

## The Panasonic Foundation

The District would like to acknowledge our partnership with the Panasonic Foundation and thank them for their generous support to our school district. The partnership as a whole is centered on "breaking the links" between race, poverty and educational outcomes for students by focusing on the district's efforts to realize and bring to fruition its long-range and strategic plan, which is named "PATHS of Excellence - Promoting All to Higher Standards."



## The PATHS of Excellence

The NASD, in partnership with the Panasonic Foundation, has created a framework for systemic school reform. The framework, PATHS of Excellence, consists of 10 indicators of progress. These indicators serve as checkpoints toward attaining our goal "all students achieving high academic standards regardless of race, ethnicity or socio-economic status." The district-wide goal is to make significant changes in our planning and teaching to ensure that all students, at every grade level from kindergarten to high school seniors, learn to think deeply and profoundly, learn to accurately and effectively weigh words and articulate ideas, and learn the skills and strategies needed to live and work in the 21st century. Each PATH illustrates our belief that improving the achievement of each and every student requires action informed by research.

### Norristown Area High School

Dr. Rachel Holler, Principal  
(610) 630-5090

### Roosevelt Alternative School

Janet Simpkins, Principal  
(610) 275-9720

### East Norriton Middle School

Sondra Stoczko, Interim Principal  
(610) 275-6520

### Eisenhower Middle School

Christina Taylor, Principal  
(610) 277-8720

### Stewart Middle School

Martina Walls, Principal  
(610) 275-6870

### Cole Manor Elementary School

Nicole Poncheri, Principal  
(610) 275-5525

### Gotwals Elementary School

Maryanne Hoskins, Principal  
(610) 275-1077

### Hancock Elementary School

Joanne Gillespie, Principal  
(610) 275-5522

### Marshall Street Elementary School

John Sweeney, Principal  
(610) 630-8550

### Paul Fly Elementary School

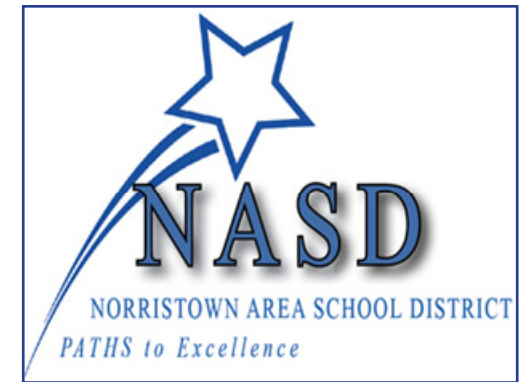
Victoria Velazquez, Principal  
(610) 630-0380

### Whitehall Elementary School

Deborah Donnelly, Principal  
(610) 630-6000

### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Janice Pearce (President)  
Denise Ashe (Vice President)  
Pamela Assenmacher  
Mike Howell  
Dr. Al Mauthe  
Mike Melnyk  
Susan Morrison-Bellamy  
Karen Shanoski  
E. Pearl Smith



*Promoting ALL  
to Higher  
Standards  
of Excellence*

**Dr. Janet C. Samuels**  
Superintendent

**Deborah Chagin**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Dr. William Dura**  
Director of Special Services

**Mark Long**  
Director of Information Systems

**Wendi Vargas**  
Director of Human Resources

**Anne Rohricht**  
Business Administrator

401 N. Whitehall Road  
Norristown PA 19403  
610-630-5000

<http://www.nasd.k12.pa.us>

# In the Norristown Area School District College begins with K!

Ten targets, along with a strategic plan for professional development have been established to ensure that students successfully reach their PATHS of Excellence by June 2014:

- 1. 90% of Kindergarten students will read and understand text at Level D or higher.**  
This PATH will ensure that students enter first grade with the prerequisite skills needed to successfully learn to read at proficient and advanced levels and to continue to improve and deepen their reading ability throughout their school career.
- 2. 90% of students completing 2nd grade will be reading on or above grade level.**  
By the end of Grade 2, students must be able to use multiple word solving strategies to read a variety of texts including informational books, and chapter books with sophisticated plots and characters. This PATH ensures that students have learned to read and are now ready to use reading to learn about their world.
- 3. At the end of 4th grade, 90% of students will be able to demonstrate advanced performance on the 4th grade mathematics assessment.**  
This PATH will ensure that all students entering middle school will have the prerequisite skills to successfully navigate higher mathematics, particularly that content which is necessary to form a strong foundation in algebraic concepts leading to Algebra 1 in grade 8.
- 4. 90% of students completing 5th grade will read grade level material with accuracy and comprehension.**  
By the end of Grade 5, students must understand and effectively use the reading comprehension skills that will serve them for a lifetime. This PATH ensures that all students are prepared to challenge the complexity of literacy learning in the middle grades. This PATH also ensures that students are prepared to live in a highly complex world that requires citizens to understand and use print, verbal, visual, and multi-media texts effectively.
- 5. 80% of students completing 8th grade will have successfully completed Algebra I.**  
Algebra 1 is a gatekeeper subject that opens the way to higher mathematics in high school and college. Students who have a thorough understanding of algebraic concepts can successfully accomplish extensive explorations in advanced mathematics.
- 6. 100% of students will meet proficiency on Pennsylvania State standardized assessments as defined by No Child Left Behind.**  
The major focus of No Child Left Behind, 2001, (also known as ESEA) is to provide all children with a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. It places new pressure on states and districts to improve student achievement and close academic gaps among students of different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds.
- 7. 10th and 11th grade students will take the PSAT.**  
The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) provides feedback to students about their strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. This PATH allows the district to use the PSAT information to evaluate its own progress in promoting all students to higher standards of excellence and indicates where we are successful and where we must make corrections and changes.
- 8. 80% of Seniors will take the SAT and 80% of those will exceed the national average score.**  
The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) measures critical thinking skills that are needed for academic success in college. Students who score well demonstrate that their school career has prepared them with the knowledge and abilities necessary to confidently attend college, live, and/or work in the 21st Century.
- 9. 60% of Seniors will successfully complete a college level course before graduation.**  
Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses allow students to broaden their intellectual horizons by exploring the world from a variety of perspectives, studying subjects in greater depth and detail, and assuming the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding rigorous content. The college level courses allow students to earn credit or advanced standing at many colleges. This PATH is indicative of the district's goal of ensuring excellence for all students.
- 10. 80% of graduating seniors will apply and be accepted to at least one post-secondary educational institution.** This PATH is the culminating evidence that the Norristown Area School District promotes all students to higher standards of excellence and ensures that our students will indeed become articulate, thoughtful, productive citizens.