



The Spartan Spirit

LEARNING • SERVING • LEADING

One Interaction at a Time

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DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Feeding School Kids Initiative

We are incredibly proud to highlight the profound impact our partnership with **The GIANT Company** continues to have on the Southern Lehigh community. To date, this initiative has raised over **\$7.6 million** through the generosity of GIANT and its customers! Through the Feeding School Kids initiative, GIANT recently presented the district with a generous check for **\$7,521.23**. This initiative is a vital lifeline in addressing childhood hunger and ensuring that no child in our community experiences food insecurity. These funds will enhance nutrition, increase our fresh produce offerings, and fund energy-efficient equipment for our self-sustaining food service program.

Technology Realignment & Savings

The Technology Department has introduced a strategic shift for the 2026-27 school year to combat rising hardware costs. By having our tech team refurbish 250 Chromebooks in-house, the district will save approximately **\$110,000**. These major savings will subsidize the purchase of the durable MacBook Neo for Middle School students. Furthermore, iPads will be cascaded to incoming K-2 students, complete with ruggedized shells and keyboard cases for 2nd graders to learn typing ergonomics.

Thank You to Our Outstanding Staff!

April is a special month for recognition. On April 22, 2026 we celebrated **Administrative Professionals Day**, recognizing the staff who serve as the operational heartbeat of our district. We also celebrated **National Paraprofessional Day**, **School Librarian Day**, and **National Assistant Principals Week**. Thank you to our instructional assistants, librarians, and assistant principals for the compassion, leadership, and vital support you provide to our students every single day.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Artificial Intelligence Focus

Our AI Steering Committee is working to integrate generative AI safely and effectively using the **Prosper, Prepare, Protect** framework. Priorities include maintaining academic rigor and data security. The district is also planning an upcoming AI Summer Academy to empower staff with foundational, ethical, and productivity-focused tools.



STEM Competitions

Spartans are excelling in STEM! Our JPLIS teams placed 1st and 3rd at the recent CLIU STEM design challenge, with the 1st-place team advancing to the State Competition in Harrisburg!

Over at Lehigh University's STEM Discovery Day, SLMS students dominated the opening challenge by designing the largest balloon tower.



Cross-Building Collaboration

In a powerful display of cross-building collaboration, Southern Lehigh High School students designed and built prototypes for a new classroom stand to support our upcoming transition to full-day kindergarten at Hopewell and Liberty Bell. They will be constructing enough units for every kindergarten class for the 2026-2027 school year!



Stay up-to-date with our monthly curriculum newsletters!

Full-DayKindergarten - <https://www.slsd.org/teaching-learning/full-day-kindergarten/news-letters>.

STRATEGIC PLANNING



Kindergarten & Grade 3 Transition

Excitement is building! Our first Kindergarten Screening event is set for May 1st. Over at JPLIS, the administrative team and third-grade teachers have unanimously agreed to add a second WIN (What I Need) or EF (Enrichment Focus) period to ensure students receive targeted support during the transition.



Staffing & Recruitment

Our job postings have received incredible attention from high-quality candidates! We are pleased to report robust engagement in our recent hiring efforts as we continue to actively recruit for several

key roles across the district. We are actively reviewing these exceptional candidates to ensure our team is fully integrated before the upcoming school year.



Business Office Upgrades

We are making significant progress on our transition to the new CSIU Financial Information System (FIS), set to launch on July 1. This system will debut a secure, web-based Employee Portal for staff to easily manage pay history, W-2 forms, and more.

SPARTAN SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

SLMS Arts & Culture: The SLMS Jazz Ensemble earned a Superior rating at the Emmaus High School Jazz Fest, with Brady M. named best soloist and the entire group winning Best Rhythm Section! The Spartan Chorale sounded beautiful performing the National Anthem at the IronPigs Opening Day. Don't forget to catch the SLMS Musical, *The Addams Family*, on May 1st and 2nd!

Polite & Professional: Our "What's So Cool About Manufacturing" team attended the awards ceremony at Stabler Arena. While they didn't take the top prize, partner C.F. Martin Guitar Co. reported that our students were the most polite, kind, and collaborative students they have ever worked with!

SLHS SkillsUSA: Join us in congratulating Alexandre C. (Electronics Technology) and Jestina N. (Graphic Communications) for placing 1st at the SkillsUSA District competition. They are moving on to the State Leadership Competition in Hershey! Tucker J. qualified to compete at the National Welding Championship!

★ **JPLIS Student Success:** Positive behavior is shining at JPLIS, where 728 students have earned a visit to the "Sparken Lounge"! We also celebrate student agency—the Jr. Meister singers recently put together a song and step routine that was almost entirely student-driven. Outside of school, 5th-grader Harper N. is the PA Junior Wrestling Youth State Champion, and 6th-grader Owen G. was selected for the Quebec International PeeWee Hockey Tournament!

♥ **Elementary Engagement:** Hopewell Elementary had a fantastic Heart Health Week, raising an incredible **\$9,263.70** for the American Heart Association! Meanwhile, Liberty Bell students enjoyed a fun-filled STEAM Assembly featuring the Da Vinci Center, generously sponsored by the PTA.



Spring Sports Dominance!

Our Spartan teams are leading the District 11 standings across the board.

Current Team Standings:

- **First Place Leaders:** Baseball (12-2), Girls Lacrosse (8-3), Softball (11-4), and Boys Volleyball (9-4) are all holding impressive first-place positions in District 11!
- **Undefeated:** Both Boys and Girls Track & Field teams remain undefeated at 6-0.
- **Tennis Success:** Boys Tennis secured the Colonial League Runner-up position (just 3 points away from breaking Moravian's streak!). Highlights include Joey P. & Josh H. taking 1st place in 2nd doubles, and Alexandre A. taking 1st place in 1st singles.

SLMS Boys Volleyball & Coach Neeffé Dedication

History was made recently at the Middle School as a capacity crowd cheered on the inaugural match of our SLMS Boys Volleyball program! We also celebrated the legacy of our athletics program with the official **Brian Neeffé Field Dedication** on April 16, honoring a coach whose impact on our district is truly unquantifiable.



BOARD & COMMUNITY UPDATES

Board Governance & Policy

As the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) phases out its partnership with Diligent (BoardDocs), Administration is actively evaluating new technology solutions for Electronic Board Agendas and Policy Maintenance. The Policy Committee also continues to review key updates regarding Board Membership, Meeting Procedures, and Public Comments.

National Recognition

Congratulations to 8th-grader Liliana B., who has been awarded this year's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Outstanding Achievement Award! She will receive a \$500 college savings deposit in honor of her incredible student leadership.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **April 27:** SLSD School Board meeting @ 6:30 PM in the SLHS Media Center
- **May 1:** Kindergarten Screening Event & District Professional Learning Day
- **May 1 & 2:** SLMS Musical: *The Addams Family*
- **May 4:** Education/Technology Committee Meeting (4:30 pm, SLSD Administration Center)
- **May 5:** Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting (5:00 pm, SLHS Auditorium)
- **May 11:** Policy Committee Meeting (3:00 pm, SLSD Administration Center)
- **May 11:** SLSD School Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the SLHS Media Center
- **May 19:** Athletic Signing Day (1:00 PM, High School Gym)
- **May 25:** Memorial Day, Schools Closed
- **May 26:** SLSD School Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the SLHS Media Center

Southern Lehigh School District

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