

Superintendent's Report - April 2019

With spring break in the rear view mirror, we are in the home stretch of the 2018-2019 school year. Though our time is short with just seven short weeks left for students, the last half of the third trimester and almost all of the fourth marking period is still a time for great strides to be made with teaching and learning. Next month, we will shift towards budget adoption and beginning to celebrate and say goodbye to the Norristown Area High School Class of 2019.

Testing, testing, and more testing! Fortunately and unfortunately, we are in the time of year when testing is in abundance. All elementary and middle schools completed PSSA English Language Arts last week and will be focused on PSSA Math and PSSA Science this week. The following week, we start two weeks of Advanced Placement testing at NAHS. The following week, we start two weeks of Keystone Exams at our middle and high schools, which takes us to Memorial Day weekend. Just when we grab a one day break, the final three weeks of the school year will be filled with AIMSweb testing in grades K-8 and final exams for high school students. While we welcome the data and will celebrate student successes on these assessments, it is a great deal of intensity and many days away from instruction in a very short period of time.

On Tuesday, May 7, there will be a Norristown Takeover at Elmwood Park Zoo. Thanks to the generosity of the zoo and its donors, every 1st grade student in our district from all six elementary schools will have the opportunity to visit the zoo for a first of its kind experience. If anyone has ever visited the zoo during the week in the spring and fall, you are met with a buzz of activity as you encounter numerous school groups of different ages visiting from all over the region. Next week, NASD will takeover EPZ as it will be an exclusive day for our students and chaperones. The takeover will include our blue and white being featured on banners and signs throughout the zoo. Zoo staff members and school chaperones will all be wearing special blue and white shirts commemorating the event, provided with the generous support of the Norristown Area Education Foundation.

Finally, May 6-10 is nationally designated as Teacher Appreciation Week. We look forward to celebrating our outstanding teachers next week and all of our staff members for the contributions they make to have a positive impact on the lives of our students and families

The final seven weeks of school are filled with wonderful opportunities for our families to engage with our schools, including concerts, field days, student recognition ceremonies, and numerous celebrations and special events, up to and including Graduation. We invite our families to join us to help bring this school year to a great conclusion.

This concludes the Superintendent's Report for the month of April.