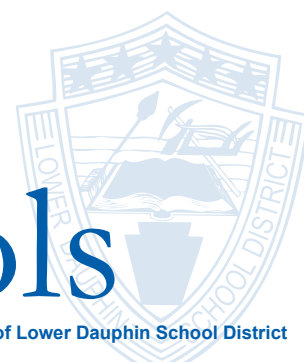




# Know Your Schools

Important Information for the Residents of Lower Dauphin School District

## Superintendent Message



It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write to you as the new superintendent of the Lower Dauphin School District. I am honored to join a district with such a strong tradition of excellence and a vibrant sense of Falcon Pride.

With more than 25 years of experience in education, including over a decade in central office leadership, I am excited to bring my commitment to instructional excellence, operational management and relationship building to Lower Dauphin.

Most recently, I served as the assistant superintendent in the Cumberland Valley School District, where I guided the curricular and instructional programming for eight elementary schools, as well as the K-12 curriculum and technology teams.

Prior to that, I held leadership roles in the East Pennsboro Area School District, the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, and began my administrative career in the Halifax Area School District. My classroom experience includes teaching elementary and middle school students in the Central Dauphin School District. These experiences continue to shape my perspective and passion for teaching and learning. Education is, above all, a people-centered profession.

**“Together we will ensure that every student receives a high quality education that prepares them for success in an ever-changing world ...”**

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Lower Dauphin Begins Comprehensive Plan



The Lower Dauphin School District has launched the development of its next Comprehensive Plan, a state-mandated process through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) designed to guide district priorities and improvement efforts over the next three years.

The planning process, which emphasizes continuous improvement in leadership, teaching, and learning, will help the district define and strengthen its core mission, vision, and values — ensuring that every

student receives a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career and life. Leading the initiative are Superintendent Dr. Gregory Milbrand and Director of Curriculum Dr. Charlie Trovato, who are working collaboratively with a 60-member planning committee comprised of parents, students, educators, administrators, school board members and community representatives.

“This process is a powerful opportunity to reflect on who we are as a district and where we want to go,” said Dr. Milbrand. “By bringing together voices from across our community, we can create a plan that reflects both our strengths and our aspirations.”

The committee began meeting in early fall and will hold a total of nine sessions, concluding in January. The final plan will be submitted to PDE by March 31, 2026, and, once approved, will remain in effect for three years.

Dr. Trovato said the plan represents more than just compliance with the state. It is a strategic framework to ensure that Lower Dauphin continues to deliver a student-centered and forward-thinking education.

“Our goal is to align every aspect of our district with our mission and values,” Trovato said. “This plan allows us to focus on what matters most which is student growth, strong instruction, and meaningful engagement with our families and community.”

*(Continued on page 2)*



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This Issue*

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New Admin join LD  
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I believe that effective leadership is grounded in strong relationships built on trust, transparency, communication and visibility. As your superintendent, I am committed to actively listening, engaging with all stakeholders, and being a visible presence throughout our schools and community.

My entry plan aims to build this critical, relational trust among the stakeholders by listening to and learning about the people, values, culture, organizational systems, priorities, strengths and challenges that define the Lower Dauphin School District. I am very excited that my first year in the district coincides with the extensive comprehensive planning process, which will enable us to chart the shared vision for the future of Lower Dauphin. This opportunity is more than a professional milestone, it is personal.

As a long-time resident of central Pennsylvania, I understand and appreciate the values and spirit that make this community so special.

I am deeply committed to providing long-term leadership, stability and the care that the students, families, and staff of Lower Dauphin deserve.

I look forward to partnering with you to build on the district's strong foundation and lead our schools into an exciting next chapter. Together, we will ensure that every student receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success in an ever-changing world.



*Dr. Milbrand visits a tech education class during his high school tour.*

## Comp Plan Update continued

The process follows PDE's Cycle of Continuous Improvement, a model that encourages districts to set goals, assess needs, implement strategies, and evaluate results. Key areas of focus for Lower Dauphin include:

- Academic achievement and instructional excellence
- Student well-being and school culture
- Professional learning and leadership development
- Community involvement and communication

A draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be made available for public review in February, giving community members an opportunity to provide feedback before it is finalized.

"This work is about more than setting goals, it's about shaping the future of education in Lower Dauphin," Dr. Milbrand said. "We're building on a tradition of excellence and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed."

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guiding document for district decision-making through 2029, reflecting the district's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration and Falcon Pride.

**Web <https://www.ldsd.org>**

Your first source for school closings and school news



# Conewago Country Fair Celebrates 56<sup>th</sup> Year

The annual Conewago Country Fair drew hundreds of families, students and community members in late September, continuing a long-standing tradition at Conewago Elementary School and within the Lower Dauphin School District.

Organized by the Conewago Parent Teacher Organization, the event featured a variety of attractions including games, baked goods, arts and crafts, and a silent auction. The fair is one of the school's primary fundraisers each year, with proceeds supporting classroom projects, student activities, and other school initiatives. Teachers, staff, and volunteers from across the community helped make the event possible, contributing to what has become a highlight of the fall season for the school.

"The fair is something our students and families look forward to every year," said Conewago Principal Dr. David Wuestner. "It's a great way for our community to come together and support our school in a fun, meaningful way."

The Conewago Country Fair has been a fixture in the district for decades, blending local tradition with community engagement, while helping to strengthen the connection between home and school.



*Students enjoy various games and activities during the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Conewago Country Fair.*

# Woodring, Meloy Named Homecoming King and Queen

School spirit was on full display as the Lower Dauphin School District celebrated this year's Homecoming events, culminating in the crowning of seniors Cody Woodring and Gwen Meloy as this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

The annual event featured a court of 16 outstanding students, representing the pride, leadership and community spirit that define Lower Dauphin High School.

Cody Woodring, son of John and Jane Woodring, is a dedicated student-athlete and active member of the school community. He competes on both the varsity lacrosse and varsity golf teams and participates in Best Buddies and Mini-THON's Battle 4 Diamonds. Outside of school, Woodring works as a landscaper for Theurer's All Season Landscaping. After graduation, he plans to attend DeSales University, where he will continue his athletic career as a member of the lacrosse team.

Gwen Meloy, daughter of Brad and Chas Meloy, is equally involved in academics, athletics and service. She is a member of the cross country and track and field teams, as well as the Unified Bocce team. Meloy also participates in Best Buddies, Mini-THON's Battle 4 Diamonds, and serves as the Battalion Commander in the school's JROTC program. Beyond school, she is active in her church youth group and coaches youth track. After graduation, Meloy plans to attend a military college, where she intends to study criminal justice.

The Homecoming celebration brought together students, families and alumni to celebrate school pride, capped off by the traditional crowning ceremony at halftime of the football game and ending with the Homecoming dance.





# FIRE PREVENTION



*Elementary students across the district took place in Fire Prevention Week activities. Students were greeted by local fire departments that gave them important safety tips.*

## Gliot gives back to Nye Elementary

Lower Dauphin High School senior Caleb Gliot has given a fresh look to a familiar landmark at his former school.

As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Gliot repainted the United States map located outside Nye Elementary School, revitalizing a long-standing educational feature for students to enjoy. Driven by a desire to give back to the place where his academic journey began, Gliot took full ownership of the project from concept to completion.

He conducted extensive research on weather-resistant paints and stencils, created a detailed budget and timeline, and secured approval from both the school administration and the Lower Dauphin Board of School Directors. Gliot also organized the logistics for the project, coordinating volunteers from his Scout troop and the community, soliciting donations to cover material costs, and overseeing every phase of the work.

The repainting was completed over the summer, transforming the faded map into a vibrant, durable display that students and teachers can enjoy for years to come.



*Caleb Gliot celebrates his completion of the revitalized map of United States of America for Nye Elementary School.*

“This project was something that I wanted to take on and felt near and dear to me as a staple of Nye Elementary,” said Gliot. “All the support I got putting this together from the school board to staff was amazing to see and I’m just glad that this new map will be here to stay.”

The renewed U.S. map has a blue heart, painted by Gliot showing exactly where Hummelstown, PA is located. It now

stands as both a visual centerpiece and a hands-on learning tool — a lasting symbol of Gliot’s dedication, service and Falcon Pride.



## LD earns another PAEA Award



The Lower Dauphin School District has once again been recognized by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) as an Outstanding Visual Arts Community for the 2024–25 school year, marking the third consecutive year the district has earned this statewide distinction.

The designation honors districts that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to providing high-quality, standards-based visual arts education taught by certified art educators. According to the PAEA, thriving arts programs do more than build creative skills — they foster critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration and self-expression, helping students develop the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond.

“This recognition celebrates Lower Dauphin’s continued dedication to cultivating and sustaining a strong visual arts program,” the PAEA stated. “The district’s leadership and commitment to the arts send a clear message: the arts matter.”

Lower Dauphin’s art department has played a key role in maintaining this tradition of excellence, ensuring that students of all grade levels have access to rich and engaging opportunities to explore the visual arts.

# District welcomes new staffers to Lower Dauphin

**Sierra Buckland**

***ELD Teacher  
Nye/Londonderry***



Mrs. Buckland comes to Lower Dauphin after previously serving as an ELD for Harrisburg School District. She graduated in 2019 from Missouri Southern State with a bachelor's in elementary education and received her master's in curriculum instruction. She hopes to build up diverse and successful leaders. In her free time she likes to bike, ski and go to the gym.

**Christopher McCane**

***Tech Education  
Middle School***



Mr. McCane comes to Lower Dauphin after previously serving in insurance and management roles. He graduated from WGU in 2023 with a bachelor of arts in elementary education. He hopes to provide opportunities for students to explore what tech ed has to offer and see the possibilities in the field. He has two children and in his free time likes to watch movies and restore antiques.

**John Benedict**

***Speech Language  
Pathologist  
East Hanover/  
High School***



Mr. Benedict comes to Lower Dauphin having served as a speech language pathologist for the Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development and the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. He graduated from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor of science and received his master's in speech language [athology. In his free time he likes to spend time with family, swim, hike and root for Philadelphia sports teams.

**Emma O'Neill**

***Autistic Support  
Londonderry***



Ms. O'Neill comes to Lower Dauphin as an alumnus of the school. She graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She hopes to provide a welcoming community space and contribute to the school's culture. In her free time she likes to exercise, bake and read.

**Sophia Piepmeier**

***Math Teacher  
Middle School***



Ms. Piepmeier comes to Lower Dauphin after previously serving as a substitute teacher. She graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a bachelor's in physics. She hopes to foster a love of confidence in learning for her students. In her free time she likes to read and hike.

**Nathan Stalker**

***Spanish Teacher  
Middle School***



Mr. Stalker comes to Lower Dauphin from Spring-Ford School District as a middle and high school teacher. He graduated from West Chester University with a bachelor's degree and earned his master's in instructional technology from Fort Hays State University. In his free time he roots for all Philly sports.

**Maya Bayhart**

***5th grade Long-Term  
Sub  
East Hanover***



Ms. Bayhart comes to Lower Dauphin as an alumnus of the school. She graduated from Penn State Harrisburg with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. She hopes to provide a space where her students feel confident, safe and excited to learn. In her free time she likes to travel, run and spend time with loved ones.

**Elizabeth Barley**

***Long-Term Sub  
(English)  
High School***



Ms. Barley comes to Lower Dauphin having served as a special education teacher at Northern Middle School. She graduated from Elizabethtown College with a bachelor's degree in early secondary English education. She hopes to make a positive impact on her students with reading and writing. In her free time she likes to bake and crochet.

**Samuel Clarke**

***Long-Term Sub  
(Music)  
Nye***



Mr. Clarke comes to Lower Dauphin from the Cumberland Valley School District. He graduated from Kutztown University with a bachelor's in music education. In his free time he likes to hike and play video games.

**Grace Craig**

***Long-Term Sub  
(Special Ed.)  
High School***



Ms. Craig comes to Lower Dauphin as an alumnus of the school. She graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She previously worked for Bright Beginnings Child Development. She hopes to make a positive impact on the students every day. In her free time she likes to spend time with friends and family.

**Kelly Giannascoli**

***Long-Term Sub  
(5th grade)  
East Hanover***



Mrs. Giannascoli returns to Lower Dauphin as an alumnus of the school. She graduated from Rutgers University and earned her teaching certification from Wilson College. She previously was a student and substitute teacher at Nye. In her free time she likes to read, hike and paint.

**Leslie Harrington**

***Special Ed Teacher  
South Hanover***



Ms. Harrington comes to Lower Dauphin after previously serving as an ESL and Special Ed teacher. She graduated from Misericordia University with a degree in elementary education. She hopes to provide a productive and fun learning space. In her free time she likes to travel, specifically to Disney World.

**Timothy Koons**

***Long-Term Sub  
(Spanish)  
High School***



Mr. Koons comes to Lower Dauphin as an alumnus of the school. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and earned a certificate in Spanish studies. He hopes to broaden student's horizons through cultural understanding. In his free time he likes to read and travel.

**Courtney Meyers**

***Long Term Sub  
(3rd grade)  
Londonderry***



Ms. Meyers comes to Lower Dauphin having served as a substitute teacher and figure skating coach. She graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. In her free time she likes to figure and ice skate.

**Robert Saxton**

***ELA Teacher  
Middle School***



Mr. Saxton comes Lower Dauphin having served as a teacher for the Milton Hershey School. He graduated from Indiana University of PA and earned his master's degree in English. He hopes to build a strong relationship with his students to help them grow as readers and writers. In his free time he like to camp and craft objects with his kids.

**LOWER DAUPHIN IS HIRING.**  
For more information:

***ldsd.org/employment***



# MASS BAND NIGHT



*Students from across the district enjoy Mass Band Night, playing in front of a packed crowd at HersheyPark Stadium. Students performed multiple selections led by the music department from elementary to high school.*

## *New administrators join Lower Dauphin*

Lower Dauphin has hired several new administrators for the 2025-26 school year.



**Katie Jeffries**

At the District Administration Center, Katie Jeffries takes over as the new Director of Human Resources. She returns to the district as an alumnus of Lower Dauphin. She earned her bachelor's degree from the American Military University in healthcare administration and earned her Master's of science degree from West Chester University in human resource management. Previously she worked for APSCUF and the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation.

Katie hopes to contribute to creating a positive and supportive environment where people enjoy coming to work. In her free time she likes visiting with friends and family. She also likes to cook, bake, read and play with her pet bunny, Hank.



**Jeremy Foose**

Also at the DAC, the Lower Dauphin School District welcomes Jeremy Foose as the new director of Facilities. Jeremy returns to LD after a previous stint with the district for 13 years.

Jeremy earned his Building Operator Certification from the PA College of Technology. His previous employment includes facility management in both the Carlisle and South Western Area School Districts.

Jeremy hopes to build on a solid foundation investing in Lower Dauphin's people, culture and property within the district. He likes spending his free time with his family, as well as fishing and hunting.



**Britt Strohecker**

The Lower Dauphin School District also welcomes Britt Strohecker as the new Transportation Coordinator for the district.

Britt previously worked as a location manager for a local bus company. He earned his bachelor's degree from Millersville University.

His goal is to provide safe and efficient transportation for all district students. In his free time he likes to compose music, read and is an avid hockey fan.

## ***Bus Drivers Needed!***

Contact our transportation contractor, Rohrer, at 866-735-7200 or [www.rohrerbus.com/drive](http://www.rohrerbus.com/drive).

Rohrer will pay for training and CDL licensure and offers competitive wages and great benefits!



## *Dr. Charlie Trovato joins Lower Dauphin as New Director of Curriculum*



Lower Dauphin School District is proud to welcome Dr. Charlie Trovato as the district's new Director of Curriculum.

With a strong background in educational leadership and a passion for fostering engaging learning environments, Dr. Trovato brings a wealth of experience and energy to his new role.

Before joining Lower Dauphin, Dr. Trovato served as principal at J.E. Fritz Elementary School in the Conestoga Valley School District. Throughout his career, he has emphasized the importance of building strong relationships among students, staff, and families to ensure that every child feels supported and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

As Director of Curriculum, Dr. Trovato will oversee the development, alignment and implementation of academic programs across all grade levels in the district. His work will help ensure that Lower Dauphin's curriculum not only meets the rigorous standards set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, but also continues to prepare students for success in an ever-changing world.

"I am excited to join the Lower Dauphin community and to support the incredible work already happening in our classrooms," Dr. Trovato said. "My goal is to build on the district's strong foundation and continue to promote innovative and meaningful learning experiences for all students."

## **Eberly joins as new school board representative**

Lower Dauphin High School junior Easton Eberly has been named as the student representative to the Lower Dauphin Board of School Directors for the 2025–26 school year.

Eberly, the son of Shelley and John Eberly, is an accomplished student who has demonstrated leadership and academic excellence. He has been a member of the tennis team since his freshman year, and also belongs to the Science, Math, English, Spanish, and National Honor Societies.

Beyond the classroom, Eberly is active in a variety of student organizations including Diversity Club, STEM Team, Next Gen Researchers and Student Council. He also participates in VolunTEEN and the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy.

Outside of school and volunteer work, Eberly is part of the Penn State College of Medicine PULSE program, which introduces students to careers in healthcare and medical research. Upon graduation, Eberly plans to attend a four-year university, majoring in neuroscience and biochemical engineering, with the goal of becoming a medical doctor.

As student representative, Eberly will serve as a liaison between the student body and the school board, providing valuable input on student perspectives and experiences across the district. Easton joins current senior Charlotte Bean as the second student school board representative.



*Easton Eberly is sworn in as the newest school board representative.*

**Know Your Schools** is published four times a year for the residents of Lower Dauphin School District.

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| District Office                | 717-566-5300 |
| High School                    | 717-566-5330 |
| Middle School                  | 717-566-5310 |
| Conewago Elementary School     | 717-367-7233 |
| East Hanover Elementary School | 717-469-2686 |
| Londonderry Elementary School  | 717-944-9462 |
| Nye Elementary School          | 717-566-0300 |
| South Hanover Elementary       | 717-566-2564 |
| Informaline:                   | 717-566-5320 |

**Board of School Directors**

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 John Kaschak, *Vice President*  
 Lisa Foley  
 Robert Hill, Jr.  
 Dr. Andrew Miller  
 Jeffrey Neely  
 Thomas Scott  
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 Amanda Unger  
 Dr. Gregory Milbrand, *Superintendent*

Edited by: Evan Brooks, Community Relations Coordinator

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The Lower Dauphin School District, an equal opportunity employer, does not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities based on gender, race, religion, national origin, color or handicap. This policy of nondiscrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1973, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

# Lower Dauphin School District

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### DECEMBER

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

### JANUARY

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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 |

### FEBRUARY

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| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

### MARCH

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

**1** Schools Closed

**4** 1/2 Student Day (In-Service)

**5** Schools Closed (In-Service)

**23** 1/2 Student Day

**24-31** Schools & Offices Closed

**1-2** Schools & Offices Closed

**9** 2-hour Early Dismissal (In-Service)

**19** Schools Closed (In-Service)

**21** End of Marking Period 2 (MS/HS)

**13** Schools Closed (In-Service) - 1st Weather Make-up Day

**16** Schools Closed 2nd Weather Make-up Day

**6** 2-hour Early Dismissal (In-Service) - End of Second Trimester (Elem)

**16** Schools Closed (In-Service, Act 80)

**30** End of Marking Period 3 (MS/HS)