The Spartan Spirit

LEARNING • SERVING • LEADING

One Interaction at a Time

May 2026 Volume 1, Issue 4

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

National Recognition for Music Education

We are thrilled to share that the Southern Lehigh School District has officially received the Best Communities for Music Education award from The NAMM Foundation for an incredible 13th consecutive year! This recognition is a testament to the collective brilliance of our students and the dedication of our educators. This passion does not just teach notes on a page; it builds the culture and soul of our schools. Thank you to our team for keeping the music playing in Southern Lehigh .

Spartans Shine at State PJAS Science Competition

Congratulations to our talented students who showed exceptional knowledge of science at the recent State-level Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition! First Place Award Winners: Kavi C., Maya E., Rebecca K., Bryan L., Quinn S., and Katelyn Z. Second Place Award Winners: Kasvi B., Saina S., Kylie V., and Sarina S. High School Awards: Avantka C (First Place)., Aanya A (First Place, Perfect Score, and a third-year Zappa Award Winner in Physics, Joe S. (Second Place). The Zappa Award recognizes exceptional achievement in quantitative and technical research areas.

Celebrating Our Staff!

May is a month of gratitude. We recently celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week, School Principal Day, and National School Nurse Day! Thank you to our incredible educators, leaders, and healthcare staff. Your impact is deeply felt, and the magic you bring to our schools every single day is very real.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Al Literacy & Planning

The Al Steering Committee convened for multiple sessions this month to advance a comprehensive

K-12 Al Literacy Scope and Sequence

The committee is finalizing training requirements for he upcoming Summer Academy and developing a tiered professional learning schedule for the next academic year.

Amplify Desmos Implementation

Educators in grades 1-5 participating in the phased implementation of Amplify Desmos recently completed a comprehensive Program Overview. Staff explored resource navigation, pedagogical alignment, and curriculum application, positioning them perfectly for collaborative planning during the Summer Academy.

SLMS Career Day

SLMS hosted a highly successful Career Day for our 8th graders! Students engaged in career focused seminars, heard from an inspiring keynote speaker, and participated in professional mock interviews with local volunteers to prepare for their transition to High School.

National Honor Society

The High School chapter of the National Honor Society proudly welcomed 64 new members this spring. These students were recognized for their outstanding dedication to scholarship, leadership, service, and character. We also celebrate our 7 4 graduating NHS seniors whose accomplishments have made a lasting difference in our Spartan community.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Kindergarten & Grade 3 Transition

On May 1, we were thrilled to welcome new Kindergarten families to both Liberty Bell and Hopewell elementary schools for our first orientation and screening sessions! Parents learned about our amazing schools while students participated in fun activities and experienced a real Kindergarten classroom firsthand. Furthermore, our leadership team has officially finalized the new parent pick-up and drop-off protocols for JPLIS. Logistics and infrastructure work will take place over the summer to ensure an efficient, safe traffic flow for the fall.

Summer Acceleration Program

Developed in partnership with the SLEA, the district is proud to continue the SLSD-SLEA Summer School program. This tuition-based, cost neutral initiative leverages our own teachers and curriculum to offer courses like Health, Physical Education, and Keys to Driving, enhancing student learning over the summer months.

Top-Tier Bond Rating Achieved

In recognition of the district's excellent financial position, Moody's has given the Southern Lehigh School District an Aa1 bond rating. The rating reflects the district's strong fiscal management and growing local economy, placing it in the "High grade" investment category. Out of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts, only a small fraction (typically 5% to 8%) achieve an underlying Aa1 or Aaa rating. The rating is based strictly on the district's standalone creditworthiness -its local taxes, management practices, and financial reserves.

SPARTAN SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Theatre & Arts Shine: The SLMS production of The Addams Family was a smashing success, featuring wonderful cross-building mentorship from High School tech students! At the High School, the cast and crew of Little Shop of Horrors received 6 Freddy Nominations, including Outstanding Performance by an Actor/Actress in a Leading Role (Patrick D' & Emerson T).

🏅 **Elite CTE Achievements:** LCTI recognized SLHS Seniors Shayla W. (Criminal Justice) and Tucker J. (Welding Technology) with the prestigious SkillsUSA Elmer Gates Enterprise Award. Tucker also qualified for the Project MFG National Maritime Welding Championship in San Diego, competing for a $10,000 prize pool.

🗣️ **Speech & Debate Dominance:** Southern Lehigh captured 1st in Debate Team Sweepstakes and 2nd in Overall Team Sweepstakes at the Spartan Invitational! Several students have qualified for the prestigious NCFL Grand National Tournament in Washington D.C. and the NSDA National Championships in Richmond, VA.

🧮 **Math & Science Competitions:** Nine AP Calculus students represented SLHS at the University of Scranton's Integration Bee, with Cayden L. advancing all the way to the finals! At JPLIS, 4th-grade students hosted a wonderful Police Appreciation event, and enjoyed the long-standing tradition of "Dave Long's Traveling Physics Show" led by HS AP Physics students.

❤️ **Elementary Engagement:** Liberty Bell students became global citizens during the "Passport to the World" event, and earned over 2,027 ROAR tickets for positive behavior, receiving plantable pencils donated by AirProducts! Hopewell hosted an amazing Springfest and enjoyed a fantastic 3rd-grade concert.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Championship Season!

Historic records, Colonial League TrtJes, and deep playoff runs.

League Champions & Postseason Action:

- Baseball: Congratulations to Coach Miller on achieving his 400th career win on April 23 in the game against Moravian Academy. During this tenure, Coach Miller has won three league and three District 11 golds. The baseball team is the defending Colonial League champions.

- Track & Field: Both the Boys and Girls teams finished undefeated and were crowned Colonial League East Division Champions! The Girls' team continues an incredible legacy, now reaching 108 consecutive dual meet victories. Both teams will advance to the State Qualifier on May 22 and May 23, 2026 at Shippensburg University. Good Luck!

- Historic Record: The Boys 4x400m relay team (Milo S., Jack P., Stanley W., and Sean S.) broke the all-time District 11 and area record with a staggering time of 3: 17.38 .

- Playoff Bound: Softball ,Girls Lacrosse, Boys Volleyball, and Boys Baseball are all officially competing in the District XI Tournaments!

- Academic All-Stars: Congratulations to Sean S. for winning the inaugural PHEAA/PIAA All Academic Athletic Team District XI Scholarship, and to Mai G. for winning the District XI Girls Wrestling Scholar Athlete Scholarship!

BOARD & COMMUNITY UPDATES

Class of 2026 Graduation

We are excited to celebrate the Class of 2026! The Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 29th at 6:30 PM at Stabler Arena. Parents can reserve their general admission tickets using their student's individualized promo code online. Senior events, including the Senior Sunset, Breakfast, and mandatory laptop returns, will take place throughout the week of May 25th.

Board Governance & Policy

The Policy Committee continues to actively review and advance several key updates. Recent readings included policies on Public Comments in Board Meetings, Principles of Governance, and Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications. New discussions have also launched to review Extracurricular (122)and Interscholastic Athletics (123) guidelines.

Important Upcoming Dates

- May 25: Memorial Day, Schools Closed
- May 26: Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting (5:00 PM, SLHS Auditorium/Old Boardroom)
- May 26: SLSD School Board Meeting (6:30 PM, SLHS Media Center)
- May 29: SLHS Graduation Ceremony (6:30 PM, Stabler Arena)
- June 1: Education/Technology Committee Meeting (4:30 PM, SL Administration Building)
- June 5: Tentative Students' Last Day of School (1/2 Day)
- June 8: Policy Committee Meeting (3:00 PM, SL Administration Building)
- June 8: SLSD School Board Meeting (6:30 PM, SLHS Media Center)
- June 22: SLSD School Board Meeting (6:30 PM, SLHS Media Center)

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