



State High commencement was held at Memorial Field June 3, 2022.



To Prepare Students for Lifelong Success
Through Excellence in Education

The Year in Review



Annual Report

2021-2022

Our District

Situated in the heart of Pennsylvania, the State College Area School District serves a diverse community that combines a growing college town with suburban neighborhoods and working farms in the countryside. As the area’s fourth largest employer, SCASD draws its students from a 150-square mile attendance area encompassing the Borough of State College and five surrounding townships.

Across eight elementary schools, two middle schools, a high school and the alternative Delta Program for middle and high school levels, our district annually serves an enrollment of about 6,800. Each year, our faculty and staff dedicate themselves to providing the best possible academic experiences for students — from an innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program for grades K-5 to the middle school introductory foreign language classes to the diverse array of high school courses that include AP, Advanced, International Baccalaureate and Career and Technical Center opportunities. Our art, library and music departments districtwide excel in their fields; in fact, over the past decade the district has perennially received the Best Communities for Music Education Award. At the high school alone, students can choose from 76 clubs and activities, including 22 music ensembles and 30 athletic teams.

Within this dynamic environment, our teachers and students shine. SCASD routinely garners awards for teaching, and district schools annually are highly ranked in state and national lists for instruction and learning opportunities. Four State High students in the past decade have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars, a rare honor, and each class typically includes National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Additionally, we take pride in our special education services, K-12 counseling department, intervention and learning enrichment programs, and individualized education plans to accommodate all student needs. Our district is fully committed to promoting responsive instruction and equity, inclusion and restorative practices so that all students, faculty and staff feel welcome and supported. In everything we do, we strive to meet the objectives spelled out by our Four Pillars and fulfill our core mission: To prepare students for lifelong success through excellence in education.



The PALs program connects elementary students with Mount Nittay Middle School mentors to foster social and friendship skills.

Demographics

American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.2%
Asian	8.6%
Black	2.7%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Hispanic	4.2%
White	77.2%
2 or More Races	6.9%

Four Pillars

The district’s instructional focus, or road map, is based on four pillars, its prime objectives:

- » Data-informed, culturally-responsive teaching and learning
- » Collaborative community built on trust
- » Inclusive and supportive communities
- » High-performing organization

Year in Review

The 2021-2022 year began with district elementary instructional support teacher Susan Lunsford becoming Easterly Parkway Elementary’s principal; Alix Croswell, a district elementary teacher fluent in Spanish, being appointed the district’s first K-12 family liaison/bilingual educator; and an equity liason being added at the high school. Corl Street Elementary entered the year with a new abstract playground blacktop mural created by local artist Ann Tarantino.

The year also started with the SCASD Board of Directors approving two new policies (100.2 and 251) that call for ensuring the safety, comfort, and healthy development of gender expansive and transgender students.

In the fall, the district hired an energy services consultant to assist the local Solar Power Purchase Agreement Working Group cooperative, to which SCASD belongs, with evaluating the purchase of electricity from alternative sources. SPPA members shared the cost. During the same time, the district Family Intervention Team opened a district food pantry in partnership with the State College Food Bank.

Over the winter, State High students in the Career and Technical Center’s military sciences class debuted their Military Wall of Honor in the high school to recognize alumni service members and veterans.

In February, the district hired a consultant to begin an enrollment study, along with an attendance boundary and facility analysis, to address capacity issues at Mount Nittany Elementary and potentially elsewhere.

The district library department’s spring #SCASDReads second campaign centered on the theme of “You Matter” and a similarly-titled book that celebrates seeing the world from different perspectives.



As part of the campaign, students and staff wrote and displayed appreciative messages for peers.

March brought State High voluntarily partnering with the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service’s Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together (School-SPIRIT) program to hold a day-long workshop. Volunteer facilitators joined 46 students for small-group discussions about positive and challenging aspects of State High’s school climate and administration. Twelve students were elected to form a SPIRIT Council responsible for working with school administrators and the student body on improving school climate.

Ferguson Township Elementary in April held an all-school outdoors Earth Day celebration featuring a nature-inspired yoga program for students. Organized and led by teacher D’Anne Saylor, the event was inspired by the school’s focus on mindfulness as a mental health boost.

April also saw State High’s inaugural Lift Every Voice: A Cultural Celebration variety show (pictured) featuring student

performances for their peers. The district Office of Equity, Inclusion and Belonging worked with students, including peer advocates, to organize the show.

In May, Paul Brigman, a State High school counselor and middle school dean of students, became Spring Creek Elementary’s principal.

Quick Facts

- » 1,908 Individuals employed
- » 6,808 Students
- » 596 Students in Class of 2022
- » 4th Largest county employer
- » Average elementary class size: 20
- » Average grades 6-8 class size: 23
- » Average years teaching: 15
- » National Merit finalists: 19
- » 14th best district in Pennsylvania out of 495: Niche.com
- » \$178 million in total expenses
- » 96.8% 5-year cohort graduation rate
- » 669 Professional employees (teachers, nurses, counselors, physcholgists)
- » 17 Professional employees with PhDs

Growing all Learners K-8

Classroom community is important to our elementary and middle school programs. Teachers work hard to sustain the positive communities they build with their students throughout the year.

We know that social and emotional learning is key to supporting academic learning, which is why we prioritize promoting positive learning environments. We teach how to get along, share, deal with conflict, follow rules and be good citizens. All of our teachers and staff have been trained in the Restorative Practices approach to build relationships and social connections within the district.

At the elementary level, we practice differentiated instruction to meet individual student needs, as well as to create more effective learning environments. Students receive language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and STEM instruction. Language arts focuses on reading and writing, while mathematics uses structured investigation, exploration, games, and independent practice experiences to master concepts. Adhering to Next Generation Science Standards, the science curriculum develops in-depth understanding through collaboration, inquiry and problem-solving.

Middle level students start learning French, Spanish or German while

Measuring Success

SCASD’s commitment to all students is reflected in our district-wide Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment results. In addition, the district uses several other assessments to evaluate students performance in order to continually adapt instruction.

In 2021-2022, each of our quartiles of elementary and middle school



Students in Emily Reed’s fourth grade classroom at Gray’s Woods Elementary School design and build roller coasters as part of a potential energy science lesson.

taking English, mathematics, science, social studies, art and general music courses. Social studies provides civics and economics instruction. Academic Literacy courses help students build critical thinking skills to analyze texts and develop reading and metacognitive conversations through inquiry-based learning.

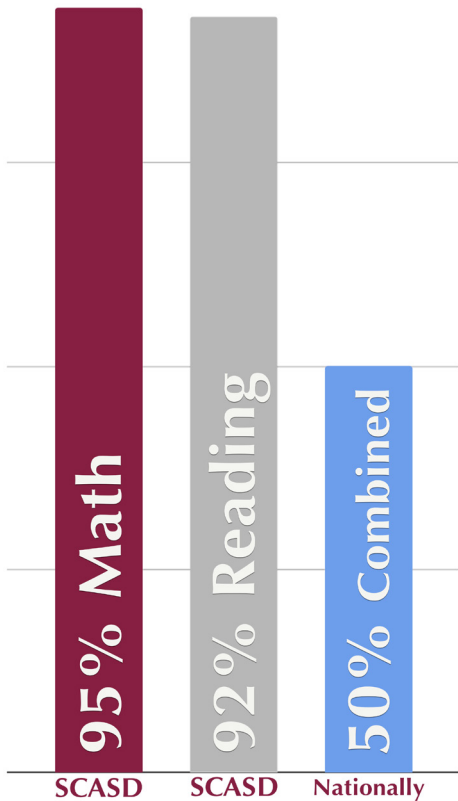
With an eye to 2022-2023, work began on aligning the sixth-grade daily schedule with those for seventh and eighth grades to make providing support and enrichment easier.

students demonstrated an average of a year or more worth of growth in math and reading.

Right: Overall, students in grades 2-8 performed at the 95th percentile nationally for math and at the 92st percentile for reading, compared to the national average of the 50 percentile for both.

District Learners

Special Education: 11.9%
Gifted: 3.7%
English Language Learners: 2.8%



Secondary Students 9-12

State College Area High School provides challenging academic courses, comprehensive vocational/technical programs, and diverse extracurricular activities. Niche.com ranks it 17th out of 677 high schools in the state. SAT scores annually surpass state and national averages, and athletic teams, music ensembles and clubs consistently garner honors. In 2022, students Angela Abraham and Lorenzo Frepoli notched rare perfect AP exam scores in computer sciences principles and drawing, respectively. The 2022 graduating class of 596 had 237 Faculty Scholars (GPA of 4.00 or 3.75 unweighted).

During 2021-2022, nearly 65 percent of students took rigorous courses, compared to the statewide average of 56 percent. Learning also occurred outside classrooms. Dozens of students received off-campus enrichment opportunities beyond the scope of the traditional curriculum, including Learning Enrichment, Advanced Option, independent study, research, lab experiences, Penn State courses, mentorships and internships.

State High consistently places graduates in the nation’s top universities and colleges. From the Class of 2022, 245 were accepted at Penn State.

SAT Scores	Reading and Writing	Math
State High	601	601
State Average	551	540
National Average	529	521



State High had 19 National Merit Scholarship finalists.

596 Graduates
» 75% Attended college



Valedictorian: Daniel Xu
Salutatorian: Jadelyn Ding

State High

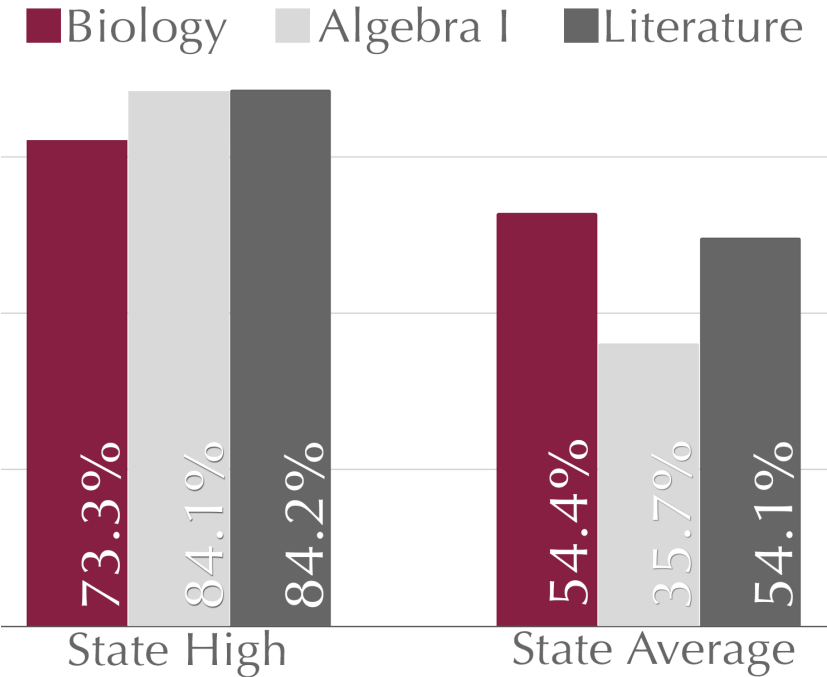
» 2,383 Total students 9-12
» 96.8% 5-year cohort graduation rate
» 76 Activities and clubs
» 22 Bands, orchestras, choirs, string ensembles and rock ensembles
» 30 Athletic teams
» 89 Advanced Placement and advanced courses
» 16 International Baccalaureate World Campus courses
» 14 Career and Technical Center programs

Advanced Placement

1,030 AP tests were taken with a maximum score of 5
• 85% Scored a 3 or higher
• 199 AP Scholars with an average score of 4.00

The Keystone Exams

State High students annually outperform the state average on the Keystone Exams. The chart below shows a comparison of State High students vs. the PA state average for Keystone test scores in 2021-2022.



Finance

Historically, SCASD schools have benefited from strong community support for public education and consistent revenue streams from a stable economy centered around Penn State. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the district did not increase the real estate tax rate* for the second year in a row due to the economic impact of COVID-19 on the local community.

The district ended the 2021-2022 fiscal year with greater ending fund balance than expected compared to the original budget. Revenue was higher than budgeted by \$8.4 million. Factors contributing to increased local revenue included real estate tax of \$2.6 million from higher assessed value growth, lower appeal settlements and a higher-than-expected collection rate; earned income tax of \$1.9 million and realty transfer of \$700,000 resulting from higher collections; and interim real estate tax of \$1 million from high collections from parcels added to the tax roll. Factors contributing to state revenue results were an increased basic education subsidy of \$600,000 awarded in the state budget after the district budget was approved, and bond reimbursements of \$2.7 million consisting of retroactive reimbursements for the high school and elementary projects.

Revenue Sources

Local: \$138,578,920: 78%

State: \$34,456,309: 19%

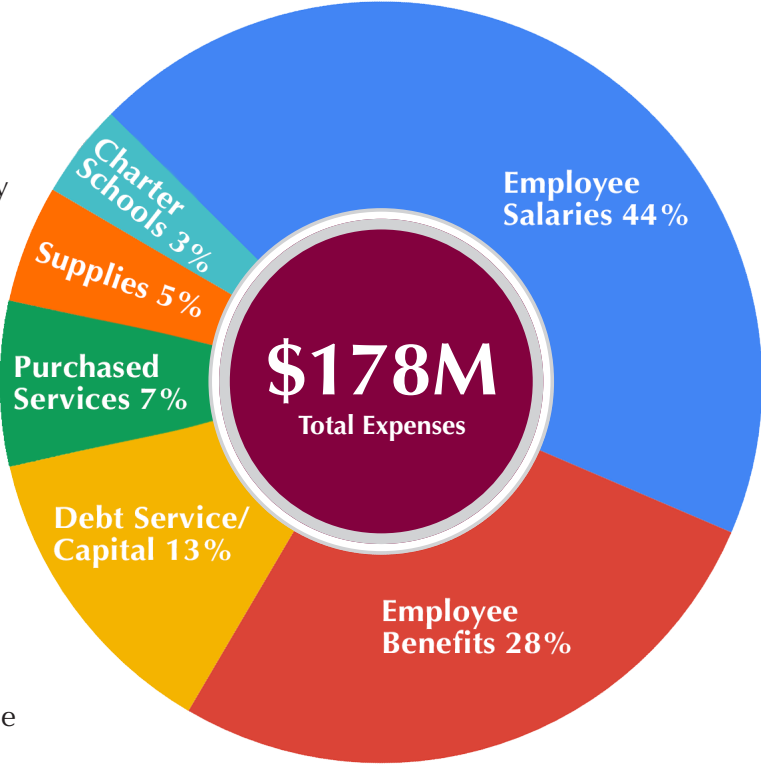
Federal: \$4,631,765: 3%

Expenses were \$4.2 million lower than the original budget. The largest portion of this came from our health insurance, in the first year of the self-insured program, being lower by \$2.9 million than budgeted based upon fully insured quotes; thus, the contingency of \$900,000 was not required to fund unexpected expenses. The majority of these items which generated additional fund balance are unusual situations and do not have a recurring impact on the budget.

Expenses in 2021-2022 were \$14.7 million greater than 2020-2021. This increase was primarily related to increases in the transfers to capital projects and Capital Reserve funds by approximately \$915,000 and \$6,960,000, respectively. These transfers were eliminated in the last two fiscal years to offset revenue reductions. Other significant increases included personnel-related costs of approximately \$5,560,000. The transfer to the debt service fund increased by approximately \$331,000 due to savings in the prior year related to the bond refinancing. Other increases came from contracted bus carriers, tuition expenses and purchased property services needed for building maintenance.

91%

of the budget is used directly to support student learning.



In its seventh year, the district's Supplemental Property Tax Rebate Program issued 222 rebates totaling \$73,608. Additionally, each approved district homestead and farmstead received approximately \$109 in property tax relief.

The district's Pennsylvania State Employees Retirement System payments continued to rise because of increases in salaries and the state-mandated contribution rate. Debt service included payments on the \$85 million high school referendum borrowing and additional financing for the remainder of the high school project, Memorial Field renovation and three elementary school projects with new playgrounds. The district continued setting aside resources for funding these expenditures as part of a long-term capital plan.

Charter School Expenses

The district's payment of \$5.8 million to charter schools for 351 students represented 3 percent of the budget. The amount was based on a state formula calculated using the district's actual per capita costs. While the district funds charters as required, it maintains no financial, academic or operational supervision, nor evaluative authority over them.



Payments to charter schools rose from \$3.9 million in 2012 to \$5.8 million in 2022, while enrollment over that span went from 345 to 351.

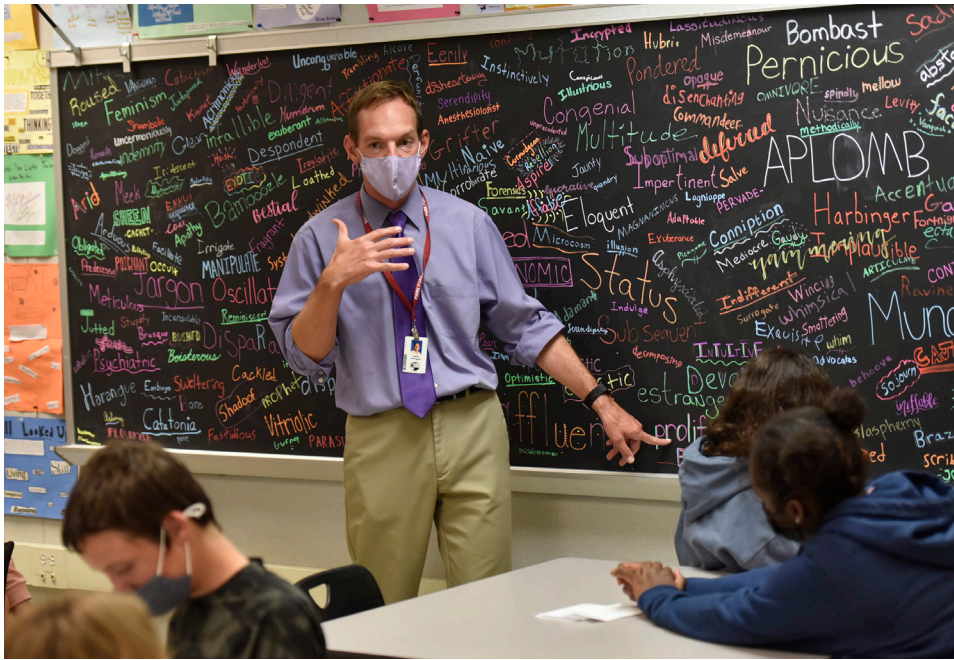
COVID-19

As the second full school year with COVID-19 protocols began, the district followed a layered prevention plan to provide multiple safety measures as well as the flexibility to respond to changing conditions. Initially, the plan called for mandatory masking and three to six feet of physical distance indoors when the community was in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's substantial or high transmission levels; no such requirements applied outdoors. The district offered a K-12 Virtual Academy remote learning option but discontinued the previous year's hybrid learning.

In early September, the state Department of Health issued a mandatory mask order for schools. On Nov. 10, the order was overturned, reverting decisions to school districts, but the ruling triggered an appeal and a stay. Later in the month, a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling continued the order until the mandate was lifted in January of 2022. The district made masking optional in March when

Strategic Planning

In the spring of 2022, the district began the process of updating its strategic plan with revisions to place equity and inclusion at the core of instructional and support practices. The update also met the Pennsylvania Department of Education's comprehensive



Park Forest Middle School Academic Literacy Teacher Andy Cunningham works with students in his academic literacy 8 class. Throughout the year, students add words to their word collection books and at the end of the year they choose their favorite word to write on the chalk board in the room.

the community dropped to the CDC's low level. Physical distancing indoors was relaxed soon after.

Throughout the year, the district communicated regularly about case numbers, student and staff vaccination rates, contact tracing, and any mitigation or protocol

planning requirements.

Facilitated by Mutiu Fagbayi of Performance Fact, Inc., a steering committee of stakeholders consisting of district Board of Directors members, administrators, teachers, staff personnel,

changes. It also provided KN-95 masks to students and staff who requested them and collaborated with Centre Volunteers in Medicine to organize vaccination clinics. Approximately 76 percent of employees, including nearly 90 percent of faculty, completed their vaccination forms.

students, parents and community representatives met for two days in May. Their recommendations, including a "Vision of a SCASD Graduate," set the stage for the plan's expected completion and public review later in the summer.

*Centre County School Tax Comparison

District	Mills	Median Assessed Value	Real Estate Tax	Earned Income Tax*	Total Tax
SCASD	46.0875	\$73,118	\$3,370	\$617	\$3,987
Bellefonte	50.4518	\$47,205	\$2,382	\$682	\$3,064
Bald Eagle	59.9800	\$35,193	\$2,111	\$1,332	\$3,443
Penns Valley	48.0995	\$45,010	\$2,165	\$845	\$3,010

*EIT Based on Centre County median income of \$64,995

Awards & Recognitions



The State College Area High School Boy's Golf Team won the PIAA State Championship in October 2021.

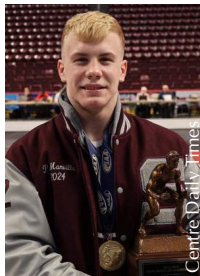
Athletics

The State High girls 4X800 relay team of Grace Morningstar, Chloe Poindexter, Natalie Koncoski and Marlee Kwasnica won indoor and outdoor state gold medals. State High's Shannon Mullin won the outdoor state triple jump title.



The State High boys' indoor and outdoor track and field teams each won 4X800 relay state championships. On the indoor team were Matt Staniar, Trent Dinant, Tony Tzolov and Sean Adams. The outdoor team consisted of Adams, Staniar, Nick Sloff and Dinant.

Pierson Manville won a state wrestling title in the 138-pound weight class, the first State High wrestling champion in 19 years.



Jade Castro won a silver medal in the 100 Backstroke at the 2022 PIAA swimming championships.

Music

For the 18th time, the district received a Best Communities for Music Education in America designation from the National Association of Music Merchants.



The State High Master Singers earned a superior rating, first place and overall best-choir award at an adjudication festival in Hershey. The Master Singers also were one of three high school choirs chosen to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association state conference.



The Mount Nittany Middle School Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band both won Overall Grand Champion awards at the Music in the Parks competition. Jazz saxophonist Timothy Tan won the Individual Outstanding Soloist Award.



Arts

State High student Waverly Huang, right, won three Gold Keys, two Silver Keys and three honorable mentions for her digital painting and poetry in the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

State High Thespians Spencer Hardyk, Avery Jones and Luca Snyder won the Best Ensemble award at the 2022 Isaac Awards for their performance in *Seussical*.



Faculty & Staff

Park Forest Elementary second grade teacher Caitlyn Ollendyke was named a *State College Magazine* Teacher of the Year.



Cathi Fuhrman, a State High librarian, was elected to the American Association of School Librarians Board of Directors as a director-at-large.

Mount Nittany Middle School math teacher and Mathcounts coach Rebekah Sjoberg coached the Pennsylvania team at the national Mathcounts competition.



Mount Nittany Middle School student Aaron Le repeated as the Mathcounts competition state champion. Teammates Kevin Liu, Will Liu and Aidan Le placed second, third and fourth, respectively, marking the first time district students comprised the entire state team.



State High Technology Student Association chapter members Rik Bhattacharya, Noah Hanford, Mary Lambert, Daniel Liu, Isabelle McSweeney, Miriam Ruback, Daniel Salvia, Luc Schrauf, Ryan Wales and Margo Wyckoff won, individually or in teams, state championships in six categories.



Second places at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Ga., went to State High's Sam Ikenberry and Grace Shang in financial services team decision making and Abigail Sparrow and Avi Mazer in entrepreneurship team decision making.



State High student Claire Chi was named the Pennsylvania State Board of Education junior representative as a non-voting member helping address education issues.



Park Forest Middle School Technology Student Association chapter members Luke Bradbury, Natalie Branstetter, Yuer Gao, Benny Gulis, Ian Lei, Leon Ling, Anthony Olsson, Theo Oppermann, Leo Wang and Melinda Wu won, individually or in teams, state championships. Branstetter; Wu and Gao; and Ling, Lei and Wang won three national championships.

State High student Kylie Ehrensberger won the gold medal at the SkillsUSA State Conference 2022 for Early Childhood Education.



State High students Sam Ikenberry and Grace Shang took first in business management at the Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.

State High student Josh Fragin won the state Dream Learn Sales Pitch entrepreneurship competition.

The State High Future Health Professionals chapter won four gold medals at the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) state conference.

Directory

www.scasd.org

Elementary Schools (K-5)

Corl Street Elementary

235 Corl Street
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Kelly Mark, principal
814-231-1185
Enrollment: 246

Easterly Parkway Elementary

234 Easterly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Susan Lunsford, principal
814-231-1170
Enrollment: 319

Ferguson Township Elementary

215 West Pine Grove Road
Pine Grove Mills, PA, 16868
Shelly Buckholtz, principal
814-231-4119
Enrollment: 299

Gray's Woods Elementary

160 Brackenbourne Drive
Port Matilda, PA, 16870
Dr. Kristen Dewitt, principal
814-235-6100
Enrollment: 387

Mount Nittany Elementary

700 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA, 16801
Mark Feldman, principal
814-272-5970
Enrollment: 422

Park Forest Elementary

2181 School Drive
State College, PA, 16803
Dr. Jessica Quinter, principal
814-231-5010
Enrollment: 431

Radio Park Elementary

800 West Cherry Lane
State College, PA, 16803
Alex Raup, principal
814-231-4115
Enrollment: 382

Spring Creek Elementary

217 Scholl Street
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Todd Dishong, principal
814-231-5026
Enrollment: 360

Middle Schools (6-8)

Mount Nittany Middle School

656 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA, 16801
Brian Ishler, principal
814-272-4050
Enrollment: 660

Park Forest Middle School

2180 School Drive
State College, PA, 16803
Dr. Karen Wiser, principal
814-237-5301
Enrollment: 735

State College Area High School

650 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Laura Tobias, principal
814-231-1111
Enrollment: 2,228

Programs

Delta Middle Level (6-8)

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1000
Enrollment: 120

Delta High School Level (9-12)

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1000
Enrollment: 155

Virtual Academy

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Kelly Mark, K-5 director
Dr. Jon Downs, 6-12 director
814-231-1011 x2894
Enrollment: 97 (K-5) and 116 (6-12)



596 students graduated at Memorial Field for the second year in a row.

Board of Directors

Dr. Dan Duffy

Dr. Carline Crevecoeur

Jackie Huff

Laurel Zydney

Amber Concepcion, President

Dr. Amy Bader, Vice President

Dr. Deborah Anderson

Dr. Peter Buck

Gretchen Brandt

Pictured left to right



On Dec. 6, 2021, the Board of Directors held a reorganization meeting where newly elected members Dr. Carline Crevecoeur, Jackie Huff, Dr. Deborah Anderson and Dr. Peter Buck replaced Lori Bedell, Scott Fozard, David Hutchinson, and Jim Leous.

Email: all-board@scasd.org

Administration

Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell*

Superintendent of Schools

Danielle Yoder

Acting Assistant Superintendent
of Elementary Education

Curtis Johnson

Assistant Superintendent of
Secondary Education

Linda Pierce

Director of Human Resources

Randy Brown

Finance and Operations
Officer/Open Records Officer



* After accepting the position of superintendent for Downingtown Area SD, Dr. O'Donnell resigned in June of 2022 and Curtis Johnson (pictured above) was promoted to interim superintendent.

Directors

Deirdre Bauer, Director of Curriculum K-5

Dr. Seria Chatters, Director of Equity and Inclusivity

Mike Fisher, Director of Physical Plant

Justin Hetrick, Director of Technology

Jonathan Klingeman, Director of Federal Programs
and Gifted Services

Jeanne Knouse, Director of Student Services

Christine Merritt, Director of Curriculum 6-12

Dr. Ben Mordan, Director of the CTC

Heather Pringle, Director of Special Education

Chris Rosenblum, Director of Communications

Megan Schaper, Director of Food Services

Van Swauger, Director of Transportation

Chris Weakland, Director of Athletics

Registration

The district's registration office is open year-round to accept new students. Each spring, we host registration events for the next school year, including for kindergarten. For the latest information please call our office at 814-231-1017 or visit our registration website. We look forward to welcoming your child.

www.scasd.org/Registration



The annual report is produced by Chris Rosenblum and Nabil Mark in the Communications Department.





Parents and guardians forming the fifth-grade tunnel for students is a tradition at Radio Park Elementary School on the last day of school.



2021-2022 Annual Report

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State College, PA, 16801
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