

Superintendent's Report - October 2018

Good Evening Everyone.

Have you ever wondered who would win in a battle of wits - teachers vs. students? What is more important - winning a cash prize for the school or bragging rights? Well now we will find out. All four of our secondary schools will be participating in Fox29's new game show called, The ClassH-Room. The show pits three students against three teachers from their school to answer questions they should have learned in school as well as pop culture. No matter who wins, each school gets \$500 to put towards a project of their choosing. Stewart Middle School taped their episode on Saturday, October 13. The episode will air in the next few weeks at 12 noon. You can also watch all previously aired episodes on YouTube. NAHS, East Norriton, and Eisenhower will tape their episodes in March. We are excited to show off our staff and students to the entire region.

Two weeks ago, Norristown Area High School students, Basimah Curry and Emiliza Trujillo, served as Student Ambassadors at Johnson & Johnson's annual Alliance Building and Training Session (ABTS) in Lisbon, Portugal. Selected from hundreds of applicants worldwide, they were outstanding representatives of NAHS and the Bridge To Employment program. During the three-day event, business representatives, higher education partners, educators, and intermediaries from around the world learned about model programs and what communities can do to provide academic enrichment opportunities, facilitate career exploration, and prepare students for higher education. As part of this agenda, the Student Ambassadors earned an Intercultural Fluency Digital Badge (completing 15 hours of study), developed and presented a team-based STEM 2D Ignite Activity, and participated in a "game show" panel – informing the 70+ attendees about their local BTE program activities. Basimah and Emiliza demonstrated exceptional teamwork, leadership, problem-solving abilities, communication skills, cultural awareness, and kindness in working with students from around the world. They are stellar examples of what Johnson & Johnson's BTE program strives to achieve.

Our long standing partnership with the Riverbend Environmental Education Center continues this year to provide students with rich learning opportunities in environmental education and STEM based learning. All 4th grade students across the district have going to their nature center in Gladwyne for hand-on, minds-on learning experiences that compliment and align with our new Science curriculum. Riverbend has secured funding to expand our Aquaponics work with 7th grade students. This funding will allow for more tanks and training for staff.

Last year, in working with the Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) committee, we offered a "menu style" day on our full day professional development day in November where teachers could choose sessions offered by their colleagues based on their individual wants and needs for professional learning. We called this day "Teachers Helping Teachers" and were able to offer over 40 different opportunities for learning across a wide range of topics. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Therefore, we are pleased to bring back "Teachers Helping Teachers"

on November 6, which is Election Day and again a full day of professional development for staff, with no school for students.

Though it feels like we are just starting the school year, we are just a few short weeks away from the end of the first marking period at our secondary schools. That means parent-teacher conferences will quickly be upon us. We will again be offering conferences for parents the two days leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. Conferences will take place on Tuesday, November 20 in the evening, and Wednesday, November 21 in the morning. Building principals will be communicating specific information shortly. We encourage all parents and guardians to take advantage of this opportunity to partner with your child's teachers to help support their success in school.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates in November:

- No school for students - Tue 11/6
- Education and Technology Committee Meeting - Tue 11/6
- JOC Meeting at CMTHS - Wed 11/7
- Policy Committee - Mon 11/12
- Pupil Services - Tue 11/13
- Early dismissal for grading and conference preparation - Tue 11/13
- Facilities and Finance Committee - Wed 11/14

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