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Allegheny Valley School District

eNEWS



Allegheny Valley Prepares To Go Back To School

The Allegheny Valley School District enthusiastically looks forward to the 2019-2020 school year. The theme of *#DynamoProud* highlights the District's pride in its students, staff, alumni, and community. This year, emphasis will be placed on acknowledging and celebrating accomplishments, achievements, and honors that help build a better Allegheny Valley School District.

The upcoming school year brings new programs and ideas to the District. With the completion of the Acmetonia Elementary construction project, all students

Springdale Jr-Sr High School cheerleaders perform at the 2019 Fan Fest held on Sunday, August 18.

Kindergarten – grade 6 will begin school in the same building. Students will be able to take full advantage of the facilities throughout the structure. Acme will also begin a Pre-Kindergarten program. This program expands the District’s commitment to education and will build a solid foundation for young students. Two half-day sessions are planned with approximately 20 students in each class.

Curriculum will focus on early learning, promoting positive approaches to learning, while working collaboratively with families. It is built to provide a quality course for young students.

In addition, Acmetonia Elementary will continue its emphasis on STEAM learning. The encore class for students will be held as an engineering-based class that includes applications of science, technology, and mathematics. Through student application of critical thinking, communication skills, collaboration, and creativity, the lessons allow students to articulate a complex idea, apply systems and models from one application to another, understand how to deconstruct and construct things of significance, and internalize a skill to the point of transparency. STEAM learning will also be emphasized at Springdale Jr-Sr High School in the Innovation Lab.

A new emotional support program will begin in both schools, helping students in need of social, emotional, or behavioral supports, as well as assisting the staff and administration with the needs of the students. The District will also add a Social Worker to its staff. This individual will work with all students and staff to better support student and family needs.

The District will maintain its concentration on technology by expanding its one-to-one program with the addition of Chromebooks in grade 3-9. Grades 10-12 will continue utilizing iPads for this program. Over time, the District will transition to Chromebooks to better match the needs of students and how they are using the devices in their classes. Students look forward to continuing programs that include robotics, coding, art, and advanced technology.

Allegheny Valley will continue to use the SeeSaw program, Schoology, and Blackboard Connect during the 2019-2020 year. The District will also modify its web site and make additions to its social media presence. Information will be placed on the site (www.avsdweb.org) as soon as it becomes available.

Allegheny Valley provides details on goals, initiatives, and additional programs on its web site. Please see www.avsdweb.org for information on the District as it begins a new school year.



Welcome Back

The members of the Allegheny Valley School District are excited to begin a new school year. The pages of this newsletter contain important information for the start of school. Students in grades 1-12 will begin school on Monday, August 26. Kindergarten students and their parents are encouraged to come to Acmetonia Elementary between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 26 for the Kindergarten Kick-Off. The event will allow students to tour classrooms, see their teachers, and review classroom procedures and routines. Kindergarten begins on Tuesday, August 27. For additional information on Kindergarten activities, please call the Acmetonia Primary School at 724-274-6500.

Please keep in mind the following information:

Important Information

Activity Calendars

Each year, the Allegheny Valley School District publishes an Activities Calendar, which is sent home with students and available in all District offices. After publication, updates for additional activities will be added to the District’s web site and can be printed directly from the calendar area.

Gold Cards

Senior residents are reminded that passes to enter District events are available. Residents can register for a Gold Card at Springdale Jr-Sr High School’s main office. Seniors will need to complete an application and present proof of age, 62 or older, to receive their card. The cards do not have to be renewed.

Use of Student Photos or Interviews

Individual and/or group photographs, interviews, and/or videos of Allegheny Valley students may be taken for use by the District in publications, on its web site, or in local newspapers. Allegheny Valley provides opportunities for positive media publicity; a staff member is always present at these times. If a parent/guardian would prefer that his/her child not be photographed/interviewed for publicity purposes, he/she should send written notification to: Allegheny Valley School District, Public Relations Department, 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024.

- Classroom, scheduling, and bus information has been mailed to students. Parents and students are welcome to check the information with their individual buildings.
- Parents and students should note changes to the bus schedule. Some bus stops have been moved and pickup times changed. Please check the schedules carefully to find the correct bus and time for your child's stop according to his/her building. If necessary, further changes to routes may be made after the start of the school year. However, the District does not anticipate any additional changes at this time.
- Parents are reminded that students must ride the bus **THEY ARE ASSIGNED**. Students cannot change buses on a day-to-day basis and will not be permitted to ride home with friends. Administrators would appreciate **NO** parent requests of this nature. This policy is in place for the safety of the students.
- Parents who pick up their children at the bus stops are reminded to park at least ten feet from street corners. While waiting for buses, individuals are asked to respect the property of the homeowners around bus stops.

Please note that changing traffic patterns throughout the communities may vary bus times. The District asks that parents be patient with these time changes and understand that the District has no control over the time fluctuations.



2019-2020 Bus Schedules...

2019-2020 Bus schedules were provided to families prior to the start of school. Routes will not be posted on the web site. Please note that **TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE** and students should arrive at their bus stop at least ten minutes before the time listed. Times are subject to change over the course of the school year; parents should remain flexible for these situations. Questions should be sent to Mr. Gregory Heavner at 724-274-6500.



From the Food Services Department...

Information about the Food Services Department, along with breakfast and lunch menus are listed on the District's web site. Click here for [additional information](#) and [back-to-school menus](#).



Public Notices...

Each year, the District publishes important information for parents. These notices are intended to provide valuable information for parents and members of the community. [Click here for Allegheny Valley School District's Public Notices](#).



2019-2020 Alumni Hall of Fame...

Information and the nomination form for the Allegheny Valley School District's Alumni Hall of Fame is attached. Please consider taking time to nominate a deserving alumnus. Click here for [additional information](#).

FERPA Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that the Allegheny Valley School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- The annual yearbook & graduation programs
- Honor roll or other recognition lists
- A playbill, showing the student's role in a drama production
- Sports activity sheets, such as football, showing weight & height of team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outsider organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories -names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Allegheny Valley to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice. The Allegheny Valley School District has designated the following information as directory information:

A Student's:

- Name
- Address
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Degrees, honors, & awards receive
- The most recent agency or institution attended
- Photograph
- Telephone listing
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities & sports
- Weight & height of members of athletic teams

eNEWS is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. Questions or comments should be sent to jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us. The Allegheny Valley School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Employees and others involved with the District who have a complaint of discrimination or harassment or require information about accommodations for disabled individuals, should contact the superintendent of schools by calling 724-274-5300 or writing and mailing a letter addressed to 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024