

September
2012

the

Southern Way

Southern York County School District

Friendship Elementary School Construction Project Nears Completion

The alterations and renovations at Friendship Elementary School are progressing on schedule and within budget. The project for the 54 year-old school consists of 74,000 square feet of renovations to the existing building, along with several additions, totaling more than 26,000 square feet. These changes are providing 11 more classrooms, a new gymnasium, new mechanical and electrical rooms, new student restrooms, a greenhouse, and a new computer lab. All areas are designed to meet current educational standards.

As part of its environmentally friendly design, the school incorporates materials, design, and geothermal technology to help reduce energy usage. There are more than 70 wells for the geothermal heating and cooling system. The project is also designed to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, which will reduce and conserve energy usage.

Work has been completed on schedule and in phases, with a substantial completion time of December 2012. Teachers and students have moved into their new and/or renovated classrooms. The final phase of classrooms to be completed is in the kindergarten wing of the school along with the school's main office.

The cost for the construction project totals \$16,935,114. This is the final piece of the District's long-range plan, which began 15 years ago, with the construction of Shrewsbury Elementary School.



An artist's rendition of the completed elementary school project.



An aquatic pond was completed last spring in the school's new courtyard. It is 11 feet by 11 feet in size and includes two waterfalls and a small stream. Students helped construct the pond and spent a day digging holes, clearing rocks, planting a variety of aquatic plants, and grading soil.



Renovations of the kindergarten wing are currently underway.



The new 7,000 square foot gymnasium is a full size gym with a wooden floor.

District Presents Program in Safe Computing and Drug Awareness

District parents, students, and community members are invited to learn about computer safety along with drug and alcohol awareness, Monday, October 29, 2012, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Susquehannock High School Auditorium. During the first part of the evening, students and their parents may identify potential cyber threats through social networking sites. Parents will learn how to safeguard their computers (spyware prevention; use of anti-virus software and firewalls; how to update software and backup data). They will also learn about appropriate digital behavior and etiquette, digital law, rights, and responsibilities.

Representatives from the Southern Regional Police will present information on alcohol abuse prevention and dangerous drugs. This also includes drugs with which many parents and guardians are unaware. Parents and guardians will also learn how to help prevent drug use from impacting their homes and how to obtain help. During this time, students who attend the program will meet with elementary, middle, and high school guidance counselors to learn about peer pressure and how to make positive choices. Students will be grouped, according to their ages.

This presentation is designed for students in kindergarten through grade 12 along with their parents and guardians. Community members are also welcome to attend.

Friendship Secures Book Grant

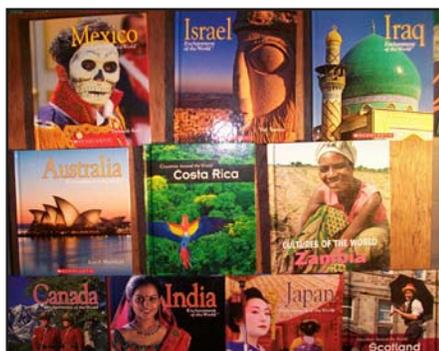
Friendship Elementary School students began the 2012-13 school year with new research materials available to them in the library. The school recently received a \$1,000 grant through the Wal-Mart Foundation's Local Community Contribution Grant Program.

Friendship Librarian Anne Bozievich learned of the grant opportunity and submitted an application last spring. In the application, she indicated her desire to use the grant money to purchase new country books for the library.

"Each spring, sixth graders complete a country research project," Bozievich said and added that students use the library's research materials to gather facts.

She used the grant money to purchase 38 new country titles. "It's important for our students to have relevant, up-to-date nonfiction titles so they can learn how to locate facts in books and learn how to rewrite those facts in their own words," she said. "It's also important to have titles that spark students' interests and motivate them to want to learn more about cultures that are different from their own."

The countries highlighted in the books span the globe and include New Zealand, Brazil, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China Fiji, and England.



School District Implements New Lunch Requirements

With the start of the 2012-13 school year, students at Southern York County School District have seen an increase in fruits and vegetables with their school lunches. The new requirements are part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 legislation, which is geared to improve child nutrition, through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. This year's changes include new guidelines on calories, types of vegetables served, and portion sizes. In addition, students need to take a fruit or vegetable in order for their lunch to receive the school meal price.

Food services employees at Southern York County School District prepared for these regulatory changes, Food Services Director Bruce Thens said. "We are committed to not only serve well-balanced and nutritious meals, but also educate our students so they adopt healthy eating habits," he said.

Under these guidelines, students see the same amount or more food on their lunch trays this year, according to Business Manager Susan Green. "It will look different than it has looked in the past," she said and added that the emphasis will be placed on fruits and vegetables, with a slight reduction in meat and meat alternative products.

What makes a complete lunch?

A school lunch is comprised of five components: meat/meat alternative, grain, vegetable, fruit, and milk. Students must take at least three, one being a fruit or vegetable, in order to have a complete meal, but are encouraged to take all items. There are daily fruit and vegetable requirements as well as weekly vegetable requirements for dark green, red/orange, beans/peas, starchy, and other vegetables.

What are the servings per grade level?

Students in all grades may take one or two vegetables, one meat or meat alternate, and a grain or bread. Students in grades K-8 may take one fruit or one juice. Students in grades 9-12 may take one or two juices or fruits.

"We want to encourage children to take everything they are entitled to because that makes their lunch the most healthy they may obtain," Green said.

The cafeteria staff will help students by reminding them what foods they are allowed to take as part of these new requirements, Thens said. Signs are posted throughout the school cafeterias and serving trays are color coded to assist students.

Breakfast/Lunch prices for 2012-13

Grades 1-12 Breakfast: \$1.05

Grades 1-6: \$1.90

Grades 7-12: \$2.10

Adult Lunch: \$3.25

Milk: \$.50

For more information on the new school lunch guidelines, view the District's Warrior Chat, "**Components of a School Lunch.**"



In the photo above Friendship Elementary teacher, Sue Barnhart works with first grade student, Everleigh Pierce.



In the photo above Andy Warren assists Southern Middle School students, Brandon Valway and Zach Buchanan, with research.

Shippensburg Awards 'Outstanding' Teachers

Two teachers from the Southern York County School District are the most recent recipients of the 'Outstanding Teacher Award' for 2012-13, sponsored by the Shippensburg University School Study Council. Friendship Elementary School First Grade Teacher Sue Barnhart and Southern Middle School Social Studies Teacher Andrew Warren will be honored with the award at a luncheon at Shippensburg University on November 14th.

"This is the 14th year in a row that at least one teacher from the Southern York County School District has been selected for this honor," Superintendent Thomas Hensley said.

As a middle school social studies teacher, Warren began his eighth year teaching at the District. He teaches world history to seventh graders and United States history to eighth graders. A graduate of Penn State, Warren earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University.

"I feel very honored to receive this award and greatly appreciate the support of colleagues who have helped me improve my craft over the years," he said.

During his tenure at Southern, Warren said he has seen many advances in the field of technology. "Technology continues to change what is possible in the classroom," he said. "It unlocks the potential for students to think creatively and interact with people from schools all over the world. As a social studies teacher, I am responsible to help my students develop into effective citizens, critical thinkers, and 21st Century learners."

Likewise, Barnhart has worked in the District for 23 years, having been a teacher and reading specialist at Southern Elementary for 12 years and a teacher at Friendship Elementary for the past 11 years. A lifelong resident and alumnus of the Southern York County School District, Barnhart said she was honored and also surprised to receive this recognition.

"I was quite surprised to have been chosen to represent our District," she said. "There are so many wonderful teachers that I have the privilege to work with and learn from. We make a great team and I am honored to represent the Southern York County School District."

Barnhart received her Bachelor's degree from Millersville University and her Master's degree from Western Maryland College (McDaniel College).

For her, the most rewarding aspect about teaching is seeing her students learn. "In first grade, there are lots of light bulbs that light up and it is so exciting to watch students accomplish something they have been working so hard to do," Barnhart said. "It is wonderful to see their self-confidence grow as the year goes on and they feel successful."

The selection process for each of these teachers included recommendation letters from their schools' administration. The teachers also wrote essays and supplied information on their professional backgrounds as well.

"Congratulations are extended to Sue and Andy on this outstanding honor," Hensley said. "Both are very deserving of this recognition."

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Robert Scheffer	President
C. Dianne Masimore.....	Vice President
Bruce Bauman.....	Treasurer
Dr. Wayne McCullough.....	Secretary (Non-Member)
Judi Fisher.....	Member
Jerri Groncki.....	Member
Ronald Groncki.....	Member
Karen Hellwig.....	Member
James Holley.....	Member
Allie Waldron.....	Member
Mackenzie Bates.....	Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Thomas R. Hensley.....	Superintendent
Sandra L. Lemmon.....	Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Wayne McCullough.....	Chief Financial & Operations Officer

BOARD MEETINGS

The Southern York County School District Board of Education holds meetings on the third Thursday of January through November, and the first Thursday of December, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the District Administration building. Meetings are also televised live via Comcast's Cable TV Channel 99.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

(717) 235-4811

Friendship Elementary.....	Ext. 1290
Southern Elementary.....	Ext. 2265
Shrewsbury Elementary.....	Ext. 5360
Southern Middle School.....	Ext. 3253
Susquehannock High School.....	Ext. 4238
Susquehannock Guidance.....	Ext. 4243
Transportation.....	Ext. 7350
Tax Office.....	Ext. 7300

MISSION STATEMENT

The Southern York County School District, through a cooperative effort with the family and community, will provide a quality learning environment that promotes character, fosters responsibility, and challenges students to achieve their potential.

Adopted by Board of Education - 6/21/01

The Southern York County School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, or disability in any of its activities, programs, employment policies or practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the American Disabilities Act of 1990. Employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Southern York County School District, P.O. Box 128, Glen Rock, PA 17327-0128 or call (717) 235-4811.

PUBLICATION

The Southern Way is published four times a year— September/October, January, April, and May/June through the Marketing and Public Information Office of our District.

WEBSITE
www.sycsd.org

Southern Receives 'Schools of Excellence' Technology Award

The Southern York County School District has received the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) 2012 Schools of Excellence Technology Award. The District obtained this distinction for its success in integrating technology into education as it prepares students for a technologically advanced future.

Pamela Price, PSBA Director of Board Development Services, presented the District with the award at a recent Board of Education meeting. "It's an honor and privilege to be here," Price said and added that technology is an integral part of today's education.

Since 2003, the PSBA Schools of Excellence in Technology program has recognized school districts for their efforts to use technology in meaningful ways. This is the second time Southern York County School District has received this recognition. Applications for the award are evaluated through a peer process as the previous year's winners determine the current recipients, she said.

"The award is a recognition of the many ways the District has demonstrated successful use of technology for all stake holders, including students, teachers, parents, administrators, board members, and the community," Coordinator of Technology Bruce Mickey said.

From providing instructional resources and updating curriculum to tracking student progress and expanding learning opportunities, technology is used in many facets to ensure student achievement. "We have a range of programs that we use to drive our instructional program, differentiate, and provide intervention for students in a variety of ways," Assistant Superintendent Sandra Lemmon said.

The District's curriculum is written online using Curriculum Mapper for parent and teacher access. Student progress may also be tracked online through Performance Tracker. In addition, technology is integrated into professional development opportunities, ensuring that teachers receive instruction on the most current advances. Furthermore, the District's cyber-school, the Southern York Digital Academy, is a comprehensive K-12 on-line curriculum that provides a blended approach for students as they combine online core courses with electives, athletics, and extracurricular activities at the School District.

The District has also implemented the communication tools of Twitter and You Tube to amplify its current electronic communication. District Warrior television programs and events are available for viewing on its official YouTube channel.

As part of this recognition, the District will also be highlighted for its technology initiatives at the PSBA/PASA (Pennsylvania School Boards Association) Leadership Conference in Hershey this October, and featured in PSBA publications throughout the 2012 - 13 school year. "Attendees will get a glimpse of how we implement team collaboration and data driven decisions concerning curriculum and differentiated instruction, information and collaboration tools available on the District website, the official District You Tube Internet site, and Help-desk support," Mickey said.



Featured in the photo above are, l-r, Board of Education President Robert Schefter, Justin Kline, Bruce Mickey, Steven Rose, Pamela Price, Mark Rill, Wayne McCullough, and Doug Walters

Along with Mickey, the Technology Department at Southern York County School District includes Technology Integration Specialist Ben Louey, Technicians Adam Kerchner, Justin Kline, Brian Demi, and Steven Rose, Coordinator of Student Transportation Doug Walters, and Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Mark Rill.

"What makes this group unique is that they understand how technology integrates, supports, and enhances the educational program," said Wayne McCullough, Chief Financial and Operations Officer.

District to Present Programs at PSBA/PASA Conference

The PSBA (Pennsylvania School Board Association)/PASA (Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators) also recognized four additional District programs, which will be featured at its "Education Excellence Fair" this October. Southern is the only district in the state that will have five programs highlighted at the conference. Along with the technology program, the other programs include:

1. **The Southern York Digital Academy**, which contains the District's Cyber School, an online program that is aligned with the District's current curriculum and is customized for the students;
2. **Moving the Brain Into Action**, a program in which teachers teach their students a variety of self regulating exercises to start their day energized and increase their focus and attention on learning;
3. **Marketing a Food Service Program**, in which the District's Marketing and Public Information Office promotes and enhances the Food Service Program to educate students in making healthy food choices;
4. **Today's Thinkers and Creators: Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs**, a high school course that inspires innovation and leadership in students as they design a business plan for a business concept.

SYCSD Welcomes New Staff



Teresa Barnes



Jessica Beste



Kristi Bowman



Mark Finn



Nancy Foster



Tara Geib



Danielle Godjikian



Natalie Hynoski



Lauren Jernstrom



Abby Kocher



Hayley Koenecki



Brett Maxwell



Kristi Peterson



Gail Shelley



Mary Sinnott



Tom Spangler



Lisa Stare



James Sterner



Stephanie Wollein



Lauren Womack



Karin Wright

2012-2013

District Hires New Staff in the Past Year

Teresa Barnes	FES Custodian
Jessica Beste	ShES English Teacher
Kristi Bowman.....	District Administration - Accounts Payable Bookkeeper
Mark Finn.....	ShES Grade 6 Teacher
Nancy Foster	SHS Instructional Assistant
Tara Geib.....	ShES Learning Support Teacher
Danielle Godjikian.....	SHS/SMS Long Term Substitute
Natalie Hynoski.....	SHS Clerk
Lauren Jernstrom	SMS/SHS Science Teacher
Abby Kocher	SHS Social Studies Teacher
Hayley Koenecke	ShES Long Term Substitute
Brett Maxwell	SMS/SHS Physical Education Teacher
Kristi Peterson.....	SES Grade 1 Teacher
Gail Shelley	SHS Clerk
Mary Sinnott	SMS Instructional Assistant
Tom Spangler.....	SHS Cafeteria
Lisa Stare	SMS Cafeteria
James Sterner.....	SHS Math Teacher
Stephanie Wollein	SMS Art Teacher
Lauren Womack.....	SMS/FES Nurse
Karin Wright	ShES Instructional Assistant

Employee Transfers During the Past Year

The following employees have transferred into new positions and/or new buildings at the Southern York County School District within the past year:

Angelina McCauley.....	SMS Head Custodian
Sam Alban.....	SMS/SES Custodian
Jane Nace.....	SMS Custodian
Lisa Little.....	SHS Guidance Clerk
Shelley Stoley.....	SMS PT Guidance Clerk
Mary Pedrick.....	SMS Clerk
Sharon Piermatteo.....	FES Instructional Assistant
Jill Fitzsimmons.....	SHS Autism Support Teacher
Michael Arnold.....	SMS/SHS Math Teacher
Martha Sandusky.....	SMS/SHS FCS Teacher
Karen Somerville.....	SMS Autism Support Teacher
Linda Williams.....	FES Grade 6 Teacher
Mary Walker.....	SES Reading Specialist
Todd Hall.....	ShES Emotional Support Teacher

Pest Management Notice for 2012-13

The Southern York County School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. Our goal is to protect every student from pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance. We routinely monitor the school buildings and grounds to detect any pests that are present. Pest sightings are reported to the IPM coordinator who evaluates the problem and determines the appropriate measures to take. The techniques can include increasing sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, physically removing the pest, etc.

From time to time, it may be necessary to use pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection agency to manage a pest problem. A pesticide is only used when necessary and is not routinely applied. Pesticide applications are made only when unauthorized persons do not have access to the area(s) being treated. Notices are posted in these areas 72 hours prior to application and for two days following. All applicators are trained and certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school may request notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the School District's notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please notify the IPM Manager's office in writing. Please include your e-mail address if you would like to be notified electronically.

If a pesticide application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided by telephone to any parent or guardian who has requested such notification in writing. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products, self-containerized baits, placed in areas not accessible to students, and gel type baits placed in cracks, crevices, or voids.



SYCSD Staff Members Retire

Fifteen Southern York County School District staff members retired during/at the conclusion of the 2011-12 school year:

Kathleen Emdad.....	Southern Elementary School
Gail Everhart.....	Southern Middle School
Denise Ferree.....	Southern Middle School
Lois Glatfelter.....	Administration Building
Phyllis Hildebrand.....	Friendship Elementary School
Judith Kroh.....	Southern Middle School
Lorraine Kulbicki.....	Shrewsbury Elementary School
Linda Lewis.....	Friendship Elementary School
Wayne Margelot.....	Southern Middle School/ Susquehannock High School
Patti McGonagle.....	Susquehannock High School
Karen McKinsey.....	Southern Middle School
Marlene Quesenberry.....	Southern Middle School
Roberta Schofield.....	Shrewsbury Elementary School
Steve Stough.....	Southern Middle School
Eleanor Walker.....	Southern Elementary School



Athletic Ticket Prices

Ticket prices for the 2012-13 Susquehannock High School Athletic Events:

Varsity Events

Adults.....	\$4
Students.....	\$2
Senior Citizens	\$2

Junior High Events

Adults.....	\$2
Students.....	\$1
Senior Citizens	\$1

Individual Season Passes are available as listed below:

All Home Fall Athletic Events

Adults.....	\$87
Students.....	\$43
Senior Citizens	\$43

All Home Winter Athletic Events

Adults.....	\$78
Students.....	\$39
Senior Citizens	\$39

All Home Spring Athletic Events

Adults.....	\$54
Students.....	\$27
Senior Citizens	\$27

Seasonal passes are on sale at the Susquehannock High School Athletic Office. Contact Chuck Abbott, Athletic Director, at Chuck.Abbott@sycsd.org, or call 235-4811, extension 4240.

In addition, the price to reserve parking for home football games will be \$50.

Librarian attends National Program



Southern Elementary School Librarian Lynn Clements spent time this summer exploring historical artifacts and documents that helped frame the United States.

Clements was selected from a pool of more than 300 applicants to participate in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute in July. She was one of only 27 educators from across the nation chosen for the five-day program.

Each year, the Library of Congress provides educators the opportunity to attend one of its teacher institutes in Washington, D.C.

“Each summer, I look for these kinds of opportunities to push myself professionally,” Clements said. “This was a great way to brush up on my skills and learn the best way to teach to the students.”

The purpose of the program is to teach educators in grades K-12 how to use the digitized collection at the Library of Congress to promote critical thinking skills and construct knowledge, she said.

Through the Library’s collections, the teachers explored the largest online collection of historical artifacts and accessed millions of primary (original) sources for use in instruction. Clements worked on a unit for fifth grade students to enrich and extend their study of the Battle of Gettysburg, using primary documents, such as photos, diaries, letters, and maps. “I learned how to access digitized resources and how to write lesson plans, using primary sources with students.”

Special Education Services and Programs

Under the federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are located, evaluated, and identified.

A full range of special education services are provided by the Southern York County School District. Programs provided directly by the District include those for students who have a specific learning disability, emotional disturbance, mental retardation, speech or language impairment, a hearing impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, or other health impairment. Services are also provided for mentally gifted students. Additional services, provided by the Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 for the District, include those for early intervention, deafness, deaf/blind, blind, or multiple disabilities. Other related services are also provided, such as occupational therapy and physical therapy, for those who require them in order to access a free and appropriate education.

Efforts to identify special needs students in Southern York County School District's schools are varied. Preschool students between ages three and five are identified through services provided by the LIU #12, including children identified as developmentally delayed. A child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas. The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests.

Kindergarten students are screened formally and informally in vision, hearing, health, and speech/language areas. Kindergarten teachers also informally screen during the fall of each year for motor and academic skills. Kindergarten registration is scheduled in April by appointment at the elementary school in which the student would attend. On-going screening is conducted for new resident students at the building level through a review of school records and parent/student interviews at the time of enrollment.

When teachers, staff, or parents suspect that a student might be in need of specially designed instruction due to difficulty in

school, a school team reviews screening data, educational records, and diagnostic data. A pre-referral team recommends instructional interventions, adaptations, or modifications to the student's educational program to address the student needs. If the student continues to have difficulty, a referral for a multidisciplinary evaluation and further assessment with written and informed parent consent may be made.

Parents may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time in writing to their child's building principal. A formal response to the request is made in a timely manner by the building principal. Parents must give informed consent by signing the Permission to Evaluate form provided by the school. Parents of resident students not attending Southern York County School District schools follow the same procedures, but should send the written request to the Director of Special Education.

A multidisciplinary evaluation must be conducted in accordance with specific timelines and follow protection-in-evaluation procedures. The evaluation must be conducted within 60 calendar days of obtaining Permission to Evaluate from the student's parents. The evaluation is conducted by a team, which includes the parents, and is conducted through the use of a variety of assessment measures individually selected for the student. A single test or procedure cannot be the sole factor in determining that a child has a disability. The results of the evaluation are summarized in an Evaluation Report, with conclusions and recommendations specifying the educational program that is appropriate to meet the student's educational needs. Parents also have the right to obtain an independent educational evaluation if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of the District's multidisciplinary evaluation. Southern York County School District will provide, upon request, information about where an independent evaluation may be obtained. Such an evaluation may be obtained at public expense under certain circumstances, but parents may choose to have an independent evaluation conducted at private expense following the District's evaluation criteria. The outcome of an independent evaluation must be considered by the school district in respect to the provision of a free and appropriate education to the child.

If the student is determined to have a disability and is in need of specially designed instruction based on the results of the Evaluation Report, the Individual Educational Program Team (IEP), which includes the parents, develops a written educational plan called an IEP. The IEP identifies the type of

services, level of intervention, and location of intervention within the least restrictive environment. It also describes the current educational levels, goals, and related services the student will receive. All students must be educated to the maximum extent appropriate with students who are not disabled as determined by the IEP team. The IEP is reviewed at least on an annual basis. For additional information, contact Southern York County School District Director of Special Education at 235-4811, Extension 7229.

Procedural Safeguards

Procedural safeguards protect the rights of parents and students. These safeguards include parental consent for evaluations, re-evaluations, release of information, and placement of a child with a disability in a special education placement. The Southern York County School District must notify parents when special education services are changed or discontinued or when parent requests for an evaluation, an independent evaluation, or a change in an IEP are refused. Safeguards also include dispute resolution procedures, such as the right to pre-conference meetings, mediation, or impartial due process hearings. Such requests are made on a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement form or by letter. A full explanation of procedural safeguards is given in the "Procedural Safeguards Notice" which is available upon request by calling the Special Education Office at 717-235-4811, Extension 7229.

All communications regarding special education services are provided in English or, if necessary, in other languages solely used by parents. If a person does not understand any written information, further explanation may be requested by contacting the school district. When necessary, the District will also arrange for an interpreter for parents with limited English proficiency, or if a parent is deaf or blind or has no written language, the school district will arrange for communication in the mode normally used by the parent (e.g. sign language, Braille, or oral communication).

For more information, contact the Director of Special Education, Southern York County School District, 235-4811, extension 7229.

Annual Notice to Parents of Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, the Southern York County School District will provide each "protected handicapped student," without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services,

Special Education Services and Programs

or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a "protected handicapped student," the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. Such services are distinct from those provided to students with a disability and eligible for special education programs. The school may initiate an evaluation of a student with informed parental consent. Parents may also request an evaluation by contacting the Director of Special Education at 717-235-4811, Extension 7229.

Confidentiality

Southern York County School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information for all students, screened for or enrolled as a child with a disability in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and other applicable federal and state laws.

Parents' Access to Educational Records

Parents have the right to inspect and review their child's educational record. If parents request copies of the records, a copying fee may be charged. The District will respond to parent requests for inspections, explanations and interpretations of the records within 10 days. Parents may request amending the student's records if they believe the educational record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. The Southern York County School District will respond to such requests in writing. Confidential records will not be released to outside parties without the written consent of the parents, except under limited circumstances outlined in Board Policy 216. Consent means that parents have been informed of the activity requiring consent, that they agree in writing to the activity, and that consent is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time. Consent is transferred to the student when the student is 21 years of age and has graduated from a school program or has withdrawn from a school program.

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if it is believed that the district fails to comply with FERPA. The District will provide a copy of its confidentiality policy upon request.

believed that the district fails to comply with FERPA. The District will provide a copy of its confidentiality policy upon request.

Parent Right to Know

Section 1111(h)(6) of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) outlines "parent-right-to-know" requirements. It requires that school districts receiving Title 1, Part A funds notify parents at the beginning of each school year of their right to request information, regarding the professional qualifications of the child's teacher and/or paraprofessional.

Parents are entitled to have access, upon request, to the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications for licensure in the grade levels and subject areas in which he/she teaches;
- The level of state teacher certification: Emergency, Instructional I, Instructional II, etc., held by the teacher;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- Qualifications of the para professionals working with the child.

Parent right-to-know requirements also state that a school district must provide timely notification to parents when a teacher, who is not highly qualified, has instructed their child for more than four consecutive weeks. Additionally, parents must be given information regarding

the level of achievement their child has attained on the PSSA.

All parent right-to-know notifications must be written in a format that is easily understandable by parents and, if practicable, in a language that parents understand. Any questions or inquiries in this regard should be directed to the child's building principal.

Title I Instructors

Parents with students in the Title 1 program may request from the District information regarding the professional qualifications of the students' classroom teachers. Requests should be made to the Assistant Superintendent of Southern York County School District at 235-4811.

Gifted Programs

The District provides mentally gifted programs at all grade levels, kindergarten through grade 12. The primary emphasis is on enrichment and acceleration of the regular education curriculum through differentiated instruction, either within regular education classes or in a separate setting. The referral process for a gifted evaluation can be initiated by teachers or parents who suspect that the child is in need of specially designed instruction beyond the required 22 Pa. School Code §4 (relating to academic standards and assessments), and may request in writing to the building principal that the child be evaluated under the criteria of 22 Pa. School Code §16.22. For more information, contact the Director of Special Education at 717-235-4811, Extension 7229.

Asbestos Program Notice

In April and October the Asbestos Program Manager conducts a visual inspection of asbestos-containing materials in the District's buildings. This enables the Asbestos Program Manager to take action before these materials present any risk to our staff and other occupants. The written report becomes part of the District's Management Plan and is available within 30 days after the examination, along with the decisions of the School District, with regard to dealing with any unusual circumstances. Inspection of the District's formal plan is available by appointments through the Asbestos Program Manager's office.

Use of Students' Photos for Publicity

Throughout the school year, the Southern York County School District may have opportunities to share newsworthy information and/or pictures of its students with local newspapers and throughout various District publications or videotaped productions. In addition, the District maintains a Web page for use by students, school personnel, and community members. At times, we may wish to share newsworthy information about our students, using names, photos, and/or student work (drawings, poems, creative writings, etc.) on our Web pages.

If the opportunity arises for your child to be part of a news event, we shall assume we have your implied consent to use his/her name and/or picture, unless you provide us with prior written notice to the contrary. If you prefer that your child's name and/or identifiable picture (name printed in caption of a group or individual photo, or identified in some other manner), or appearance in any videotaped productions not be used, please send a letter to your child's building principal. The letter should state that you do not wish your child's name or identifiable picture be used in any District publication, news items sent to the local media, or on the District's Web page, nor do you want your child to appear in any videotaped productions.

School Calendar — October 2012 through January 2013

Friday, October 26	Teacher In-Service - No School
Tuesday, October 30	End of First Marking Period
Friday, November 9	Report Cards Distributed
Monday and Tuesday, November 12 & 13	Classroom Visits - American Education Week
Tuesday and Wednesday, November 20 & 21	Teacher In-Service - No School
Thursday, November 22 through Monday, November 26	Thanksgiving Vacation - No School
Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1	Holiday - No School
Thursday, January 17	End of Second Marking Period
Monday, January 21	Teacher In-Service - No School
Monday, February 1	Report Cards Distributed

Southern Features ‘October Fun Night’ for Community



Children within Southern York County are invited to join in the fun at Susquehannock High School for this year’s October Fun Night, which will be held Wednesday, October 31, 2012, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Student Council, the event offers the community a safe

alternative for trick or treating and features activities, crafts, and treats from various school organizations. Susquehannock High School organizations will occupy the first floor of the high school to provide candy and fall activities. Some of the

organizations that have participated in previous years included the All Class Council, Students Working to Achieve Tolerance (SWAT), the Earth Club, Best Buds, the Literary Magazine, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), and the high school custodians. Children are encouraged to attend in costume. However, costumes should not contain any hay because of potential allergic reactions.

In addition, in place of an admission fee, Student Council is asking for donations of nonperishable items or monetary donations, which will be donated to the Southern York County Food pantry. This will help supply the pantry with food for the upcoming holiday season.

District Launches Pilot BYOD Program

Several Southern York County School District students may bring their laptops, iPads, iPods, eReaders and other electronic devices to school this year. The School Board recently approved a pilot program that will allow students to use their personal devices in the classroom. The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program begins November 1, 2012 and enables students to access and save information from the Internet, communicate with other learners, and use applications that will be provided on the District’s network.

The BYOD program does not require students to purchase any device. All students, either with their own device or with a District provided device, will experience them as learning tools. The District will provide devices for all students involved in the pilot program who do not bring their own to school.

According to Southern Middle School Principal, Len Reppert, one of the goals

of the BYOD program is to teach safe and responsible use of technology. The devices brought to school and used in the pilot program are subject to the District’s filtered wireless network.

“We believe the BYOD pilot program will help facilitate the development of 21st century skills, promote and increase productivity of individual inquiry, and stimulate group collaborations,” said Assistant Superintendent Sandra Lemmon.

The pilot program will be implemented in all five District schools. At Shrewsbury Elementary School, students in grade three may use their devices for language arts and math, according to Principal Jodie Sauers. Students will access virtual applications in small and large group settings for reading and writing. At Friendship and Southern Elementary Schools, students in grades five and six will use eReaders to download books in the libraries.

Secondary students will use these devices in grade seven English and Geometry as well as for Advanced Placement Calculus. They will focus on digital literacy, while enhancing their reading, writing, and researching skills, Reppert said. In addition, they may also access the online graphing applications and virtual sketch pads.

Teachers who are participating in the pilot program researched and will then implement the best applications that will work in the classrooms, Lemmon said.

“We are excited that this gives us the opportunity to further tear down the walls,” Reppert said.

The District will continue to provide students with devices to meet the needs of the instructional program outside of the BYOD program as well. Administrators will update the board on the progress of the BYOD pilot program next spring.