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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 2018-2019 school year. The theme of “Make A Mark” encourages students, staff, and community to encourage creativity. Express yourself, inspire others, and help build a better Allegheny Valley School District.

This school year brings many new programs and ideas to the District. The construction project that will merge Colfax Upper Elementary and Acmetonia Primary Schools is in its

*Pre-season camps for Springdale Jr-Sr High School athletic teams opened on Monday, August 13.*

final stages. The 14-classroom wing added onto the existing building will house grades 4-6. In addition, classrooms for instrumental and vocal music, STEM learning, and technology have also been added to the facility. The kitchen, gymnasium, and main office areas have been renovated for additional student use and safety measures. Changes have also been made to the front parking lot, creating a larger traffic loop, and the playground area.

For the school year, Acmetonia Elementary will add a STEAM option to its encore rotation. This encore class replaces library, which will be incorporated into the language arts classes. The course is engineering-based and includes applications of science, technology, and mathematics. Through student application of critical thinking, communication skills, collaboration, and creativity, the lessons allow students 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. The class will continue to build STEAM learning throughout the District.

Springdale Jr-Sr High School will continue to integrate career- and workforce-ready skills into the curriculum and in collaboration with outside agencies through a variety of initiatives. These ideas will support students on new ways of learning and working. Students will be immersed in discovering soft skills and technical skills. They will also learn about new future career opportunities.

In addition, Allegheny Valley will begin to roll out the use of SeeSaw during the 2018-2019 year. The program is a digital portfolio application that allows students to take ownership of their work, uncover and document learning, connect families and staff, and amplify the student voice in the classroom. The program will begin in the elementary grades.

The District has also established the Allegheny Valley Innovation Academy, an intensive year-long professional development cohort focused around innovative learning practices, thoughtful technology use, and design thinking. The program, rooted strongly from CMU's CREATE Lab Fluency Project, will not only hone learning practices, but will also connect teachers with experts and organizations on the forefront of education. Six teachers are part of the inaugural group.

The District will continue its focus on technology by expanding the use of the Innovation Lab at the Springdale Jr-Sr High School, concentrating on Project Based Learning. Interactive projectors and wireless speaker systems have also been added throughout the Acmetonia construction project. The technology has been placed in the new rooms with the goals to reimagine what a school can look like and use technology as a conduit for solving authentic problems.

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



## 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 for the start of school. Students in grades 1-12 will begin school on Monday, August 27. Kindergarten students

and their parents are encouraged to come to Acmetonia Elementary between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 27 for the Kindergarten Kick-Off. The

## Important Information

### *Activity Calendars*

Each year, the Allegheny Valley School District publishes an Activities Calendar, which is sent home with students and available in all District offices. After publication, updates for 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 to: Allegheny Valley School District, Public Relations Department, 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024.

event will allow students to tour classrooms, see their teachers, and review classroom procedures and routines. Kindergarten begins on Tuesday, August 28. For additional information on Kindergarten activities, please call the Acmetonia Primary School at 724-274-6500.

Please keep in mind the following information:

- Classroom, scheduling, and bus information has been mailed to students. Parents and students are welcome to check the information with their individual buildings.
- Parents and students should note changes to the bus schedule. Some bus stops have been moved and 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. 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.



### **2018-2019 Bus Schedules...**

2018-2019 Bus schedules were mailed to students prior to the start of school. This year, routes will not be posted on the web site. Please note that **TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE** and students should arrive at their bus stop at least ten minutes before the time listed. Times are subject to change over the course of the school year; parents should remain flexible for these situations. Questions should be sent to Mr. Gregory Heavner at 724-274-6500.



### **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](#).



### **2018-2019 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](#).

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