

North Schuylkill

District Newsletter

August 2017

Superintendent's Message

It is with Spartan Pride that I welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year! I hope the summer break gave you ample time to rest and enjoy time with family and friends.

I came across an idea that really had a big impact on me. When I think about it and what we are doing at North Schuylkill, along with the goals we are trying to accomplish, I get excited. I'm confident it will be something we will all find helpful and enjoy. It's called, "Cross The Line." It is about commitment and making good things happen.

I want you to think about something simple and something very real as we head into the new school year. Something that is all about making good things happen in the North Schuylkill School District. You see, with everything...there is a line...and a choice.

"Cross The Line" is a message by Sam Parker, the author of two bestselling books – Smile and Move and 212° The Extra Degree. With everything, there is a line. On one side of the line is a greater chance to make good things happen. On the other side, there's less of a chance. And with each line, you have a choice. You want to cross the line or you don't. You want that better chance at making great things happen or you settle with the lesser chance. It is your choice.

Starting the first day of school, let's all start thinking how we can "Cross The Line" in more areas at North Schuylkill. Remember, we're all responsible for ourselves and our results...regardless of the challenges we face...regardless of the obstacles we will run into from time to time.

Let those lines you cross as you come into the buildings or step into the classrooms help you remember to commit to making great things happen for yourself and the North Schuylkill School District. I'm counting on you; let's count on each other with this. It is time to get to work, time to make great things happen for ourselves and the Spartan Community. We will "Cross The Line" and commit to going beyond mediocrity in everything we do!

I encourage everyone to stay connected with the school as we know that your involvement has a positive impact on student learning and social well-being. Follow us on Facebook @North Schuylkill School District and Twitter @NorthSchuylkill. The contents of this newsletter are designed to provide you with information about the District and the coming school year, yet it may not answer all of your questions. We welcome your questions and your input as members of the Spartan Community. If I can personally be of help, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available to you at (570) 874-0466 or by emailing rackell@northschuylkill.net.

Dr. Robert J. Ackell, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



In This Issue



- Athletics
- Academic Competitions
- Act 80 Data Delays
- CDT Dates
- Curriculum Updates
- Clearances
- Credit Recovery
- Disney Trip
- District Contact Information
- Dual Enrollment
- Elementary Principals
- Gifted Education
- Jr./Sr. HS Principals
- Kindergarten Orientation
- Makerspace
- Meet the Teacher Dates
- NS Cafeteria Services
- NS England Trip
- PTO
- Report Card Dates
- Roof Project
- Source4Teachers Job Opportunity
- School Board Members
- Special Education
- State Testing Dates
- Superintendent's Message
- Technology Updates
- Wall of Fame
- Welcome New Teachers

Important Information:

Where will the bus pick me up? Who's my teacher? As we count down the days to the start of the 2017-2018 school year there are several questions you and your family may be asking. In order to help answer your questions, we have gathered some of the information within this newsletter. It will also be posted on our website's home page at www.northschuylkill.net starting on August, 14th.

On our website you will find:

- Information on how to create an account in CSIU (Parent Resource Tab) to see student class and bus schedules
- Breakfast and Lunch Menus
- Applications for Free or Reduced Lunch
- Immunization Requirements



School Day Times

Jr./Sr. HS - 7:39 - 2:30

Elem. - 8:45 - 3:19



[Twitter.com/NorthSchuylkill](https://twitter.com/NorthSchuylkill)



[Facebook.com/NorthSchuylkillSD](https://facebook.com/NorthSchuylkillSD)

Curriculum and District Updates

Kimberly Groody, Supervisor of Curriculum and Federal Programs



2017-2018 Highlights:

- The following Federal Program Grants have been written over the summer in hopes of being awarded the following funding for each individual narrative and budget summary submitted: Title I - \$478,840, Title IIA - \$80,429, and Title IV - \$10,819.
- We are proud to report that we are again applying for the School Safety Equipment Grant, School Safety Program Grant, School Climate Grant, and School PBIS Grant.
- As far as instructional resources, the ELA curriculum in grades K-5 and the Science curriculum for grades 6-12 will be one of the areas of focus this coming year. There were many meetings held where the team collaborated on goals and discussed resources needed to meet those goals. Trainings for teachers on new textbooks were held last year and will be held again in August. Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, the team will review the next cycle of textbook series upgrades for K-5 Math and 9-12 Social Studies.
- LETRS Training for all ELA teachers in grades K-12 will be provided to support goals.
- As a District, we will focus on measuring standards that are included in our curriculum maps K-12. Assessing the standards will continue to be an area of focus this year, as well as, reviewing our curriculum/instructional strategies, and homework/assessment tools in order to evaluate and improve the achievement of students with different abilities as they work to achieve meeting and exceeding grade level standards.
- We will continue to collaborate with local businesses and college representatives to explore a multitude of career path opportunities in an effort to establish programs that help our students succeed and gain the career skills needed after graduation.

2017-2018 Technology Updates

The North Schuylkill School District is proud to announce a new Digital Creation MakerSpace Lab to be available to all students starting in the 2017-2018 school year. The goal of this new MakerSpace is to provide hands on learning of 21st Century skills. To facilitate the hands on learning, the students in the lab will be able to make projects using Raspberry Pis and Arduinos, and to help foster STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) learning.

Students will also have the opportunity to learn basic programming skills with Lego Robotics, and Sphero programmable robots. 3D printers and scanners will be available for student use to help bring art to life, and to help build models to inspire learning throughout the curriculum.

Having the MakerSpace Lab centrally located in the High School Library will allow us to move our Spartan TV News Studio to the Lab. Along with our newscasts, the Digital Creation Lab will produce content for our new Digital Signs to be placed around the High School to better inform students and staff of upcoming events.

Finally, North Schuylkill is committed to technology now and in the future. We will be adding additional WiFi access points across campus to strengthen our wireless coverage.



2018 Spring Testing Dates

PSSA Tests:

Grades 3-8

April 9 - April 25

Keystone Exams:

ELA May 17—May 18

Algebra I May 21—May 16

Biology May 14—May 26

2017-2018

Dates for Act 80 Data Delays: (2nd Wednesday of the Month)

- * September 13th
- * October 11th
- * December 13th
- * January 10th
- * February 14th
- * March 14th
- * May 9th

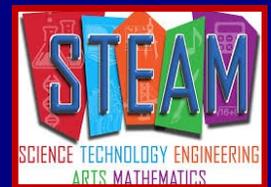
2017 - 2018 Report Card Dates

Grades K-4 (Trimesters):

1. December 8, 2017
2. March 9, 2018
3. May 30, 2018

Grades 5-12 (Quarters):

1. November 10, 2017
2. January 26, 2018
3. April 6, 2018
4. Elem. May 30, 2018
Jr./Sr. HS June 8, 2018



CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Tests) CDT Testing will be for Grades 3-11 This Year

Testing will be during the following 3 months:

September
December
March

Meet the Teacher Dates at NSE:

August 23rd (Grades K-3) 4:00-6:00 p.m.

August 24th (Grades 4-6) 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Orientation:

August 23rd - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet the Teacher Date at the Jr./Sr. HS:

August 30th - 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Required Clearances

Act 114 -

Federal Criminal History Record Info. or FBI Report (\$24.25)

Act 151 -

Child Abuse Background Check

Act 34 -

PA State Police Background Clearance

Act 126 -

Child Abuse Recognition & Reporting Act

North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School



Principal—Mr. Ken Roseberry
Asst. Principal—Mrs. Liza Ulceski



- We are very excited to bring on board four new staff members at the Junior Senior High School. **Peter Stanakis** will be teaching Social Studies and oversee our online learning in our newly created Maker Space.

Taia Bachman will be joining the Science Department and teaching Chemistry.

Kaitlin Stramara has been hired to take our Autistic classroom. **Tracy Sturm** came to us from the elementary building and will be

working as one of our two Junior Senior High School Secretaries.

- This year we will be opening a new area in our building called the **Spartan Academy**. This space will consist of several rooms that will be utilized for a variety of educational opportunities. There will be a Maker Space that is outfitted with technology and STEM capabilities. The Maker Space will be a nontraditional classroom designed to promote creativity and use of the latest technology that is available.
- The Spartan Academy will also house our new **Credit Recovery and Online Learning Classroom**. This will provide students who are credit deficient the opportunity to take accelerated courses and catch up to grade level. Online learning opportunities will exist for all students as well. Students taking German will be doing so in this room as well as students interested in taking a course we do not currently offer.
- The Junior Senior High is also very excited to be expanding opportunities for Juniors and Seniors who are interested in **Dual Enrollment**. Dual Enrollment allows students to take college courses while still in high school. Courses will be available on site as well as at Bloomsburg University.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017

North Schuylkill Elementary



Welcome back to an exciting 2017 – 2018 year at North Schuylkill Elementary School! We hope you enjoyed a summer vacation filled with fun and exciting memories. We are honored that you have entrusted your child's education to us, and are thrilled to welcome all of you back to a new school year of learning and growing.

We are grateful to continue this journey with you as your Principals. Over the past year, we have had a chance to meet many of you and your children, and look forward to continue building a strong relationship with all of you in the upcoming year.



- This year begins with a few new additions/changes to our staff. These additions/changes include the following: **Ms. Caroline Schuster**-1st Grade Teacher; **Mrs. Marcie Ackell** – 6th Grade Teacher; **Miss Amber Casserly** – Computer Teacher; **Mrs. Michelle Miller** – Special Education Teacher, **Mrs. Lisa Trask** – School Nurse; **Mrs. Megan Gierka** – Title I Reading Specialist; **Mrs. Marylou Leibensperger** – 2nd Grade Teacher; **Miss Amanda Brobst** – 4th Grade Teacher; **Mrs. Janelle Staudenmeier** – 4th Grade Teacher; **Mrs. Kelly Laudeman** – 4th Grade Teacher; **Mrs. Kendyl Moyer** – 6th Grade Teacher; **Ms. Tabitha Farrone** – 6th Grade Teacher. We would like to welcome our new educators to the Spartan Family and congratulate others on their new assignments.
- We would like to personally invite you to attend our **Meet the Teacher Nights** on **Wednesday, August 23, 2017 (K-3)** and **Thursday, August 24, 2017 (4-6)**. This will be a great time to strengthen our Spartan Community, meet teachers and other families, and learn about the upcoming school year.
- We will be following a new **Meet the Teacher Night** procedure this year. Principals will meet with parents and students in the gymnasium for a brief meeting before transitioning to your child's grade level assignment. Please adhere to the following schedule for each event: **Wednesday, August 23rd, Kindergarten at 3:00 PM, First Grade at 4:00 PM; Second Grade at 4:30 PM and Third Grade at 5:00 PM.** Any parents, with students in grades kindergarten through third, who cannot attend the grade level meeting times, please report to the gymnasium at 5:30 PM. **On Thursday, August 24th, Fourth Grade will meet at 4:00 PM; Fifth Grade at 4:30 PM; and Sixth Grade at 5:00 PM.** Any parents with students in grades fourth through sixth, who cannot attend the grade level meeting times, please report to the gymnasium at 5:30 PM.

Finally, we believe in a school environment that is collaborative and draws on the strengths of all stakeholders in striving to improve student outcomes. Working together makes a difference in the lives of our students. We look forward to working with all of the amazing students, parents, staff and members of the community to make this year a success!

With Spartan Pride,

Ms. Janice M. Whitaker - Principal
Mrs. Janel Hansbury - Asst. Principal

North Schuylkill Visits England

They started the trip landing in Shannon Ireland. Their first stop was the Cliffs of Moher for an amazing view! They visited Limerick and spent the night in Killarney. They toured the Ring of Kerry and visited a working sheep farm. On their way to Dublin, they stopped at the Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney Stone! While in Dublin, they had the opportunity to visit many historic landmarks including St. Patrick's Cathedral, The Book of Kells at Trinity College and walked the city! To get to Wales, they ferried across the Irish Sea. While passing through Wales, they visited Snowdonia National Park. They traveled to the outskirts of London via Stratford upon Avon making stops at Anne Hathaway's cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace and burial site. In London, they toured the city seeing sites like Big Ben and St. Paul's Cathedral. They also made a visit to Windsor Castle while the Queen was on the grounds. They ended the trip with a show at the Criterion Theatre in London's west end.



Students and Teachers that attended this trip:

Kris Fetterman, Mason Geary, Emma Green, Nate Griffin, Skyler Horbach, Kevin Kovach, Tori Lindenmuth, Heather Lorah, Drew Mashack, Maddie Osatchuck, Gianna Reese, Gabby Reinoehl, Sarah Ringo, Emily Rumbel, Doug Weist, Ari Wolfe, Ste ven Wolfgang, Mr. Jeff Jacavage, Ms. Samantha White, and Ms. Siobhan White.



WALL OF FAME

The North Schuylkill School District Wall of Fame Committee will be accepting applications to formally recognize and honor NSSD graduates for outstanding achievements.

ELECTION PROCESS

1. At least ten (10) classes must have graduated from the time of the nominee's graduation before he/she becomes eligible for election to the Wall of Fame.
2. Any alumni meeting the ten (10) year rule are eligible to be nominated and selected.
3. Nominating forms are available on the District website or in the high school principal's office and must be completed and submitted no later than March 15th of each year.
4. Induction ceremonies for newly inducted members of the NSSD Wall of Fame will be held in conjunction with the annual NSSD Commencement Exercises.
5. Names of inductees will be showcased on an electronic display in the main lobby of the NSSD Junior/Senior High School.
6. Each inductee will receive a plaque on the night they are inducted into the Wall of Fame.



My School Bucks – Cafeteria Services

My School Bucks is an online payment service that provides parents the ability to securely pay for meals with a debit or credit card, monitor student cafeteria purchases and receive email notifications for low account balances.



2017-2018 Prices

Breakfast:	Elem. \$1.20 Jr./Sr. HS \$1.45 Reduced \$.30
Lunch:	Elem. \$2.25 Jr./Sr. HS \$2.50 Reduced \$.40

How do I Enroll?

Go to www.myschoolbucks.com and register for an account.

- Activate your account and add students. You will need your child's name and school ID number or birth date.
- Provide your credit or debit card information.
- If you need assistance with the enrollment process, please call the My School Bucks Customer Support number at 1-855-832-5226.
- If you would have further questions, please visit www.myschoolbucks.com and select the Help FAQ link.

Your child's account can also be viewed or you can make payments through the My School Bucks website.

*Payments can also be made to the account through the cafeteria. Please send it to the cafeteria in a sealed envelope with your **child's name, account number and the amount enclosed**. It will be applied to their account the day it was received.*

If you would have any questions or concerns, please contact the NS Cafeteria Food Service Director – **Kim Shatalsky at 570-874-0466 Ext. 2124.**

Breakfast Cart

- The breakfast cart, in addition to our full breakfast offered daily, will continue to be offered for grades 4-12 in both buildings each day.
- Students can use their account number just as they do for purchasing a lunch.
- The cart will provide drinks and quick, healthy breakfasts on ALL regular and 2 hour delay days.



Special Education

Knute Brayford, Supervisor of Special Education

The North Schuylkill School District's Special Education Department is committed to the belief that every child can learn. In the spirit of this philosophy, our staff is dedicated to meeting the needs of students with disabilities and helping them reach their fullest potential. A full continuum of services are provided by special education teachers, classroom teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school nurses, social workers, paraprofessional staff, and others with specialized training and expertise. North Schuylkill strives to provide every child a free and appropriate education in their least restrictive environment.



North Schuylkill School District is continually improving these services through staff development and training. We are proud to be continuing our participation in the Department of Education's Autism Initiative in both schools and have made further improvements in our Life Skills Program. The Second Annual Spartan Games, athletic events for students with disabilities, will be held in Spartan Stadium in May. Parent training and outreach programs hosted by the District will be announced throughout the school year on the District's website. We encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities.



Gifted Education

Ashley Palubinsky, Asst. Supervisor of Special Education and Gifted Coordinator

The North Schuylkill School District's Gifted Education Program offers educational opportunities designed to meet the exceptional needs, abilities, and interests of our students who are identified and in need of Gifted Education Services. Our District emphasizes the development of the individual. The District strives to provide a system of learning that will offer educational opportunities in accordance with the students' academic strengths, consistent with available resources.



It is recognized that among children who have been identified as being academically gifted it is important to provide a continuum of curriculum services based on the characteristics and needs of the individual. In order to develop an articulated service delivery model the educational services for the gifted students, in the form of enrichment, acceleration, or a combination of both, will be established upon the core curriculum of the District. The professional staff utilizes multiple criteria to identify gifted students in both the elementary and high school settings. It is our goal to challenge all Gifted Students by providing educational programming that meets their academic, intellectual, and specialized talents.

Gifted Parent Advisory Meetings will continue to take place during the 2017-2018 school year. This will offer an opportunity for students to showcase their outstanding work, excellence, and commitment.

The meeting dates are as follows: **October 9th** and **April 23rd**. Both meetings are scheduled for **5:30 p.m.** and are located in the **High School LGI room**.

Ready for Another Year of Spartan Success

The 2017-18 sport season officially gets underway with the start of Fall Sport practices on Monday, August 14th. Best of luck to all of our athletes and coaches in the coming school year.

For the latest sport schedules, please visit our website, www.northschuylkill.net. You can also get the most up to date schedules, news, and results by following the Spartans on Twitter- @NSAthletics1



UNITED WAY FOOTBALL AT PSU



Zeb Thompson competed in the Grand National Speech and Debate Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky over the Memorial Day Weekend. We are extremely proud! Zeb competed hard and represented North Schuylkill and Pennsylvania well.

Congratulations to Major Jordan! He became the 6th player in NS history, and the first since 2013, to win the coveted Scholar Athlete Award. This is a prestigious accolade, and we thank you Major for your outstanding representation of the NSSD throughout the years.



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

ROTHERMEL CHAMPIONSHIP

NSE GIFTED STEM COMPETITION



Spartans Reaching Milestones!

Several Spartan athletes had record-setting performances during the 2016-17 school year. Major Jordan became the school's all-time leading tackler with 483, Richie Zahodnick eclipsed the 1,000 yard mark in both rushing and receiving, and quarterback Doug Weist threw for over 1,000 yards this past season. On the hardwood, Averi Jordan became the latest Lady Spartan to join the 1,000 point club. On the mat, two more Spartans put their name in the record books by becoming members of the 100 win club - Mason Madden-Edwards and Owen Boyer. Madden-Edwards and Brady Mickatavage each won League Championships in their respective weight classes at the All League meet this year. Mickatavage went on to also win the District XI Championship, while Madden-Edwards brought home a silver medal. In Track and Field, NS had 2 League Champions- Scott Grigas in the 200 meter, and Emma Green in the Discus! Emma Green also became a District Champion, winning a gold medal in the Discus. North Schuylkill continued its' streak of over 30 years of being represented at the PIAA State Track and Field Championships in Shippensburg! This year, four Spartans competed in the PIAA Championships- Lenny Bolinsky, Emma Green, Scott Grigas, and Chris McCormick. In the pool, the Girls' Swimming/Diving Team finished in 2nd place in the division, with an 8-2 overall record. Individually, Reggie Crawford won 2 medals at the All League Meet, while setting a new league and meet record in the 50 freestyle. Brinn DeAngelo won gold in the 100 butterfly, and Kylie Mallams took 1st in the 500 freestyle at the All League Meet. On the District level, Crawford won gold and set a new District XI record in the 100 breast stroke. Reggie Crawford and Joey Antolick represented NS at the PIAA Championships at Bucknell University, with Crawford winning a 4th place medal in the Class AA 50 yard freestyle, and a 7th place medal in the Class AA 100 breast stroke.

Congratulations to all of our Spartans for their outstanding effort this past year!



Treble Maker Chorus in Disney!

Members of the Treble Maker Chorus would like to thank the community for the support they give us year after year. The community and school support allows our musicians once in a life time performance opportunities.



Swimming Returns to North Schuylkill

North Schuylkill made plenty of waves in their first year back. Under the direction of new coach, Linda Jones, the Spartans were very competitive within the Schuylkill League. Congratulations to all of our swimmers and divers on an outstanding return to the water! The future of NS Swimming and Diving looks very promising.



Trap Shooting

Congratulations Tyler! Not only did Tyler Brown win the Sub Jr. State Trap Shoot. He was the Eastern Zone Sub Jr. Champ as well. Nice job! We are extremely proud of all of our Spartan Trap Shooters!



Cross Country Team Caps Off Memorable Season

Congratulations to the Spartan Cross Country team on their championship season.



North Schuylkill Elementary PTO

NSE PTO is looking forward to another exciting school year! We have many fun things planned for the elementary students this year, including Brain Show Mania, book fairs, carnival and Boosterthon!

If you are interested in becoming a PTO volunteer, sign-ups will be held during Meet the Teacher nights, in the elementary cafeteria. For those that are interested in joining PTO, clearances must be submitted to the District as soon as possible. All clearances that are needed, can be found at www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov.

If you haven't done so already, check out our Facebook page "North Schuylkill Elementary PTO", this page is updated frequently with information regarding our organization.

The first regular monthly meeting will be held **Monday, September 11th, 2017, at 6:30 pm**, in the Elementary cafeteria. Hope to see you there!



**2017
Roof Project**



This summer there has been a Capital Improvement Project in progress. During the summer of 1999 a roof was installed on the North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School with a 15 year warranty. A new roof is being installed this summer by Tecta - America and it has a 30 year warranty. We are looking forward to the needed upgrades.



**Put your Bachelor's Degree to Work
Start a Career in Education**

Source4Teachers and North Schuylkill have partnered to provide a Guest Teacher Training Program. The program offers training to those who wish to substitute teach in the North Schuylkill School District.

You do not need to hold an active teaching certificate, you just need a Bachelor's Degree— in any discipline!

For more information please contact Maureen at MIskra@Source4Teachers.com or visit www.source4teachers.com.

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570.874.0495

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

North Schuylkill School District Board Directors:

Charles Hepler—President & Legislative Chairperson, **Roy Green**—Vice President,
MaryAnn Woodward—Treasurer, **Raymond Reichwein**, **Thomas Fletcher**, **Douglas Gressens**, **Edward Balkiewicz**, **Janine Simms**, **Glenn Weist**, **Michael O’Pake**—Solicitor, **Merri Lynn Craig**—Secretary

