



Boyertown

WINTER 2016

ESSENTIALS

To enable all students to succeed in a changing world.

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Celebrating School Board Directors



Richard Faidley, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Public education is more than just learning the basic math, science, English and history; it's a platform for students to reach their potential. It inspires hope for a new generation and a successful future. Public education exists in part because individuals volunteer their time to make

informed decisions about the issues facing public schools.

School directors volunteer, on average, 20 hours a month to help run the schools in our community. The school board makes difficult decisions for the betterment of our students. They vote on multimillion-dollar budgets, hire staff, approve programs and evaluate building needs, to name a few.

These dedicated volunteers reside in our community. They are our friends, neighbors, community leaders, parents at your children's schools and engaged senior citizens. In anticipation of School Director Recognition Month, I would like to publicly thank the nine elected school board members who serve the students and families of the Boyertown Area School District. I would also like to welcome our newest school board members: Mr. Clay Breece (Region II) and Mr. David Lewis (Region III).

Mr. Breece and his family have resided in the Boyertown Area School District since 2002. Both of his children are graduates of Boyertown Area Senior High School. A graduate of Barrington College in Rhode Island, Mr. Breece has been a marketing manager for 25 years. He currently works for U-Haul.

Mr. Breece ran for school board because he wants to make a difference.

Mr. Lewis and his family have lived in the Boyertown Area School District since 1998. Prior to living in Boyertown, Mr. Lewis and his

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Learning Academies Prepare Boyertown Students for College and Career

As the physical construction continues at Boyertown Area Senior High School, a steering committee consisting of administrators, faculty, parents, business leaders and students has been preparing for the launch of a learning academy model at the school.

Set to begin with the 2017-18 academic year, the learning academy model provides a college preparatory curriculum with a career theme, enabling students to see relationships among academic subjects and their application to a broad field of work. Students who choose to participate in the learning academy model will be provided with opportunities for internships, capstone courses and involvement in career-related student organizations that will foster college and career readiness.

In addition to the Freshman Academy for incoming ninth grade students, the high school will offer four learning academies: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math); visual, performing, fine arts; health/human services; and global leadership/communications. While students will have the choice to either participate in a learning academy or follow the traditional approach to a high school education by earning 24 credits, all incoming ninth grade students will automatically be enrolled in the Freshman Academy.

"The Freshman Academy is being established as a transition academy for our ninth grade students," explained Dr. Brett Cooper, Boyertown Area High School Principal. "The goals are to help students transition to high school and assist them in making an informed decision about entering into an academy in their sophomore year."

The Freshman Academy will be located in the original high school building, and the majority of the ninth grade classes will be held in this area of school.

The concept of learning academies is growing across the nation as an effective model to prepare all students for college and career. Studies suggest that students in career academies earn more credits, are more likely to graduate and earn more after high school than their non-academy peers. In addition, schools with career academies boast higher levels of student and teacher engagement.

Currently, it is estimated that there are between 6,000 and 10,000 high school learning academies in the United States. Perhaps career academies' most resounding endorsement came from the U.S.

Department of Education's budget for the 2013 fiscal year. President Obama pledged \$1 billion to expand the number of career academies and increase opportunities for students to participate in college preparatory and career and technical curricula in their schools.

"We want Boyertown students to graduate with transferable skills,"

Dr. Cooper stated. "For example, we are looking into offering dual-enrollment opportunities for students to earn certifications while earning their high school diploma."

Another advantage of the learning academy model is that it will, in essence, create small learning communities of roughly 350 to 400 students where curricular content connects to the student's individual interest.

With the understanding that the learning academy model will not be at 100 percent capacity in year one, the steering committee will continue to meet in order to guide the district. It should be noted that the district is working to institute the learning academy model with zero impact on the budget.

"The learning academy model is a living, dynamic program that will evolve over the years," Dr. Cooper commented. "We are striving to create an environment that fits the Boyertown community. We believe that students and parents will embrace the model."

Boyertown Area Senior High School students will continue to have the opportunity to attend the Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC). With campuses located in Leesport and Oley, BCTC offers 37 career pathways across the following career clusters: Business & Information Technology, Communications, Construction, Engineering & Manufacturing Technology, Healthcare, Services, and Transportation. At the Berks Career and Technology Center classroom theory is blended with technical applications in state-of-the-art laboratories and actual off-campus work-based experiences; all students earn industry recognized credentials.

Schools with career academies boast higher levels of student and teacher engagement.

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2015-2016 Calendar Released

The Boyertown Area School District's Board of School Directors has approved the calendar for the 2016-2017 academic year. The calendar can be viewed on the website, www.Boyertownasd.org or downloaded from the District's Facebook page.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Boyertown Area School District
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Dr. Melissa L. Woodard, Chief Academic Officer
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Stephen Katch, Chief Human Resources Officer

Boyertown Area Senior High School

120 North Monroe Street, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-7435
Dr. Brett A. Cooper, Principal
Dr. E. Wayne Foley, Assistant Principal
Andrew T. Maoury, Assistant Principal
Kelly B. Mason, Assistant Principal

Junior High School, East Center

2020 Big Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525
610-754-9550
Andrew C. Ruppert, Principal
Stephanie A. Petri, Assistant Principal

Junior High School, West Center

380 South Madison Street, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-7471
Gregory S. Galtere, Principal
James J. Towers, Assistant Principal

Boyertown Elementary School

641 East Second Street, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-7462
Craig R. Kehl, Principal

Colebrookdale Elementary School

1001 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-7427
Michael R. Stoudt, Principal

Earl Elementary School

22 Schoolhouse Road, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-7504
Dr. Craig K. Zerr, Principal

Gilbertsville Elementary School

36 Congo Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525
610-369-7485
Stephanie L. Landis, Principal

New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School

2547 Big Road, Frederick, PA 19435
610-754-9580
Brian J. Rohn, Principal

Pine Forge Elementary School

8 Glendale Road, Boyertown, PA 19512
610-323-7609
Laura A. Heineck, Principal

Washington Elementary School

1406 Route 100, Barto, PA 19504
610-754-9589
Christopher J. Iacobelli, Principal

The Boyertown Area School District Newsletter is published by the Boyertown Area School District.

For questions or comments regarding this publication, please contact Kristine Parkes at Communications@Boyertownasd.org.

Alumni Spotlight: One of the Greatest Runners In The World

Born and raised in Boyertown, Mr. Gerald Karver began running competitively as a sophomore at Boyertown High School. With the help of his coach, Mr. Doc Sell, Mr. Karver quickly became one of the best high school athletes in the nation.

Over the course of his high school running career, Mr. Karver won six state championship titles in cross-country and track and field. Mr. Karver won the Pennsylvania State Cross Country Championships in 1939 and 1940. He went on to win two track and field state champion titles for the half-mile and mile races in 1940 and 1941. These state championship titles made Mr. Karver the first athlete in Pennsylvania history to win three state championship titles two years in a row, while setting course records in all three events.

Mr. Karver was also named Berks County Outstanding Athlete of the Year in 1940. A year later, Mr. Karver ran as the anchor runner at the Penn Relays, where he would run one of his best races to date. When Mr. Karver was handed the baton, his team was in ninth place and 35 yards behind the first-place runner. Mr. Karver ran one of the most outstanding miles of his career that day, as he made his way down the track finishing eight yards ahead of all of his opponents, earning his team a first-place finish.

Mr. Karver was not only a first-class runner; he was also a first-class student who enjoyed the sciences. Mr. Karver was awarded a full scholarship to study chemical engineering at Penn State University.

Upon entering Penn State University, Mr. Karver was excited to continue his running career at the collegiate level. As a freshman, Mr. Karver was voted captain of the Penn State team and won many events. Shortly into his college career, however, Mr. Karver enlisted into the United States Air Force as a meteorologist in order to help the Allied Forces win World War II. A true American, Mr. Karver put his running career and current ranking of No. 1 in the world for the 1,000-yard indoor race on hold to serve and protect his country.

Mr. Karver proudly served his country as a lieutenant and continued to run during his time in the Air Force. In 1945, Mr. Karver competed with the Mediterranean Theater track team that competed against men from the European Theater. In August, Mr. Karver competed as part of the festivities at the Spaghetti Bowl, a football bowl game played between Fifth Army and Twelfth Air Force in Florence, Italy, on January 1, 1945. In addition to 25,000 spectators, Gens. George Patton and "Beetle" Smith were in attendance that day. Mr. Karver not only won — he set a new meet record with a time of 4:10 in the 1,500-meter event.

After the war ended, Mr. Karver returned to Penn State University to continue his education and athletic career. To no one's surprise, Mr. Karver resumed his winning record. He won the Triple Crown of long-distance racing, winning all of the national major mile titles — the IC4A, the NCAA and the NAAU, becoming the second



athlete to ever hold all three titles in the same year.

In 1947, Mr. Karver was named the Mile King of 1947 and was a member of the Penn State University distance medley and four-mile relay teams that won the national titles at Penn Relays in 1947 and 1948.

Upon graduating from Penn State University, Mr. Karver had his sights set on becoming an Olympian. In 1948, Mr. Karver was one of the premier milers in the United States selected to try out for the 1948 United States Olympic 1,500-meter team. At the final Olympic Trial, Mr. Karver ran to a photo finish, placing him fourth only four-tenths of second behind the winner. This fourth-place finish earned him a spot as an alternate on the 1948 Olympic team.

"It was, well, interesting," Mr. Karver said with a smile as he finished telling his story. "Thanks to running, I have experienced so much, and I had the chance to meet a lot of great people." Mr. Karver is not only a great athlete but also a remarkable man.

Mr. Karver ran competitively until the early 1950s. Focusing on his job at the Atlantic Refining Company and on his family, Mr. Karver continued to run in his free time, but instead of competing, he watched as his son and daughter grew into stellar athletes just like their father. Today, Mr. Karver still resides in Boyertown, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Mrs. Betty Karver. He enjoys spending time with his family and reminiscing about his amazing career as a runner.

If you know of a Boyertown Area Senior High alumnus or alumna who would be a good candidate for a spotlight article, please email Communications@boyertownasd.org.



Find news, announcements and event information on Facebook. Like us by searching Boyertown Area School District or clicking the Facebook icon on the District's website.

Understanding the Budgeting Process

With news of the Commonwealth's budget impasse and how it is affecting public education making headlines daily (at the time of publication a full state budget had not been passed), the Boyertown Area School District would like to provide an overview of the budgeting process.

When looking at the budgeting process it helps to start by first looking at the revenue side. Funding for public education comes from local, state, and federal sources. Federal funding originates from the federal government, often in the form of grants or aid intended to provide services for children with specific needs. Traditionally, federal funding sources represent a relatively small portion of total education funding. For the Boyertown Area School District federal funding represents a little over 2% of the annual budget.

Approximately 30% of the Boyertown Area School District's revenue comes from the Commonwealth. This compares to an average of about 43% in other states. According to data available from the National Center for Education Statistics, Pennsylvania ranks 43rd among all 50 states in terms of the amount of state subsidies allocated for elementary and secondary education. As most evident this year, state funding is often significantly impacted by economic and political forces. It is also important to note that state funding for individual school districts varies widely depending on level of wealth within the district and other factors.

The balance of the Boyertown Area School District's revenue, approximately 68%, comes from taxpayers in the form of various taxes including property tax, earned income tax, and local services tax.

Determining Expenses

For the Boyertown Area School District the four largest expenses are salaries, benefits, debt service, and transportation. It is important to note that these expenses are either contractually negotiated, such as teacher salaries and benefits, or are mandated by the State, including the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS).

As Mr. David Szablowski, Chief Financial Officer, explains that as recently as 2011-2012 Pennsylvania school districts were devoting 8.65% of all salaries and wages to employee retirement funds. However, for the 2016-17 fiscal year, the employer contribution rate will be 30.03%, up from 25.84% in 2015-16. The rate will slowly increase over the next 10 years to 34.18% in 2025-26.

The good news is that the state does provide a 50% subsidy to the Boyertown Area School District to offset the expense of the employer contribution.

Another costly benefit for the Boyertown Area School District is health insurance. In 2010 the District made the decision to become self-insured. In becoming self-insured, the District collects its own premiums and is financially responsible

for paying claims for medical and prescription expenses. Although healthcare costs continue to rise, since becoming self-insured the District has been able to keep premium increases to the single digits.

Transportation continues to be a large expense for the Boyertown Area School District as the District contracts a fleet of more than 100 vehicles that are used to transport approximately 7,000 students five days a week.

Putting it all together

In October, the Boyertown Area School District's Board of School Directors passed a resolution to not exceed the State's Act 1 Index of 2.9%. By doing this, the Board and Administration not only promised taxpayers that they would keep any tax increase to under 2.9%, they established a realistic timeline for developing the District's 2016-17 operating budget considering the 2015-16 budget difficulties in Harrisburg. The preliminary budget is scheduled to be adopted by the Board by May 2016 with a 30-day community review period to follow. The deadline to pass the final operating budget for 2016-17 is June 30, 2016.

The Boyertown Area School District will continue to provide updates through this publication and on our website, www.Boyertownasd.org, to keep residents informed of the budgeting process.

Colebrookdale Elementary School Helps Set A New Guinness World Record

Students at Colebrookdale Elementary School helped to break a Guinness World Record in sport stacking! Sport stacking is an exciting activity where students up stack and down stack 12 specially designed cups called Speed Stacks in predetermined sequences as fast as they can. Stackers race against the clock, compete in relays and often combine sport stacking with fitness challenges as a part of physical education classes.

Throughout the day, Colebrookdale Elementary School students in first through sixth grade participated in age-appropriate stations. Each station provided students with a variety of challenges, such as sport stacking for speed, sport stacking while blindfolded, or racing a friend to see who could finish the challenge first. In between each station, students completed various fitness exercises to keep their heart rates up.

Sport stacking promotes fitness-based lifetime activities and life-long lessons for the students to grow with. Sport stacking not only enhances motor skills such as hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, quickness and concentration, but it also promotes cardiovascular health, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility in students. This sport also motivates students to become more active at home and during recess.

Sport stacking is not only a physical activity but also an intellectual activity. Studies have shown that students who sport stack on a regular basis show improvement in reading, increased their test scores, and increased their levels of concentration. Sport stacking helps improve these skills because

the activity influences use of both the right and the left sides of the brain. By crossing the midline of their bodies, students develop new connections in their brain, which spurs brain growth that can lead to greater academic achievement.

Teamwork is another major theme of sport stacking. During fitness classes, there are a variety of team-oriented games and relays that students participate in. In addition, students use teamwork to create their own challenges or cup creations.

"The students loved working together with their teammates, it was great to see their excitement and creativity as they worked towards our goal of 610,000 stackers," stated physical education teacher Mrs. Darla Leib. "The students could not wait to find out if we beat the record and would be part of next year's Guinness World Records."

The previous record was 595,292 people stacking in multiple locations in one day. There were 601,497 verified stackers for this year making Colebrookdale



Elementary School students Guinness World Record breakers! Congratulations to everyone who were involved.



The 2016-2017 Boyertown Area School District Academic Calendar is available for download on our website and Facebook page.

Boyertown: Under Construction

The Boyertown Area School District is pleased to report that Phase 1 of the Boyertown Area Senior High School construction project is complete with the exception of punch list items. The Phase 1 areas included the science and lab classrooms, STEM labs, Family Consumer Science classrooms, Life Skills Classrooms, Cub Gymnasium & Lobby, five new art classrooms with support spaces, and the boiler and mechanical rooms.

On December 28 and 29, the high school hosted a basketball tournament utilizing the new Cub Gymnasium and the existing Bears Gymnasium.

The new stair tower #6 in the Cub Gym Lobby is 95% complete with the exception of the terrazzo treads and is being used by students to access the new ceramic studio from the 500 series classroom corridor. It should be noted that this stair tower was scheduled to be completed during Phase 3 and was completed ahead of schedule.

Here are a few photos to give you a sneak peek into Phase 1.



New Cub Gymnasium



Phase three stair tower 98% complete



Graphic arts classroom in the new art wing



Drawing classroom in the new art wing



Drawing classroom in the new art wing



New chillers

Boyertown Alumna Brings Message of Acceptance to the Elementary Schools

Throughout November, Boyertown Area Senior High School graduate and singer/songwriter Ms. Stephanie Grace visited the district's seven elementary schools to share her message of being a good friend and accepting each other.

The assemblies were part of the District's commitment to being a No Place for Hate community, an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League that strives to reduce bias and bullying, increase appreciation for diversity and build communities of respect.

"After releasing the single 'Loser,' I received a lot of feedback from

students and teachers who told me the song spoke to them," Ms. Grace explained. "It was from there that I had the idea of creating an assembly around teaching kids how to be a friend and how to use their gifts and talents to create a culture of care and advocacy in their schools and communities."

Ms. Grace's assembly is based on Aavidum, a made-up word that means "I've got your back." It was created by students in 2004 after their classmate died by suicide. Aavidum's goal is to create positive mental health environments where all students feel accepted, appreciated, acknowledged and cared

for in schools and communities across the nation. Aavidum students are encouraged to use their gifts and talents and to recognize the gifts and talents of their peers to create cultures of care in advocacy in their schools and communities.

Between singing original songs and covers of songs by artist such as Taylor Swift, Ms. Grace talked about what it takes for a school to be healthy.

"Music is the ultimate way to reach kids," Ms. Grace explained. "My hope is that each student takes one thing away from my time with them."

The interactive assemblies challenged students to consider what it looks like to be appreciated, accepted, acknowledged and cared for. During one part of each assembly, she invited a few students to give a shout-out to a friend by telling the audience what their friend does best and why he or she is a great friend.

"Having Ms. Grace visit Pine Forge Elementary School is wonderful," commented Principal Mrs. Laura Heineck. "Because she was a student, our students relate well to her. ... We are grateful for her dedication to the District and to creating a culture of acceptance."

A Pack of Cubs Spotted Running the Halls

Cubs on the Run is a new after-school program at Washington Elementary School that teaches students about the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle. Developed by the Healthy Food and Exercise Committee, Cubs on the Run has become an instant success in the eyes of students and parents alike.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, students in third through sixth grades, also known as the Cubs, stay after school and participate in healthy lifestyle activities. Each activity has an emphasis of teamwork, encouragement and endurance/resilience. Activities can vary week to week; however, generally the Cubs will start off with a healthy snack followed by a warm-up dance routine before heading outside to run laps. Each lap is measured at one-fourth of a mile, which allows the Cubs to set goals for themselves and keep track of personal bests each week.

"We encourage our Cubs to set running goals and keep track of

their progress," stated Cub Leader and teacher Mrs. Arielle Boyer. "We have had some students tell us they run during the weekend when they are at home. We love to see that this program is positively affecting their lives outside of school."

Sarah Campbell, a fourth-grade student, explained that her favorite part of Cubs on the Run is the running. "I also like reaching my goals," said Sarah. "Once I ran two miles!"

Matthew Harner, a sixth grade student, said that his favorite part of Cubs on the Run was warming up. Both Sarah and Matthew expressed interest in participating in an end-of-the-year Color Run that the Cubs hope to hold in 2016.

According to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, children now spend more than seven and a half hours a day in front of a screen. Participating in Cubs on the Run is the perfect way to encourage



children to live healthier lifestyles by providing them with an opportunity to be active and have fun at the same time.

This program is for student athletes and nonstudent athletes alike. With a noncompetitive environment, all students are encouraged to give Cubs on the Run a try. As the weather gets

colder, do not worry about the Cubs going into hibernation. The Cubs were given special permission to run through the halls of Washington Elementary during the colder months.

If you are interested in signing your child up for Cubs on the Run, please contact Mrs. Erica Hummel at ehummel@boyertownasd.org.

District Thanks You for Participating in Climate Survey

The Boyertown Area School District recently distributed the District's climate survey for the 2015-16 school year. This survey is designed to obtain feedback on the degree to which the Boyertown Area School District provides a high-quality education in a safe and secure learning environment.

Parents, students and staff were encouraged to share their opinions on the educational climate in the District's schools in order to inform the decisions made by school and district administrators.

The survey took approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and responses were anonymous. The climate survey is for informational purposes only. Feedback from parents, students and staff is essential and will help the Boyertown Area School District improve programs and services for students, families and employees. We thank everyone for their participation.

If you have questions about the climate survey, please contact Dr. Greg M. Miller, chief student achievement officer at 610-369-7414 or gmliller@boyertownasd.org.

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Celebrating School Board Directors

family have lived in New Jersey, Texas, Tennessee, Delaware and Massachusetts. His youngest children are sophomores at the high school. A Penn State alumnus, Mr. Lewis has worked for Global Advanced Metals (previously Cabot) since the early 1990s.

Mr. Lewis came to Boyertown with the intent of retiring in the community. As a result of living in multiple states, he brings a good insight to public and private education across the country.

Dr. Richard H. Faidley, Superintendent commented that he is looking forward to working with the newly elected board members to make the Boyertown Area School District one of the best districts in the state.

Serving on the Boyertown Area School District's Board of School Directors are Mrs. Jill Dennin, President (Region II); Mr. Stephen Elsier, Vice President (Region II); Mr. Clay D. Breece (Region II); Mr. Robert Caso (Region I); Ms. Christine Neiman (Region I); Mr. Paul Stengle (Region I); Mr. John Landino (Region III); Mr. David P. Lewis (Region III); Mrs. Donna Usavage (Region III).

Please join me in showing your appreciation for their service. Thank them for advocating on behalf of our collective interests and making the difficult decisions. Most importantly, thank them for being everyday heroes and making our students' success their priority.

Boyertown Elementary School Annual Can Drive a Success

This past November, Boyertown Elementary School held its annual can drive and pumpkin-decorating contest. In the spirit of the holidays, each homeroom class decorated a paper pumpkin that was then numbered and displayed in the main hallway. Students were encouraged to bring in canned goods and in exchange would be given the ability to vote for their favorite pumpkin. Students were given one vote for every canned item they donated.

“This event is a great opportunity for our school,” said Principal Mr. Craig Kehl. “It allows our students to use their creativity while educating them on the importance of giving and helping others.”

Led by school counselor Mrs. Erin Nester, the Boyertown Elementary School fourth and fifth

grade student council organized, prepared and distributed the paper pumpkins and helped to tally votes each day.

“Mrs. Nester continues to do a wonderful job organizing and helping the students run a successful event,” said Mr. Kehl. This is Mrs. Nester’s third year running the annual can drive.

This year, Boyertown Elementary School collected a total of 1,853 canned goods, which were donated to the Boyertown Salvation Army.

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this event a success.



Active Bodies, Active Minds: Action Based Learning Increasing Academic Performance

Once a week for 30 minutes, students in kindergarten and first grade at New Hanover-Upper Frederick and Colebrookdale Elementary Schools visit their school’s gymnasium, where the Action Based Learning Lab has been set-up.

The Action Based Learning Lab is a series of progressions and stations, each designed to prepare the brain for input and processing. Sensory components of balance, coordination, spatial awareness, directionality and visual literacy are developed as the child rolls, creeps, crawls, spins, twirls, bounces, balances, walks and jumps. The Action Based Learning Lab targets the developing brain of children ages four through seven.

Action Based Learning was introduced at Colebrookdale Elementary School four years ago. The program was introduced at New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School in 2014. At both schools, parent volunteers run each station.

“We couldn’t offer this program without the support of our parents,” commented Mr. Brian Rohn, Principal at New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School.

The concepts behind Action Based Learning are based upon brain research that supports the link of movement and physical activity to increase academic performance, and the local test scores support this premise.

At New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School, administration and teachers looked at data from the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System for reading and the District’s quarterly math benchmarks, comparing the 2014-15 academic year (the pilot year of Action Based Learning at the school) to the past three years. The average growth for Fountas and Pinnell from year one (2011-12) to year three (2013-14) was a 6.5 percent increase. However, Fountas and Pinnell growth in year four (the pilot year of Action Based Learning) was a 14.5 percent increase!

“The increase we saw in the Fountas and Pinnell assessments was significant, and the only difference between the years was the addition of Action Based Learning,” Mr. Rohn commented.

New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School has received a grant to purchase three pedal stations to be used during reading. The school will also be adding an Action Based Learning component to the playground area for students to use during recess.

“The kids love the program,” commented Mrs. Jessica Ramirez, first grade teacher at New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School. “They are having fun and have no idea that they are learning. ... It is a small time commitment each week for a great academic improvement.”



Students at the Action Based Ladder Station read high-frequency words, such as of and the, while they “climb” the ladder.

Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra Performs for BASD Students

This past November, Junior High West hosted the musicians of the Pennsylvania Philharmonic in their presentation of the program “Cheers, Tears and Fears: Music and Emotion.” The professional orchestra, led by Maestro Michael Butterman, performed two concerts — one for students at Junior High West and Junior High East students who play in the band and orchestra, and one for all fifth grade students in the Boyertown Area School District.

Through the music of Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Barber, Mussorgsky and Mahler, the orchestra demonstrated how musical effects can

communicate feelings and emotions that cannot be expressed in words.

Mr. Michael Jordan, Lead Teacher for the Arts in the Boyertown School District, stated, “The interactive experience the Pennsylvania Philharmonic provides is a great way for children to get involved with music. We hope that these performances inspire more students to explore music on an emotional level.”

What makes the Pennsylvania Philharmonic truly unique is its ability to be completely interactive and transparent with audiences. Catering to the younger

generation, the Pennsylvania Philharmonic focuses its tours to reach children who may not have the opportunity to see a live classical performance. Each concert is infused with education, as the maestro and orchestra take the time to educate and involve students in the world of classical music performances.

Boyertown Area School District believes in the importance of music education and provides opportunities such as this in an effort to inspire students to pursue their dreams.

The Great Outdoors Provide Amazing Academic Experience

For the past 31 years, fourth grade students from Earl Elementary School have been invited to attend a two-night camping trip to Camp Innabah located in Chester County.

Led by fourth grade teacher Mrs. Barbara Bigler, this 31-year tradition provides students with a unique opportunity to combine the core curriculum with the great outdoors. Student-campers participate in numerous activities ranging from nature walks and canoeing to critter catching and animal adaptation lessons. Every day is planned to specifically incorporate the core curriculum in each activity. Student-campers also learn important team building skills as some of the activities require teamwork in order to be completed. Enthusiastic about a new learning environment, the student-campers engage with each other, nature and teachers on a different level than in the classroom.

According to Vanderbilt University, teaching students in the field can enhance deep, active learning. Teaching outside of the classroom also provides teachers the opportunity to get to know their students in greater depth in terms of how the students see the world differently than the teacher. This insight into student worldviews helps teachers better communicate the concepts of the curriculum and tailor lessons to each student's individual needs.

For some students, visiting Camp Innabah is their first camping experience. Introducing students to new experiences opens minds and creates new opportunities for the next generation.

"The most rewarding part of taking our students to Camp Innabah is seeing their excitement when they discover something new," stated Mrs. Bigler. "This trip would not be possible without the help of the parents who volunteer each year."

Together, students, faculty and parent volunteers embark on a three-day adventure where the fun seems to never stop! Students are eager to learn, while parents are thrilled about the educational experience their children have.

"What the students learn at Camp Innabah is invaluable," commented parent-volunteer Mr. Scott Seyler. "You can't teach this in a classroom."

"I am looking forward to critter catching,"



Students enjoyed participating in the stream study while others tried their hand at canoeing.

stated fourth grade student Torin Cole. His classmate, Jonah Sterling, explained that he was most excited about the bonfire.

Established over 80 years ago, Camp Innabah is located in Chester County and sits upon 179 acres of adventure. Camp Innabah provides a safe environment where campers can learn, challenge themselves and create lifelong memories.



It's a Bird ... It's a Plane ...

Brain blocks beware! Colebrookdale Elementary School students are using their superpowers to defeat negative thoughts and actions through positive thinking and the power of their minds.

This year, Colebrookdale Elementary School has embraced a superpower theme. This theme invited each student to find what his or her inner superpower is and identify with it throughout the year. Whether it is being super hard working, using time wisely, being happy, being a team player, or being super helpful, each student was asked to find their greatest strength and use it to better the school community.

This schoolwide initiative is based upon Mrs. Michelle Garcia Winner and her "Superflex"

program. The "Superflex" emphasis helps teach Colebrookdale Elementary School students to intrinsically want to be successful both academically and socially. The superpower initiative aims to not only increase success in academics and social interactions, but it also aims to provide students with a greater sense of self-confidence.

"We are educating our students on the importance of a growth mindset," stated Colebrookdale Elementary School Principal Mr. Michael Stoudt. "The goal is to provide our students with the correct educational tools they need to change their mindsets from identifying their weaknesses to identifying and embracing their strengths — their superpowers."

Mr. Stoudt and his team of superheroes, otherwise known as Colebrookdale Elementary School teachers, have been busy teaching lessons to students about growth mindsets and using their superpowers to enhance positive thinking. The school's guidance counselor, Mrs. Lisa Frain-Johnson, has been visiting classes and helping students understand the power of their minds.

"The superpower theme is encouraging students to think about their actions," stated Mrs. Frain-Johnson. "Students are using their superhero strategies to make better decisions."

Students, faculty and the superpower mascot, SuperFlex, will continue to promote the superpower theme throughout the 2015-16 school year.

Rotary Club of Boyertown Donates Dictionaries

A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Boyertown for donating Webster's Dictionary for Students to third grade students throughout the Boyertown Area School District. Pictured at right are third grade students in Mrs. Megan Nice's class at Gilbertsville Elementary School and Ms. Kathleen Berry, Vice-President, and Mr. George Moser, Membership Chair.



Athletic Highlights

Boyertown Area, Phoenixville Area and Upper Perkiomen were among 396 high school soccer programs (148 boys, 248 girls) from throughout the nation to receive the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's National Team Academic Award for exemplary performance in the classroom during the 2014-15 school year. In addition, the PAC-10 programs are just three of six District 1 girls' soccer programs and three of 14 girls' soccer programs from throughout the state to be honored this year.

Boyertown Area led the PAC-10 contingent with a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.66. This marks the ninth straight year Boyertown has earned the honor.

Congratulations to the Boyertown Area Senior High School girls' and boys' soccer teams for winning the PAC-10 title this past October.

Boyertown Area School District is proud to announce that five Boyertown Area Senior High School students signed national letters of intent to compete in their respective sports at the collegiate level.

Senior Ali Bauman will continue her education at East Stroudsburg University, where she will major

in physical therapy and play on the women's basketball team. Ali's love for basketball started in second grade and has since grown into a lifelong passion. She has been awarded with prestigious athletic awards such as 2nd Team All Area and 2nd Team All PAC. Ali is an active member in the ARC Club and Student Council. Ali would like to thank all of her coaches and teammates for their support over the past four years.

Senior Mitchell Pinder will continue his education at Kutztown University, where he will major in communications and play on the men's baseball team. Mitchell has played baseball for 13 years, and he was honored with a 1st Team All PAC award in 2015. Mitchell is also involved with Chosen 300 Ministries and is on the honor roll. Mitchell chose Kutztown University for its excellent coaching staff and its academic setting.

Senior Jordan Wood will continue his education at Lehigh University, where he will major in bio-engineering and compete on the men's wrestling team. Jordan has been wrestling for 11 years and is excited to continue wrestling at Lehigh University. Jordan has won several awards in his sport and is a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association State Champion as well as a World Silver Medalist. Jordan chose to continue his education and athletic

career at Lehigh due to a combination of great academics and a competitive wrestling program.

Senior Ryan Weller will play collegiate baseball at Kutztown University, where he will major in environmental science. Ryan has played baseball for thirteen years and was honored with a 1st Team All PAC title. Ryan also was a member of the 2015 Berks County Carpenter Cup team. Ryan chose Kutztown University due to its location and welcoming environment. Ryan hopes that Boyertown Senior Area High School's baseball team will win the PAC-10 Championships this year.

Senior Lucas Miller will continue his education at Kutztown University, where he will compete on the men's wrestling team. Supported by his parents, Bill and Caroline Miller, Lucas has had a very successful wrestling career to date. This past year, Lucas placed fifth at the PIAA Pennsylvania State Wrestling Championships in the 126-pound weight class. Lucas chose Kutztown University, because of the impressive wrestling program and nice campus. As for now, Lucas has his sights set on another state title with the Boyertown Bears.

A warm welcome to Boyertown Area Senior High School's new swimming & diving coach, Mr. Bill Draves. Best of luck this season!

Junior High East Student Successfully Develops App

Derek Klass, an eighth grade student at Boyertown Junior High East, has successfully designed and developed his very own app that is now available for download from the iTunes store. Derek's app, Karate Baby Math Facts, is designed for students in multiple grades who are interested in learning and refining their math skills. For the first grade student who needs to work on addition, or the third grade student who needs help with multiplication, Karate Baby Math Facts offers a fun and educational way to build these skills.

After downloading the app, players choose from three different categories: addition, subtraction or multiplication. After choosing their settings, players answer math questions while being timed. For each question answered correctly, players are rewarded with a coin. Eventually, as multiple coins are collected, players can purchase fun items to enhance gameplay. Each question that is answered incorrectly will cost a player a life, but the player will be provided with the correct answer and an encouraging statement from Karate Baby herself.

"I have always wanted to do something with my dad that was different and could benefit kids," stated Derek. "We wanted to create a fun way to encourage children to learn, and we thought designing an app would be the best way."

Derek's father, Mr. Matthew Klass, is a math teacher. He used his experience to help Derek reach his goal of successfully designing an app. Derek and his father were not the only members of the Klass family to have a part in Karate Baby Math Facts. Derek's younger sister, Emma Klass, is the voice actor for the Karate Baby.

Derek explained that there were challenges creating Karate Baby Math Facts, but with the help of his family, he was able to conquer all obstacles. Under his family's company, Classroom Learning Apps LLC, Derek looks forward to designing more educational apps in the future. But first, Derek is excited to announce that the first update for Karate Baby Math Facts has been successfully launched and is now accessible to all iTunes users.



BASH Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Berks Career & Technology Center is home to some of the best students in Berks County. This past fall, a ceremony was held to induct 31 students from the East Campus in Oley and 37 students from the West Campus in Leesport into the National Technical Honor Society, a prestigious, nationally recognized organization for promoting excellence in technical education and academics. Membership in National Technical Honor Society is the highest award for excellence in career and technical education.

The students inducted into National Technical Honor Society must exhibit the highest

standards in the areas of academic achievement, Berks Career & Technology Center program achievement, attendance, character, leadership, and community service. Students in National Technical Honor Society will have opportunities to attend leadership conferences, compete for scholarships, and participate in community service projects. The National Technical Honor Society advisors at Berks Career & Technology Center are Ms. Heather Wargo and Ms. Melissa Yoder.

Congratulations to the Boyertown Area High School inductees:

Seniors - Kyler DeAgostino, Building Construction; Ayla Henry, Cosmetology; and Kayla Steward, Early Childhood Education

Juniors - Rachel Felicione, Health Related Technology; Josh Heck, Heavy Equipment; Nathan Keebler, Drafting; Kyle Moyer, Building Construction; Erik Abramczyk, Information Technology, Programming; Coley Parker, Precision Machining Technology; Jessica Scott, Photo Imaging Technology; and Spencer Wood, Advertising Art and Design Technology.