LAMPLIGHTER

DOCK Mennonite Academy
WINTER 2024

6 Homecoming and Alumni of the Year

16 Girls Soccer Team Win State Championship

26 Dock Archives and The Vault



Better Together

The motto that helped win a state title.

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ON THE COVER: The girls soccer team celebrated after winning the State Championship game on November 18. This achievement marks the first time in school history that a girls athletic team has won a State Championship. Read more about the team's season on page 16.
Photo credit: Shawn May

RIGHT: Two young classmates enjoyed participating in the 21st Annual Race for Education on October 25. Read more about the Race for Education on page 10.

DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

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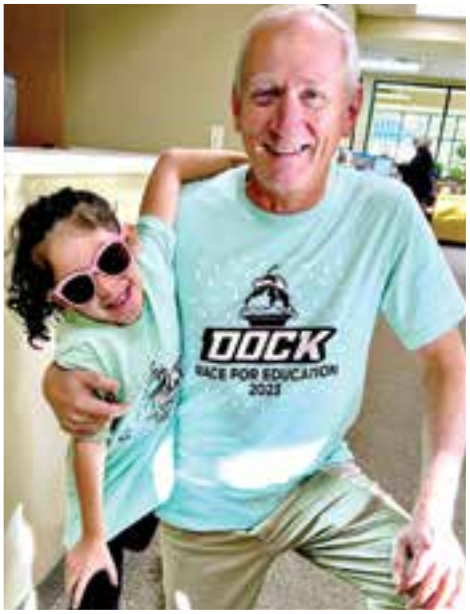
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Superintendent's
MESSAGE



It Takes a Community

When I was a student, we didn't have computers, email, or cell phones. I learned to type, read a newspaper, and didn't have television through my high school years. Anything like Chat GPT was only imagined in extreme fictional movies. I learned about the broader community through reading, hearing people talk about other places, and ultimately through our own service with the Mennonite Central Committee in Asia.

Many of the situations our students face today were not issues when I was a student. We had our own challenges and opportunities of course, but not the ones students face today. Our students have access to everything all the time. Their ability to access information, opinions, and data allows them to have a broader perspective. Social media plays a significant role in the lives of our students, but often with a negative impact on social emotional health. While a supportive community has always been an important part of the Dock experience, it is more needed today than ever before.

The presence of a strong, encouraging community increases the likelihood of a student's success, and also the success of teams. In November, the girls soccer team became the first Dock girls athletic team to win a state championship. Team captains worked hard at providing the team with community building opportunities like team lunches, Bible studies, and other ways of living out the team's motto, "better together."

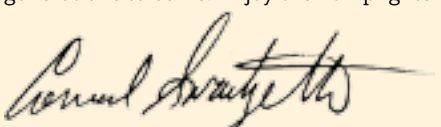
We recognize great value when a student's church, family, and school are all a part of that community. The Dock school community strives to collaborate with families and congregations to encourage our students toward a life of meaning and impact. We completed our second year of inviting parents in small groups on campus for Coffee and Conversation, to keep parents better informed and to hear their ideas and thoughts. We will soon ask parents to complete annual surveys that help us better understand their experience at Dock.

The Race for Education is an event that allows parents, grandparents, friends, and relatives to come and support students. While one of the primary goals is to raise funds, it is inspiring to see the students walking with grandparents, connecting socially while being active.
Expo Night brings the broader community together to see student projects and hear the reflections of our middle school students.
Mini-Term and Senior Experience provided the opportunity for high school students to travel to Philadelphia, Lancaster, New Jersey, a local hospital, Oklahoma, Tanzania, and many other locations. Their experiences were varied, allowing them to focus on topics, careers, and issues of personal interest.

Alumni are a vital part of our Dock community. Alumni return as contractors to help transform our buildings and grounds that provide an amazing setting for our students. Alumni speak in chapel and classes to challenge our students in academic areas as well as making thoughtful life choices.

Mennonite churches and individuals in this area were instrumental in starting our EC8 campus in 1945 and the HS campus in 1954. Our collaborative relationship with local churches has been instrumental in supporting our students. Our Christ-centered approach has allowed us to relate to the various churches as we keep Jesus at the forefront.

In this Lamplighter issue you will find evidence of this dynamic community that surrounds and encourages students on their Dock journey. Thanks to all of you who make up this essential community for our students today as well as for generations to come. Enjoy the Lamplighter!



Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber, Superintendent

While a supportive community has always been an important part of the Dock experience,

it is more needed today than ever before.

Mini-Term 2023

"I appreciate that Mini-Term provides students with hands-on learning and opportunities to serve others." - Dock Parent



2023 Mini-Term Courses:

- STEM in Motion
- Golf for Life
- Outdoor Expeditions
- Acrylic Pour Painting: Levels 1 and 2
- Cooking and Community
- Philadelphia Museums
- Spruce Lake Adventure Trip
- Costume and Prop Design
- The Working World of St. Luke's Hospital
- The Fall Classic
- Footprints in the Sand
- A Fine Arts Experience



Thanks to an engaged group of students, and the passion and hard work of the faculty leaders, this year's Mini-Term week once again provided important and authentic learning experiences for grades 9-11 students. Parents that completed a feedback survey indicated that the Mini-Term objectives they felt were best experienced this year by students were:

- ➥Provide a hands-on, experiential learning experience
- ➥Build new relationships
- ➥Help students learn about themselves in new settings
- ➥Help students explore the unknown

One parent shared, "I appreciated that my daughter had the opportunity for a real life experience to see what a hospital setting is like... She enjoyed interacting with patients and walked away with a good sense of the direction she would like to take her learning."

When faculty were asked about their highlights from the week, there was agreement that Mini-Term continues to be a special time that allows for relationship and community building. One faculty member commented that a favorite memory from the week "was all of the laughs shared and getting to know students in different settings." The week also provided important opportunities for service and faith formation. A faculty member commented, "I appreciated that one of our students offered to lead devotions every day." A leader from the Spruce Lake Adventure Trip Mini-Term caught this moment:

> "When we got to the top of the mountain one student at a time could go out on the big rock that overlooked the valley. One of our students while out there asked the leader if he could pray while on the rock. The young man prayed out loud a short prayer thanking God for his wonderful creation."





Mini-Term Objectives

- ◆ Provide a hands-on, experiential learning experience
- ◆ Help students develop a passion or be given a taste for a topic or career
- ◆ Expand student awareness of other cultures and people
- ◆ Help students explore the unknown
- ◆ Expose students to the world's needs
- ◆ Build new relationships
- ◆ Apply the goals stated in the Graduate Profile to the real world
- ◆ Develop student faith journeys
- ◆ Give to others through concrete service opportunities
- ◆ Help students learn about themselves in new settings









Maria DeRosa - WFMZ tv

Senior Experience

By **Zach Bower,**
HS Social Studies and Communications Associate


Ceara Barnes with WNBA sports journalist

"This week made me look forward to the future."
- Ella Bechtel

For almost thirty years, it has been the tradition that Dock Seniors be required to complete hours of job shadowing or service as a way to help guide and prepare for life after graduation. I remember my own Senior Experience week in January 2002 well, shadowing **Mr. Paul Veltre** (parent of current Dock students Olivia, Sophia, Micah, and Ezra) in his social studies classroom at William Tennent High School for half the week and a local architect for the other half. Now that I am sixteen years into teaching and working in the field of education, one might guess how that week turned out for me! I remember shifting my thoughts about a career path in architecture that I was strongly considering and realizing that teaching might be a better fit, based on my experiences that week. Enjoy reading these few excerpts from student journals revealing similar significant learnings and moments of impact from this week.

Abbie Neiderer- Steps on Broadway in New York City
While this day was meaningful for so many reasons, I think the moment that will stick with me forever was when Tera-Lee Pollin (Broadway performer and teacher) said "I really could see you making it in this industry." When you put so much time and energy into working towards a goal like this and sacrificing so much along the way, it was the best feeling in the world to be told that I have a shot at doing what I have always dreamed of.

Maria DeRosa- WFMZ-TV in Allentown
I was able to go with a reporter and her photographer to cover a story at Cedar Crest College using virtual reality in their classrooms. I got to see how they record clips, and how a reporter interviews people to cover their story. It was so cool to come home, look up the clip, and watch the news story they created, and that I was a part of it.

Ceara Barnes- Dock HS Athletic Director and WNBA sports journalist Ariana Prather
Overall I felt that this week was extremely helpful. Not only for the experience, but also the connections and life lessons I made/learned. I was able to gain knowledge and mentors from very successful and hardworking people. Having these examples were amazing to show me how much I can do in life if I stay dedicated, focused, and motivated.

Chris Moore- Mennonite Central Committee Office, Washington DC
I learned that working in this kind of job, you don't always see the fruits of your labor right away. It might take years to make a change and not everything you do will produce something, sometimes you swing and miss.

Kira Chen- MCC Material Resource Center
What touched me the most was the sense of community and purpose in that place. Coordinator Sharon explained that the quilts we were making would be donated to people in need, including war victims and refugees. This realization gave my work a deeper meaning, transforming it from a simple sewing task into a heartfelt gesture of compassion and support.



"I enjoyed my time in this classroom and it is making me excited for the future and what is to come."
- Olivia Moyer



Adelyn Clemmer - Notre Dame International



Chris Moore - Mennonite Central Committee Office - Washington DC



Tess Bergey - Bergey's



Leah Al-laty - Dock EC-8 Campus - Music



Ashley Lapp - Dock EC-8 Campus - Kindergarten

Senior Experience Placements 2023

Travel Haus
Signature Smile
Dock EC-8 Music
Main Street Management
Dock 9-12 Athletic Director
Flutter Lash and Beauty Studio
Bechtel Family Farms and Towamencin Fire Company
Bergey's
Anthropology
Gehman Builders
Integrated Security Systems
Souderton Mennonite Homes
CHL Systems
Dock 9-12 Athletic Trainer
Blue Bell Villas
Bluestone Country Club
Salford Hills Elementary School
Penndale Middle School
Dock E-8 Admissions Office and Administration
Quakertown Christian School
Jackie's Gym
Cotterinon Supply
Mennonite Resource Center
Upward Sports
Quartertown Borough Police Department
WFMZ-TV Allentown
Dublin Dental Center
White House School
Philadelphia Police Department, Crime Scene Unit
Bucks County Courthouse
Access Services
Penn Foundation
The Barley Sheaf Players
Immaculata University
Paul V Fly Elementary
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Everything Little Farm
Fluehr Funeral Home
Comprehensive Physical Therapy
Ivy Rehab
Remax Real Estate Agent
Quakertown Center Nursing Home
Pennfield Middle School
Clean Harbors
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
Life Church (Oklahoma)
Dock EC-8 Kindergarten
Joy Travel
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Color Con Laboratories
Franconia Mennonite Church
JAARS
Gro 'n Sell
CHL Systems
Skippack Family Chiropractor
Mennonite Resource Center
Sky Korean Martial Arts
University of Pennsylvania
Chestnut Hill Hospital
Bethany Christian School
Notre Dame International
Indian Valley Middle School
Salem Tech
New Ridge Fellowship
Girl Scouts of Eastern PA
Trinity Axis
Quakertown Christian School Middle/High School Teacher
Pennridge High School
Total Performance Physical Therapy
Grand View Health Orthopedics
Grand View Health Cardiology
Mennonite Central Committee Office, Washington DC
Kimberton Dance Academy Tap Teacher & Performer
Dock EC-8 Marketing
Steps on Broadway, Marymount Manhattan College and The Joffrey Ballet School
Emily Brunner Photography
The Dance Depot Ballet
Lederach Piano Bar
6ABC News Philadelphia
Orange Theory Fitness
Aark Wildlife and Conservation Center
USDA
Care and Share
Daylesford Crossing within the SageLife Senior Living community
NYC Morgan Stanley
Earth Matter Governors Island, NY

HOMECOMING
& FAMILY WEEKEND

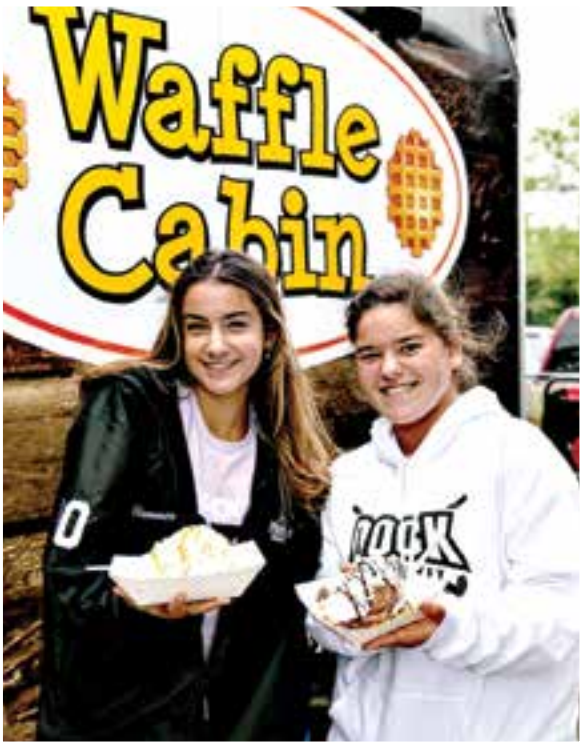


reconnect • rediscover • remember

The weekend was packed with opportunities for active participation around campus for the whole family, cheering on our athletic teams, enjoying live music, kids inflatables, class reunions and local food trucks.






Waffle
Cabin







Class Reunions Spotlight



Class of 1958—Met for lunch at Franconia Heritage Restaurant on Sept. 30th to celebrated their 65th Anniversary. **Naomi Kolb DuBlanica** led us in a song and a blessing. **Doris Kolb** shared a recorded solo from "The Holy City" sung by our former classmate and her late husband, **Ralph Alderfer**. Each place setting was given a favor in memory of **Pearl Schrack**, our former English teacher, who recently passed away. We enjoyed our time of fellowship and sharing cherished memories from those early days of our new high school. –**Dorothy Harnish** ('58)



Class of 1963—The evening began with a period of socialization, then hors d'oeuvres and a meal graciously arranged by Dock Alumni Office and **Bob Rutt**, Director of Advancement. Conversations hummed and laughter pervaded the library as class members shared life experiences and recalled eventful memories. Following the meal **Glenn Baumen** initiated a time to share as a group, beginning with memories and tributes to **Pearl Schrack**, our beloved class adviser. As the evening wrapped up, Glenn mentioned the name of each class member not present and asked for updates on their circumstances. Pearl Schrack's prayer at our 50th reunion reminds us "to give thanks [to God] for enabling us to weave life's experiences - good and bad, deep joys and disappointments and sometimes even deeper griefs - into a pattern that becomes perfect in [His] sight." The members of the class of 1963, most of us in our late 70's, deeply appreciate these words.
–**Mary Lynn (Landis) Ferry** ('63)



Class of 1968



Class of 1971—The class of 1971 women have planned a 3-day get-together every 10 years starting at age 40. We have gone to Lancaster at 40, Long Beach Island at 50, Wellsboro at 60, and this past year Ocean City at 70. The consensus this year was that at our age, we probably shouldn't wait until we are 80 to get together again. We have always had good times being together and reconnecting. We are thankful for our friendships. –**Elaine Gehman** ('71)



Class of 1973

To read more about Homecoming, Class Reunions and this year's award recipients, visit the Dock website at www.https://www.dock.org/alumni



Class of 1982



Class of 1983



Class of 2008

Alumni of the Year 2023

Congratulations to Dock's 2023 Alumni of the Year recipients! These graduates embody the significance of learning that leads to lives of purpose.



Deborah Wolff Busch
Ph.D. 1988

DOCK MENNONITE ACADEMY
Outstanding Achievement Award



Geoffrey Lovelace
Ph.D. 1998



Abigail Moyer
1998

DOCK MENNONITE ACADEMY
Distinguished Service Award



Mark Boorse
1980



Chelsea Wimmer
DMA 2009

DOCK MENNONITE ACADEMY
Young Alum Of The Year Award



Dr. Jack Perkins
2012

DOCK
RACE FOR EDUCATION
2023



Dock Race for Education 2023

This year's Race for Education took place on a beautiful Fall October day with record turnout by parents, grandparents, family, and friends. Our entire school community took turns racing on the track in their (NEW for 2023) mint green Race for Education t-shirts! We are extremely thankful for an event that continues to be both a friend-raiser and an important fundraiser for our school!

With the help of many, we crushed our annual goal and raised **$73,061**! The support, dedication and enthusiasm of families, friends and local business sponsors will make a huge difference in the daily lives of our teachers and students by providing top-notch educational opportunities for each of them.

As promised, **Principal Claire Wanamaker** agreed to become a human ice cream sundae if we met our goal. Our school community made sure this happened at an All-School Pep Rally in late November with our top student donors adding all the toppings! This event proved to be the cherry on top of this SWEET fundraiser!













DOCK NEW FACULTY 2023-24

(left to right)

Mrs. Monica Jefferson, EC-8 Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Kelly Weaver ('00), High School Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Nikki Rossi, 4th Grade Teacher

Miss Jamie McKnight, 3rd Grade Teacher

Mr. Tim Keller, Discover (Grade 7 and 8) Math and Science Teacher



ALL SCHOOL CHAPEL WITH JEREMY NOEL

Mr. Jeremy Noel, a former student of Dock music teacher and choir director **Mrs. Sam Brannon**, visited the EC-8 campus and presented two amazing chapels for students. Jeremy is from the local area and was in town portraying Simba in *The Lion King*, the musical. Jeremy spoke to the students about how he went from playing sports in school to singing and acting in theater after an injury, and that God sometimes has different plans for each one of us. **Mrs. Brannon** has been a mentor to Jeremy and has acted as both director and voice coach for him over the years. Jeremy encouraged students to find and use their gifts by singing in church, trying out for theater, etc., but to make sure to have fun and focus on whatever role you are given and to pray!



WINDOW ART ENRICHMENT-BEATITUDES!

Mrs. Taylor McKenney's "Window Art" Enrichment class taught students how to create stained-glass window paintings to brighten up the school hallways. This year's theme verse (Matthew 5: 3-10) has now become a visual that students will see throughout the school. Each student chose one of the Beatitudes to draw and designed an image to go along with it.



BUILDING COMMUNITY BY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



To help make each student's birthday special, Principal **Mrs. Claire Wanamaker** mentions student birthdays during morning announcements, their names are placed on the BIG screen in the lobby, and each student comes up to the main office to choose a hand crocheted hat that matches their personality on their special day. A tag is placed on each hat reading "Dock loves them" with the other side mentioning the theme verse for the year, The Beatitudes. The goal is that every student will have a hat to keep them warm in winter months when they are outside playing

EC to Grade 8 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS







FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

A special thanks to Dock parents **Mrs. Robyn Neiderer** and **Mrs. Sharon Muhlfeld** for helping make the Dock EC8 Fall Family Fun Night 2023 a reality. Combined with perfect fall weather, great food, and lots of fun games, teachers, students and families had a wonderful time of fellowship together.



FALL FELLOWSHIP AT CAMP MEN-O-LAN

Middle school teachers and students enjoyed an amazing day of team building and fellowship at Camp Men-O-Lan in September. Some team electives included Capture the Flag, Hiking, Nature Art, Camp Songs, Rock Hop, Read and Chill, Scripture Art. The day concluded with families invited to a fireside with songs and worship.

PASTORS DAY

What an amazing day with 39 pastors on the EC8 campus. Pastors and students worshiped in Chapel together and many students performed for pastors while they enjoyed a continental breakfast. Pastors then visited classrooms, playgrounds, music rooms, etc and shared some one-on-one quality time with students from their congregations.









SOUDERTON FIRE COMPANY VISITS PRE-K AND K STUDENTS

Early Childhood and Kindergarten classes learned all about fire prevention during Fire Prevention Week in October, and got a special visit from our friends at Souderton Fire Company.





CHILD DEVELOPMENT EXPLORATORY

Mrs. Rachael Grim's middle school Child Development Exploratory students reviewed many of the developmental goals for our Early Childhood students and created various activities to participate in together. Our youngest students experienced reading, crafts, games and physical activities in a small group setting.



FRAKTUR EXHIBIT AT MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTER

Congratulations to all our young artists that currently have Fraktur Art on display at the Mennonite Heritage Center! Last spring, Dock alum **Emily Smucker-Beidler** ('83) visited first, fifth, and sixth grade students in **Mrs. Kim Bergey's** Art class to teach about Fraktur and how to create their own work. Emily was first introduced to Fraktur art when she was a young student at Dock and is excited to pass on the tradition.



KINDERGARTEN PERKIOMEN WATERSHED FIELD TRIP

Kindergarten teachers and students visited the Perkiomen Watershed solving "Danny Deer's Fall Mysteries." Students became investigators as they searched for clues along the trail that would uncover the secrets of "Danny Deer's Fall Mysteries." What are those squirrels doing? Why do some birds fly south? What treasures do wildflowers leave behind? How do the green leaves change to red, orange, and yellow? Students were excited as they marveled at all that is fall!



JAARS HELICOPTER MAKES A VISIT



During their visit to PA in September, JAARS (Jungle Aviation & Relay Services) pilots/staff made a stop with their helicopter to the Dock EC8 campus. JAARS landed their helicopter on the campus track while all our students watched! In addition, they taught a science unit using the helicopter and shared their global mission work in a chapel. A special thanks to Dock parent and JAARS representative **Martha Detweiler** for helping make this visit possible!

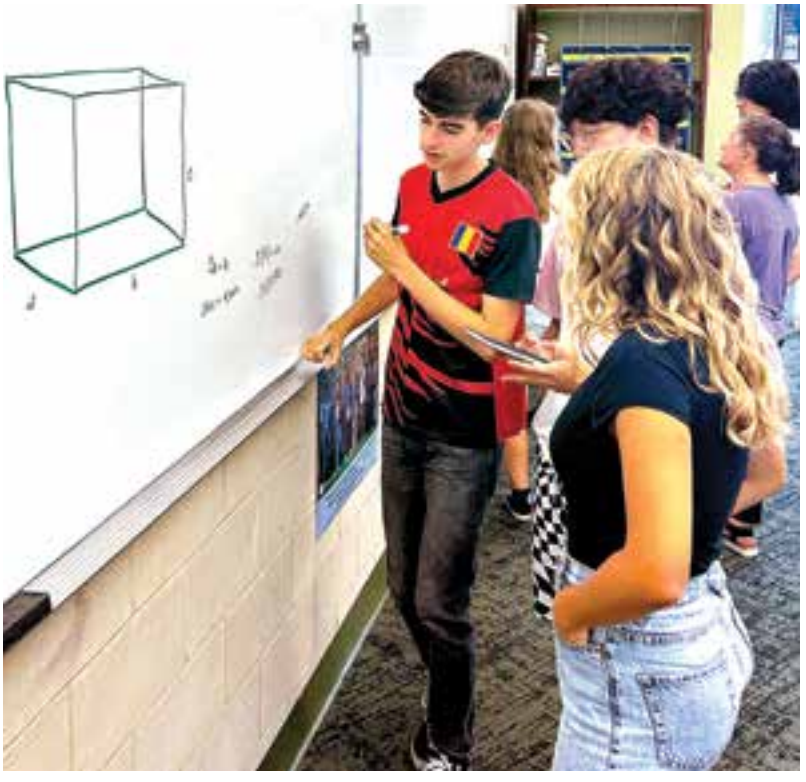
SUMMER BOOK CLUBS



As teachers and administrators wrapped up their summer and began preparations for the new school year, many were equipped with new tools and inspiration from the Summer Book Club that they participated in. The purpose of the book clubs is to help teachers grow as professionals within a community, and book selections are based on Dock's Continuous Improvement goals. Each group met at least once during the summer to discuss the book and topic. Book titles/topics included *Teaching with the Brain in Mind*, *Choice Time*, *Restorative Justice in Education*, *Educator Bandwidth*, and ChatGPT.



Math on the **Move**



It is hard not to get excited when seeing Kindergarten through grade 5 students working with their new Math Curriculum or walking past high school Math classrooms. That's right, math can be exciting! K-5 teachers participated in training this summer for the Illustrative Math Curriculum and began implementing this school year. Also nine educators (K-12) read *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics* by Peter Liljedahl, for summer book club reading. **Principal Claire Wanamaker** (EC-8 Principal) sees a strong connection between the new curriculum and Liljedahl's book: "IM encourages students to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Students learn how to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. These are just two examples of how the IM curriculum and the Building Thinking classrooms in Mathematics book tie together." **Mr. Dana Gehman** (HS Math teacher) heard about Liljedahl's book at the Mennonite Educators Conference last February, which resulted in the entire high school Math Department reading it. **Mrs. Kathy Kennel** describes below the success that has been happening in their Math classrooms so far this year.



By **Kathy Kennel**
HS Mathematics and Computer Science Teacher

The High School Math Department has been passionate about getting students to think and grow in their problem solving skills for many years. At times we have felt success and at other times failure. Over the summer, we had the opportunity to read the book *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics* by Peter Liljedahl. It didn't take long for us to start emailing and texting each other about the exciting ideas we were reading.

One way I would describe it is that for years I have been trying different techniques with partial success that always seemed to be missing something. As I read this book, I kept nodding my head yes and then exclaiming, "Oh that's what we are missing!" The ideas Liljedahl had researched were confirming the practices we were already doing while giving us the missing pieces that we needed to make it all come together.







Some of the new practices we are implementing include:



- Each day students are randomly assigned to a group of three, so they are learning to collaborate with everyone in the class and develop teamwork skills.
- Students learn the content by standing up at whiteboards in their teams, solving a variety of problems that are thin sliced to slowly increase in difficulty allowing students to learn at their own pace with the support of their peers.
- As teachers, we are being thoughtful about what questions we answer and how we answer in order to keep students thinking.
- After working on thinking activities for a while, we take time as a class to consolidate our learning by looking at the work of various groups around the room.
- Students are regularly encouraged and taught to take meaningful notes, avoiding just duplicating examples and instead recording "the what and why" of what they are doing, as well as adding examples of their own.



- Students are assigned Check Your Understanding questions with the Answer Key provided. These assignments are not graded, but are used by students to check whether they are understanding the concepts learned. There is time provided to ask questions as they arise.
- Tests have been changed into Benchmarks. These Benchmarks can be retaken as needed after students demonstrate preparation and practice showing they are ready to try again.
- Students have opportunities to reflect on how well they are understanding concepts as they work through their Check Your Understanding assignments using the Assessment Topics Checklist provided with each Chapter.

These techniques and others take intentional planning and reflection to fine tune and adjust as needed. We are excited about what we are seeing and the joy of learning that we get to experience every day! **Mr. Gehman** emailed parents of Algebra II students to inform them about the changes that are happening this year. One parent responded:

> "Just to show how what you are doing is having such a positive impact, my daughter came home yesterday and told me that she had a great math class today because they were up at the whiteboards. For a girl who was not truly comfortable in math, she is loving it. Thank you for all that you do and know that your approach to math is exciting and is having a very positive impact."

Student Feedback:

Pre-Calculus is one of my favorite classes, not because it's easy, but because of the environment. Each morning in class we get new seats with different people. Since it is random, I get to work with everybody in the class at some point. The class is also very interactive, so we all get to work together on problems we struggle with. This especially helps for newer concepts since we get extra time to work through the more challenging problems.
—Junior **Seth Alderfer**

I enjoy Algebra II because it is different from any other class. For example, we sit with a new group of three people everyday. I think this really pushes us to talk and collaborate with new people. Another nice difference is working on white boards around the room. I love this because sitting at desks for a whole period is really hard.
—Junior **Paige Hinnershitz**



In October, high school Math teachers Dana Gehman, Kathy Kennel, and Marcelo Mast attended the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference in Washington DC.

State Champions

Better Together

The motto that helped girl's soccer win a state championship



Historic. There is no other way to say it. The girls soccer team won the PIAA Class 1A girls soccer championship game on November 18; the first time a Dock girls athletic program has captured a state title in school history. The season was almost perfect, with a record of 21 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. The team scored a total of 112 goals, with top scorers Freshman **Ashley Brown** (41 goals), Senior **Ashley Lapp** (20 goals), and Senior **Billinda Leisner** (15 goals). Coach **Stacey Vaitis-Dubost** even told the team on the first day of practice in August that they were going to win the state title. (Coach Vaitis-Dubost was also named the PSCA 1A Girls Soccer Coach of the Year.)

While these achievements are worthy of celebrating by themselves, **there is more to the story**.

This year's girls soccer team not only achieved the highest levels of success by soccer standards, but also as ambassadors of Dock Mennonite Academy, demonstrating what it looks like to live out the school's mission to *learn for lives of purpose.* Dock's administration received multiple unsolicited phone calls from families of teams that had played against the team, wanting to provide praise on the character and sportsmanship of Dock's players. Earlier this fall, a prospective student arrived for their tour at Dock mentioning that it was after playing the girls soccer team, and noticing their conduct on the field, that provided encouragement to consider transferring to Dock. Read on for the inside story behind the team's success, in the words of two of their players, juniors **Caitlin May** and **Eden Loux** .

By Juniors **Caitlin May** and **Eden Loux**
This story was originally presented in Chapel

Throughout this season, there has been one phrase that our team has lived by; ***Better Together***. All the girls on the team embraced this phrase and you could see how much we improved as a team. Every girl supported each other. Whether through constant encouragement, hyping each other up before games, or laughing together at team bonding, our team this year has been one of friendship and love. Each season is a little different than the last, but this is one we'll never forget from losing to Souderton in a game we probably could have won, to qualifying and winning states. There isn't one moment we would choose to change. Whatever happened during the season, we dealt with it together as a team.

Another thing we are thankful for from this team is how welcoming they are. When I (Eden) came to my first high school practice as a freshman, the sports environment (at Dock) was a lot different than my club at the time. Everyone was vocal in their encouragement and it surprised me how friendly a girl's soccer team could be. If you made a mistake at practice or in a game you didn't get yelled at. If you put your head down during a game, your teammates were there to help you bring yourself back up.

Hearing about how different high school soccer experiences can be at other schools makes us grateful for our experience at Dock. In practice, mistakes aren't punished, they are expected. Our coaches care about us and want us to improve individually and as a unit. Every practice is designed with our best interest in mind. Our coaches showed up every day because they wanted to help us improve, which is why we are so thankful to have them as our role models.

There are many takeaways we could talk about from the season. So the one specific lesson we will talk about is when our coaches told us that if you lose the ball, win it back in three seconds.

Whatever happened during the season, we dealt with it **together as a team.**

This stuck out to us because our coaches were trying to teach us something that not many people have. Hard work. It may seem simple, but hard work is what really made this team special.

If it wasn't for all the hard work our coaches and teammates put into the season, the outcome of the season would probably have been less historic. Thank you to our teammates for working hard when other teams wouldn't. We would also like to say thank you to all those who have supported us this season. Whether it be parents, teachers, family, friends or classmates. Your support means the world to us and we could not have done it without all of you. The constant encouragement we received from everyone fueled us to work hard and win more games.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.



Photos credit: Shawn May

Grades 9 to 12 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS







PIONEER DAY

Grade level meetings, advisor group time for games and welcoming new students, chapel, the kickoff activity for Dock Chase, grade level competition at Groff Pond, a Dock Talk from **Principal Doug Hackman**, Mini-Term meetings, hand-dipped ice cream, and an exciting pep rally made Pioneer Day full of positive experiences that helped students and teachers start the new year off well. An important goal for Pioneer Day is to help build relationships and build community early in the school year.





SENIOR RETREAT

Seniors and senior advisors continued the tradition of traveling to Spruce Lake Retreat Center for the Senior Retreat this fall. Once the group arrived at Spruce Lake, students didn't waste any time enjoying the amazing fall weather, with a large group guided by **Mrs. Darla Bergey** to the top of Spruce Mountain. An important component of the Senior Retreat is dedicated time for advisor groups to gather for a time of debriefing and reflection on learnings from Senior Experience week.





Proverbs 3:27, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."

Serving with MEDA in Tanzania

By Freshmen **Amelia Landis**
This story was originally presented in Chapel





I think that if and when an event comes up in your life and you have the power to improve the lives of people around you, or even far away, **take the opportunity to do so.**

During the last week of September, I was able to visit Tanzania with MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates). I struggled to make a choice between going to Tanzania or being here for Mini-Term week, as they happened at the same time, but after many nights of praying, God finally led me to go to Tanzania. On my trip to Tanzania, I met inspiring people and visited businesses that are working to improve the quality of life for people. I feel so blessed to have been able to visit these entrepreneurs, as well as others. MEDA helps people around the world get out of poverty by supporting and growing new businesses.

One thing on this trip that especially stood out to me was how many people had come up with incredible and potentially life changing ideas, and there are still so many people around the world who have many ideas and are still neglected because they don't have resources available to them, which is why I really appreciate what MEDA does. I saw companies and entrepreneurs being able to make their ideas come to life. They allow people across the world to share and execute their ideas. MEDA was created to help others get recognition because they deserve it, no matter where they are. I think that if and when an event comes up in your life and you have the power to improve the lives of people around you, or even far away, take the opportunity to do so. A verse that makes me think of this is Proverbs 3:27, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."

Examples of businesses that are supported by MEDA in Tanzania:

NovFeed's special bacteria turns food waste into fish food for the aquaculture industry. This creates a sustainable way to feed fish to feed people. takes food scraps from markets and restaurants and turns them into fish food.



Med Foods buys ginger and garlic from small-scale farmers, which Med Foods turns into spices and spice mixes. The high quality means they can export them for higher profits.



Service and Authentic Learning with PreK IU Students

Students in **Mr. Matt Moyer's** *Recreational Games* class had a blast connecting with the MCIU (Montgomery County Intermediate Unit) Pre-K students that use classrooms in Dielman Hall. Senior **Leah Al-laty** got the ball rolling with this exciting plan when she asked Mr. Moyer at the beginning of the school year if their Rec Games class could connect with the Pre-K students. After some investigating and planning, Mr. Moyer was able to coordinate five times during the month of October that the Juniors and Seniors in Rec Games would plan activities for the Pre-K students.

Having the Rec Games class plan and lead these activities was an act of service that not only provided the IU teachers and students with support, but also provided plenty of authentic learning opportunities along the way. Mr. Moyer shared that, "Leah (Al-laty) had the idea but didn't just stop leading there, she remained an important leadership presence throughout the experiences." Many of the students stepped up and did well with not only planning the games, but also connecting with the younger students. Moyer said, "It's neat to see different sides of students come out when working with the young kids."

This experience also provided moments where the Rec Games students could see what it feels like to be a teacher. After each lesson, the Rec Games students discussed and reflected on what worked well and what didn't, so that they could improve for next time. Moyer sees a lot of potential for continued connection with the IU programs on Dock campus, not only to connect to service and authentic learning opportunities, but also to connect Dock students with others in Dock's local community that they might not normally otherwise connect with.









Child Development I Connects with IU Pre-K Students

Mrs. **Katie Longacre's** Child development students studied the development of a child from conception through preschool age. In addition to many other topics, the students also studied parenting in relation to the developing child. Students observed and interacted with the IU Pre-K students regularly throughout the quarter. The culminating activity was planning and teaching lessons and activities to the Pre-K students. The Child Development students selected a theme and developed lessons around that theme including a book, large and small motor skill activities, a craft, and snack.









Grades 9 to 12
CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



SPIRITUAL LIFE EMPHASIS WEEK 2023

Spiritual Life Emphasis Week was a special faith formation opportunity for the Dock community to reflect on this year's theme verses from the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-6. On Monday, the talented *Parables* music group from Goshen College led students in a high energy and meaningful time of worship. For the rest of the week each chapel began and ended with student and faculty-led worship time, with three local guest speakers that gave students real life examples of how to live out the Beatitudes. Much appreciation and thanks to **Pastor Mike Ford** who shared about "blessed are those who mourn," **Pastor Jake Bunjo** who shared about "blessed are those who are poor in spirit," and **Pastor Jeff Hollenbach** who shared about "blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."







ALC GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Thanks to **Chad Lacher** (93') for speaking to the Athletic Leadership Council this October. Chad told stories and lessons learned from his athletic experiences that helped prepare him as a disciple of Christ, a parent, friend, husband, and in business.

EL FAROLERO

Second floor hallway in Rosenberger Academic Center received a nice addition to the bulletin board with the first issue of El Farolero! El Farolero is the student news publication created by Spanish 3 and AP Spanish classes. Buen trabajo, everyone!













SOPHOMORE FIELD TRIP

Students, teachers, and chaperones enjoyed taking the train into Philadelphia and experiencing the historical sights and all of the fun unplanned moments that can only happen in Philadelphia. Throughout the day, students shared short presentations about significant historical locations. This day continues to be an important component of the building community curriculum at Dock, providing a bonding experience for the sophomore class that also connects seamlessly into their US History classes.







FALL SOCIAL ISSUES TRIP

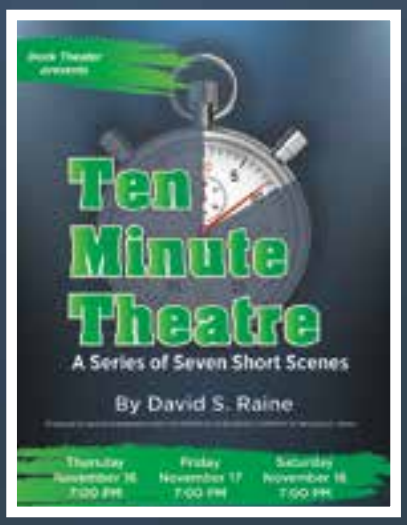
It is hard to describe the significance of learning and group bonding that happens on Social Issues trips for juniors. Experiencing Georgetown through the lens of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (the oldest African American church in Washington DC), visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture, monuments and memorials, the Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, the Capitol Building and Library of Congress, and providing volunteer service for Ward 8 Woods trash cleanup (the group picked up about 2,000 lbs. of trash!). The group worked well together in making meals, caring for each other, navigating the city, and processing all that was seen and experienced.

Fall Drama

Ten Minute Theatre

A Series of Seven Short Scenes

Ten Minute Theatre is a collection of several short plays. A few are comedies, and a few are serious. Although there are several plays with different plot lines, the overall message of the more serious plays is one of hope. The characters in these plays deal with interpersonal relationships with friends, family, and strangers, and especially with having the courage to put another's needs ahead of one's own.





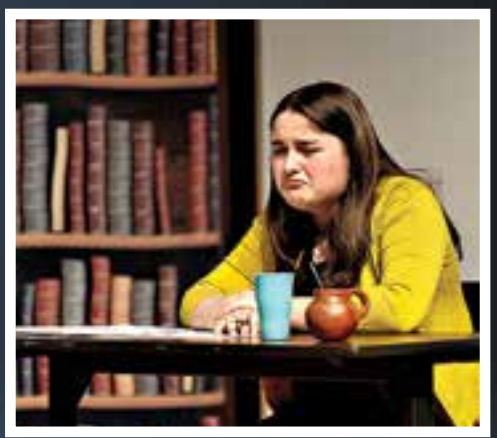
One of the best things about *Ten Minute Theatre* is that it has given our student actors an opportunity to showcase the range of their talents. Each actor plays several parts in stories that range from a comedy about the Tooth Fairy to a story about the challenges of a blind woman, whose sight has recently been restored.



I have always believed that theatre is a wonderful experience for students and an important part of their education. It gives them an opportunity to learn to rely on each other, to be creative, to be challenged, and to step out of themselves for a couple of hours.

–Tony Inverso, Director





Dielman Hall Renovation Update









The Dielman Hall Renovation Project is an example of the dynamic community that surrounds and supports Dock. While all classrooms and the commons area were completed for the beginning of this school year, the next phase (which includes outside roofed porches and a larger atrium and commons area) has been progressing steadily each week with plans of being completed by February 2024. To date, **fifteen businesses** (with Dock alum as leaders) and **forty-three Dock alumni** have been directly involved in the design and construction of the project.

Kevin Detweiler ('11), employed by H Mininger and Son, has been a steady presence on the job site since the first day of the project back in June. Current Senior, **Owen Walsh**, had the opportunity recently to talk with Kevin about his involvement, asking him to reflect on what he is most proud of about this job. Kevin shared that he is... "most proud of being able to have an impact on the lives of the students that are here today. I'm proud to know that the work we do here is contributing to the student's learning by helping to provide a good learning environment that they can enjoy."

Thanks to all of the Dock alumni and friends of Dock that have contributed the highest level of care and professionalism to the Dielman Hall Renovation project!

Alderfer Glass
Wendell Weaver '73
Ben Weaver '01
Nate Weaver '08

A.W. Bergey and Sons Flooring
Micah Bergey '86

Bergey's Electric
Steve Alderfer '70
Robert Bergey '75
Ron Bergey '80
Dan Freed '81
Dale Bergey '83
Amy (Freed) Gulley '00
Derek Cassel '14
Josh Bauman '21
Jake Gerber '21

CHL Systems
Bryan Stout '97
Mat Landis '98
Adam Halteman '02
Seth Landis '04

Derstine Insulation
Daryl Derstine '72

Good Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning
Rod Kratz '87
Don Landis '87
Matt Geiser '01
Ian Schweizerhof '12
Logan Gillespie '21
Nathaniel Landis '22

Hershey Enterprises
Steve Hershey '76

H Mininger and Son
Steve Benner '73
Jim Detweiler '75
Bryce Mininger '83
Scott Kratz '89
Darren Moyer '11
Kevin Detweiler '11
Drew Mininger '11
Colton Young '12

ISS - Integrated Security Systems
Jason Yoder '95

JDS Painting
Jonathan Stunkard '01

Lederach Architecture
Phil Lederach '74

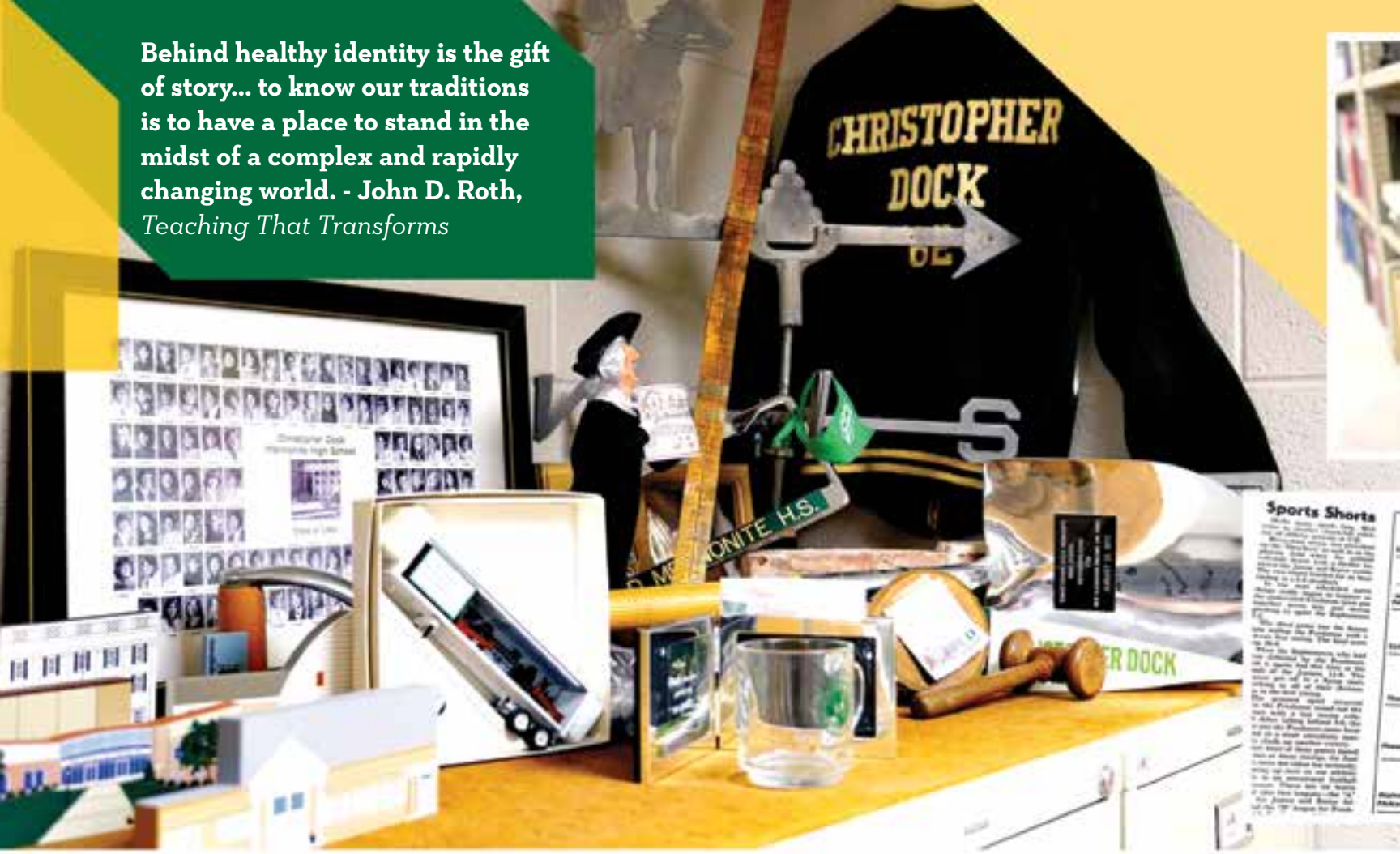
Mast and Associates
Rick Mast '84

Reed Associates
Angela (Moyer) Benner '91

Schiller and Hersh Associates
Richard Delp '92
Jon Bergey '97

Walnut Hill Services
Steve Gillespie '96
Marshall Leaman '19
Micah Zehr '19

Behind healthy identity is the gift of story... to know our traditions is to have a place to stand in the midst of a complex and rapidly changing world. - John D. Roth, *Teaching That Transforms*



Room R-105 Archives: A Treasure of Great Worth

By **S. Duane Kauffman,** *Dock HS Social Studies Teacher* **(1958-2003)**

Since it is not bustling with constant activity, room number R-105 on the lower level of the Rosenberger Academic Center does not generate much attention. Yet, serving as the school archives, **it (the school archives) contains an abundance of resources that provides first-hand information helpful in understanding the school's history**. It is a valuable collection for those doing research, and also a source of data that aids in assessing the school's present status and facilitating future planning.

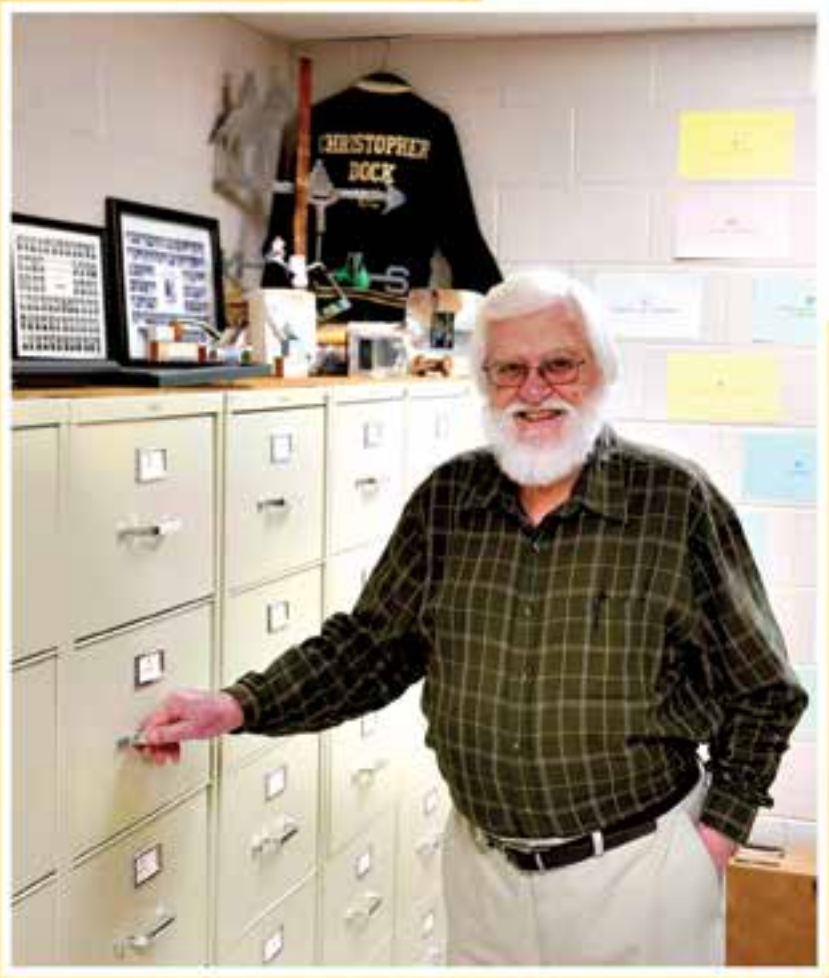
During the 2002-03 school year, I served on the committee planning the Fiftieth Anniversary book to be published the following year. I was given the specific assignment of gathering resources for the author, **Phil Ruth** ('75), and depositing them in a specific place for his use. I found material scattered around the campus in various desks, cabinets, and closets. These items were placed in the large storage room in Longacre Center during the time of research, and remained there for the next two years. In the meantime, consideration was given to replacing the renovated barn known as Grebel Hall. At the same time interest developed in becoming more intentional in preserving and organizing archival material. As a result, final construction plans designated a room in the proposed Rosenberger Academic Center as an archive for storage of the present and future collection.

I was urged by Principal **Elaine Moyer** to take the initiative in this endeavor. My interest in history and long tenure with the school made me a logical candidate for the task.
I was attracted by the challenge since it would give me an opportunity to stay connected to the school after my recent retirement. I also had the advantage of a good asset in my wife who was a public-school librarian. After I accepted, I was given free-rein in planning









and implementation. From the beginning, I received strong support from Principal Moyer and Director of Business Affairs **Jeff Ambrose** was prompt in providing filing cabinets, shelving and responding to other continuing needs.

By the year 2020, there were 2,529 individual files in eight cabinets, of which 812 were personnel records of the administration, faculty and staff. Considerable space was devoted to minutes and other records of the Alumni Association, Campus Senate, Curriculum Committee, Department Chairs, Development Committee, Educational Program Committee, and Faculty. Other files covered subjects such as athletics, class reunions, fundraising and finances, graduation, land and buildings, musical concerts, newspaper clippings, photographs, and student activities.

In the written files some especially interesting subjects such as, "1958 Touring Choir Kutztown Fair Concert Cancellation," "1971 Peace Symbol Controversy," "1973 Piano Acquisition," "1987 Naturalization Court," "1997 Governor Ridge Visit," "1998 Commonwealth vs. Summit Group Travel (Harvey Fiasco)," and "Broomball 2006- '07" are found.

There are shelves of three-ring binders containing minutes and other records of the Board of Trustees and those pertaining to various capital campaigns and course outlines. There are boxed files of publications such as the *Dockument* and *Lamplighter*, newsletters, school calendars, student handbooks, recordings on audio-cassettes, compact disks, DVDs, and Videos. In one corner there are shelves with large boxes containing drawings of site and architectural features of campus structures including the renovation plans of the original Administration Building now known as Detweiler House.

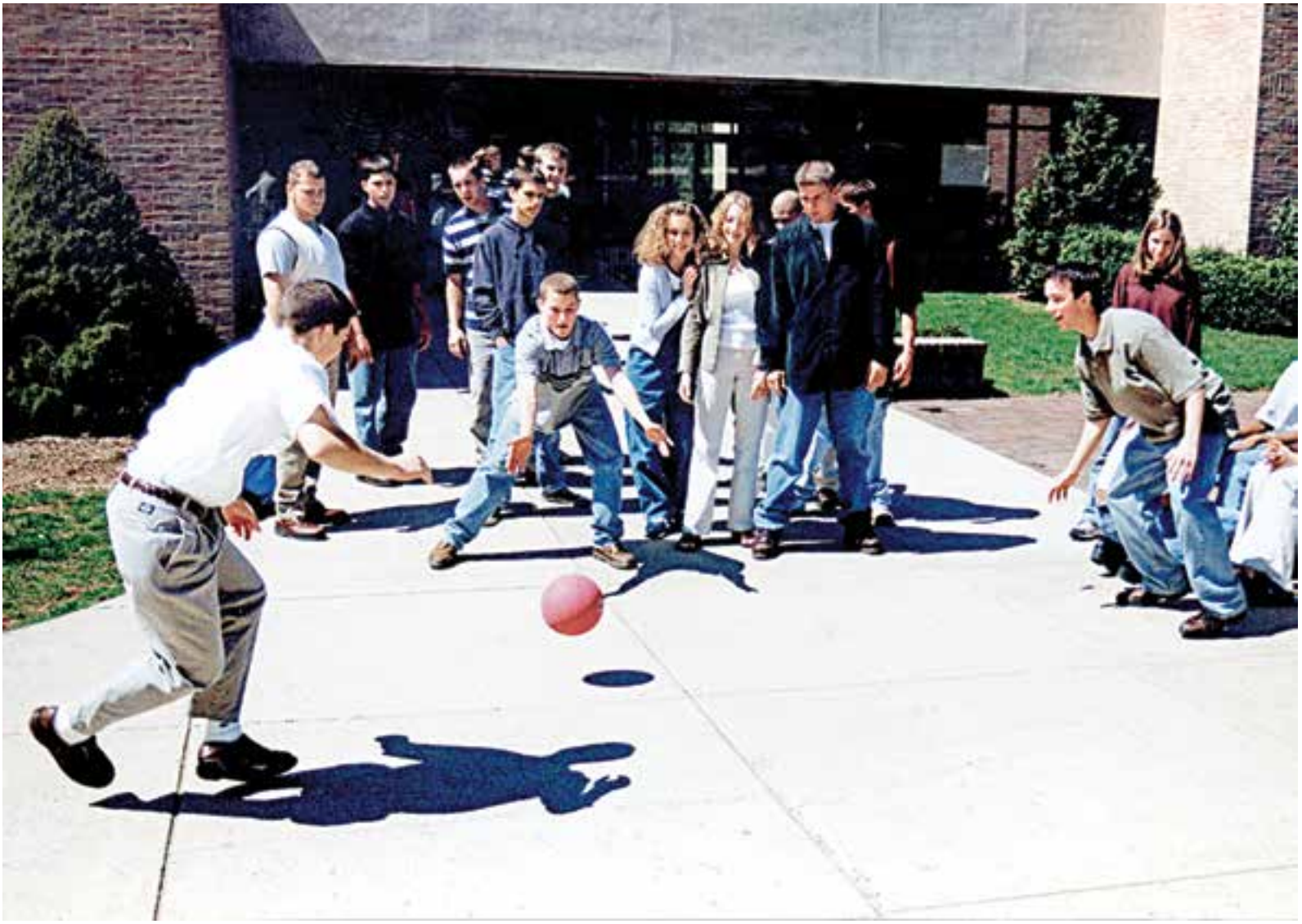
Room R-105 also includes an assortment of school-related artifacts. Some of the more unique examples are a copy of the 1812 diary of schoolmaster George Lukens who once owned the present school property, an American flag donated by Board of Trustees President Graybill, Emma Landis' 1987 menus, the 1959 movie "A Day in the life of C.D," a vinyl record by the 1962 Senior Girls Quartet, and even the infamous Kauffman yardstick.

The school archives are not a lending library where persons may browse, borrow and remove items for personal use. Because of privacy sensitivity and the irreplaceable nature of much of the material, the contents must remain in the room and are accessed only with special permission and supervision.

In reflecting on my two decades of commitment to the archives, I am deeply grateful for the trust and cooperation I received. I found fulfillment in helping to keep the school's story alive and providing resources to support its mission. Due to declining stamina, and a lack of capability and motivation to deal with the impact of technological change, I have handed in my key and will look to others to carry on in this ever-changing digital age.

THE VAULT

The Vault will share out special photos of captured moments (many that have never been published before) that are preserved in the Dock Archives.
This first entry of *The Vault* is dedicated to Jay Gordon (*Lamplighter* Editor from 2008-2022).



1999, DIELMAN HALL PATIO

Matt Brick ('00) recalled some memories related to this photo.

"Although I enjoyed my time in the classroom at Dock, lunch and the time after lunch was always a highlight of my day. I remember eating as quickly as possible to have a maximum amount of time to enjoy campus activities. Four Square became a fan favorite and was extremely competitive. Many games were ended by the bell to push us to the next class, sweat and all! I have vivid memories of playing with the goal of being in the "King" position and holding onto it. This photo shows **Greg Grimm** (left) ('00), **Nate Carminito** (center) ('00), and I battling with onlookers checking out the action and waiting patiently to play. The activities generated camaraderie among those involved. **Friendships that started on the four square court continue to be strong twenty-five years later**. Having this unstructured break in my day to enjoy Dock's beautiful campus is what I needed. While I haven't played the game in quite some time, I believe I'm still King."



Dock Oral History Project Helps Reconnect a Special Relationship

By **Zach Bower**, *HS Social Studies and Communications Associate and*
Janene (Shearburn) Reid ('88), *6th Grade Homeroom and MS Math at Charlottesville Catholic School*



This photo is posted on Janene's classroom bulletin board. The photo was taken on June 2nd, 1996, at Mr. Reinford's retirement party at CD.





Janene has kept her Geometry notebook from Mr. Reinford's class in high school, taking it with her to every classroom she teaches in.

In Spring 2023, Dock senior **Matthias Brockington** ('23) interviewed **Mr. Reinford** (Math and German teacher, 1954-1996) for the Dock Oral History Project. For the last ten years the purpose of this project has been to interview retired or current Dock faculty and staff, and alumni, to preserve the history of the school. It is a special thing to see current students connect with Dock community members from past generations, and the spirit of a project like this embraces that we never know what else could come out of the interviews. This past July, information about some of the completed interviews from Spring 2023 was shared on social media, and Dock alum **Janene (Shearburn) Reid** ('88) noticed that Mr. Dan Reinford was interviewed, and requested his contact information so that she could reconnect after not speaking to him in fifteen years. Jeanene shared later that Dan Reinford is the reason she became a Math teacher:

Mr. Reinford is why I teach. He is a kind, hardworking, humble, loving, unassuming, and God fearing man. To him, he did nothing different for me than he did for any of his other students. But to me, the impact he had on my life is far greater than I think he will ever know. When I was in high school, my parents were going through a divorce. My life at home was changing and I didn't want it to. School was the place that was consistent for me and something I was good at. When I was losing confidence in myself, Mr. Reinford had confidence in me. As a teacher now, I believe the most important gift I can give to any of my students is confidence and belief in themselves. Daily, I try to instill this in them by being there to help, guide, encourage and do absolutely anything I can to uplift them as they move forward to bigger and better things. This was what Mr. Reinford modeled for me all throughout my high school years.

Through Mr. Reinford's guidance, he showed me ways to believe in myself, focus on the positive and always look for the good in others.

Through Mr. Reinford's guidance, he showed me ways to believe in myself, focus on the positive and always look for the good in others. I believe that's what teaching and education are all about. Helping young people believe and realize the wonderful gifts God has instilled in them and encourage them to use those gifts for the good of others. It makes me think of Romans 8: 28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose". I am incredibly thankful God gave Mr. Reinford the gift of teaching myself and others for many years. My students ALL know who Mr. Reinford is because I have his picture in my classroom. I thank God every day for him and his influence on me as a student, teacher and person.

ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI NOTES

At its heart, the *Lamplighter* is about connection. Connecting Dock family, alumni, and community members to what is currently happening at Dock and also with each other.

Send in your news if you have any that you would like to share!

Share with us at lamplighter@dock.org

1967

John D. Sauder passed away on November 5, 2023.

1969

Fern (Bergey) Yothers passed away on July 26, 2023.

1972

Nancy L. Leatherman passed away on February 2.

1981

Amy Rosenberger was named among the 2024 "Best Lawyers in America" in one of the legal profession's most esteemed peer review publications.

Susan Neal Vause passed away on January 19, 2023.

1989

Manuel Carvallo Pardo and his firm (Estudio Carvallo Abogados) were named among "Insurance Law Firm of the Year" in Chile by the "Best Lawyers" publication. Manuel has also recently co-authored and published a textbook on insurance law.

1997

Cindy Moyer earned her License of Professional Counseling (LPC) and joined Welsh Therapy in Doylestown.

2005

On October 15, Briana and **Brad Bishop** welcomed Peyton Sky.

2008

On August 11, **Anna** (**Ruth**) and John Miller welcomed Ira John MIller.

On October 17, **Mattie** and **Adam Landis** welcomed Cole Henry.

2009

On October 6, **Amanda** (**Diehl**) and Jason Hart welcomed Roman Montgomery.

On October 14, **Brianna** and **Ethan Martin** welcomed Carter Robert.

2010

Josh Kulp married Stacey Roman on August 27.

On November 7, Jennifer and **Ryan Seiz** welcomed Russell Scott.

On November 13, **Erin (Holcomb)** and Don Daley welcomed Emma.

2012

Tia Garis-Davenport married Tyler Burkle on September 9. (Photo)

Peter Matus married Katie Hopkins on November 10.

On September 28, **Wes and Olivia Strickland** welcomed Madelyn Elizabeth. (Photo)

On October 20, Kara and **Troy Halteman** welcomed Lucy Ray Halteman.

On November 26, Jayna and **Jared Detweiler** welcomed Avery Lee.

2013

Rachel Beiler married Joey Cress on September 10.

On October 12, **Jenna (Landis)** and John Wenger welcomed Levi Zechariah.

2014

In September, **Simon Nam** made his opera debut with the Greensboro Opera in the production, *The Gift of the Magi*.

On October 23, **Rebecca (Matthew)** and Roshan Regi welcomed Nathan Roy.

On September 18, **Morgan (Swartley)** and Colin Babin welcomed Ella Nichole.

Drew Hautzinger married Brittany Michael on September 30.

On October 2, Kelsey and **Jesse Ludwig** welcomed Laken Lynn.



Tia Garis-Davenport '12



Wes '12 and **Olivia Strickland** '12



Mattisyn Shisler '15



Haley Anderson '16 and **Jordan Addley** '16



2020

Lydia Longacre ('22) is studying at Eastern Mennonite University and recently participated in an intercultural semester in Europe. During a free travel opportunity, Lydia coordinated a visit with former Dock classmate **Debbie Boerner**, who is from Switzerland but attended Dock during the 2020-21 school year as a junior. Lydia was able to see Debbie's home and take a day to reconnect in Chur, Switzerland.

Three Babies in a Year for Rittenhouse Family



Christina (Rittenhouse '12) Taylor and husband Giovanni Taylor welcomed their third son Cooper Elijah Taylor on August 23, 2023.



Angela (Rittenhouse '13) Gross and husband Ryan Gross welcomed their second child Everly June Gross on October 27, 2022.



Sarah (Rittenhouse '17) Smith and husband Tristin Smith welcomed their first daughter Wrenly Elizabeth Smith on August 29, 2023.



Tyler Alderfer '16 and **Ryen Hayney** '17



Daniel Moyer '18 and **Abigail Nice** '18



Olivia Messina '20

2015

Kylie Shore married Daniel Crim on August 19.

Lauren Weidler married Neil Oettel on September 22.

Shannon Fitzgerald married Larson Hart on October 7.

Mattisyn Shisler married Steganos Stamoulacatos on June 16. Mattisyn also completed requirements for her pilot license. (Photo)

2016

Talia Santiago married Noah Kwiat on August 12.

Haley Anderson married **Jordan Addley** on July 16. Jordan works as a Management Consultant and Haley is finishing up her second year as a Veterinary School student at Ohio State University. (Photo)

2016/2017

Tyler Alderfer ('16) and **Ryen Hayney** ('17) both recently received promotions as career firefighters in Tennessee. Tyler began as a volunteer firefighter in 2017, transitioning to full time in 2020. Ryen began his full time firefighting career at the same location in 2021. This fall, Tyler was promoted to Captain and Ryen was promoted to Engineer. Tyler said it has been fun for both of them to come "full circle" since the days when they volunteered with the Dublin fire department while students at Dock. (Photo)

2017

Dylan Derstine married Susanna Mewha on August 26.

2018

Abigail Nice married **Daniel Moyer** on September 30. (Photo)

Jeremy Yoder married Arlee Aragon on May 5.

2019

Addison Schweizerhof married Leah Alderfer on July 14.

2020

Olivia Messina graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University in May with her Bachelors in Social Work. She is currently living in Nashville. Olivia works at the Metro Davidson County Office of Family Safety as a high risk case manager for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Olivia has also started a program partnering with the Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center, teaching youth who are incarcerated. Olivia is working to complete her master's degree in Social Work. (Photo)

Barb Brown Book Release



Barb Brown (HS Physical Education 1980-91 and Librarian 1992-2018) published the book, *The Lost and Found Cat*, with the help of artist **Mia Hershberger** (former Dock student). The book is based on a true story and gives testimony to God's faithfulness. Below is a short interview with Barb about the writing of her book:

What was challenging in writing the book?
The most challenging issue I had to face in writing the book was getting started! I had the story – that was easy since it was true and happened to me – but I had trouble figuring out the form it should take.

In what ways did your breakfast group encourage you?
A group of ladies from Dock (now retired) have been meeting for breakfast on Friday mornings for years. They became my cheerleaders and sounding board over the entire process. I need to give special recognition to **Karen Johnston** who did three massive edits for me over the months.

What is something that you are proud of about the book?
I am proud that God allowed me to tell the story He wanted me to tell. I often say that it's God's book and I truly believe that. I am also proud that Mia got a chance to illustrate the book and show off her incredible talent. It's her first book to illustrate and I hope it's not her last!



IN MEMORIAM



Pearl P. Schrack

Pearl P. Schrack died on September 13, 2023. Pearl graduated from Eastern Mennonite College in 1954, and later University of Pennsylvania with a Master's in English. She taught *English* classes at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School from 1954-1963. The 1961 *Schul Andenken* describes Pearl as, "a dedicated teacher and a friend to students." After teaching at Dock, she taught at North Penn High School, eventually becoming a K-12 supervising instructor.





Nelson D. Martin

Nelson D. Martin died on September 6, 2023. Nelson was a teacher at Belleville Mennonite School from 1972-78, later teaching *Science* and *Bible* classes at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School from 1979-2001. The 1994 *Schul Andenken* describes Nelson as a, "rugged individualist," and that a goal of his was to, "live a simple life-style centered around his family." After teaching at Dock, Nelson enjoyed gardening, birdwatching, taking photos, and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.





Allen P. Martin

Allen P. Martin died on August 22, 2022. Allen taught *Business* classes at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School from 1962-69; 1971-73, and also helped to start the basketball and baseball sports programs. The 1964 *Schul Andenken* describes Allen as having, "a well developed sense of humor and a whiz at basketball." Beyond teaching he was also a lay pastor and worked with Lutheran Services Senior Companion program.



Learning for Lives of Purpose

Interviews with Dock alumni, asking them to reflect on the Dock tagline, Learning for Lives of Purpose.

Laura Geissinger, Class of 2002



Laura attended Messiah College, earning degrees in Biology and Environmental Education. Since then, she has taught outdoor education, been a camp program director, hiking guide in Denali National Park, worked in Antarctica, and has developed an outdoor education program for a camp in India. She has been leading outdoor adventure, photography, and wildlife-viewing multi-day adventure tours for several different companies since 2012. Laura is currently working on her master's thesis.

What does it mean to you to live a life of purpose?

Just a few days before being asked this question for the *Lamplighter*, I was on the phone with a dear friend and we were talking about how aging has caused us to think more about our lives and if and how we are living with purpose. To me, part of living with purpose is living with intentionality and being part of a community. I do not just want to glide through life because it is easy. I don't want to fill my time with empty tasks. I want to be kingdom-minded. There is a recognition that I am only on this earth for a brief time, and I want to live in a way that honors the Lord and leaves an imprint on the people I encounter.

At the time, I didn't understand the significance and importance of it, but (as a student at Dock) I began to have an awareness that thinking about a future career not only meant finding something I could do to make money but it should also be something that was purposeful.



The career path I have been on is not the path I thought I would take. I landed in tourism because I said yes to a cool opportunity with little thought of purpose or intention; however, I have remained in this career because as I have thought about purpose and how I can best serve God and others, I have realized I have been blessed with being surrounded by people who need Jesus. The idea of living with purpose has morphed and changed for me throughout the years, but two questions have remained: 1) How am I loving and serving God? 2) How am I loving and serving other people?

In what ways did Dock prepare you to live a life of purpose?

Looking back, there were numerous ways that Dock helped prepare me to live a life of purpose. As a freshman, I remember talking about vocation and calling in a few chapels and in our Building Community class. At the time, I didn't understand the significance and importance of it, but I began to have an awareness that thinking about a future career not only meant finding something I could do to make money but it should also be something that was purposeful.

Another place I saw Dock prepare me to live a life of purpose was in Social Issues. We were challenged to think about social issues with a critical mind and think about what our response as Christians should be. I remember talking about things like homelessness, the death penalty, and war and pacifism. Those conversations helped shape my thinking on those issues and impacted how I have responded to various social issues throughout my life. Taking Faith Walk my senior year really challenged me in my walk with the Lord and how my faith should be woven into every aspect of my life. I learned about spiritual disciplines and how being intentional in spending time with the Lord and seeking His will for my life would allow me to live a life of purpose.

I feel like seeing the teachers and staff living out their purpose was meaningful. Hearing some of their stories also helped shape my views on living with purpose. Seeing teachers who devoted a lot to their lessons and loved to teach was inspiring. Having teachers and staff who took the time to talk and listen to us as we grew and processed our lives was an example of purposeful living.

DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

EARLY CHILDHOOD TO GRADE EIGHT
420 Godshall Road
Souderton, PA 18964
215.723.1196

GRADES NINE TO TWELVE
1000 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
215.362.2675

WWW.DOCK.ORG

Dock Mennonite Academy inspires and equips each student to serve with a global perspective by integrating faith, academic excellence and life-enriching opportunities in a Christ-centered community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EC to Grade 8 Calendar

JANUARY 2024

January 10 – Kindergarten Family Lunch
January 11-12 – Early Childhood Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **No School**
January 18 – Middle School Expo Night
January 19 – End of Quarter 2
January 22 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**
January 26 – Early Childhood & Kindergarten Admissions Open House

FEBRUARY 2024

February 1-2 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**
February 7 – 3rd and 4th Grade Family Lunch
February 8 – Early Childhood & Kindergarten Admissions Open House
February 15 – EC-Grade 8 Family Fun Night
February 19 – Presidents' Day, **No School**

Grades 9 to 12 Calendar

JANUARY 2024

January 12 – Student Visitation Day
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **No School**
January 19 – End of Quarter 2
January 22 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**

FEBRUARY 2024

February 1-2 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**
February 7 – Pastors' Day
February 12 – Student Visitation Day
February 14 – Arts Day
February 19 – Presidents' Day, **No School**
February 25-27 – Social Issues Trip





DOCK GOLF CLASSIC

APRIL 22, 2024

Dock returns to the beautiful Indian Valley Country Club for our Spring Golf Tournament. Get a foursome together, enjoy some great golf, and make memories as we fulfill our calling to teach generations of students to be inquisitive, confident thinkers who lead lives of purpose in service to others.