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Allegheny Valley School District

eNEWS



Allegheny Valley Prepares To Go Back To School

The Allegheny Valley School District enthusiastically looks forward to the 2017-2018 school year. The theme of “Be...” encourages students, staff, and community to concentrate on individual topics each month to inspire ways to be the best. Whether in academics, athletics, social, or extra-curricular areas, the ideas urge everyone to help build a better Allegheny Valley School District.

Pre-season camps for Springdale Jr-Sr High School athletic teams opened on Monday, August 14.

Headlining the year will be a construction project at the Acmetonia Primary School. Starting in the fall, a 14-classroom wing that will house grades 4-6 will be added onto the existing building. The wing will also include an administrative office, meeting rooms, restrooms, and storage areas. Classrooms for instrumental and vocal music, STEM/STEAM learning, and technology will also be added throughout the building. The cafeteria, kitchen, and gymnasium areas will be renovated to allow for additional student use. The main office will be updated to include some additional safety measures. Changes will also occur to the grounds surrounding the building, including the playground and parking areas.

Acmetonia Primary School and Colfax Upper Elementary School will continue to incorporate the PATHs (Promoting Alternate Thinking Strategies) program in Kindergarten through grade 6. The program, “is grounded in social and emotional learning (SEL). SEL helps children:

- Resolve conflicts peacefully
- Handle emotions positively
- Empathize
- Make responsible decisions

When students learn and use SEL skills, behavior improves and disruptions lessen.” (For additional information on the PATHs program, please visit: <http://www.channing-bete.com/prevention-programs/paths/paths.html>)

Colfax Upper Elementary School will also incorporate its STEAM class, which had been piloted during 2016-2017, as a regular course. The course is an engineering-based learning class that includes applications of science, technology, and mathematics. Through student application of critical thinking, communication skills, collaboration, and creativity, the lessons allow Colfax students to grow from STEAM-literate to STEAM-fluent citizens. The students are able to articulate a complex idea, apply systems and models from one application to another, understand how to deconstruct and construct things of significance, and internalize a skill to the point of transparency.

Springdale Jr-Sr High School will enter the third year of its 1:1 iPad initiative. All students in grades 9-12 will be issued a District-owned iPad, with the focus for staff to further incorporate technology into the classrooms. In addition, the high school continues planning for a new "Maker Space" room to be ready for students and staff this fall. The high school will also continue to integrate career- and workforce-ready skills into the curriculum and in collaboration with outside agencies through a variety of initiatives.

Allegheny Valley will add two iPad carts in the elementary buildings to support curriculum and technology projects in the classrooms. In addition, the District has kicked off an on-line registration program. Parents/guardians can now carry out the registration process for their children by accessing and completing necessary forms on line. Through a separate component, parents/guardians can update back-to-school information such as changes to addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contact information on line.

Allegheny Valley provides details on goals, initiatives, and additional programs on its web site. Please see www.avsdweb.org for information on the District as it begins a new school year.

Important Information

Activity Calendars

Each year, the Allegheny Valley School District publishes an Activity Calendar, which is sent home with students and available in all District offices. After publication, updates for and additional activities will be added to the District’s web site and can be printed directly from the calendar area.

Gold Cards

Senior residents are reminded that passes to enter District events are available. Residents can register for a Gold Card at Springdale Jr-Sr High School’s main office. Seniors will need to complete an application and present proof of age, 62 or older, to receive their card. The cards do not have to be renewed.

Use of Student Photos or Interviews

Individual and/or group photographs, interviews, and/or videos of Allegheny Valley students may be taken for use by the District in publications, on its web site, or in local newspapers. Allegheny Valley provides opportunities for positive media publicity; a staff member is always present at these times. If a parent/guardian would prefer that his/her child not be photographed/interviewed for publicity purposes, he/she should send written notification by September 15, 2017 to: Allegheny Valley School District, Public Relations Department, 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024.



Welcome Back

The members of the Allegheny Valley School District are excited to begin a new school year. The pages of this newsletter contain important information concerning the start of school. Students in grades 1-12 will begin school on Monday, August 28. Kindergarten students and their parents are encouraged to come to the Acmetonia Primary School between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 28 for the Kindergarten Kick-Off. The event will allow students to tour classrooms, see their teachers, and review classroom procedures and routines. Kindergarten begins on Tuesday, August 29. For additional information on Kindergarten activities, please call the Acmetonia Primary School at 724-274-6500. Please keep in mind the following information:

- Student rosters have been posted at the doors of the elementary schools. Parents and students are welcome to check homeroom assignments at their individual buildings.
- Parents and students should note changes to the bus schedule. Some bus stops may have been moved or pickup times changed. Please check the schedules carefully to find the correct bus and time for your child’s stop according to his/her building. If necessary, further changes to routes may be made after the start of the school year. However, the District does not anticipate any additional changes at this time.
- Parents are reminded that students must ride the bus **THEY ARE ASSIGNED**. Students cannot change buses on a day-to-day basis and will not be permitted to ride home with friends for parties or visits. Administrators would appreciate **NO** parent requests of this nature. This policy is in place for the safety of the students.
- Parents who pick up their children at the bus stops are reminded to park at least ten feet from street corners. While waiting for buses, individuals are asked to respect the property of the homeowners around bus stops.

Please note that changing traffic patterns throughout the communities may vary bus times. The District asks that parents be patient with these time changes and understand that the District has no control over the time fluctuations.



2017-2018 Bus Schedules...

Bus schedules for the 2017-2018 school year are complete. Please note that **TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE** and students should arrive at their bus stop at least ten minutes prior to the time listed. Times are subject to change over the course of the school year; parents should remain flexible during these situations. Parents with questions should contact Mr. Gregory Heavner at 724-274-6500. [Click here for 2017-2018 Bus Routes.](#)



From the Food Services Department...

Information about the Food Services Department, along with breakfast and lunch menus are attached to this newsletter and listed on the District’s web site. Click here for [additional information](#) and [back-to-school menus](#).



Public Notices...

Each year, the District publishes important information for parents. These notices are intended to provide valuable information for parents and members of the community. [Click here for Allegheny Valley School District’s Public Notices.](#)



2017-2018 Alumni Hall of Fame...

Information and the nomination form for the Allegheny Valley School District’s Alumni Hall of Fame is attached. Please consider taking time to nominate a deserving alumnus. Click here for [additional information](#).

eNEWS is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. Questions or comments should be sent to jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us.

The Allegheny Valley School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Employees and others involved with the District who have a complaint of discrimination or harassment or require information about accommodations for disabled individuals, should contact the superintendent of schools by calling 724-274-5300 or writing and mailing a letter addressed to 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024