



Superintendent's Message

It is with Spartan pride and excitement that I write this note to you as the Superintendent of North Schuylkill School District. I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to lead a District with such a rich tradition both in and out of the classroom.

North Schuylkill has earned a reputation of academic excellence through the hard work of our students, teachers, parents, and staff. North Schuylkill is proud to support numerous challenging academic courses, an outstanding athletic program, second to none visual and performing arts programs and various school clubs for students. We encourage you to experience our school culture, one that is focused on providing students with the academic and social resources that will prepare them to achieve their goals.

My vision for the North Schuylkill School District is to continue to build an ideal school environment where students feel safe, comfortable, challenged, and engaged in classroom. The District has three goals that will guide us during the 2022-2023 school year. The District's #1 Goal is **School Safety**. Prioritize the safety and socio-emotional well-being of all students and staff by implementing safety practices, protocols, guidelines and consistently being reflective. Goal #2 is **Continuous Improvement** by using data to understand the root of a problem, identify proven solutions to that challenge, and monitor the implementation and progress of those solutions. The Third Goal is having **Parents as Our Partners**. With increased frequency of meaningful communication to parents and guardians.

A crucial part of success for students is attendance. As a parent or guardian, it is essential for you to maintain an attitude that "**The Time Is Now**" for students to be in school and ready to learn each day. At North Schuylkill, we recognize that family and community support are integral to our success. This is why we encourage you to join us as much as possible. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide parents, students, and with information on our Spartan programs and activities. The newsletter may be used to help plan your family's busy school schedule but please note that we will also send home any additional information additions and changes.

With Spartan Pride,

Dr. Robert J. Ackell
Superintendent of Schools

In This Issue:

- [Baseball](#)
- [Chromebook Damage Repair Plan](#)
- [District Contacts](#)
- [District Calendar 22-23](#)
- [Dress Code](#)
- [Exemplary Schools](#)
- [Great Things Happening](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Kindergarten Orientation](#)
- [LFS Strategies](#)
- [Meal Prices](#)
- [Meet the Teacher Nights](#)
- [Mission Statement](#)
- [Parent-Teacher Communication](#)
- [Principal Messages](#)
- [Safe2Say Something](#)
- [School Board Members](#)
- [Softball](#)
- [Superintendent's Message](#)
- [Track & Field](#)
- [Wall of Fame 2022](#)
- [7th Grade Orientation](#)



North Schuylkill Track And Field

The NS Track and Field Teams had an exciting 2022 season. The boys team finished with an overall dual meet record of 3 - 3, while the girls finished at 1 - 5.

The Spartans once again excelled on an individual level. At the All League Meet, the girls 3200 meter relay team of Ryley Schwalm, Katie McCormick, JiaYi Gong, and Kailey Roberts won gold. Terry Thomas won a gold in the Long Jump. On day two, Joey Flail won league gold in the 200 meter, and Ryley Schwalm won gold in the 1600 meter. Both the boys and girls teams finished 3rd place in the overall team standings. At Districts, Ryley Schwalm won gold in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter races. Our 4x8 relay team of Schwalm, McCormick, Gong, and Roberts finished 2nd to qualify for states, and on the boys side, Tyrone Chambers tied for 2nd in the High Jump to qualify him for states. In total, NS sent seven athletes to the PIAA State Track and Field Championships in Shippensburg. On the boys side, Tyrone Chambers placed 5th overall in the AAA High Jump, coming in with a jump of 6'2"!

On the girls side, Ryley Schwalm placed 10th in both the Class AA 1600 and 3200 meter races! Ryley's time in the 1600 was 5:12.80. In the 3200 meter, Ryley came in with a time of 11:14.59. The 4x800 meter relay team of Ryley Schwalm, Katie McCormick, JiaYi Gong, and Kailey Roberts placed 22nd overall in Class AA, with a time of 10:25.67. Our relay alternates who made the trip to Ship were Reece Lavelle and Olivia McGlade.



North Schuylkill Baseball

The Spartan Baseball Team finished the 2022 season with a 10 - 11 overall record. The Spartans played hard all year against a tough schedule and qualified for the District XI AAAA tournament, losing a tough 9 - 8 decision to the eventual AAAA champion Saucon Valley Panthers.



North Schuylkill Softball

The Lady Spartan Softball Team finished the 2022 season with an overall record of 17 - 5. The Lady Spartans finished the regular season with a 16 - 3 record, qualifying them for the Schuylkill League Playoffs as the wild card. The Spartans would fall in the first round to eventual champion, Tri Valley, by a 3 - 0 score. In the District XI AAA tournament, NS opened up by defeating Allentown Central Catholic, 10 - 0, but then fell in the semifinal round to eventual AAA champion, Palisades, by an 11 - 5 score.



NSE Principals' Message

Dear Spartan Families,

Welcome to the 2022 – 2023 school year! We are excited to reconnect with our families and welcome new families to the North Schuylkill School District community. At North Schuylkill Elementary, we believe that students deserve an academically challenging curriculum that meets District and state expectations, while preparing them with the necessary skills of the 21st century. As educational leaders, it is our role to foster an environment that is positive, safe, and student-centered. Children are our most treasured resource and we must do everything possible to develop and strengthen this resource.

We cannot hope to achieve these goals without teachers, parents, and the community as our partners in education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she attends school daily and arrives on time; completes all assignments given by teachers; reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills; shares school experiences with you; and knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and in life.

Throughout the school year, we will offer many opportunities for you to be involved. We encourage you to play an active part in helping our children thrive. Please consider joining our NSE PTO; attending Meet the Teacher Nights, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and School-wide Events like Trunk-or-Treat, Reading Under the Lights, Family Nights, Art Shows, Holiday Concerts, Sporting Events, and more.

This year, we welcome the following new staff members to our NSE family: Brett Budwash—Special Education Teacher; Alison Marnell—Kindergarten and Karen Wasilus—Main Office Secretary. Last school year, we welcomed Doug Cole—Music Teacher and Amanda Muraczewski—First Grade Teacher to our amazing faculty and staff.

With the recent tragedy that unfolded in Texas, we are forever thankful for the safety procedures in place in the North Schuylkill School District. The support of our School Resource Officer, along with local law enforcement, ensures our commitment to keeping your children safe and secure on school grounds.

We wish you safe travels and an abundance of joy, laughter, and love this summer, with your family and friends. Life is short and tomorrow is never promised, so please spread kindness — even to those who you may not want to! Be grateful for what you DO have, and make the best of today!

To those of you who are leaving us for new places, we wish you all the best! For those families returning... we will see you SOON! As principals, our doors are always open, and we welcome your input!

With SPARTAN PRIDE,

Janice M. Whitaker, Principal
Janel Hansbury, Assistant Principal



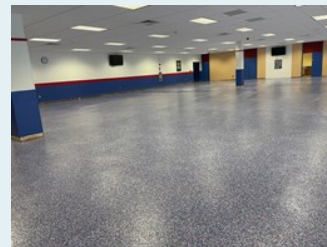
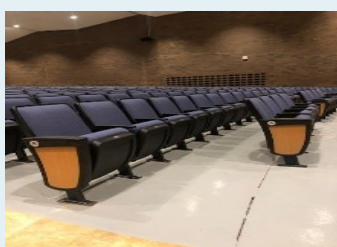
JSHS Principals' Message



Our graduating seniors brought in the 2021 – 2022 school year watching the sunset. They placed an exclamation mark on their 13-year career. Now it is time for students and staff to enjoy the summer with family and friends. While we reflect on what we have overcome the past few years and now look forward to the new challenges we are prepared to traverse.

The administration would like to thank the students for another successful year, the teachers for all their due diligence and hard work, as well as parents for their support through good times and bad. We will be working throughout the summer to make the next year even better, offering new opportunities, upgraded facilities, and additional staff. We have looked at what went well last year and what did not so that we can prepare for a great 2022 – 2023 school year.

Two physical upgrades to our building include a newly renovated auditorium and a new floor in our cafeteria. Pictured below is the auditorium during the renovation and the cafeteria preparing for the installation of the new floor.



Other changes include the return to our Keystone Remediation Classes which help students who do not score proficient or above on any of the three Keystone Exams. The State has made passing these exams mandatory for students graduating in 2023. We also continue to offer students a wide variety in our course offerings, accommodating those choosing to continue their education or those entering the workforce.

The District Theme this year follows the States lead in bringing back higher expectations and accountability to help our students prepare to enter the workforce or to continue their education at the next level. “The Time is Now” for us all to begin to challenge our students and ourselves to all be the best that we can be.

Soon the sun will rise on our newest senior class and we will all work together to make this a great year. With the pandemic behind us we are ready to get back to work and resume course.



The complete policy can be found at the link at the bottom of the page. Basic information is below:

The North Schuylkill School District, by the authority granted to it under the law, hereby immediately imposes a standard dress code policy for grades K-12 for the 2022-2023 school term and all upcoming terms during instructional hours and during any school day related activities (i.e., field trips).

During instructional hours and at any school-sponsored event on or off school property, no student shall wear any apparel or jewelry that by words, signs, pictures or combination thereof appearing on the said clothing or jewelry advocates or promotes gang activity, weapons, sexual activity, violence, or the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, or demeans or degrades another because of race, sex, religious persuasion, national origin, handicap or disability.

Standard Dress Code Wearing of Shorts/Skirts/Dresses -

Secondary - Shorts of mid-thigh length or longer may be worn during the school year with consideration given to temperature and weather conditions. Skirts/Dresses of mid-thigh length or longer may be worn during the school year.

Elementary - Shorts of mid-thigh length or longer may not be worn during the school year from November 15 through March 15, providing the weather is appropriate for such attire. Skirts/Dresses of mid-thigh length or longer may be worn during the school year.

Inappropriate Dress - The clothing items noted below are considered inappropriate and are not permitted to be worn in school. This is not an all-inclusive list as the administration maintains the right to determine articles of clothing that may be disruptive to the educational process:

- Tops that expose the mid-section of the body
- Tops that expose bare shoulders
- Spaghetti straps
- Any sleeveless clothing
- Tank tops and muscle shirts
- Outerwear coats
- Any holes in jeans/pants/shorts
- Pajamas
- Leggings
- Biker shorts or spandex
- Bathing suits or swimwear
- Clothing which hangs from the body and/or may drag on the floor
- Clothing purposely exposing undergarments
- Spiked jewelry and wallet chains
- Hats or Head Coverings (except for religious beliefs)
- Kerchiefs or bandanas
- Roller sneakers
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- No slippers
- No flip flops (NSE only)

2022-2023 Student Dress Code Policy

<https://www.northschuylkill.net/pdf/fb/StudentDressCode.pdf>

NORTH SCHUYLKILL BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION



KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

August 15, 2022
9am to 11am

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT GRADES 1 -3

August 17, 2022
4pm to 6pm

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT GRADES 4-6

August 18, 2022
4pm to 6pm

7TH GRADE ORIENTATION

August 18, 2022
1pm

Parent-teacher communication is an essential aspect of a child's education. The following questions can help to prepare and allows parent to share information about his/her child with the teacher that may be essential to the child's education. It will help the teacher get to know the child better and the parent's concerns and expectations for the school year. The information will also help in planning a meaningful parent-teacher conference.

Possible topics to discuss with teachers:

What are your child's academic strengths and interests?

What expectations do you have for your child for this school year? Are there any areas you feel your child could improve? (Academically, Socially, Personally, etc.)

In what outside/extracurricular activities, jobs, hobbies does your child participate in/enjoy?

Do you feel your child has any concerns about this school year? What do you feel your child is most excited about this school year?

Is there anything specific that could benefit his/her education?

Do you have any specific questions or concerns that you would like to discuss at the parent-teacher conference?

North Schuylkill Jr/Sr HS MEET THE TEACHER



August 24, 2022
5pm to 7pm

Chromebook—Damage Repair Plan

Please be on the look out for the North Schuylkill School District's Chromebook—Damage Repair Plan. Our District is self-insured, so please help us keep premiums and deductibles low by taking very good care of the Chromebook. The provisions in this Plan restrict coverage. Please read the entire plan to understand your family's rights and responsibilities and what is covered. Students will receive a copy on the first day of school.

This plan is also posted on the North Schuylkill School District Website: www.northschuylkill.net

The Plan includes information on Costs, Covered Equipment, Exclusions, Claim Procedures, How to Care for your Chromebook, Agreement for Loaned Chromebook, and Explanation of Fees.



Chromebook Damage Repair Plan

The North Schuylkill School District is self-funded, so please help us keep premiums and deductibles low by taking very good care of the Chromebook. The provisions in this Plan restrict coverage. Please read the Plan to understand your family's rights and responsibilities and what is covered.

A. Costs

1. Yearly premium of \$25.00. This premium is good for one school year.
 2. If there is a claim under this Repair Plan, there is a standard **per-breakage deductible of \$25.00** for the second claim. The first claim is covered by the Repair Plan Premium.
 3. Students who have Repair Plan claims on their Chromebook more than two times during a school year, for their regular, loaner, or replacement Chromebook, will face higher per-breakage deductibles. **The deductible for the third Repair Plan claim, and any claims thereafter, will be the total cost of the repair per claim. Lost power cord replacement cost will be \$30.00.**
 4. The school administration has the final say in determining Repair Plan coverage and repair situations.
 5. After September 16, 2022, no refunds will be issued.
- Repair Plan Premiums are due 10 (ten) school days following student enrollment date.

B. Covered Equipment

1. The coverage provided applies to any Chromebook issued to your child by the North Schuylkill School District, whether it is the originally issued Chromebook, a loaner, or a replacement.
 2. The deductible is the same, whether the machine is the original, a loaner, or a replacement Chromebook.
- There will not be an additional premium for the use of a Chromebook loaner. Your child's yearly \$25.00 premium covers their original Chromebook and any other Chromebook issued to your child for the current school year.

C. Exclusions

The North Schuylkill School District will **not** pay for loss or damage resulting from the following:

- Not informing the Main Office **immediately** of damage to the device may void the Repair Plan coverage for that incident. Examples being: damage from a liquid spill, dropping of the device that may expose internal parts.
- Damage caused maliciously/on purpose to the device.
- Dishonest, fraudulent or criminal acts.

D. Claim Procedures

1. Go directly to your school's main office.
2. The Technology Department will examine the Chromebook to determine if there is a qualified Repair Plan claim.
3. If there is a claim, the computer technician will fill out the appropriate paperwork and inform the office staff. You will receive a telephone call, letter and/or email from office staff when a claim is filed on your child's Chromebook. Once the claim is in process, a loaner will be issued to the student.

Chromebook Repair Cost Schedule (with Damage Repair Plan Paid Premium)

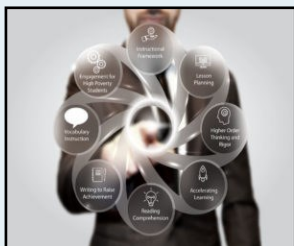
Incident	Damage	Cost
1st	Accidental	\$0
2nd	Accidental	\$25.00
3rd	Accidental	Cost of repair or replacement of device (\$250.00 as of June 2022)
Any	Misuse, neglect, intentional damage or loss	Cost of repair or replacement of device (\$250.00 as of June 2022)

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING!!!

The North Schuylkill School District has formed a partnership with Learning Focused to provide this year's professional development in working towards continued growth and improvement in classrooms.

The following was taken directly from the Learning Focused website and highlights one of our district goals this year.

All teachers want to be the best they can be for their students.



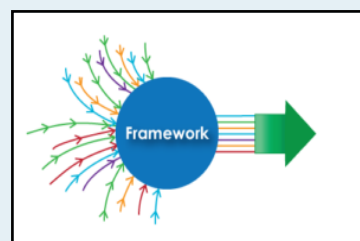
They want to be sure they are using the most [effective instructional strategies](#) and practices to ensure that all their students learn efficiently and successfully. They want their classrooms to be places where students are actively engaged in meaningful, relevant and challenging work every day. And they want to be responsive to the wide range of learning needs of their students.

Being the best teacher consistently and pervasively can be a daunting task, however. The challenge is that teaching is a complicated endeavor: Teacher evaluation models detail dozens of strategies and practices that teachers should know and be able to do. Also, with every new educational book, newsletter, journal article, webinar, course or professional development session, teachers learn more and more approaches they could be using to support students' learning.

With so many pieces in the "education puzzle", teachers can easily become overwhelmed, overloaded with information, and fragmented in their efforts. The solution to this challenge lies in utilizing an instructional framework.

What Is an Instructional Framework?

What is the definition of an instructional framework? An instructional framework provides a cohesive structure made up of proven components, but it is adaptable so as to work with varying teaching styles, content areas, and student needs (while maintaining the core structure of the framework). Teachers can unleash their creativity with confidence that their students are going to be successful.



Instructional frameworks are often referred to as curriculum frameworks, lesson planning frameworks, and sometimes as programs. There are key differences, however.

- A curriculum framework is a set of standards that specifies the content to be learned. It is different because it defines the intended curriculum, or "what" to teach. It is not "how" to structure an exemplary lesson.
- A lesson planning framework is what teachers use to organize, plan, and reflect their thinking. It is different because it usually focuses on general ideas to engage with and explore content, but it often does not identify specific evidence-based practices to accomplish those ideas.
- A program provides what to teach and how to teach it. It is different because teachers are required to follow the program instead of adapting to meet the needs of learners you might have. It's important to understand that an instructional framework is not the same thing as a program.

The Power of Frameworks



Consider the following quote from a remodeling magazine:

"All kitchens share the same purpose and elements. Refrigerators are for chilling, counters for chopping, sinks for cleanup, etc. So are all kitchens the same? Hardly. Like painters at canvases, kitchen designers make individual choices in layouts, colors, cabinets, and such. The best result comes when the design is tailored to the needs of a particular household."

Remodeling Ideas for Your Home, Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications, February/March 2005

Can you imagine trying to design, say a kitchen, without a framework to guide you?

Where would you start?

Would you just make it up as you went along?

How would you choose among the thousands of building products available in a home improvement store?

Would the "fad" of the day influence your design decisions?

How would you make sure that your choices fit together to allow you to have an operational kitchen?

How would you communicate your ideas to others or understand their ideas?

What would ensure that your choices would remain functional over time eliminating the need for a complete overhaul every year?

Maximize every child's learning potential.

The **LEARNING-FOCUSED** Instructional Framework trains educators to apply the right research-based learning strategies in the right situations. That way, students can excel, test scores can rise, and schools can foster a culture of achievement.



Connect the dots

Our teaching and learning framework integrates different exemplary practices. That way, teachers can finally connect the dots between varying methods and apply them effectively.



Meet benchmarks

When teachers serve students more effectively, performance improvement follows. With **LEARNING-FOCUSED**, you're empowering your teachers to improve your schools.



Motivate students

By personalizing instruction and focusing on grade-level expectations, teachers using instructional frameworks engage students and encourage higher-level performance.

Exemplary Schools Use Instructional Frameworks!

It is not surprising then that a pattern found in exemplary schools (and not very often in typical schools) is the use of a common instructional framework.

This provides consistency, organization, and certainty that all teachers are planning and providing the most effective instruction. Schools are no longer swayed by whatever comes along because their work is grounded in a collective vision of good instruction.

An instructional framework also supports effective professional learning because teachers can learn together, support each other, and focus on improving their practice over time.

When schools use a common instructional framework so that all teachers have a common approach to teaching and learning, students achieve more and teachers teach more effectively (Robinson).

“The most important factor affecting student learning is the teacher. More can be done to improve education by improving the effectiveness of teachers than by any other single factor.”

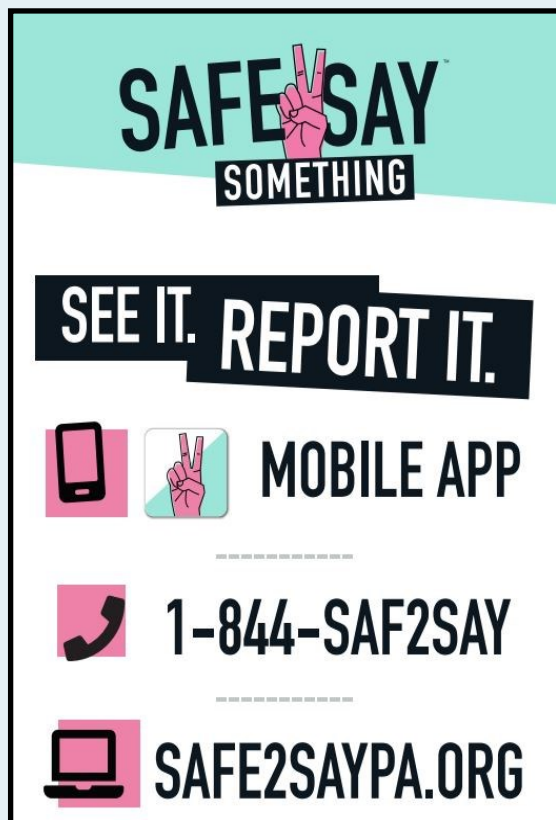
Sanders, W. L., & Rivers, J. C.

Ex·em·pla·ry

Adjective

1. Serving as a desirable model; representing the best of its kind.
2. Worth of imitation, commendable;





District Contact:

NSSD
15 Academy Lane
Ashland, PA 17921
(570) 874-0466

Dr. Robert Ackell, Superintendent
 rackell@northschuylkill.net

Merri Lynn Craig, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
 mcraig@northschuylkill.net

Robert Amos, Business Manager/
 Director of Building and Grounds
 ramos@northschuylkill.net

Kimberly Groody, Supervisor of Curriculum and Federal Programs
 kgroody@northschuylkill.net

Knute Brayford, Supervisor of Special Education
 kbrayford@northschuylkill.net

Chrissy Greblich, Assistant Supervisor of Special Education/Gifted Coordinator
 cgreblich@northschuylkill.net

Mark Andrewcavage, Coordinator of Computer Services and Technology
 marka@northschuylkill.net

James Gross, Athletic Director
 jgross@northschuylkill.net

Our mission is to provide our students with opportunities designed to meet individual needs and to ensure that every child has experiences that promote growth and excellence in all academic and social development areas. Through mutual respect, our students will grow and learn in a positive atmosphere, where faculty, staff, parents and students together are enthusiastic about the learning process.

Breakfast and Lunch

The waivers that have been in place for last school year will NOT continue into the 2022-23 school year. This school year, we will migrate back to normal School Lunch and School Breakfast prices and operations. We recognize this can be a difficulty transition given that North Schuylkill has operated under the waivers for the last two school years, which provided free breakfast and lunches for all students.

	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Jr./Sr. High School</u>
Breakfast	\$ 1.20	\$1.45
Reduced Breakfast	\$.30	\$.30
Lunch	\$ 2.25	\$2.50
Reduced Lunch	\$.40	\$.40

North Schuylkill School District Board Directors:

Charles Hepler—President, **Roy Green**—Vice President, **Mary Anne Woodward**—Treasurer, **Thomas Fletcher**, **Douglas Gressens**, **Michael Kiehl**, **Randy Lattis**, **Janine Simms**, **Glenn Weist**, **Brian Urban**—Solicitor, **Merri Lynn Craig**—Secretary

North Schuylkill School District School Calendar 2022-2023

Approved by the Board of Education
December 8, 2021

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

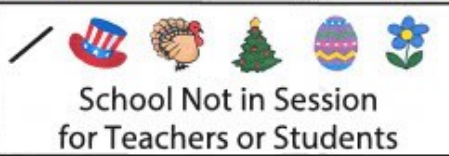
SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

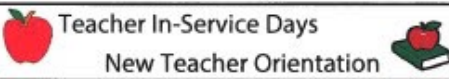
OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 School Not in Session
for Teachers or Students

 Teacher In-Service Days
New Teacher Orientation

Early Dismissal for Students:
November 23, 2022 - December 22, 2022
May 30, 2023
Act 80 Full Days: November 11 & 14, 2022
Act 80 Half Days: October 7, 2022

Snow Make-Up Days
April 14, April 13, April 12, April 11, April 6,
April 10, 2023 - plus additional days added to end of calendar

First Day of Marking Period
Last Day of School for Students: May 30, 2023
Marking Periods (dates inclusive)

M.P.	From	To	Days
1	08/22/22	10/25/22	45
2	10/26/22	01/10/23	45
3	01/11/23	03/16/23	45
4	03/17/23	05/30/23	45

Number of Student Days

August	8	January	20
September	21	February	19
October	20	March	23
November	19	April	13
December	16	May	21
		June	0
		Total:	180

Number of Teacher Days

August	11	January	21
September	21	February	19
October	21	March	23
November	19	April	13
December	16	May	22
		June	0
		Total:	186

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

 Graduation:
May 30, 2023
 Prom: May 13, 2023