

YEAR IN REVIEW

A LOOK BACK AT COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Message

The 2025-26 school year brought with it a lot of new and exciting developments:



- The Colonial Elementary School renovation project wrapped up, offering greater safety and more space for our students and new administrative offices.
- We organized the first-ever Stuff-A-Bus drive, collecting enough non-perishable food to fill two school buses with donations for local food banks.
- We held our first Interscholastic Games event at Colonial Elementary School, offering a chance for students with special needs in grades K-5 to compete and get to know one another better.
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School introduced a Unified Track and Field team.
- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Class of 2026 earned an average score of 1280 on the SAT, the highest in recent school history. The Class of 2026 also had the highest number of students taking AP classes ever.

Along with the new, there were many recurring themes: our students' academic performance remains strong, our athletes continued to earn Suburban One League Championships, our student performers won accolades for musical performances, and one of our teachers once again received a Citadel Heart of Learning Award.

While it is not always easy to include every outstanding accomplishment that happens during a school year at Colonial, we've tried to highlight as many as we could in this *Year In Review* publication. We invite you to see what our amazing students, faculty, and staff members have achieved over the past year, and look forward to another great year when school resumes at the end of August.

Sincerely,
Michael L. Christian, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Rick Carpenter



Chris Epstein



Sharon Marino



Mark Marsico



Beth Patruno
President



Gail Plant
Vice President



Rasheda
Randall



Tomas Santiago



Jeremy
Schwartz

Our School Board

The nine members of the Colonial School District Board of Directors are elected at-large to serve the citizens of Conshohocken Borough and Plymouth and Whitmarsh Townships. The Board holds several committee meetings and one general meeting each month. General meetings occur on the third Thursday of the month (unless adjusted for holidays). Meetings are held in the General Meeting Room at Colonial Elementary School and are advertised on our website calendar. Public participation in committee and general meetings is welcomed. For Board meeting agendas, go to colonialsd.org/boarddocs.

Colonial School District's Mission Statement

For students to learn, grow, and contribute to a supportive community that is welcoming for all.

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Skies Clear For PW Graduates

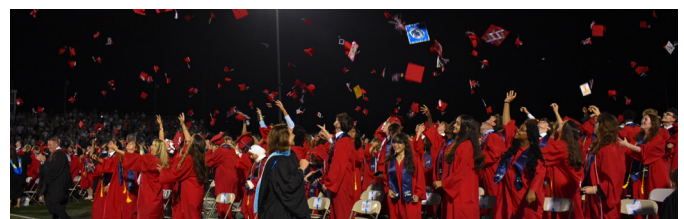
The clouds parted and the sun came out just in time to shine on the Class of 2026 on June 10, as Plymouth Whitmarsh High School held its Commencement ceremony on Colonial Field.



After several schedule changes due to inclement weather, the graduates were able to celebrate outside as they had hoped. The ceremony featured speeches from Dr. Michael Christian (Superintendent), Dr. Jason Bacani (Principal), and senior Narayan Sakthinathan. Class President Alyssa Jolie Avery presented the class gift, Samantha Kibelstis sang the National Anthem, and Ace Cratin sang the Alma Mater. The graduates, 406 in total, accepted their diplomas as the sun went down and celebrated with a cap toss to conclude. Here are some interesting facts about this year's graduating class:



- 90 percent are going to four- or two-year colleges/ universities (73 percent to four-year institutions and 17 percent to two-year institutions).
- 10 percent are going into the military, entering the job market, or considering options through a gap year.
- The Class of 2026 received a one-year total of \$5,045,966 in scholarships and a four-year total of \$19,434,079.
- 40 percent of the class graduated with a weighted cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher.
- The Class of 2025 includes seven National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students and three National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists.



Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Seniors Receive Honors at Annual Ceremony

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School honored the Class of 2026 at the annual Senior Awards Ceremony held in May. Many students were recognized with awards and scholarships as they ended their high school careers.

Kathleen Abai

Colonial Chorus Award
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Rayannah Abdulla

President's Award for Academic Achievement
Student Council Scholarship, Achievement

Kiana Alizadeh

La Grande Médaille Moliere Award

Ammar Alobaidi

John H. Loughridge Memorial and CPW
Rotary Club Award in Design & Innovation

Maryam Alsammak

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship
President's Award for Academic Excellence
Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Social Studies
Award
Society of Women Engineers Award, Honor
Whitemarsh Lions Club English Award

Lindy Arnold

Freedom Valley Award for Community
Service
Maurice Anthony Doroba Memorial Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Ailany Asencio

Economics for Impact Scholarship
PW Service Award

Alyssa Avery

PWHS Leadership Award

Phoebe Balkiewicz

Class of 1962 Award to Outstanding Senior
Joe Murray Memorial Art Award
National Art Honor Society Award, First Place
Sal's Barbershop Underdog Scholarship-CSDEF

Lila Barbash

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Mia Baron

Clark Doebler Memorial Scholarship

Maya Bava

President's Award for Academic Excellence
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Melanie Bertram

United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis
Award

Alexander Bland

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship Award in
Memory of Peter Hendrick
PWHS Leadership Award

Michael Bongard

Denise Cotteta Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship
Mike Brenner Memorial Scholarship-CSDEF
Plymouth Township Police Association
Scholarship Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence
Whitemarsh Baseball Association Scholarship

Olivia Bragg

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship Award in
Memory of Peter Hendrick
Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship
George Purvis Memorial Soccer Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Sophie Brenner

The Grit, Resilience & Perseverance Award
for Outstanding Achievement

Logan Burns

Plymouth Township Police Association
Scholarship Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence
PW Business Department Award

Marleigh Burton

President's Award for Academic Excellence
United States Marine Corps Scholastic
Excellence Award

Amir Butler

Nick Salamone Memorial Award

Owen Cababe

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Isabel Caceres

President's Award for Academic Excellence
Society of Women Engineers Award, High
Honor

Julia Calin

Greater Conshohocken Business & Professional
Women Award

Grant Cardenas

Ed Swetkowski Social Studies Award

Madeline Carr

Cardin D. Brown Most Courageous Athlete
Award

Claire Carrington

Colonial Chorus Award
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award
Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Athletic Award
Robert Reilley Spirit Award

Mary Katherine Casey

John H. Loughridge Memorial and CPW
Rotary Club Award in Technical Drawing

Maya Cassidy

James J. Doyle Memorial Award
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award
Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter
#6779 Senior Service Award

Ella Catania

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken
Award in Business
Mark Combs Memorial Scholarship

Caleb Cleveland

Adam M. Wilson Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Collopy

Economics for Impact Scholarship

Carlos Contreras

President's Award for Academic Achievement
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Amber Cook

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Ace Cratin

Colonial Chorus Award
Colonial Orchestra Award
John Philip Sousa Award
Keith M. Stimson Memorial Scholarship
Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter
#6779 Senior Service Award
Whitemarsh Lions Club Band Award

Ahmad Crawford

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Continued on next page

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Olivia DeGideo

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Mohamed Salihu Diallo

Pennsylvania Department of Education Seal of Biliteracy Award

Kennedy Dingle

Colonial Chorus Award

Daniel Discala

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

Emily Dobrowolski

TLC for the People Award

Olivia Edwards

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship Award in Memory of Peter Hendrick

Elijah Eisenman

Global Scholars Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Kelli Eplett

Bright Futures Award

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Alyssa Etzel

AP Microeconomics Award

AP Statistics Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Luke Farnese

National Business Honor Society Award

Thomas Manuel Golf Award

Lily Ferhat

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Bridget Fullerton

Kathy Tavani Social Studies Award

Christopher Gekonge

Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Athletic Award

Anne-Marie Georgi

Society of Women Engineers Award, Honor

Brennan Gubler

Language Arts Department Award for Excellence in English

Tristan Gubler

Fall Drama Dedication Award

Zachary Halbert

AP Calculus Award

Financial Literacy Award

George Purvis Memorial Soccer Award

National Merit Finalist



President's Award for Academic Excellence

Grace Hamilton

National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Award

Tamar Handis

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship in Honor of Helene Pillegi

Lajvar Haroon

John R. Kilpatrick Award

Phi Beta Kappa Book Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Skyler Harrison

John Bedrossian Scholarship Award-CSDEF

Gianna Hartnett

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Jack Hayes

United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Zola Holman

Excellence in Photography Award

Zhaina Holmes

BCA Club Award of Merit

Roman Horning

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit

Madison Hornsby

Colonial Chorus Award

PWCC Coaches Award

Robert Hutchinson

PW Jazz Band Award

Devon Huynh

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship in Honor of Susan Castle

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Bradley Ingram

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation College Scholarship

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Kaiane Jayo

Nick Salamone Memorial Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Roger J. Allan & Lee T. Allan

Scholarship

Maite Jayo

President's Award for Academic Excellence

PTSO Richard Coletta Sr. Science Award

United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Caleb Jeon

Herbert C. Mayson Memorial Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Erisa Kastrati

Heritage Wealth Advisors Scholarship Award

Brigid Keenan

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Sumbul Khursheed

Colonial Chorus Award

Samantha Kibelstis

Colonial Chorus Award

Montgomery County School Nurses'

Association Scholarship

Most Valuable Player Award

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Tri-M National Music Honor Society Chapter

#6779 Senior Service Award

Aaron Kinsey

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Nathan Krawiec

Craig Service Group Scholarship-Central

Montco Technical High School-CSDEF

Noa Lavon

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken Award in World Language

Continued on next page

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Adriana Lepera

Salvatore Giannone Award-Central Montco
Technical High School-CSDEF

Andrew Levin

Colonial Band Award

Joyce Li

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Madison Li

Award for Excellence in Chemistry
DIVE Consulting-Plant Family Senior Award
National Merit Finalist
President's Award for Academic Excellence
Society of Women Engineers Award, Highest
Honor

Tyler Lilick

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Sean Lindsay

AP Computer Science Award
President's Award for Academic Excellence

Traevon Lindsay

BCA Club Award of Merit

Jayden Lockhart

BCA Club Award of Merit

Jake Madrak

La Grande Médaille Moliere Award

Luke Makoid

Walterian Theoretical Gummed Star Award

Alina Marchenko

Covanta Award/Reworld STEM Award-CSDEF
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Emma Maure

AP Macroeconomics Award

Ava McEvoy

Mike Brenner Memorial Scholarship-CSDEF

Declan McGorry

DECA Scholarship

Hugo McLaughlin

Colonial Chorus Award

Madeline McLaughlin

State Senator Maria Collett Good Citizen
Award

William McLaughlin

President's Award for Academic Excellence
Sons of the American Revolution Outstand-
ing Student of American History Award

Tiffany Molinaro

Miriam & Milton Prince Memorial Scholarship

Madilyn Mondoro

PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award



Scottiworks Future Leaders

Scholarship-CSDEF

Aleighandria Moore

Junior Women's Club of Conshohocken
Scholarship

Jaxon Moore

Razor Technology Award - Central Montco
Technical High School-CSDEF

Violeta Neidelyn Mora

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Lucinda O'Connell

Keith M. Stimson Memorial Award in Tech-
nical Theater Craft

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Whitemarsh Lions Club Fine Arts Award

Rosemary Ounsworth

Daughters of the American Revolution
History Award

Director's Choice Award

Language Arts Department Award for

Excellence in English

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Param Patel

Covanta Award-CSDEF

Edward Patruno

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Michael Pereira

John R. Kilpatrick Award

Joslyn Perez

Donna Ray Zuck Scholar-Athlete Scholarship
The Maurice Anthony Doroba Memorial
Scholarship

Delanie Perry

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Jaylen Perry

BCA Club Award of Merit

Talia Piacitelli

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Anna Powell

Denise Cotteta Memorial Scholarship
Lisa M. McAllister Memorial Scholarship

Franco Ramos

Conshy Girls Restaurant and Catering
Award-Central Montco Technical High
School-CSDEF

Dwane Raynor

Craig Service Group Scholarship-Central
Montco Technical High School-CSDEF

Aidan Robinette

AP Calculus Award

Latin Language Award

National Merit Finalist

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Lisa Rockett

Giannone Companies Towing & Repossession
Award-Central Montco Technical High
School-CSDEF

Kimberly Rodriguez

Beanie Bounce Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Anna Roller

Braun Littman Theater Award for Theater
Excellence

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Joel Rosado

Plymouth Police Association Award-Central
Montco Technical High School-CSDEF

Rome Rosenthal

Student Council Scholarship, Distinguished

Adrian Rowe

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Narayani Sakthinathan

Colonial Orchestra Award

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean Good
Citizen Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Elicel Nicole Salvatierra

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Seal of Biliteracy Award

Michael Sandberg

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Memorial Business
Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Daianna Sandre-Nava

Salvatore Giannone Award-Central Montco
Technical High School-CSDEF

Olivia Scheer

PTSO Richard Coletta Sr. Science Award

Ryan Schwarz

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Matthew Scopinich

PW Business Department Award

Whitemarsh Baseball Association Scholarship

Alexander Senh

President's Award for Academic Achievement
The Peter Hanson Memorial Award

Dhruv Shevade

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean Good
Citizen Award

Gabriel Shultz

President's Award for Academic Achievement

Kai Silverman

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Daysha Southward

PWCC Spirit Award

Carly Spinner

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Devin Spruill

United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis
Award

Jackson Starace

Whitemarsh Baseball Association Scholarship



Addison Stein

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Carly Stein

Colonial Chorus Award

Robert Stutman

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Micah Thompson

BCA Club Award of Leadership & Merit
Mark Anthony LaPera Scholarship Award
Robert F. Kline Jr. Memorial Social Studies
Award

Gabrielle Tiedeken

Art Teachers Award

National Art Honor Society Award, Second
Place

Kumba Tonguino

President's Award for Academic Excellence
PW Orchestra Service & Dedication Award

Mia VanCoillie

National Art Honor Society Award, Third
Place

The Milestone Publications Award

William Waerig

Boys of '92 Scholarship-CSDEF
National Council of Supervisors of
Mathematics Award

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Ella Walker

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Savannah Welliver

Dr. Kenneth L. Wilkinson Foundation
College Scholarship

Joe Francisco Choreographer's Award



Keira Whelan

Colonial Soccer Club Scholarship Award in
Memory of Peter Hendrick
President's Award for Academic Excellence
Society of Women Engineers Award, Honor

Logan White

Joe Robinson Music and Community
Award-CSDEF

Aidan Yamashita

President's Award for Academic Excellence

Joshua Zitz

President's Award for Academic Achievement

CSDEF Doubles Contributions to Provide PWHS Seniors with Monetary Awards

The Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF) helped brighten the futures of 19 members of the Class of 2026 at the Senior Awards ceremony at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in May. The winners each took home a share of \$13,500 raised for the awards program.

Eight new awards this year were thanks to CSDEF Board Member and alum Sal Giannone, who secured honors for graduates who also attended Central Montco Technical High School. Students were recognized for excellence in cosmetology, health care sciences, automotive technology, building trades, culinary arts, and music and video production. The winners are:

- Phoebe Balkiewicz, Sal Giannone "Underdog" Award
- Sophie Brenner, The Grit & Perseverance Award
- Skyler Harrison, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 1074 Conshohocken
- Nathan Krawiec and Dwane Raynor, Craig Service Group Scholarship
- Ava McEvoy and Michael Bongard, Mike Brenner Memorial Scholarship
- Alina Marchenko and Param Patel, Covanta/Reworld STEM Award



Senior Award winners had a chance to meet the donors at a reception sponsored by the CSDEF.

- Madelyn Mondoro, Scottiworks Future Leaders Scholarship
- Jaxon Moore, Razor Technology Award
- Franco Ramos, Conshy Girls Restaurant & Catering Award
- Lisa Rockett, Giannone Companies Towing & Repossession Award
- Joel Rosado, Plymouth Police Association Award
- Daianna Sandre-Nava and Adriana Lepera, Salvatore Giannone Award
- William Waering, Boys of '92 Award
- Logan White, Joe Robinson Music & Community Award

The CSDEF is also proud to have provided \$30,000 in scholarships to 25 graduating seniors through the PW Scholarship Fund.



Over 30 Scholar-Athletes Sign Commitment Letters

Thirty-four Plymouth White-marsh High School graduates have committed to compete at the collegiate level starting with the 2026-27 school year. This year's group of athletes includes six who are going to Division I schools (denoted with an asterisk).

- Cole Ashbridge, Football, Albright College
- Joshua Bucko, Track and Field, West Chester University
- Marleigh Burton, Soccer, Allegheny College
- Amir Butler, Football, Stonehill College*
- John Carr, Swimming, University of Rochester
- Claire Carrington, Field Hockey, Albright College
- Caroline Chew, STUNT and Cheerleading, Misericordia University
- Jack Cooper, Lacrosse, Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Melanie Daloisio, Bowling, Sacred Heart University*
- Brian DeVitis, Lacrosse, Neumann University
- Emily Dobrowolski, Field Hockey, East Stroudsburg University
- Kate Dobrowolski, Field Hockey, East Stroudsburg University
- Carolyn Forgione, Swimming, Loyola University*
- Skyler Harrison, Cheerleading, Millersville University
- Jack Hayes, Basketball, Misericordia University
- Dylan Ippolito, Lacrosse, Ursinus College
- Kaiane Jayo, Lacrosse, University of Rochester



Cole Ashbridge



Joshua Bucko



Marleigh Burton



Amir Butler



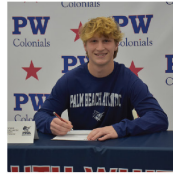
John Carr



Claire Carrington



Caroline Chew



Jack Cooper



Melanie Daloisio



Brian DeVitis



Emily Dobrowolski



Kate Dobrowolski



Carolyn Forgione



Skyler Harrison



Jack Hayes



Dylan Ippolito



Kaiane Jayo



Maite Jayo



Riley Kiernan



AJ Landrey



Declan McGorry



Tiffany Molinaro



Brooke Payeski



Michael Pereira



Joslyn Perez



Jaylah Plant



Anna Powell



Mani Sajid



Daysha Southward



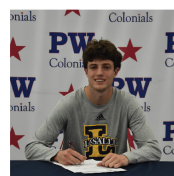
Carly Spinner



Devin Spruill



Marissa Storti



Brett Westerfer



Riley Wheeler

- Maite Jayo, Lacrosse, Lehigh University*
- Riley Kiernan, Diving, Biola University
- AJ Landrey, Baseball, Eastern University
- Declan McGorry, Cross Country & Track and Field, Immaculata University
- Tiffany Molinaro, Bowling, St. Thomas University
- Brooke Payeski, Cheerleading, West Chester University

- Michael Pereira, Basketball, University of Pennsylvania*
- Joslyn Perez, Softball, Kutztown University
- Jaylah Plant, Cheerleading, Millersville University
- Anna Powell, Softball, University of Rochester
- Mani Sajid, Basketball, Towson University*
- Daysha Southward, Cheerleading, West Chester University

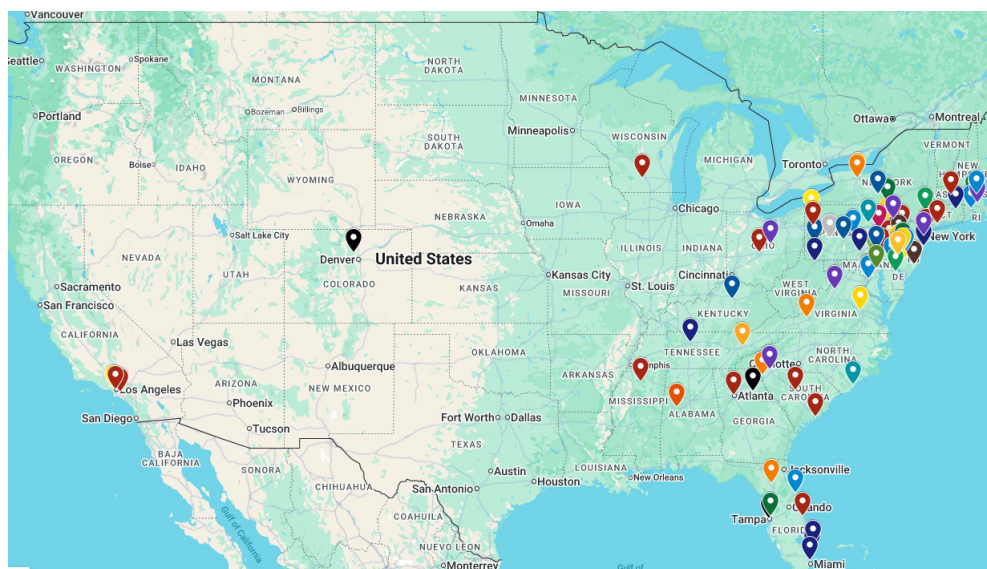
- Carly Spinner, Field Hockey, Babson College
- Devin Spruill, Track and Field, Morehouse College
- Marissa Storti, Volleyball, Millersville University
- Brett Westerfer, Track and Field, La Salle University*
- Riley Wheeler, Cheerleading, Towson University*

PW
Colonials

PW Grads Are On the Move

Plymouth Whitmarsh High School graduates are attending colleges near and far – even ones that don't fit on the map you see here! At least one student is attending a trade school in Edinburgh, Scotland. Best wishes to all our graduates!

Albright College
Allegheny College
American University
Arcadia University
Babson College
Belmont University
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Biola University
Boston University
Brown University
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Commonwealth University (Bloomsburg)
Culinary Institute of America
Daytona State College
Delco Community College
Delaware Technical Community College (Terry)
Delaware Valley University
Drexel University
East Stroudsburg University
Edinburgh Napier University
Elizabethtown College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona)
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Furman University
George Washington University
Grove City College
Holy Family University



Howard University
Immaculata University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Kenyon College
Kutztown University
La Salle University
Lehigh University
Loyola University (Maryland)
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Millersville University
Misericordia University
Monmouth University
Montgomery County Community College
Morehouse College
Neumann University
New York University
Northeastern University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Penn State University
Penn State University (Altoona)
PA College of Technology
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Shippensburg University
St. Thomas University
Stockton University
Stonehill College
Temple University
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

The Catholic University of America
The Ohio State University
Thomas Jefferson University
Towson University
Tufts University
University of Alabama
University of California (LA)
University of Colorado (Boulder)
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina (Wilmington)
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Wisconsin
Ursinus College
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
West Chester University
West Virginia University
Widener University
Williamson College of the Trades
York College of Pennsylvania

Colonial Revisits Technology Use in the Classroom

Some of the topics generating headlines for public education last school year included the use of technology (or screen time) in the classroom and student cell phones. These broader discussions prompted Colonial School District to re-examine its own practices with regard to technology in the classroom.

While helping students to learn how to become digital citizens and use technology in responsible and practical ways is part of the Colonial curriculum and state standards, administrators, faculty, and staff understand that technology tools must be used with thought, intention, and balance. During the past school year, Colonial School District engaged in conversations with parents, faculty, and staff and made some positive shifts with regard to classroom technology usage.

To help the public understand what is already in place at Colonial, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rosemarie Gregitis presented on the topic at a spring curriculum committee meeting. Her presentation outlined Colonial's core beliefs surrounding technology in the classroom:

- Curriculum is delivered through direct instruction, discussion, and hands-on experiences. Technology supports these efforts and is not meant to replace them.
- Digital tools are used intentionally and in limited, purposeful ways to support learning and engagement.
- Effective learning is achieved through the thoughtful balance of technology and meaningful interactions between students and teachers.

Screen Time During the School Day

Every student in Colonial School District is assigned a Chromebook to be used for classwork only. How long they use the devices during the typical school day depends on their age. Students in

New Tool to Assist with Internet Safety and Resource Monitoring

This past school year, Colonial School District started using Securly, a network filtering system that blocks the use of inappropriate websites and monitors student internet access. The system is set up with an "allow" list of resources for students and teachers to use, as well as a "block" list of sites that may not be used. Securly can also log the time spent with each resource and can send teachers email reports about the amount of time each student spends on their Chromebook. This tool will be helpful in monitoring and evaluating classroom usage of digital tools. The district is currently investigating adding Securly's parent portal, which would allow parents/guardians to review resources accessed by their students during the school day. Stay tuned!

kindergarten through third grade spend a maximum of 20 to 30 minutes a day using technology, while fourth- and fifth-graders spend between 40 to 50 minutes a day.

Students at the secondary level spend more time using their devices since many classroom resources, such as textbooks, are now digital. For older students, the maximum time spent on a device is 2.5 to 3 hours spread throughout the day.

In another effort to limit student use of school-issued devices, Colonial School District no longer permits students in grades K-5 to take their Chromebooks home. Students in grades 6-12 may take their devices home to complete homework or other assigned projects.

Faculty and staff are reminded through meetings and professional development to limit screen time and to choose teacher-di-

rected activities when possible. However, it is necessary for students to spend some time engaged with technology so they have the skills needed to navigate the rapidly evolving technological world. It is also important for students to engage in differentiated learning experiences that provide multiple pathways to access content, demonstrate understanding, and receive instruction that meets their individual strengths, needs, and readiness levels.

To support this, the District uses digital resources for elementary ELA and mathematics. The ELA resources include Benchmark (K-3), Wonders (4-5), Wilson Fun Hub (K-3), Lexia, Read Naturally, and Imagine Learning. The math resources include IXL, Xtra Math, Tang Math. Technology education teachers, special area teachers, and special education teachers may use other platforms to meet specific instructional goals and reinforce learning.

Digital Citizenship & Cell Phone Use

Most children come to Colonial already knowing how to use technology, so teaching them about digital citizenship from the start is important. At the elementary level, students learn how to become good digital citizens through library and technology classes. Middle school students are required to take foundational technology classes that teach responsible online behavior. Digital citizenship lessons are reinforced throughout high school as well. Speakers are brought in throughout the school year to talk with students about what they can do to protect themselves and others online.

It is Colonial's hope that these digital citizenship lessons carry over into students' personal use of technology. Knowing that many students already own smartphones, smartwatches, and other internet-connected devices, Colonial School District has implemented electronic device

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School Board Adopts 2026-27 Budget

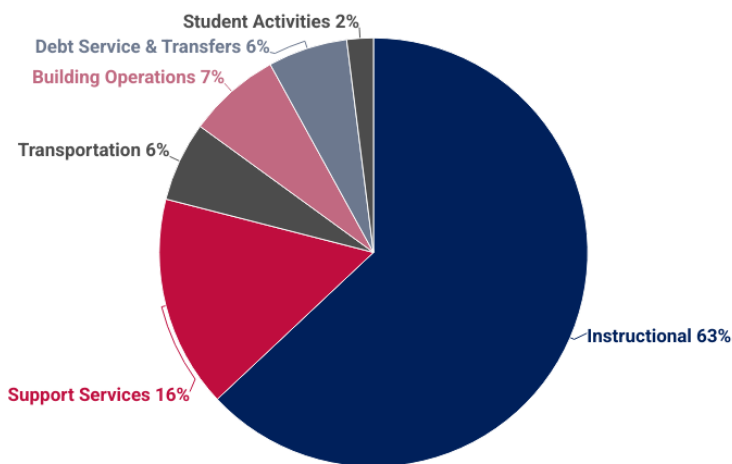
The Colonial School District Board of Directors approved the 2026-27 General Fund Budget on June 8, adopting a spending plan that balances the needs of students with fiscal responsibility while maintaining the district's high-quality educational programs.

The \$168,847,053 plan provides for three additional teachers to address rising student enrollment. Next year's budget represents an increase of 3.59 percent over the 2025-26 spending plan, with rising student enrollment, increasing healthcare costs, contractual salary and benefit obligations, and tax rebate programs that reduce tax obligations for certain populations contributing to the additional costs.

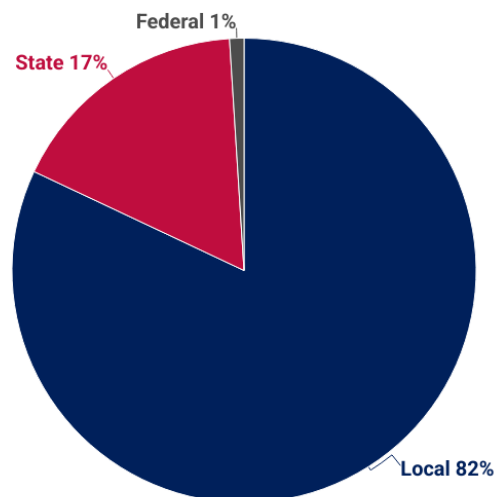
To balance the budget, the Board approved a 3.5-percent increase in the real estate tax rate, which remains within the Commonwealth's Act 1 index (the state-established tax increase limit). For a homeowner with the district's median assessed property value of \$155,620, the increase equates to approximately \$144 annually.

Even with this adjustment, Colonial School District continues to maintain one of the lowest real estate tax rates in Montgomery County while investing in the programs, services, and staff that support student success.

Expenditures



Revenue



Colonial Elementary School Renovation Project Concludes

The Colonial Elementary School renovation project concluded at the start of the 2025-26 school year with the opening of the District Administrative Offices. New classrooms that were part of the first phase of the renovation opened in the spring of 2025. The project has addressed space constraints caused by rising student enrollment and offers better security, thanks to the school's new lobby and two separate entrances for the administrative offices and the school.



Main entrance to the school is shown above; District Administrative Offices are seen at left.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Information

There are two ways some Colonial School District taxpayers can seek tax relief:

PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The existing Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is funded by state lottery and slot machine proceeds. The income limit is \$48,110 a year for homeowners and for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$1,000.

Here is what you could receive from the state, if you qualify:

- \$1,000 if your income falls between \$0 and \$8,000
- \$770 if your income falls between \$8,271 and \$15,510
- \$460 if your income falls between \$15,511 and \$18,610
- \$380 if your income falls between \$18,611 and \$46,520

CSD's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The Colonial Board of School Directors has unanimously approved a property tax rebate program that will see an additional discount of up to 75 percent of the State rebate base amount for homeowners and renters.

Homeowners and renters must qualify for the state rebate program to qualify for the District rebate program.

How to qualify and apply for a rebate

Applicants must be:

- homeowners and renters with a household income of no more than \$48,110 annually (half of Social Security income is excluded); AND
 - be 65 years of age or older;
- OR
- be a widow and widower aged 50 years of age or older;
- OR
- be permanently disabled and 18 years of age or older.

To apply:

Prepare Form PA-1000, Property Tax or Rent Rebate Claim. Go to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue website to learn more about online and paper applications: www.revenue.pa.org

Send a duplicate copy of the PA-1000 (along with Rent Certificate if applicable) to the Colonial School District Business Office at the following address:

Colonial School District
c/o Business Office
230 Flourtown Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM



When you receive the State Rebate, submit proof of the deposit by providing a copy of the check or an official bank statement reflecting your deposit amount to the Colonial School District Business Office. The deposit will most likely be received after July 1.

Once all of the required information is received and verified, Colonial School District will produce a rebate check in the amount equal to 75 percent of the State Rebate base amount and mail the check to the address on the form PA-1000.

Any questions regarding the Colonial School District Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program can be directed to Mark Digian, Colonial School District Business Administrator, at 610-834-1670, ext. 2121, or mdigian@colonialsd.org

Continued from page 11

guidelines that are shared in student/family handbooks. Here's a summary by grade level:

- K-5: Students may bring cellphones to school as long as they are turned off and stored in backpacks during school hours and on the bus.
- 6-8: Students must keep cell phones turned off and in their lockers during

the school day. They can use them to access games or music while waiting for dismissal to class from their morning location, but cannot make calls, texts or take picture/video/audio recordings.

- 9-12: Students may bring phones to school and use them at the discretion of the teacher or in technology-safe zones, such as the hallways (during class transitions) and the cafeteria.

For more detailed information, please review student handbooks online by going to www.colonialsd.org/handbooks.

These rules are subject to change based on what's decided by the state. Legislation to ban cell phone use in all Pennsylvania schools is under consideration but has not been signed into law as of this publication's printing.

Colonial School District

Scores Show Gains in Math

Colonial School District takes time every year to analyze student academic growth and achievement by using data from standardized tests such as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS).

The results of these tests are summarized through the state's Future Ready PA Index, which evaluates each school on its performance based on the test scores, along with other information like attendance and graduation rates.

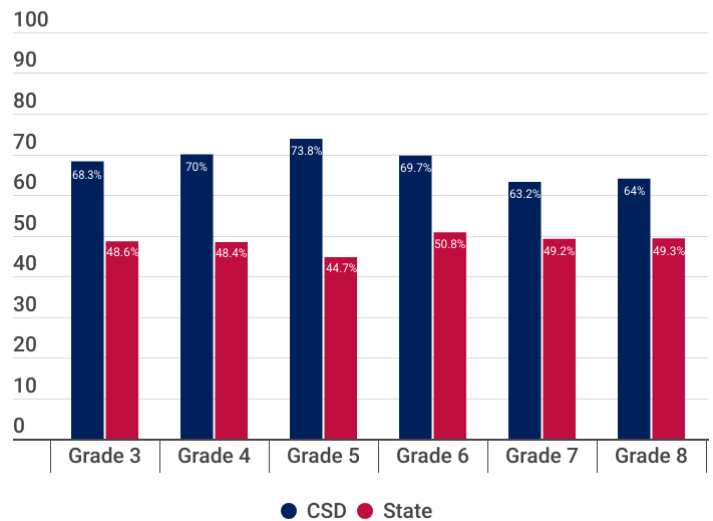
Following the public release of the testing data, Colonial School District reviews its scores during Curriculum Committee of the Board meetings. Over the course of two meetings held in the winter, all school principals present building data to the Committee to examine strengths and identify areas of improvement.

As you can see from the PSSA data at right, the majority of Colonial students are proficient or advanced in both English/Language Arts and Math. They also consistently score well above state averages for these subjects. Science proficiency is also measured by the state, but students were not tested in the subject in 2024-25 as the state adjusts its test to reflect the new science standards. Please read on for some additional highlights:

- Colonial's proficient and advanced combined scores in both ELA and math were also higher than the county averages.
- Colonial's Economically Disadvantaged, Special Education, and diverse racial subgroups consistently met or exceeded the achievement levels of their respective peer groups throughout the county.
- Students' PSSA scores increased in math over the previous year while the percentage of students scoring below basic in ELA decreased for two separate cohorts.
- Both Colonial Elementary and Middle Schools' achievement held steady in math and ELA for 2024-25 while experiencing growth for subgroups in both subjects.
- Each K-3 building demonstrated improvement in at least one performance measure. Conshohocken Elementary

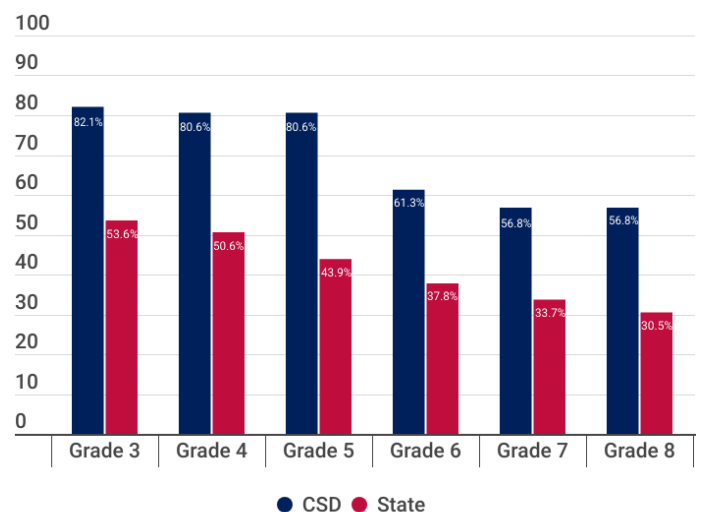
English/Language Arts PSSA

Percent Proficient/Advanced



Math PSSA

Percent Proficient/Advanced



School improved the percentage of proficient and advanced while reducing the percentage scoring below basic in both ELA and math. Whitmarsh Elementary made gains in math while decreasing the percentage of below basic students in both subjects.

- Plymouth Whitmarsh High School exceeded both growth and achievement averages for the state and county on all three Keystone exams – Biology, Literature, and Algebra.

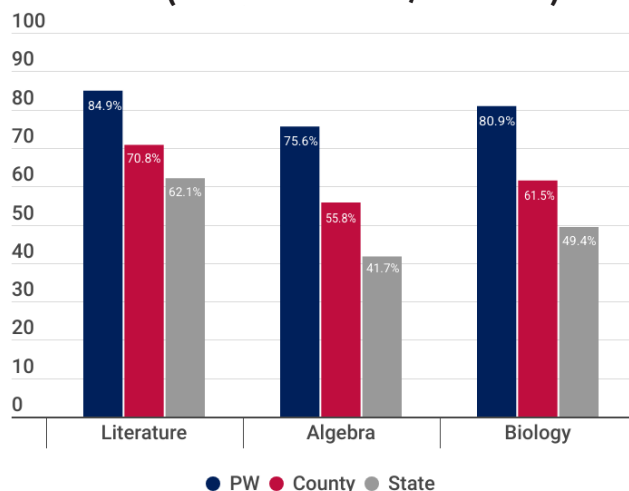
In addition to PSSA and PVAAS data, the school district uses benchmark and curriculum-based assessments, formal/informal observations, and other records to guide instructional efforts.

Academic Report

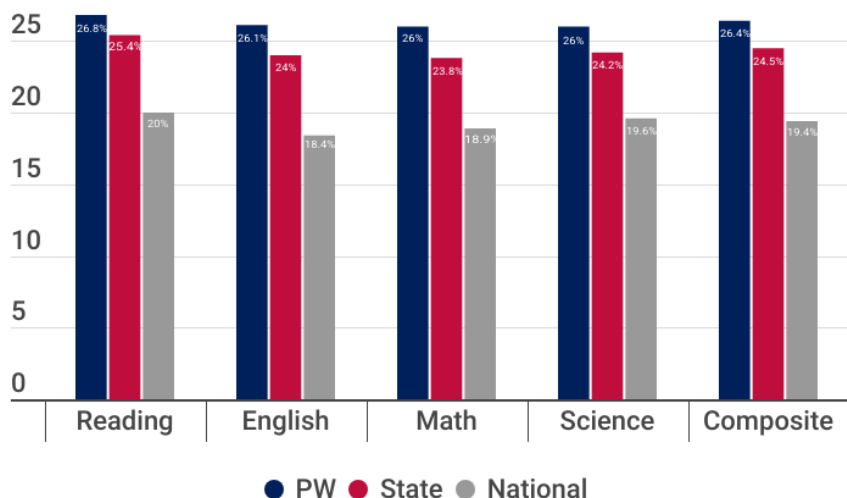
High School Data

High school students do not take the PSSA. Instead, their academic performance is measured by Keystone Exams that are administered in the subjects of Literature, Algebra, and Biology. As you can see at right, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School is far above both state and county averages for each subject.

Keystone Exams (Percent Proficient/Advanced) Gr. 9-12



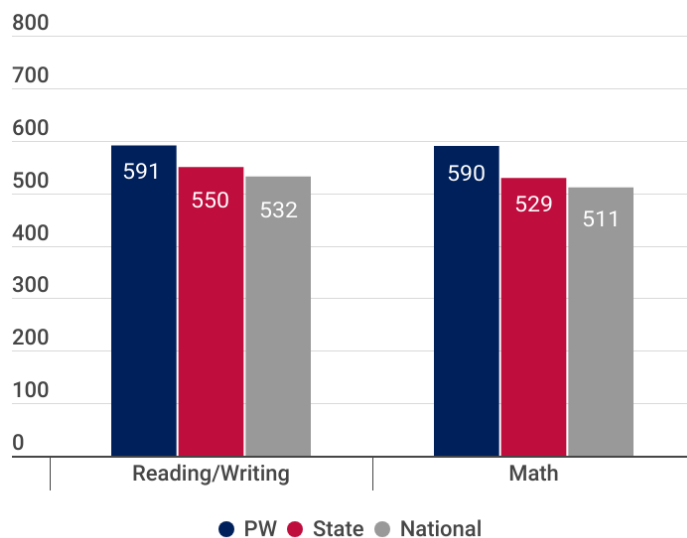
ACT Scores



Some high school students take the ACT as part of the college admissions process. The ACT is broken down into English, Reading, Math, and Science. The highest possible score is a 36. As you can see from the chart at left, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students outperform their peers in both the state and country.

SAT Scores

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a college entrance exam commonly used as part of the admissions process. The test consists of Math and Reading/Writing sections that are worth 800 points each. The highest possible score is a 1600. Students often take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) before the SAT. Based on these scores, students may become eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program. See the next page for information about Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's National Merit Scholarship Program recipients.



Four Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Students Earn AP Capstone Award

Two Plymouth Whitemarsh High School 2026 graduates and two 2025 graduates earned the AP Capstone Diploma, a distinction that is awarded to students who earn scores of 3 or higher on AP Seminar and AP Research exams, as well as on four additional Advanced Placement exams taken in a year.

Class of 2026's Lindy Arnold and Rosemary Ounsworth, as well as Class of 2025's Jackson DeGuzman and Diane Knittel, received this elite distinction for their scores in the 2024-25 school year. According to the College Board, more than 160,000 students in over 3,500 schools worldwide participated in AP Capstone. Of these, approximately 27,650 students earned the AP Capstone Diploma.

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Named to the AP School Honor Roll

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School earned a spot on the AP School Honor Roll for the 2024-25 school year. Schools earn these honors based on how many students take AP exams and how well they score.

In the 2024-25 school year, 430 students took 682 exams. Over 94 percent scored a 3 or higher. AP exams are scored from 1 to 5. A 3 will often translate to college credit, depending on the institution.

Last year was the first time Plymouth Whitemarsh students could be eligible for the diploma since it was also the first year that the high school offered AP Research as a class. In AP Seminar and AP Research classes, students are encouraged to create research projects based on topics of personal interest and are assessed on the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills.

The College Board AP Program gives students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while

still in high school. Plymouth Whitemarsh High School currently offers 36 AP and pre-AP courses.

PW Students Attain Commended, Semifinalist/Finalist Honors in National Merit Scholarship Program

Seven Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students attained Commended status and three were named Semifinalists/Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program this past year.

Students receive these designations based on their performance on the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Over 1.3 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

To attain Commended status, students had to be among the top 34,000 highest performers in the nation on the PSAT/NMSQT. Commended students are Maya Bava, Caleb Cleveland, Lajvar Haroon, Maite Jayo, Param Patel, Narayani Sakthinathan, and Ryan Schwarz.

To attain Semifinalist status, students had to be among the top 16,000 highest performers nationally. Three seniors attained Semifinalist status: Madison Li, Zach Halbert, and Aidan Robinette. These three students also attained Finalist status after submitting additional information to move on in the contest.



From left to right, in the back row, are Ryan Schwarz (Commended), Maya Bava (Commended), Aidan Robinette (Semifinalist/Finalist), Zach Halbert (Semifinalist/Finalist), and Principal Dr. Jason Bacani. In the front row, from left to right are Caleb Cleveland (Commended), Maite Jayo (Commended), and Madison Li (Semifinalist/Finalist).

Over 50 High School Students Receive College Board Awards

Over 50 Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students received National Recognition Program awards from the College Board during the 2025-26 school year.

Students were selected for the honors based on the following criteria:

They scored in the top 10 percent of PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 takers in their high school, state's first generation test takers, and/or state's rural and small town test takers, or they earned a 3 or higher on two or more AP exams or they earned a cumulative GPA of B+ by the time of submission.

Congratulations to the following students (some listed twice due to multiple awards).

Class of 2026 School Recognition Award

Patrick Aloia-Ramos
Maryam Alsammak



Lindy Arnold
Maya Bava
Justin Bischoff
Michael Bongard
Logan Burns
Melody Byun
Owen Cababe
Ellen Carty
Caleb Cleveland
Kennedy Dingle
Alexander Frangiosa
Grace Hamilton
Lajvar Haroon
Bradley Ingram
Kylie James
Kaiane Jayo
Maite Jayo
Caleb Jeon
Madison Li

Sean Lindsay
William McLaughlin
Param Patel
Michael Pereira
Jasmine Ray
Nathaniel Rizzo-Kim
Aidan Robinette
Narayani Sakthinathan
Ryan Schwarz
Gabriel Shultz
Gabrielle Tiedeken
Kumba Tonguino
William Waerig

Class of 2026 First-Generation Recognition Award

Patrick Aloia-Ramos
Justin Bischoff
Michael Bonner

Ronan Breen
Faith Jones
Sean Lindsay
Nathaniel Rizzo-Kim

Class of 2027 School Recognition Award

Austin Alderfer
Erik Babka
Hollis Becker
Robert Blunt
Taylor Cammarota
Spencer Long
Lorena Lopez
Jameson Melillo
Maxwell Montemayor
Leo Nasatir
Madeline Pomager
Jinay Sheth
Anthony Somers
Kaili Stauffer
Zoe Walinsky
Hasan Yafai
Wai Yung

Class of 2027 First-Generation Recognition

Wai Yung

Colonial Middle School Music Teacher Receives Citadel Heart of Learning Award

Colonial Middle School music teacher Amy Venkus, who retired in June, received the Citadel Heart of Learning Award during the 2025-26 school year.

Miss Venkus received the honor in March at a surprise presentation attended by students, faculty, and staff. Krista Park, Director of Data Analytics for Citadel Credit Union, pointed out that some teachers stand out in the nomination process because



From left to right are Krista Parks (Director of Data Analytics for Citadel Credit Union), music teacher Amy Venkus, and middle school principal Dr. Shawn Kaplan.

they have more “sparkle and heart.” She noted that those who nominated Miss Venkus wrote about her tireless dedication and how she inspires confidence and growth.

“Amy is far more than a music director. She is a relentless advocate, innovative leader, and community builder, whose passion, resilience, and student-first mindset has shaped generations of confident and capable young people.”

Miss Venkus is the fourth Colonial School District teacher to receive the award in recent years.

Students Feel They Belong at CSD

Colonial School District's commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts have yielded some positive results, according to middle and high school students who were surveyed last March.

Colonial Middle School and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students who responded to the Psychological Sense of School Membership (PSSM) survey this past spring indicated that they feel they belong in Colonial schools. The district scored a score of 3.93 out of 5 on the survey, an outcome made possible through the Colonial's ongoing commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging (EIB). Here's a look at where that work was focused in 2025-26:

Strong staff/student relationships

Administrators scheduled meetings with student leaders at both the middle and high school to listen and learn from club members. Discussions centered around evaluating the district's strengths and weaknesses related to school climate, and how students could work together with administration to enhance belonging. These club members presented twice at School Board committee meetings to reflect on their interactions with administrators. One outcome from the gatherings was that students wanted to learn more from one another. In May, they had the chance to do just that through a club collaboration event. Members from high school clubs representing various marginalized groups convened to learn about each other's goals and successes, and share perspectives about their organizations.

Prioritization of student voice

In addition to the cross-club collaborations,



Students from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School's affinity groups presented to the School Board twice this school year about their experiences working with the administration to enhance belonging.

students expressed themselves via several initiatives that brought them together with other area students, as well as local and state leaders. Students involved in the Dreaming Forward initiative, which is offered through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU), presented on how they have enhanced belonging through peer-to-peer interactions and by using PSSM data. Other students participated in the Voices for Education, another MCIU initiative in which students address a problem relevant to their school and then brainstorm ways to tackle that problem. The year-long effort ends with a trip to Harrisburg to meet legislators.

Middle and high school students also participated in the University of Pennsylvania's Coalition for Educational Excellence Student Leadership Institute held in March at Keith Valley Middle School. Throughout the day, students engaged in inspiring keynote sessions and explored trifold presentations that highlighted student advocacy efforts from high schools across the region.

Students also attended the Black Male Educators Convening (BMEC) in Philadelphia in November. A total of 12 district representatives participated, including students, teachers from various grade levels, a counselor, building administrators, and central administrators.



Colonial Middle School students and principals attended the spring EIB meeting.

Professional learning for staff

Faculty and staff continue to receive training in equity, inclusion, and belonging topics. Over the last school year, the administrative team participated in workshops led by the Anti-Defamation League and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission for anti-bias training, and EIB Building Leadership Teams received training from Dr. Melissa Figueroa-Douglas, Equity Advancement Officer, to use in their own turnaround trainings. Faculty and staff also worked together to strengthen the student code of conduct to address incidents of hate speech and communicated these changes to students and families at the start of the school year.

To promote all of this work to the community, a meeting was held in March for families and stakeholders. Students led demonstrations and showcased the EIB work from their schools.

Colonial School District Education Foundation Funds Classroom Innovation

The Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF) raises money each year to fund innovative projects from teachers and staff. This year, the CSDEF provided grants to teachers for:

All Kids Bike: Kindergartners started on balance bikes and moved up to pedaling during gym class. The grant covered the cost of the bikes, helmets, and a storage system. After a successful pilot at Plymouth Elementary School, the program will be expanding to all four K-3 buildings.

Adaptive Swing: Ridge Park Elementary School students with special needs can now join their peers in this fun and well-loved playground activity with an adaptive swing.

Makerspace Revitalization: The decade-old 3-D printers in the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School library were replaced to give students more reliable, efficient, and user-friendly experiences for making prototypes and models for class and personal projects.

“All My Stripes”: Ridge Park Elementary School celebrated Autism Awareness Month by reading the book “All My Stripes” in all classrooms and used the story as a springboard for activities that encouraged inclusivity and belonging.

Rock Climbing Wall: The Foundation teamed up with the Colonial Elementary School PTO and Subaru of America to fund a rock climbing wall in the new gym. The rock wall helps students improve strength, flexibility, endurance, and balance while encouraging focus, planning, and spatial reasoning.

Neurodiversity Tools: These movement and sensory supports help Plymouth Elementary School children regulate attention, maintain focus, and fully access instruction.



Kindergartners at Plymouth Elementary School piloted the All Kids Bike program in gym class.

Other awards granted this year included \$7,000 to school librarians, \$5,600 to health and physical education programs, and \$6,000 to AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), and \$1,000 for the annual Day of Service.

To replenish the bucket for teacher grants, the Foundation raised more than \$10,000 this past year.

Other Foundation fundraisers this past year included the Feel the Love campaign, which raised \$7,203; teacher payroll deductions, which raised \$2,100; and district-wide dress down days, which raised over \$1,000.



Conshohocken Elementary School students challenge each other in a problem-solving game purchased with a CSDEF gift to the school library.

CSDEF Golf Outing Raises Funds to Fight Food Insecurity

The Colonial School District Education Foundation's Food For Thought Golf Classic brought together community members, sponsors, and supporters for a day of fun and friendly competition while raising \$25,000+ for Colonial families facing food insecurity.

The golfers arrived early for lunch and received a gift and swag bag sponsored by Junkless Foods. The beautiful summer weather provided a great backdrop for the shotgun start as a full slate of 84 golfers took to the course. Beverage stations were sponsored by ZNH Technologies.

After 18 holes, the foursome of Sean Shamany, Victor Collazo, Shawn Pursell, and Mike Cassano brought home first place. Individual awards sponsored by Elite Revenue Solutions were given to Mike Rosefeldt for Closest to the Pin and Cindy Digian and Mike Fusarelli for Longest Drive. While John Kennedy Subaru sponsored a chance to win a car with a hole-in-one on hole 14, no one made the shot. However, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School senior Logan Bock did make a hole-in-one on hole 7.

Fun and fundraising continued back at the clubhouse where non-golfers joined participants in a cocktail hour, raffles, and the highlight of the evening, the 50/50 helicopter golf ball drop won by Michael Fazzini.



CSDEF Board member Mike DeFinis addresses the golfers before the tournament in the picture at top right. CSDEF Board President Brenna Martin thanks participants in picture below.



Thank you to our event sponsors: Junkless, ZNH Technologies, John Kennedy Subaru, and Elite Revenue Solutions, as well as our tee box sponsors: Building Blocks Behavioral Services, the Dennis Callan Team at Colonial Mortgage Advisors, Daybright Financial/Hillendale Associates Inc., the DeFinis Family, the Digian Family, the Doll Family, Edwards Business Solutions,

the Fine and Mulvey Families, Firsttrust Bank, Flaster Greenberg, GKO Architects, Gleason Real Estate, Halberstadt Industries, Independence Alternative Investments, Kades Margolis, McNees Law, PFM, PLGIT, Raymond James, Reading Fightins, Teamsters Local Union 384, Wonder-spring, and WSFS Bank.

2025-26 Food For Thought campaign brings in \$55,000+ for family meal assistance

The Colonial School District Education Foundation brought in \$55,373 through its annual campaign, Food For Thought. With one in four Colonial students receiving federal aid for school lunches, the district is not immune to families struggling

or experiencing food insecurity.

The Food For Thought initiative covers lunches for children whose families who just miss the cut-off for federal aid, and also supports families with weekend

meals. For the 2025-26 school year, the campaign paid for more than 3,400 school lunches and fed more than 75 students outside of school.

Slawek Orthodontics Braces Auction Brings in \$3,200 for CSDEF



Congratulations to the Guerrero family for placing the winning bid of \$3,200 in the 2026 braces auction benefiting the Colonial School District Education Foundation.

The metal braces, a \$6,680 value, were generously donated by Slawek Orthodontics. At Slawek Orthodontics, Dr. Stephen Slawek, Dr. Regina Lepore, and their team have been practicing orthodontics for 20 years and have a state-of-the-art facility in Lafayette Hill.

Seen at left is Colonial Elementary School student Stella Guerrero with the certificate good for metal braces from Slawek Orthodontics.

Save the Date: Foundation Day Will Be Oct. 4

The Colonial School District Education Foundation is currently planning for the 2026 Foundation Day on Sunday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School.

Last year's event was a chance for families to enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and games that brought in \$9,000. Food trucks, inflatables, a video-game truck, a sand art and craft area, mini golf, and face painting were all part of the fun.

Student performances from the PW Marching Colonials, the Colonial Players, and the PW cheerleaders occurred throughout the day, and the PW Alumni Association also held its inaugural Cornhole Tournament as part of the day.

Be a part of this annual tradition, by coming to Foundation Day or the Cornhole Tournament this fall, or have your business become a sponsor! Visit www.colonialsd.org/FoundationDay for details.

First Annual PW Alumni Association Cornhole Tournament is a Success

A field of 26 teams competed in the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Alumni Association's first annual Cornhole Tournament this past fall. Vinnie Spagna and Dino Dean (PWHS Class of 1978) of The Sharpshooters took home the championship title.

Thank you to the community partners who provided prizes: Fingers, Wings, and Other Things, Giant Food Stores, Illiano's Pizza, P.J. Whelihan's, Primo's Hoagies, Vito's Pizza, Weis Markets, and Ye Olde Ale House. Also, thank you to Colonial Middle School, Ply-Mar Swim Club, and all of the volunteers who helped provide boards.



Foundation's Annual 5K Raises \$3,400

The Colonial School District Education Foundation's annual Foundation 5K offered something for everyone, including a 5K run, a 1.5-mile walk, and a quarter-mile fun run for children. The event was held this past April and raised \$3,400 to support the Foundation.

Seen at left are the runners who finished in the top three spots for their age group. The next 5K is planned for April 11, 2027.

Food & Nutrition Services Department Update

Colonial School District's Food & Nutrition Services Department had another award-winning year, collecting accolades for promoting free school breakfasts and coming up with tasty recipes.

For the second year in a row, Colonial Elementary School was recognized as a Governor's Breakfast Champion for increasing the number of students taking advantage of the universal free breakfast program. Thanks to Principal Dr. Rose Rock's partnership with the Food & Nutrition Services Department, Colonial Elementary fed almost half of its enrolled students breakfast during last year's challenge period. In addition to increasing the number of students eating breakfast, a school must show that it has expanded access through innovative service, which types of hot, nutrition morning meals are available, and how it has prioritized locally-sourced, lower-sugar foods.

Breakfast Champions were invited to tour Lincoln Financial Field in September, when they met a former Philadelphia Eagles player, the cheerleaders, and Eagles mascot, Swoop.

In addition to the state award, the department was awarded first place in the K-12 How Do You Crunch? Contest sponsored by Kellanova Away from Home. To participate, the department came up with an original recipe using Cheez-It whole-grain crackers as a primary ingredient. Their scratch-made chicken tenders were selected based on creativity and concept to advance to the public-voting phase. After voting concluded, one grand prize winner was selected and four finalists then received first-place awards. First-prize winners received a case of Cheez-Its



Colonial Elementary School was recognized as a Governor's Breakfast Champion, and was invited to visit Lincoln Financial Field in September.

No Increase to Lunch Prices

Lunch prices will not increase for the 2026-27 school year.

- Elementary lunches: \$2.85
- Middle school lunches: \$3.05
- High school tiered lunches: \$3.10, \$3.50 or \$3.75 (premium)

Remember to add money to your child's EZSchoolPay account before the school year starts Aug. 31!

for future meals, as well as fun Cheez-It merchandise.

The department also won a \$4,000 grant to implement healthy meals through the Institute for Child Nutrition and the Culinary Training Academy and was awarded funds to purchase new equipment such as immersion blenders for making smoothies.

Food & Nutrition Services Department Director Lori McCoy also attended the



Food Services Director Lori McCoy, left, Culinary Coordinator Maria Garman, middle, and Jennifer Masorli, Executive Secretary, show off Cheez-It merch earned through a recipe contest.

Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EIB) Committee meeting this past spring to showcase what her department has been doing to make school lunches inclusive and representative of the many cultures of the students it serves.

Reminders: School Breakfast is Free; Aid Available for Lunch

As a new school year approaches, the Food & Nutrition Services Department reminds families about universal free breakfast and free and reduced price meal programs. Every student is eligible to receive a free breakfast at school. All meal offerings include five components: protein, grain, fruit, vegetable, and milk. Federal regulations require that students choose a combination of at least three components (one of which must be a fruit or vegetable) to qualify for a free meal. Every school cafeteria offers breakfast options daily. Breakfast is served from 8:50 to 9:05 a.m. in



elementary school cafeterias. The middle school serves breakfast via kiosks from 7:40 to 8 a.m. and the high school serves breakfast from 7 to 7:30 a.m. in the cafeteria, coffee shop, and via kiosks. Menus can be found on our website. **Families who would like to receive free and reduced-price lunches this fall are reminded to complete an application online. Visit schoolcafe.com or contact the Food & Nutrition Services office for a paper application: 610-834-1670, ext. 8207.**

Residents 65+: Get Your Gold Card for Freebies

Residents of Conshohocken Borough, Whitemarsh Township and Plymouth Township who are 65 years or older are invited to become Gold Card members. Those who join our Gold Card membership are entitled to attend two special events, and may sign up for Adult Evening School classes at a free or reduced rate. In addition, Gold Card members get free admission to musicals and athletic events. To get a card, fill out an application online: www.colonialsd.org/goldcard or call 610.834.1670, ext. 2115.



Gold Card members enjoy talking with cast members from last year's spring musical at the luncheon.

Colonial's Facility Rental Portal Gets an Upgrade

If you need to reserve a space on our fields or in our buildings for the coming year, please note we have a new reservation portal called FMX. Find information about how to set up an account on our website ([www.colonialsd.org/Departments/Facilities & Operations](http://www.colonialsd.org/Departments/Facilities%20&%20Operations)). Registrations coming from external groups or organizations will require a certificate of insurance.

Adult Evening School Class Registration to Open in Late August

Here's what your neighbors had to say about:

CSD Adult Evening School

"The classes are great! I really enjoyed the classes I took. The instructors were fabulous also!"

Please keep us on your mailing list. I would NOT want to miss this class in the future.

This is so great for our community. I met so many nice people and (I'm) looking forward to the fall.

We look forward to class every week!

Colonial School District's Adult Evening School classes offer a variety of ways to stay fit, socialize, or learn something new! This fall's session will have some new offerings, such as short story writing, oceanography, and card-making. Check out our brochure in August for all the details. It will be mailed to all district residents. Or you can see our class catalog online at www.colonialsd.org/aes. Classes will begin Sept. 28.

Points of Pride from the 2025-26 School Year

- Colonial Elementary School named Governor's Breakfast Champion for the second year
- Over 50 Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students receive College Board National Recognition Awards
- Four Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students named Commended students in the National Merit Scholarship Program
- Three Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program
- School district named an Outstanding Visual Arts Community
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School's Marching Colonials place second at Cavalcade of Bands
- Two graduates receive AP Capstone Diploma
- The Food & Nutrition Services Department received a first-place award in the K-12 How Do You Crunch? Contest
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students selected for PMEA District 11 Chorus, District 11 Band, All-State Chorus
- Colonial Middle School's Amy Venkus presented with Citadel Heart of Learning
- Colonial Middle School wrestling team wins Montgomery County Athletic Association League Championship



The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Odyssey of the Mind team made it to the World Finals and finished third in their division.



The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School boys basketball team won the District 1-6A Championship.



The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Colonial Players won six Philadelphia Independence Awards.

- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School teacher Tonya Kaufman inducted into Cavalcade of Bands Hall of Fame
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School's Odyssey of the Mind team finished third in World Finals
- Colonial School District named one of the Best Communities for Music Education
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School football, cross country, girls soccer, field hockey, cheerleading, baseball, girls lacrosse, softball, flag football, tennis teams win Suburban One League Championships
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School boys basketball team won the District 1-6A championship
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Unified Bocce team wins league championship
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Colonial Players win six Philadelphia Independence Awards
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School ranked #15 in the Top Public High Schools of Philadelphia Magazine, #25 in the state on Niche.com, and #24 in the state by U.S. News & World Report