

Southern Way

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 2020 EDITION

Welcome Back, Warriors!

Dr. Sandra Lemmon

Welcome back, Southern Family! I hope you had a great summer and that you were able to make some lasting memories. We are very excited to be back in school - whether in-person or virtually. We will make this school year the best yet.

This summer our time in the District was focused on preparing for reopening with a hybrid schedule and overcoming all of the challenges that came along with the new normal. Our incredible staff went above and beyond to ensure that our schools were ready to provide safe, caring learning environments for every student. In these difficult times, we continue to provide an equitable, supportive, and welcoming environment for all students and adults. Our commitment, as always, is to ensure that every student is career, college, and life-ready.

I look forward to working together with each of you to educate our Warriors and have another outstanding year. We will make a difference in the lives of our students and our entire Warrior Nation. Welcome back... We are Warrior Proud!



SYCSD Seeks Parents/Community Members for Wellness Committee

The Southern York County School District has several parent/community member openings for its Wellness Committee.

Chief Financial and Operations Officer, Susan Green, oversees the committee, which is comprised of parents, community members, district staff members, food service staff members, and student representatives. The Wellness Committee serves as an advisory committee regarding school health issues. The committee meets three times a year.

Any parent or community member interested in applying for this committee should send a letter of interest to:

Susan Green, CFOO
susan.green@sycsd.org

Upon receipt of the letters of interest, members selected to participate on the committee will be notified by Mrs. Green.

The meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

October 7, 2020
December 9, 2020
March 10, 2021



SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPORTANT DATES:

<p>Sept. 17.....Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting 6:15 PM</p> <p>Sept. 17.....School Board Meeting 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sept. 23....Early Dismissal/Teacher In-Service Secondary 11:44 AM, Elementary 12:30 PM</p> <p>Oct. 12.....Schools Closed - Teacher In-Service</p> <p>Oct. 21....Early Dismissal/Teacher In-Service Secondary 11:44 AM, Elementary 12:30 PM</p> <p>Oct. 22.....Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Oct. 22.....School Board Meeting 7:00 PM</p> <p>Oct. 23.....First Marking Period Ends</p> <p>Oct. 30.....Report Cards Available</p> <p>Nov. 18.....Finance & Budget Committee Meeting 6:30 PM</p> <p>Nov. 19.....School Board Meeting 7:00 PM</p> <p>Nov. 23-24.....Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For a full calendar of dates, please visit the District website at www.sycsd.org.</i></p>
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Susquehannock High School Freshman Sews Masks for her Community

Maura Johnson, a freshman at Susquehannock High School, found a special way to give back to her community during the pandemic. Maura gets all of her medication delivered to her home, so she came up with the idea to help keep the delivery personnel safe by making and donating masks to them. She left a note and masks in plastic bags on her front door for all delivery drivers to take as many as they needed. Maura replaced the masks as they were taken so there was always a supply.

Maura also made masks for her neighbors, family, and anyone who needed them. She has donated at least 75 masks. “My grandmother taught me how to sew at age 8 and gave me my first sewing machine when I was 10,” said Maura. “None of this would have been possible if it weren’t for my grandmother, my mom for ironing all the masks, and both of my grandmothers for donating lots of fabric,” she added.

One driver left Maura a note offering to pay her to make masks for their family. Maura made the masks and refused the money. Maura said, “This project impacted me immensely by being able to provide love and support during this worldwide pandemic.”



BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Robert Scheffer	President
James Holley	Vice President
Bruce Bauman	Treasurer
Susan Green	Secretary (Non-Member)
John Dorr, Jr.	Member
Judi Fisher.....	Member
Ronald Groncki	Member
Kelly Jarvis	Member
Deborah Kalina	Member
Danielle Weaver-Watts	Member
Atticus Silbaugh	Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Sandra L. Lemmon.....	Superintendent
Dr. Robert J. Bryson	Asst. Superintendent
Susan Green ...	Chief Financial and 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. At this time, meetings are being held virtually at 7 p.m. and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SYCSDWarriorTV/live>. Meetings are also televised live via Comcast’s Cable TV Channel 99.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

717-235-4811
www.sycsd.org

2020-21 LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices and important information for 2020-21 can be found on the District website at www.sycsd.org. Click on ‘Legal Notices and Important Information’ under the ‘District’ tab.

Updated notices include the following: (a) Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Protected Handicapped Students, and Gifted Students, (b) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), (c) Parents’ Access to Education Records, (d) Parent Right-To-Know, (e) Asbestos Program Notice, (f) Use of Students’ Photos for Publicity, (g) Pest Management Notice, (h) Use of Audio and Video Monitoring Equipment, (i) Public Notice of Special Education Destruction of Records, (j) Procedural Safeguards, (k) Release of Student Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers, (l) Right-to-Know, and (m) Educational Records.

SYCSD Welcomes New and Transferred Staff 2020-21



Bria Adams
SHS Special ED
Paraprofessional



Logan Addison
SHS Learning
Support Teacher



Karen Allen
SES
Paraprofessional



Justin Barrow
SHS Custodian



Gabriella Beck
FES 3rd Grade
Teacher



Mitchell Bentzel
SES Custodian



Richard Brooks
SHS Custodian



Daniel Cook
FES Custodian



Zachary Demian
District
Psychologist



Karen Folfas
ShES
Paraprofessional



Nyawna Foster
ShES 3rd Grade
Teacher



Ashley Garver
SES
Paraprofessional



Jennifer Garvey
SHS Personal
Care Assistant



Abigail Good
SHS Learning
Support Teacher



Delaney Hallinan
ShES Speech/
Language Pathologist



Marie Hart
General Ledger
Bookkeeper



Paula Hawes
FES Administrative
Assistant II



David Hoover
FES Custodian



Julianne Janusz
SES Assistant
Principal



Kirsten Kalista
SMS Emotional
Support Teacher



Kyle Krout
SMS Science
Teacher



Megan Larsen
ShES Learning
Support Teacher



Ryleigh Miller
SHS Learning
Support Teacher



Heath Plumb
SMS Special ED
Paraprofessional



Alyson Poole
ShES Art
Teacher



Oscar Ramirez
SHS Custodian



Megan Ruffini
ShES
Paraprofessional



Rebecca Samson
SES
Paraprofessional



Karyn Thacker
ShES Custodian



Betsy Treadway
Cabinet Secretary



Elizabeth Whitehurst
SMS Learning
Support Teacher



Stephanie Wright
SES Administrative
Assistant II

Public Safety Information: Use of Audio and Video Monitoring Equipment

Protecting the safety of students, staff and others on school buses and school property is a paramount concern to the Southern York County School District. Safeguarding school property and maintaining student discipline are also very important goals.

To help achieve these objectives, the Board authorizes the use of audio and video monitoring equipment in school buses and in “public areas” on school property. The Board is mindful of privacy issues, and laws prohibiting interception of oral communications where the speaker has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Please note there should be no expectation of privacy with respect to actions or oral communications recorded. Images and sounds recorded using the audio and video monitoring equipment may be used as evidence in disciplinary proceedings conducted by the school district. Such information also may be shared with law enforcement officials, if school officials reasonably believe that it constitutes evidence of a crime.

For additional information, please refer to Board Policy 705.1.



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.

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.

Pest Management Notice for 2020-21

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 (Director of Operations) 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.

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 717-235-4811, 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, 717-235-4811, 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, 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. 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 or in Pennsylvania School Code. 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.

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 717-235-4811.

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.

For further information and the most current special education services and program notices, please visit our website at www.sycsd.org, ‘Departments,’ and ‘Special Education.’

