collaborate on investigations, and gain the knowledge and experiences needed to thrive in STEM fields.

Drones & AR/VR Experiences

Our 7th grade middle school students will have the exciting opportunity to explore drone technology as part of their exploratory rotation this year. In addition, students will continue to build their skills in augmented and virtual reality learning through the innovative PRISMS platform. These experiences are designed to engage students in hands-on, future-focused technology that connects directly to real-world applications.

Middle School Math Adoption

Our middle school math program has adopted the new **2024 enVision Mathematics** curriculum from SAVVAS. This program offers problem-based learning, interactive digital resources, and real-world applications designed to deepen mathematical understanding and critical thinking skills.

Advanced Placement US History

Our AP U.S. History course has a new, up-to-date e-textbook to ensure students have access to high-quality, current resources. *History for the AP Course*, by Henretta Edwards, supports students' preparation for the AP exam while providing a rich and accurate understanding of our nation's history.