

School MATTERS

Titusville School District Newsletter



Karen E. Jez
Superintendent

Fall Issue
October 2018

Safety & Security of Students and Staff a Priority

By Karen Jez, Superintendent

On June 22, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 44 of 2018 into law, creating a School Safety and Security Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The Committee is tasked with developing the criteria that school entities are to use when performing school safety and security assessments, issuing a survey to school entities to measure school safety and security preparedness, and administering grants.

As required by Act 44, the District named our Director of Student Services, Mrs. Amy Herman, the School Safety and Security Coordinator. The Coordinator, in collaboration with other members of the Administration, is responsible for ensuring staff and student training in the District All Hazards plans; act as a liaison to statewide School Safety and Security Committee; ensuring policies are in compliance with state/federal law; engaging in risk and vulnerability assessments, as appropriate; providing annual updates on school safety and security to the board; and conducting biennial walk-throughs of school facilities with first responders.

Our District is responding to potential threats and matters of school safety by working to ensure two things: (1) that schools have crisis plans or comprehensive multi-hazard plans in place, ready for quick and confident activation; and (2) that school system resources are available to help with the mental

health needs of children and adults before, during, and following a time of crisis.

We are assisting principals and school staff in preparing for a variety of emergency response situations, and taking proactive measures to protect the safety of all our students and staff members. In addition, we are coordinating efforts with local emergency management agencies, emergency responders, medical services, county and state safety and mental health officials. Depending on the nature of an emergency, we would respond according to our plans for potential threats and will follow directions from public safety officials. The actions taken during any type of emergency situation depend a great deal on the specifics of the incident. For example, one or more school buildings may evacuate, lock down, or initiate a shelter-in place response according to the nature of the threat. Parents should know that access to schools during an incident may be restricted for a variety of reasons. In such instances, we will coordinate with the local media to get information to you. It is important that you remain aware of public notices on radio, television, and the Internet about emergency procedures and updates. In any case, student and staff safety is our first priority. All procedures are designed for their protection.

Plans are only as good as they can be based on practice and response. To that end, the District is coordinating with Crawford County Emergency Management and our local first responders to conduct a full-scale

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School Directors

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(President)

Jack D. Roberts
(Vice President)

Richard E. Skinner, Jr.
(Secretary)

James Y. Roeder
(Treasurer)

Members:
James E. Come
Lynn J. Cressman
Charlene A. Eggleston
Carol J. Shaffer
Jean M. Spence

2 *Welcoming New Teachers*

Heidi Johnson

Grade 1, Pleasantville

Mrs. Johnson is working as a long-term sub at Pleasantville Elementary in a first grade classroom this year. She graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with an early childhood education degree. Mrs. Johnson has taught kindergarten for five years, second grade for two years, and third grade for two years in public and private schools. She most recently served as an AmeriCorps member at the Pleasantville Elementary School teaching math intervention for two years.

Brandon Goetz

Special Education, Main Street

Mr. Goetz comes to T ASD as a special education teacher at Main Street Elementary. He is a graduate of Edinboro University with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. He previously taught at St. Jude School in Erie and substituted for several elementary schools in the Erie area. In addition to teaching, Brandon is an Alumni member of the Council for Exceptional Children and of Lambda Chi Alpha. He also enjoys volunteering for various children's events.

Devan Snodgrass

Special Education, Pleasantville

Mrs. Snodgrass joins the Special Education staff at Pleasantville Elementary after having been employed at West End Elementary in Meadville as a Kindergarten Autistic Support teacher. She has also worked in several long-term teaching positions. Mrs. Snodgrass is an Edinboro University graduate with a B.S. in Early Childhood and Special Education.



Front Row L-R: Heidi Johnson, Brandon Goetz, Devan Snodgrass, Carla Huck, Audrey Slocum, Sarah Parish, Katie White Dibell

Back Row L-R: Hannah Borkovich, Alex Kline, Lisa Saxton, Scott Palotas, Brooke Lewis, Lisa Schwartz.

Not Pictured: Megan Rescinito and Erin Covell were unable to be in this photo.

Carla Huck

Special Education, High School

Mrs. Huck is originally from the Waterford area. She received an Associate's Degree in business at Edinboro University before changing her focus into education and receiving an Associate's Degree in developmental disabilities. Mrs. Huck worked for Fort LeBoeuf School District as a paraprofessional in the middle school emotional support classroom. She returned to Edinboro and earned a B.S. in Elementary Education and Special Education, and a Master's degree in Autism Support. Mrs. Huck taught for nine years for the Riverview Intermediate Unit within THS before being hired by T ASD.

Audrey Slocum

Business Education, High School

Mrs. Slocum is our Business Education teacher at THS. She previously taught in the Juniata Co. School District in Mifflintown, PA and was an online business educator for the Agora Cyber Charter School before working in corporate for the past several years. She has a B.S. in business education from Indiana University of PA and Master's from Wilkes University. Mrs. Slocum is also the District's Cooperative Education Program advisor.

Sarah Parish

Art, Middle School

Miss Parish is a Slippery Rock native holding a B.S. in fine arts and two Master's degrees in Education and Science in Art Education. She attended both Westminster College and St. Joseph's University. Prior to coming to work at T ASD she worked as an assistant education coordinator and STEAM teacher for the Arts & Education at the Hoyt in New Castle, PA.

Katie White Dibell

Language Arts, High School

Mrs. Dibell teaches English at the high school. She comes to the District having previously taught at Erie Rise Leadership Academy Charter School and as a clinical instructor at Sarah Reed Children's Center. She is a graduate of Fort LeBoeuf High School and of Edinboro University earning a B.S. in both mid-level and secondary English.

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Hannah Borkovich

Special Education, High School

Mrs. Borkovich holds a Master's of Special Education and a Master's of Secondary Education from Slippery Rock University and a Behavioral Specialist License from the PA State Board of Medicine. She is pursuing her Doctorate of Education. Prior to coming to Titusville, she worked as an emotional support teacher at both Mercer and Penncrest School Districts.

Alex Kline

Math Interventionist, Middle School

Mr. Kline is a math intervention specialist at the middle school. He is a graduate of Edinboro University of PA. Last year, he worked at T ASD as a substitute teacher for Kelly Educational Staffing and the prior year was a Keystone Smiles AmeriCorps member where he worked as a math coach at Hydetown Elementary. In addition to teaching, Alex is also a JV/Varsity Basketball coach for the District.

Lisa Saxton

Special Education, Pleasantville

Mrs. Saxton graduated from Clarion University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education. Prior to joining T ASD, she worked for the Riverview IU teaching Autism Support for grades 3-5 for nine years at Pleasantville Elementary. She also taught grades 1-3 at Forest Area SD for three years. She enjoys spending time with her family, as well as camping and reading.

Scott Palotas

Special Education, TMS

Mr. Palotas is an emotional support teacher at the middle school. He received his undergraduate and teaching degrees from Edinboro University. He is certified in both elementary and special education. Mr. Palotas has over twenty years of experience working with students with special needs. He has worked as an emotional support teacher at the high school level at Northwestern School District in Albion. Scott and his family reside in Meadville.

Brooke Lewis

Spanish, High School

Miss Lewis is from the Saegertown area and is a Spanish teacher at Titusville High School. Previously she taught Spanish at Penncrest School District for two years and as a substitute teacher for Kelly Educational Staffing. Miss Lewis co-taught English as a Second Language in Columbia, South America. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Spanish at Mercyhurst University.

Lisa Schwartz

Learning Facilitator, Hydetown

Mrs. Schwartz worked as a long-term sub for the district in the Gifted Program last year. She holds a PA certification in Elementary Ed K-6 and is certified in Early Childhood Education through Edinboro University. Previously she worked as a substitute teacher through Kelly Educational Staffing. Mrs. Schwartz also worked with the Titusville YMCA's 21st Century after-school program and for the Titusville Regional Literacy Council. She resides in Pleasantville with her husband and daughter.

Erin Covell

Special Education, Middle School



Mrs. Covell is a graduate of THS. She received a dual degree in Elementary and Secondary Education from Edinboro University. She also earned her Master's degree in Educational Leadership and completed Principal & Supervisor of Special Education certifications from Edinboro. Mrs. Covell taught for thirteen years in special education prior to joining the T ASD faculty.

Megan Rescinito

Elementary School Psychologist



Miss Rescinito worked as a school psychologist in Blacksburg, VA before relocating to the Grove City area. She earned her Ed.S. and M. Ed. in Educational and School Psychology from the University of Indiana PA. She is a member of several professional organizations including the National Association of School Psychologists, the Association of School Psychologists of PA, the PA Psychological Association and the Golden Key International Honor Society. Ms. Rescinito also teaches psychology in an online setting.

Health & Physical Education - Getting Fit

By Crystal Gates, Assistant Principal, Titusville High School

The 2018 -2019 school year has already become a very exciting year for the Health and Physical Education department. At the end of September, brand new fitness center equipment was delivered and installed at the high school and middle school.

In 2002, TASD was awarded The Carol M. White PEP grant. The Carol M. White Physical Education Program provides grants to Local Education Agencies and community-based organizations to initiate, expand, or enhance physical education programs, including before school, after school, and summer programs for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Grant recipients were to implement programs that help students make progress toward meeting their state's standards for physical education.

With this grant money, the TASD added a state-of-the-art fitness center at each school. After 14 years of usage, the equipment had outlived its prime.



It was impossible to get parts to repair the old equipment. The Physical Education department started the process of looking for ways to replace the aging and worn out machines.

With the support of the Superintendent and the Titusville Area School Board, the PE department was able to purchase new equipment to replace the old machines. The middle school added 22 new machines (10 stationary bikes, 6 treadmills, 4 rowers and 2 upper body ergometers). The high school added 35 new machines (3 steppers, 15 bikes, 2 recumbent bikes, 7 ellipticals, 6 treadmills and 2 rowers).

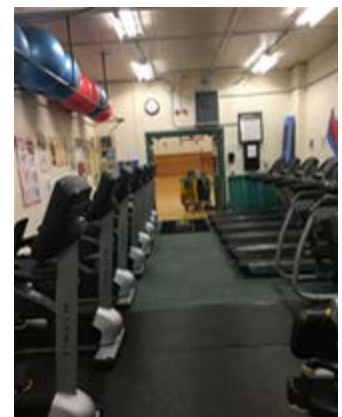
The purchase of this new equipment will enable the H/PE department to continue their implementation of a high quality nationally recognized physical education program that all students of the district will be able to utilize.

Students at the high school have daily, year-long health and physical education class. Students at the middle school have daily, semester-long health and physical education. All students will have the opportunity to utilize these machines on a daily basis.

With the purchase of this equipment the, TASD has continued its vision to provide students at our schools with safe, high- quality state-of-the art fitness equipment.



Main Street Elementary students enjoying "National Walk to School Day"



Active shooter drill in March of 2019 in the Titusville High School. During the drill we plan to practice various components of the All Hazards Plan including first responder response timing and use of the NaviGate prepared software tool; media relations; and student/parent reunification. This drill will satisfy the Titusville Area Hospital's required annual mass causality drill as well. More information will be forthcoming over the next several weeks and months about the drill.

In the meantime, the stress of any trauma or crisis can be a problem for children and adults, and we have trained professionals ready to assist students and faculty in dealing with a crisis. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has gathered information resources for crisis response, terrorism, and mental health, including tips for parents. This information is updated frequently on the Department of Education's Crisis Response website. In addition, links to federal, state, and county safety information are available on the District website. The safety issues confronting our nation and community are serious. We know that parents, students, and staff will work together to help maintain a focus on teaching and learning in our schools as we address this continuing situation. Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work together to ensure the safest environment for our students, staff and community.



Hydetown SOAR children enjoy being in the Homecoming Parade

Credit Recovery

Phil Knapp, Principal

In an effort to offer students the ability to stay on track for graduation without re-taking a course, the high school is offering a credit recovery option. Students now have the option to only make up the work that they did not show proficiency during the face-to-face class that they took. In an effort to make sure students are able to complete all the skills that they will need for the future, credit recovery courses have been built from the existing curriculum. Students are required to make up the portion of the course that they did not find success in the first time. With this opportunity they can go to the credit recovery lab during the school year. During the summer, for the past two years, AmeriCorps members were in the school helping students do their credit recovery. Credit recovery has been a success for the past several years for many students and this is one of the many ways that Titusville Area School District is trying to meet the needs of our students.



Hydetown Band students playing alongside THS Band

View this newsletter, the district school year calendar, and other information on our website under the District Information Tab.

www.gorockets.org



Pleasantville Elementary Butterfly Release

Mrs. Spencer's second grade class released three Monarch butterflies. The students learned about the life cycle of the Monarch caterpillar to a butterfly in science class. The students watched in anticipation as the caterpillars created their chrysalis on milkweed and then emerged to beautiful butterflies.

Homecoming Parade at ECLC

Students from the Early Childhood Learning Center eagerly await the Homecoming Parade – Go Rockets!



Upcoming Musical Events

December 3, 2018	HYDETOWN WINTER CONCERT	COLESTOCK AUDITORIUM	6:30 PM
December 4, 2018	MAIN STREET WINTER CONCERT	COLESTOCK AUDITORIUM	6:30 PM
December 6, 2018	PLEASANTVILLE WINTER CONCERT	COLESTOCK AUDITORIUM	6:30 PM
December 13, 2018	THS BAND WINTER CONCERT	COLESTOCK AUDITORIUM	7:00 PM
December 18, 2018	TMS CHOIR WINTER CONCERT	TMS CAFETORIUM	7:00 PM
December 19, 2018	THS CHOIR WINTER CONCERT	COLESTOCK AUDITORIUM	7:00 PM
December 21, 2018	THS CHOIR HOLIDAY TOUR	TASD AND COMMUNITY	ALL DAY
January 17, 2019	TMS BAND WINTER CONCERT	TMS CAFETORIUM	7:00 PM
January 24, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 BAND	MEADVILLE	ALL DAY
January 25, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 BAND	MEADVILLE	ALL DAY
January 26, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 BAND	MEADVILLE	ALL DAY
February 1, 2019	CRAWFORD COUNTY BAND	ALLEGHENY COLLEGE	ALL DAY
February 2, 2019	CRAWFORD COUNTY BAND	ALLEGHENY COLLEGE	ALL DAY
February 7, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 CHORUS	ST. MARYS	ALL DAY
February 8, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 CHORUS	ST. MARYS	ALL DAY
February 9, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 CHORUS	ST. MARYS	ALL DAY
February 14, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 JAZZ BAND	GENERAL MCLANE	ALL DAY
February 15, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 JAZZ BAND	GENERAL MCLANE	ALL DAY
February 16, 2019	PMEA DISTRICT 2 JAZZ BAND	GENERAL MCLANE	ALL DAY

Administration Promotions



Stephanie Beck
Principal ECLC

Mrs. Beck joins the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) staff after taking some time off from education to raise her family. She graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Secondary Education in 1996. She taught social studies at Maplewood High School. While teaching, Mrs. Beck earned a master's degree from Edinboro University in Guidance and Counseling and a principal's certificate. She became assistant principal at Saegertown Elementary in 2004 before moving to Crawford Central School District in 2006 to be the elementary principal at Neason Hill. In her free time, Mrs. Beck loves spending time with her husband and children.



Stephanie Keebler
Director of Federal Programs, Curriculum & Learning

Mrs. Keebler graduated from Oil City High School and earned her Bachelor's degree in Spanish Education from Clarion University. She began her teaching career at Venango Catholic where she taught Spanish and French. She accepted a position with Clarion Area School District where she spent six years teaching elementary Spanish to students in grades K-6. Mrs. Keebler obtained her Master's in education with a specialization in curriculum and instruction from Gannon University. She also earned her ESL program specialist certification and completed K-12 principal's certification through Gannon University. In 2006, Mrs. Keebler accepted the position of high school principal for Titusville High School, and in 2013 transferred to Main Street Elementary School. She completed her letter of eligibility superintendent's certification through Gannon University and will begin her position as the Director of Federal Programs, Curriculum and Learning for the 2018-19 school year.



Crystal Gates
Assistant Principal, High School

Ms. Gates has a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from Slippery Rock University and a Master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Gannon University. In addition, she holds an Administrative Certification from Gannon University. Ms. Gates has worked for TASD since 1998 and in addition to teaching has been the Health and Physical Education Department Chair and JV Girls' Basketball Coach.



Stacy Houck
Principal, Hydetown Elementary

Mrs. Houck taught at Riverside High School and Cochran Junior-Senior High School before joining Titusville Area School District in 2003. She taught business education at THS for three years, was the library media specialist at TMS for nine years, and was assistant principal at Titusville High School from 2015-2018. Mrs. Houck serves on the TIMS Technology Committee for the school district and is a member of NASSP and PAECT. Mrs. Houck holds a B.A. degree in accounting and business administration from Thiel College. She received her teaching certification through Notre Dame College of Ohio and earned a M.Ed. in Library Science from Mansfield University and her K-12 Administrative Certification from Gannon University.



Nancy Wright
Principal, Main Street Elementary

Mrs. Wright taught over twenty years in Alabama and Pennsylvania and has a background in elementary education and special education. She has worked with students with many diverse learning needs from elementary through high school levels. She has three children and in her free time she enjoys attending local sporting events, especially Rocket soccer matches.



Students at the Early Childhood Learning Center



Parent Teacher Conferences

November 8 & 9, 2018

45 Years of Wilderness Quest... and counting!

By Anneliese Ledebur

What happens when you bring 150 sixth graders, 28 high school juniors and seniors, 14 middle school educators, 54 college university volunteers and 2 middle school administrators together for three days in the woods? You get WILDERNESS QUEST!

Sixth grade camp is not a new initiative but one that has been around for four and a half decades. In the fall of 1973, TASD educators Mr. Wells Stockwell, Mr. Bob Morris, Mr. Jerry Knickerbocker and Mr. Dennis Ledebur, set about creating an outdoor education program which focused on providing hunter's safety training. Over the years, these men worked with countless individuals to create a program which has reached over 9000 students. TASD faculty and community members have volunteered thousands of hours instructing and training students about the uniquely beautiful environment of Northwestern Pennsylvania at Wesley Woods in Grand Valley, PA.

This year was no different as the legacy of those educators still thrives 45 years later. This past September, sixth grade students from Titusville Middle School spent three days at Wesley Woods, rotating through outdoor educational learning centers that focus on content areas such as environmental education, swimming/boating safety and hunter's safety training. Camp might not look exactly like it did in 1973 but kids are still learning about our environment and our connection to the land.

As the 50th year of Camp approaches, Miss Anneliese Ledebur, social studies teacher and current Wilderness Quest director, is asking for people to send her stories of their camp memories. The goal is to create a camp memory book of articles and anecdotes about people's experiences. If you are interested, please send your thoughts to aledebur@gorockets.org. And as we plan for the future, we never want to forget the past and thank those who have created the shared experiences that help bind our community together. May Wilderness Quest continue on for a new generation of Titusville students.



Buildings & Grounds Summer 2018

By John Cowan, Director of Buildings & Grounds

Over the summer, the Early Childhood Learning Center's roof was replaced and two new science labs were installed in the high school. All elementary school playgrounds were updated with wood or rubber mulch or pea gravel. Parking lot repairs were completed at the high school and middle school along with filling cracks and line stripping at THS, TMS, Hydetown and Main Street schools. The high school door frames were painted and custom-color painting was done on door frames and walls at Hydetown. Concrete pads were added near ECLC for easier bus access. The boiler was replaced at TMS, along with the 4-inch main entrance water line and valve. The pool has a new chemical controller, drain grates and pipes, and the surface was acid washed and repaired. Each of the custodians and maintenance staff worked proudly and diligently throughout the summer to have all the buildings and grounds ready for the return of staff and students.



ECLC Roof Replacement



Two new science labs at the high school



Pleasantville Playground mulching



Middle School Asphalt



Pool renovations, custom painting, floor and grounds care, LED lighting in the THS Auxiliary gym.



**Titusville Area School District
Honored as the
Partner of the Year by the
Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism**

On September 20, 2018, the District was honored by the Oil Region Alliance as their Partner of the Year, which was recognized by local legislators Scott Hutchinson, R. Lee James and Glenn Thompson. Citations are copied above and in general read:

“It is a pleasure to recognize those entities which through adherence to the highest standards of service, contribute in a meaningful way toward a better and more productive society; and

Since 2012, students from T ASD have portrayed characters and prepared and served food for public teas served at the historic Tarbell House, which is owned and operated by the Oil Region Alliance as part of its preservation and educational programs within the Oil Region National Heritage Area. Titusville students and instructors are also encouraged to attend conferences and programs offered by the organization. In 2018, the school district gifted the William Scheide House to the Titusville Historical Society which transferred ownership to the Oil Region Alliance to rehabilitate and use the building as the Scheide Cultural Resource Center.

The school district has developed a strong reputation for the highest quality of service, throughout its history. By steady adherence to the principles of fairness reliability and integrity it has become a leader in the community and a model that is worthy of emulation”.



Superintendent
Karen Jez
*photo by the
Titusville
Chamber of
Commerce*