

FOLLOW  
YOUR  
OWN  
COMPASS

NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# Dear North Penn,



## Community Conversations

with the Superintendent

*I spent part of the 2022-2023 school year, my first year as Superintendent, thinking about these two questions...  
“what does NPSD stand for and what do we want to be?”*

For years, NPSD’s tagline was “Dream Big. Achieve Greatness.” and although I believe in this sentiment I wanted to be more specific. In response, during my first year I often used the phrase “elevate and exceed expectations.” But this too seemed somewhat vague and I wanted to be more deliberate in where and how I lead this incredible school district.

After much deliberation and conversations with students, staff and community members, I believe NPSD should be and is focused on four endeavors that lead us to excellence. The Four E’s, as I have been calling them, are: **Ensure Belonging; Elevate Learning; Engage Community; and Exceed Expectations.**

This year’s annual report is organized under the umbrella of the Four E’s. All of our accomplishments, metrics and goals align under one of these categories, yet they are all intertwined in meeting our vision, mission and shared values. From academics and staffing to communications and safety, each piece of NPSD is crucial to our overall success and must be a priority.

I hope you will enjoy reading about last year’s work and all that we have achieved together, all the while our current focus is on the 2023-2024 school year. Not only do we need to remain committed to our comprehensive plan and ongoing goals, but we must also prepare for this community’s future. Decisions we make this year in regards to re-imagining North Penn High School will shape this community for the next 50 years. More information on this project can be found in this publication.

This is an important time for North Penn. I encourage you to remain engaged. I want to thank this community, our staff, families, and students for your great work and continued support. It’s an honor to be part of this exceptional team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd M. Bauer".

**Todd M. Bauer, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent



*Dr. Bauer offers the opportunity to speak one-on-one with families and community members about important issues involving NPSD schools. Community Conversations, a series of informal meetings, gives attendees the chance to talk freely with Dr. Bauer and share their concerns and suggestions for the North Penn School District. Visit [www.npenn.org/communityconversations](http://www.npenn.org/communityconversations) to view upcoming dates and RSVP to meet with Dr. Bauer.*

# Shared Values

*Visionary Leadership  
High Expectations for Learning  
People-Centered Community  
Continuous Improvement  
Partnerships and Teamwork  
Strength in Diversity*



# Mission

*The North Penn School District is an effective, innovative, student-centered community of teaching and learning where every student is empowered to:*

- *Become an independent, adaptable, life-long learner who uses knowledge to create new understandings;*
- *Exhibit creative, collaborative, and critical thinking;*
- *Achieve at one's highest potential;*
- *Live as a positive, responsible, and contributing citizen of the global society; and*
- *Develop a respect for diversity and appreciation of human differences.*

# Vision

*The North Penn School District seeks to develop students who embody its universal values of achievement, kindness, collaboration, respect, responsibility, resilience, and integrity. Through an education that develops students both academically and emotionally, equitable opportunities, and a respect for human differences, members of the North Penn community will contribute to their local and global communities.*





# A LETTER *from the NPSD Board of School Directors*



## **NPSD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

Photo: Top (L-R): Timothy MacBain, Wanda Lewis-Campbell, Ed.D., Jonathan M. Kassa, Al Roesch, Cathy Wesley

Bottom (L-R): Juliane Ramić, Tina Stoll, Christian D. Fusco, Elisha K. Gee, Ed.D.

## **DEAR NORTH PENN COMMUNITY,**

As we begin a new academic year, it is important that we reflect on all that was achieved in the 2022-2023 school year because of the dedication and hard work of both students and staff. I wanted to highlight some of the outstanding accomplishments and positive developments that took place:

**Academic Excellence:** Our students continued to excel in their studies, consistently achieving high academic standards. Their commitment to learning and the support of our dedicated educators have resulted in improved academic achievement.

**Extracurricular Success:** Our extracurricular activities thrived last year, from Girls Softball winning the state championship to our clubs and organizations making a positive impact on the school community and beyond. These activities have not only enriched our students' lives but have also fostered teamwork, leadership, and personal growth.

**Community Engagement:** NPSD's involvement with the local community has been outstanding. Both students and staff actively participated in community service projects, helping to make a positive difference in the lives of others. This sense of social responsibility is a testament to the values we instill in NPSD.

**Innovative Programs:** We have successfully introduced innovative programs that have enhanced the educational experience for our students. From using augmented reality technology to explore careers to updating the NPHS Planetarium, we continue to adapt and evolve to meet the changing needs of our students.

**Safety and Well-Being:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff has always been a top priority, and this year was no exception as we improved security software and training, coordinated a mental health expo and opened a staff healthcare center.

**Staff Recruitment and Retention:** As the country faced a teacher shortage, NPSD worked hard to attract and retain a talented staff, including hiring very sought-after positions such as an American Sign Language instructor. We also emphasized the importance of work/life balance with an effort to create a culture and environment where people want to work.

As we look forward to the upcoming academic year, I am filled with optimism and excitement about the conversations surrounding the renovations to North Penn High School. Each and every school board member serving this community is dedicated to providing the best education possible for our students, and to do so, significant improvements to North Penn High School must be made.

There are two options before this community. The decision you make will impact our future for generations to come and it is important we have an informed public. I encourage you to take advantage of the tours available

and the information provided on our website to understand the issues at hand. And please come out in January to vote on this very important topic.

In fact, it is important to vote in every election in front of this community. Voting is a fundamental right and civic duty that empowers individuals to shape their government and society, hold leaders accountable, and influence the direction of their nation. It is a cornerstone of democracy and plays a vital role in ensuring that governments serve the best interests of the people.

I am confident that with the dedication and teamwork of our school community, the North Penn School District will achieve even greater heights in the current school year. Thank you for your support in doing so.

Sincerely,

**Tina Stoll**  
*President, Board of School Directors*

## **RISE ACT**

The North Penn School District (NPSD) Board of School Directors signed a resolution in support of the RISE Act in March 2023. The Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act would be an amendment to the Higher Education Act (HEA) and help to ease the transition from high school to college for students with disabilities. Currently, students with disabilities need to provide their own documentation as proof of disability when entering an institute of higher education. Under the RISE Act, students would be able to continue using their documentation provided by their local school district.

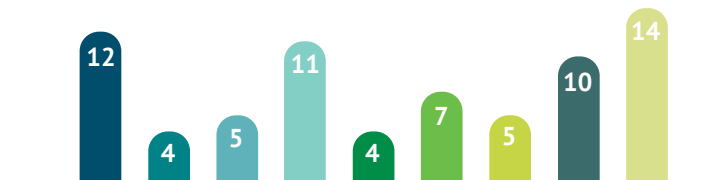


*The North Penn School District Educational Foundation raises essential funds through fundraisers and donations to support the premier education already provided by the NPSD.*

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Foundation is a collaborative effort among individuals committed to providing financial support for NPSD schools. The Foundation and NPSD are separate entities but work as partners in support of the children being educated in the district's 18 schools through classroom grants applied for by teachers and staff. The Foundation's desire to ignite student success for cutting-edge, creative innovation is made possible by donors who provide the funds supporting the grants. These grants help bring innovations to life through classroom equipment, field trips, project materials, program software, guest speakers and so much more. This allows an extension of North Penn's curriculum that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

**NUMBER OF GRANTS / AMOUNT OF FUNDING / PERCENT FUNDED (2022-2023)**

NUMBER OF GRANTS by program



AMOUNT OF FUNDING / PERCENT FUNDED by program

Program	Amount of Funding	Percent Funded
ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT	\$22,680.01	14.60%
HEALTH/ PHYSICAL EDUCATION	\$4,078.31	2.62%
HISTORY/ SOCIAL STUDIES	\$9,450.00	6.08%
MUSIC/ ARTS	\$22,407.95	14.42%
SCIENCE	\$4,049.14	2.61%
SPECIAL/GIFTED EDUCATION	\$8,232.82	5.30%
STEM	\$32,895.52	21.17%
OTHER	\$6,444.84	4.15%
EITC	\$45,148.98	29.06%

**\$12,924.00**  
TOTAL AWARDED FOR RIF

**Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)**

**LITERACY**

Established in 1966, Reading is Fundamental (RIF) has ignited a love for literacy by providing free access to books and literacy resources. For over 30 years, North Penn School District has partnered with RIF to provide books to its approximate 1,000 first graders across 13 elementary schools. When funding was cut by the sponsors of the RIF organization, the NPSD Educational Foundation stepped in to ensure funding continued to provide fun literacy experiences to first graders throughout NPSD's 13 elementary schools.

Some of the events NPSD has made available to first graders include:

- A kickoff event for all first graders in the form of a play, "Alice Takes North Penn to Storyland".
- Kulp Elementary first graders adopted a penguin from the Philadelphia Zoo and learned all about penguins from reading about them.

**Who Benefits?**

All 13 NPSD Elementary Schools

- York Avenue Elementary first graders were inspired to be creative and act out their feelings with books written by Peter Reynolds.
- Knapp Elementary first graders met Clifford the Big Red Dog and had fun reading about him in his books.

At the end of each RIF event, students choose their own books for their home library. The interactions young children enjoy at home with their caregivers, especially conversation and hearing stories read aloud, play a significant role in academic success and beyond. Children who have limited access to books are deprived of the opportunity to learn about their world, acquire more sophisticated vocabulary, and understand how language works.



**IMPACTING SUCCESS THROUGH FUNDRAISING**

Build-A-Bag Community Backpack + School Supply Drive	Over 350 backpacks
Annual Golf Classic	\$48,639.08
U-Knight to Inspire (Employee Contributions)	\$18,147.72
Staff Tribute	\$5,775.00
Online Auction	\$15,120.00
Annual Giving Campaign	\$9,301.18



Hello, I'm Mario the Therapy Dog!

- Photos
1. Penndale Orientation
  2. Art Goes to School
  3. Summer Enrichment



Elevate Learning

*Students who feel supported in their schools are often more open to learning, and NPSD offers many unique experiences to elevate learning.*



That's why each year, the middle schools hold an orientation for incoming 7th graders to get them ready to learn. At elementary schools, students participated in viewing



and discussing artwork of different cultures up-close through the Art Goes to School Program and continued learning and engaging over the summer through NPSD's optional asynchronous opportunities for summer learning. At the high school level, a number of NPHS students expressed interest in taking American Sign Language and to be responsive to student

wants, needs and interest in this important life skill, the district developed a course to begin offering the opportunity. The NPHS Special Education Team re-opened the Practical Assessment and Exploration System (PAES) Lab which provides students the opportunity to explore areas of career interests, community-based employment, functional skills and develop a portfolio of strengths and barriers to success. The district also introduced a therapy dog Mario, during the 2022-2023 school year who visited North Penn schools during the year to bring comfort and companionship to students and staff. To support learning initiatives, administrators and teachers continued enhancing their skills through professional development. Elementary teachers in kindergarten through grade 2 enhanced their literacy teaching skills by attending the Foundations Level 2 Workshop training.



4 - ASL class spelling "ELEVATE"

# HIGHLIGHTS

from the 2022 - 2023 school year



NPHS  
Knight Crier staff

The NPHS Knight Crier staff attended the 82nd annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) conference at Columbia University. The CSPA is an **international student press association** whose goal is to unite student journalists and faculty advisers through educational conferences, idea exchanges, textbooks, critiques and award programs.

Walton Farm Elementary celebrated **Healthy Heart Day** and students learned about the heart and its functions and how to make fruit kebabs for a heart-healthy snack.



Oak Park Elementary students were able to harvest and eat vegetables grown in **hydroponic pods**.



For the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the NPSD was honored with the **Best Communities for Music Education** designation by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM). This award is given to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

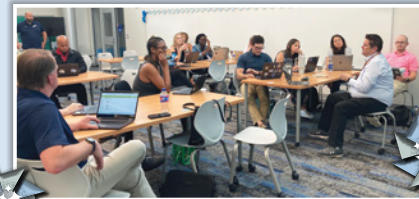
Second graders at Oak Park Elementary participated in a **storybook walk**. Stands were set up outside, each with the next page, for classes to take a journey through the story and the Oak Park property. The storybook walk also featured QR codes at each post that could be scanned to hear the story page read out loud.



Fifth graders at Montgomery Elementary completed the **DARE** program, an officer-led comprehensive K-12 education program. Officer English of the Montgomery Township Police Department taught students general life skills to support good decision making for a safe and healthy life.

**DARE**

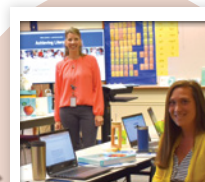
Work Together Wednesday is an Instructional **Leadership Professional Development** for administrators that takes place over the summer to support ongoing development in areas that align to the District's Comprehensive Goals. Sessions focused around UDL, data, behavior, technology, and Wit and Wisdom, social emotional learning and Authentic Assessment.



North Wales Elementary students created **literary pumpkins** inspired by their favorite books and characters.



Gwynedd Square Elementary first-grade students drew pictures of monsters and gave it to a Penndale ninth grade family consumer sciences class who created a stuffed animal version of the drawing as part of the **Friendly Monster Project**. Penndale students visited Gwynedd Square to give their monsters back to the creators.



Continued  
Literacy Training



NPHS Community Hosted Internship Program (CHIP) partnered with local businesses to participate in an internship to gain **real-world experience**. Students received class credit for the internships, and completed an essay, resume, and mock interview at the completion of the program.

Gwynedd Square and North Wales elementary schools celebrated **Earth Day** by taking care of their schoolyards. Students picked weeds, mulched, and planted flowers.



April 22... Earth Day!

Hundreds of NPHS students were able to speak with over 50 businesses and organizations while attending NPHS' Community Hosted Internship Program (CHIP) **employment fair**.



Olympic Day in North Penn elementary schools is a day for classmates to compete in **physical education style games** and have some fun in the sun.



The NPHS EnAct Club attended a team-building trip to learn about **environmental leadership** at Althouse Arboretum, which is run by an environmental non-profit called Green Allies.



Each year, NPSD participates in **Read Across America** which promotes literacy and a love of books in children.

Neil Broxterman, Ed.D. was appointed **Assistant Director of Special Education and Student Services**. He has been with NPSD for over 15 years and has served as assistant principal, principal and Supervisor of Special Education.



Neil Broxterman, Ed.D.

Daniel Grunmeier was appointed **Assistant Principal of Pennbrook Middle School**. He has been with NPSD for over 15 years and has served as an English teacher, Instructional Coordinator for Special Content Areas, and School Climate Coordinator.



Stephanie Hannan

Stephanie Hannan was appointed as the **Principal of Inglewood Elementary School** and has over 15 years of experience in education.

Rita Whalen was appointed as the **Principal of Hatfield Elementary School**. She has been with NPSD for seven years and has over 21 years experience in education.



Rita Whalen

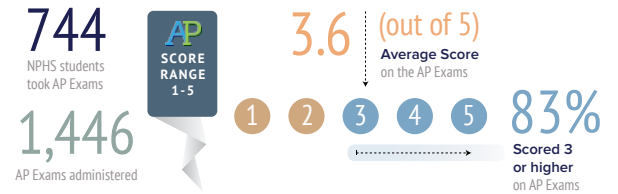


Montgomery Elementary second graders learned about **different careers** at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building through interactive workshops.

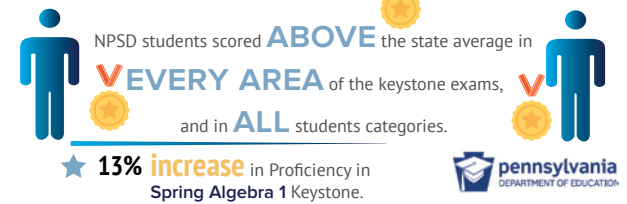
York Avenue Elementary sixth graders learned about density by completing **challenges** including layering salt solutions and hot and cold water in hands-on activities.



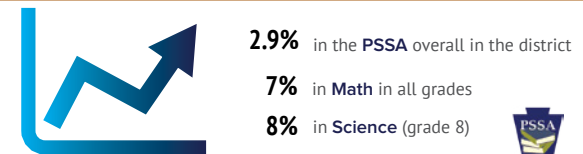
## NPHS CLASS OF 2023 AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT **AP**



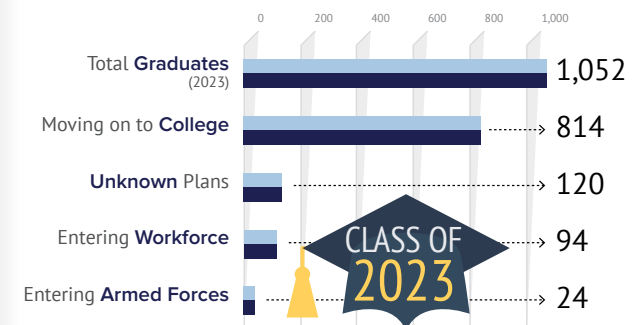
## KEYSTONE EXAMS



## PSSA EXAMS NPSD STUDENTS WENT UP!...



## POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE NPHS CLASS OF 2023?







ENDEAVOR NO.2

• Ensure Belonging •

# Students and staff of all abilities support and encourage each other

North Penn High School was recertified as a National Banner Unified Champion School by Special Olympics. NPHS was one of only 20 high schools in the state of Pennsylvania and 683 across the country to receive the designation. Schools are chosen for their commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence, including

unified sports programs, inclusive youth leadership, and whole-school engagement in awareness and educational activities. The NPHS Unified Track Team continued to bring students of all abilities together to train and compete. The Unified Bocce teams taught officers from the Police Athletic League how to play the game and then competed in an exhibition match. Additionally, about 80 NPHS students were freezin' for a reason when they braved the icy water at Citizens Bank Park to raise over \$12,000 for the Special Olympics during the annual Polar Plunge.

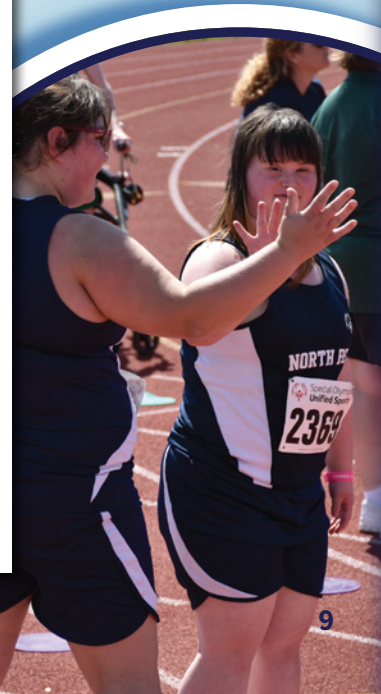


Hatfield Elementary participated in **disabilities awareness month** as an opportunity to celebrate the inclusion of people with disabilities.



Students across the district rocked their socks in celebration of **World Down Syndrome Day**. Students and staff wore fun socks to celebrate how unique each person is.

- PHOTOS
- 1 - NPHS Unified Track Team
  - 2 - Unified Bocce teams and Police Athletic League
  - 3 - NPHS students participate in Polar Plunge raising over \$12,000 for Special Olympics
- Feature photo, circle below: Special Olympics, Unified Track



BELONGING

ENSURE



# ENSURE **BELONGING**



## RACIAL/ETHNIC STUDENT COMPOSITION

2022-2023



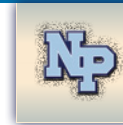
# EQUITY WORK

NPSD, including its school board and staff, seeks to develop a community that values and adapts to diversity, ensures belonging, and is inclusive of everyone. To that end, we have had four established goals in the areas of Cultural Proficiency and Equity (CP & E) to create an environment of respect where all members of the school community are empowered to learn, grow, and appreciate one another.

In early 2023, NPSD gathered staff and community members from the Inclusion Task Force and the CP & E committee to determine ways in which the groups' work and goals were aligned. While there were many overlaps, one significant and missing component was an examination of our systems and structures. With this in mind, we added the fifth goal to take a deeper

look into these areas. During this process, we also recognized the importance of including teachers, administrators and community members that provide insight and expertise from an inclusion lens on all of the committees. At this time, we also expanded the name to CPE & I to make transparent our commitment to inclusion and inclusive practices.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS CPE & I GOALS



### Cultural Proficiency, Equity and Inclusion Established Goals of NPSD

Update for the 2022-2023 school year

1

#### GOAL

Increase the knowledge, skill, and practices of all staff related to cultural proficiency/cultural responsiveness which will reduce the achievement gap at NPSD.

#### PROGRESS

Provided professional development support to a variety of staff members on topics related to Cultural Proficiency, Equity, and Inclusion. NPSD had seven dedicated early dismissal days for CPE & I and topics included Equity Walks, the Science of Reading, Best Instructional Practices, Math with an Equity Lens, Authentic Assessment, Building Relationships and more.

2

#### GOAL

Reduce the number of Black, Hispanic, and Multiracial students who are disproportionately represented in special education programs and disproportionately suspended from school so that the risk ratio for these subgroups is no greater than 1.5 times more likely.

#### PROGRESS

The committee completed an extensive review of discipline data with top areas of concern. A product has been a shared sheet for alternatives to suspension for elementary and secondary to help address concerns noted.

(Continued)

3

**GOAL**

Implement practices that promote an increased pool of diverse applicants for positions across all employee groups.

**PROGRESS**

The NPHS Consider Becoming an Educator group met with approximately 40 students in attendance. The turnout included students from all the culture clubs, student ambassadors, and students in education related classes. NPSD also hosted an Affinity Group Gathering where diverse educators of color bonded and supported their experience working in the district. NPSD Human Resources staff attended various job fairs to recruit diverse candidates.

4

**GOAL**

Increase student, staff and family engagement in cultural proficiency efforts.

**PROGRESS**

The committee maintained collaborative communications with annual school/community events that include the Black History Oratorical Competition, Parents in Equity Committee, and Colors of Pride presentations at North Penn High School.

5

**GOAL**

Collaboratively utilize evidence-based practices and foster an inclusive mindset with high expectations for all to enhance current systems and structures for staff and students that provide equitable access, promote safety, belonging and social-emotional well-being, and elevate post-graduate student outcomes.

**PROGRESS**

Brand new committee and formulated our goal and objectives for the upcoming school year. This includes providing equitable access and fostering an inclusive environment.

# HANOVER STUDY

*In the spring of 2022, NPSD administration worked with Hanover Research to conduct a climate survey of parents, community, staff and students. The key objectives were to understand stakeholders' perception of the current climate of North Penn, recognize differences in perceptions across groups and identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. More than 4,000 responses were collected.*

**POSITIVE FINDINGS INCLUDED:**

- Most respondents agreed that their school offers enough high-quality co-curricular and extracurricular activities and provides enough resources and support for students of all backgrounds;
- Overall, most respondents provided positive ratings of NPSD's communication and engagement efforts;
- Overall, most parents expressed positive sentiments regarding engagement from school staff; and
- Overall, respondents mostly expressed positive sentiments regarding NPSD's social environment.

**KEY FINDINGS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING NEEDS:**

- Develop student academic and non-academic supports and procedures that increase the development of soft skills (self-reflection, conflict resolution, emotion management, etc.), and improve student discipline procedures;
- Review and increase current mental health support systems for students and identify strategies to support underperforming students;
- Address staff and parent needs by increasing transparency regarding decision-making;
- Provide professional development that promotes cultural responsiveness in the classroom; and
- Address harassment toward students based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and physical appearance.



Goals were set for the 2023-2024 school year to address the key findings.

# HIGHLIGHTS

from the 2022-2023 school year

Students from grades 3-12 selected to compete in the **Black History Oratorical Competition** performed monologues from African-American and Black leaders.



The Extended School Care Program introduced activity boxes at all 13 elementary schools with a **Children Around the World** theme, containing fact sheets, children's books, games, crafts and activities that children from France, Mexico, China, Japan, Nigeria, Egypt, Brazil and India enjoy.



Pennbrook, Penndale and Pennfield middle schools participated in a "One Book" program, promoting the book *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Pennbrook displayed a boat in the library as a challenge to "fill the boat" with donated items to make **refugee hygiene kits**. In all, students assembled more than 90 kits to be donated.



Nash Elementary students celebrated the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors originated from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America during **National Hispanic Heritage Month**.



Students, staff, and community visitors at Inglewood Elementary participated in **Mix It Up Day** and enjoyed lunch with others they didn't know well to encourage conversation and connections with different people.



Funded by a partnership between the VNA Foundation and the NPSD Educational Foundation, the **Race and Racial Identity project** aimed to create a space for community members from North Penn, Methacton, Perkiomen Valley and Souderton school districts to engage in facilitated conversations that strengthened understanding of one another and provided the tools to engage in meaningful dialogue about race and racial identity.

Students in the North Penn High School's Muslim Student Association (MSA) hosted the **Iftar**, a feast and gathering where Muslims celebrating Ramadan break their fast and pray.



Bridle Path Elementary invited families to share their culture with members of the community through storytelling, food, dance, arts, crafts and more during **Cultural Fest**.



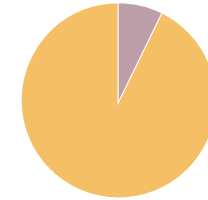
NPSD said goodbye to 68 dedicated staff members from across the district as they prepared to **retire from dedicating their lives** to the students of North Penn. The event, held at North Montco Technical Career Center (NMTCC), was catered and served by students in the MTCC culinary program.



## TEACHER/STUDENT COUNT

2022-2023

(8/26/22 - 6/30/23)

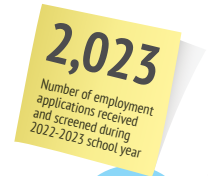


● Student Count  
**12,914**  
● Teacher Count  
**1,053**

## RECRUITMENT AND HIRING

2022-2023

(8/26/22 - 6/30/23)



**Job Fairs**  
• MCIU Diversity Job Fair  
• MCIU Support Staff Job Fair  
• Greater Philadelphia Teacher Job Fair  
• Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity (DVCEE) Job Fair

**262**  
Number of interview sessions held



**245**  
Number of full-time, part-time and substitute staff hired during 2022-2023 school year

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS\*

Students categorized as **Special Education** 17%

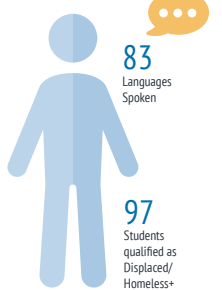
Students categorized as **Gifted** 5.31%

Students categorized as **English Learners (ELs)** 7.18%

EL highest percentage school 26.69%

Students qualified for **Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL)** 36.94%

FRL highest percentage school 64.48%



**12,914**  
Total Enrollment

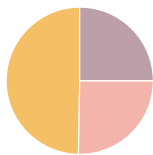
\*As of 10/3/22. \*Over the course of the entire school year.

## NEW HIRE DEMOGRAPHICS

2022-2023

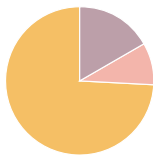
(8/26/22 - 6/30/23)

- Asian
- Black
- White



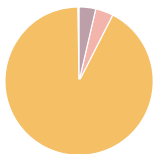
ADMINISTRATORS

25.50%  
25.50%  
50%



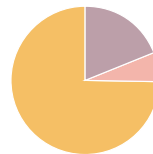
PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

16.85%  
8.99%  
74.16%



PROFESSIONAL STAFF

3.85%  
3.85%  
92.31%



SUPPORT STAFF

19.15%  
6.38%  
74.47%

## STAFF RETENTION: YEARS OF SERVICE

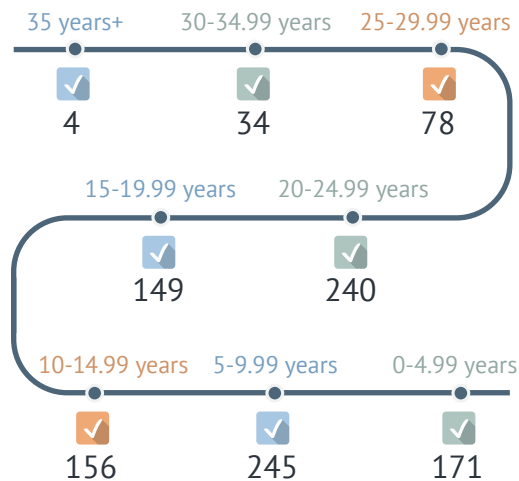
by number of full time teaching staff

2022-2023

(8/26/22 - 6/30/23)

Total full time teaching staff

1,077



Members of the North Penn High School's Indian Cultural Association celebrated **HOLI**, also known as the "Festival of Colors," which marks the beginning of spring and the triumph of good over evil. Students enjoyed music, dancing, and followed the tradition of dousing each other with bright neon colored powder.



Indian Cultural Assoc. / Towamencin Police

Officers from the Towamencin Township Police Department met with members of the Indian Cultural Association to **build community connections**.



The NPSD Transportation staff enjoyed an **employee appreciation** celebration to honor their hard work and going the extra mile.



Montgomery Elementary students created over **100 sensory bags** as a service project. The bags were delivered across North Penn elementary schools and to the So Much to Give Inclusive Cafe, located in Skippack.

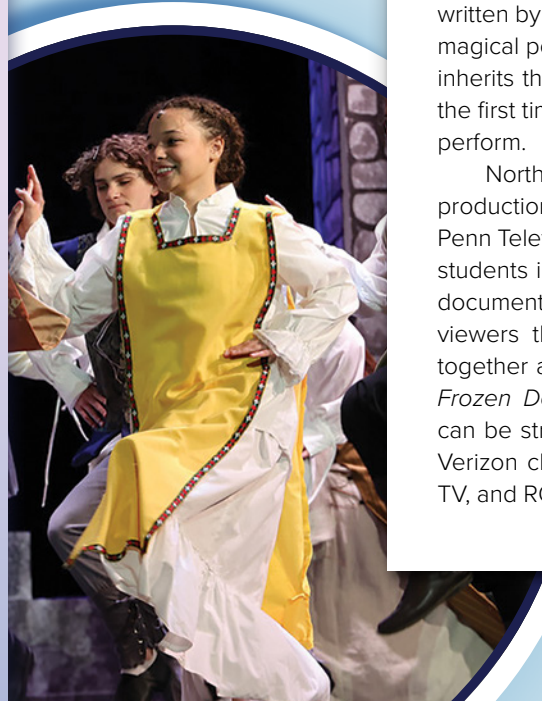
The North Penn High School African American Awareness Club (AAAC) held their annual **Colors of Pride** ceremony where members wrote and produced "The Black Diaspora" themed showcase featuring dance, spoken word, and fashion.

The North Penn High School Indian Cultural Association held an event to celebrate **Garba** with the community. Garba is a traditional dance that occurs during Navratri, a Hindu holiday celebrated in some parts of India.



York Avenue Elementary students learned about the significance of the **Lunar New Year** and the traditions associated with it.





Photos:

Feature photo in circle below and photo 1: Performance of *Frozen*.

2. *Frozen Defrosted* by NPHS.

All photos this page by Lou Liguori.



ENDEAVOR NO. 3

Engage Community

## NPHS Theatre Receives Nod to Perform Disney's *Frozen: The Broadway Musical*

North Penn High School Theatre and Thespian Troupe 5464 was selected to perform Disney's *Frozen: The Broadway Musical* as part of a nationwide competition among U.S. high schools for the rights to perform the show at the high school level for the first time. The competition, The United States of *Frozen*, *Love is an Open Door*, selected one high school from each U.S. state and territory to receive the exclusive rights to the show. NPHS was selected out of 300 high school applicants to perform the first and only production of Disney's *Frozen* in a high school in Pennsylvania. The North Penn community had the opportunity to experience the ONLY production in the Commonwealth. The April 2023 production sold out all seven shows!



Based on the 2013 animated feature film, Disney's stage adaptation of *Frozen* opened on Broadway in March 2018. Music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, book written by Jennifer Lee, it tells the story of two sisters and princesses, Anna and Elsa. Elsa has magical powers to freeze objects, and she loses control of these powers when she suddenly inherits the throne. Anna has to save her sister and the kingdom from eternal winter. This is the first time the full-length stage adaptation of *Frozen* is available for high school students to perform.

North Penn High School presents: *Frozen Defrosted*, a behind-the-scenes look at the production of Disney's *Frozen, the Broadway Musical*. The documentary premiered on North Penn Television (NPTV). The entire documentary, from filming to editing, was created by NPHS students in the career study program with NPTV. The documentary consisted of three episodes that took viewers through the production process of putting together a musical, from auditions to the final curtain. *Frozen Defrosted* aired exclusively on NPTV. NPTV can be streamed on local Comcast channel 28, local Verizon channel 29, YouTube, and on Fire TV, Apple TV, and ROKU apps.



# HIGHLIGHTS

from the 2022-2023 school year



3

North Penn School District held a **Mental Health Resource Fair** in partnership with Onward Behavioral Health. Community members gathered at Pennbrook Middle School to talk with local mental health providers and discuss mental health support options. The keynote speaker, Alys Bainbridge, Miss Pennsylvania 2022, discussed support for those in recovery and talked about her organization, Tyler's Triumph, which provides direct support and tools to those in recovery from mental health and substance use disorders.

(PHOTO 3) NPSD held a pride flag raising ceremony at the Educational Services Center to commemorate pride month and celebrate **inclusion for all**.

(PHOTO 4) Students across NPSD celebrated **Veterans Day**, including Gwynedd Square Elementary where an assembly was held to honor veterans in the community and family members of students and staff who have served. The NPHS JROTC was in attendance and assisted in the assembly.



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The Community Education Program provided approximately 800 children with 12 different **summer camp** options plus opportunities at the North Penn YMCA camps, including sports, music, theatre, and more.

Over 1,300 community members joined 224 different classes through the **Community Education Program** (CEP). Classes ranged from fitness, arts and crafts, and seminars focused on home buying, medicare, and more.



*Knight of the Arts*

North Penn School District held the **Knight of the Arts**, a K-12 art show featuring a multitude of media including drawing, painting, digital photography, sculpture, computer animation, and more. Additionally, the high school fashion show displayed creative designs from the Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) department, and musical performances from several schools delighted auditory and visual senses.



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North Penn High School opened the **Crawford Stadium** track for community use when students are not in attendance and the stadium is not being used by the district for sports, music, or other events. By opening up the track to the community, NPHS intends to provide a safe and easy way for community members to stay fit and utilize the facilities to their full extent.

Hundreds of runners took off during the annual **North Penn 5K** sponsored by the NPHS Cross Country team.

(PHOTO 5) Instead of blue, North Penn went green for a day to support the **Eagles** on their journey to the Superbowl. Fun activities and team building events were held throughout the district.

(PHOTO 6) Community members were invited to see the results of the **Knapp Elementary School renovation project**, and hear from district and community leaders at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Pennbrook Middle School hosted a community presentation given by John Halligan, an international speaker and author who gave a presentation to students and the community. He educates families on **cyberbullying and suicide prevention** by sharing his own tragic experience as a father whose 13-year-old son took his own life in 2003 after bullying by his peers.

(PHOTO 7) NPHS was featured on **Fox29's Football Friday** alongside Central Bucks West High School. The schools competed in a friendly competition to see which school could bring the most spirit before the Homecoming game.

Members of the NPHS Key Club **volunteered** over 7,791 hours during the 2022-2023 school year to better the community.



The award-winning **property tax and rent rebate program** continued to be offered by the North Penn School District and provided a discount of up to \$731.25 for certain homeowners and renters. Under a new law, Pennsylvanians who were approved for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2021, received an additional one-time bonus rebate in 2022. NPSD is in its fifth year of issuing additional rebates based on the state rebate received. Since the state provided a one-time bonus rebate, the North Penn Board of School Directors voted to do the same.



North Penn High School students in the EnAct Club held an **electronics recycling** event to collect items so they could be recycled properly instead of ending up in landfills.



*NPHS Key Club*

The NPHS Key Club collected over 600 pairs of **socks for community members** in need.



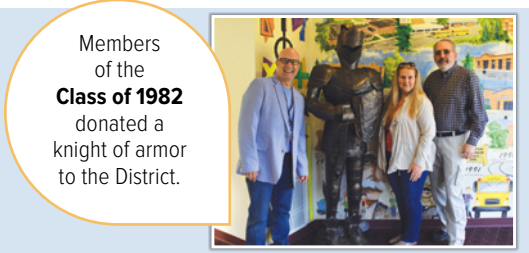
**Class of 1956** donated a plaque to what once was North Penn High School, now Penndale Middle School.



Bridle Path Elementary students collected 964 items for Hatfield's **food pantry** at Emmanuel E.C. Church.



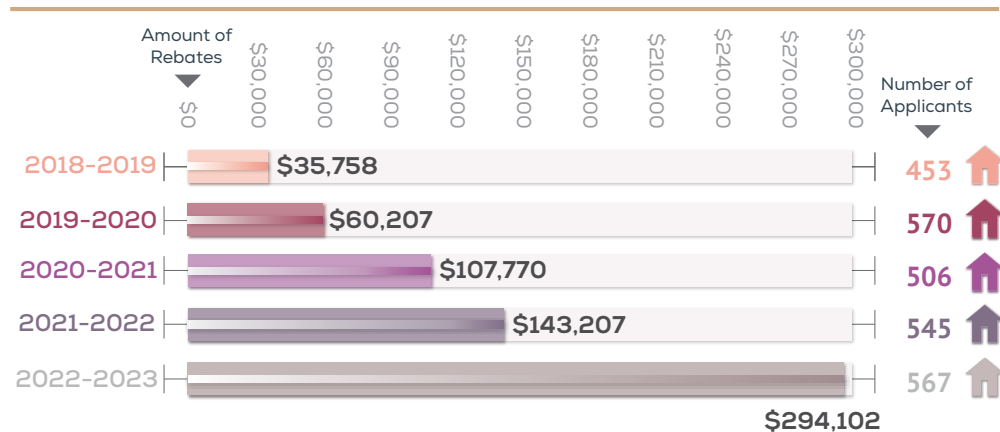
A fire in Hatfield where several families lost all their belongings brought the community together and thousands of dollars were raised to help them start over. The amazing staff at AM Kulp Elementary **organized and collected items** to give each family, toys, blankets, essentials, and gift cards to help them get back on their feet.



Members of the **Class of 1982** donated a knight of armor to the District.

North Penn School District has the **5<sup>TH</sup> LOWEST TAX RATE** out of **21** school districts in Montgomery County.

**TAX REBATE PROGRAM**





## PUBLICATIONS



	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>NPSD GENERAL INTEREST</b>	13,093	13,118	12,734
<b>ALUMNI CONTACT LIST (ACTIVE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS)</b>	7,589	7,799	7,902
<b>ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED MEMBERS)</b>	2,303	2,392	2,476

## PRESS RELEASES

2017-2018	125
2018-2019	127
2019-2020	63
2020-2021	52
2021-2022	47
2022-2023	64



# 3,041

NPSD tweets since 2009

## TWITTER FOLLOWERS

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
6,450	6,584	6,557	6,756	6,616

## YOUTUBE VIEWS



2009	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023
LAUNCH	1.7M	2.9M	3.6M	4.3M	4.7M

## YOUTUBE MINUTES WATCHED

2009	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023
LAUNCH	4.6M	9.2M	12.9M	16.1M	18.1M



## FACEBOOK

	NPSD FOLLOWERS	NPSD LIKES
2019	9,357	8,720
2020	11,725	10,726
2021	12,506	11,252
2022	13,405	11,788
2023	14,153	12,183

	ALUMNI ASSOC. FOLLOWERS	ALUMNI ASSOC. LIKES
2019	1,868	1,858
2020	1,900	1,878
2021	1,911	1,880
2022	2,185	2,088
2023	2,252	2,132

	FOUNDATION FOLLOWERS	FOUNDATION LIKES
2019	420	399
2020	657	632
2021	747	700
2022	858	791
2023	949	878





#### PHOTOS

- Feature photo in circle, bottom: Oak Park Breakfast
- 2 - Inglewood students eating
- 3 - Students with SNS Staff



### NPSD SNS Coordinator Instrumental in Continuation of Universal Free Breakfast Program

North Penn's very own Melissa Froehlich Green, Coordinator of School Nutrition Services (SNS), was instrumental in creating Pennsylvania's universal free breakfast program for the 2022-2023 school year. While North Penn was able to continue universal free breakfast this year, Melissa recognized the need across the state, and worked to ensure that no child had to go to school hungry. Pennsylvania funded universal free breakfast for the 1.7 million public school students across the state. Additionally, the "reduced lunch" category was eliminated at North Penn, and students who qualified for reduced price meals could also receive free lunch. Melissa didn't stop at the state level, she and others headed to Washington, D.C. and spoke to Congress about implementing a free meal program for all students across the country. This topic will continue to be discussed in the future as there is currently no nation-wide program. The dedicated NPSD SNS staff consisting of 36 full-time, 95 part-time and 9 substitute employees served 590,822 breakfast meals and 966,890 lunch meals to students during the 2022-2023 school year. The summer feeding program provided daily nutritious foods to children 18 and under with 13,997 breakfast meals, 17,741 lunch meals, and 13,555 snacks.



Melissa Froehlich Green poses with former Governor Tom Wolf.



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# HIGHLIGHTS

from the 2022 - 2023 school year

Pennbrook Middle School student David Arskiy is a **published author**. His book, *Long Travel*, is a story about never giving up, even in a challenging environment, and finding your own way. A portion of the proceeds from this book were donated to The Children of Ukraine Foundation.



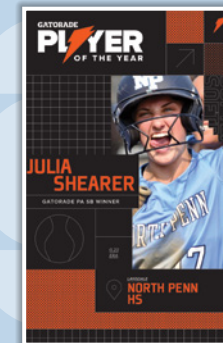
*Long Travel*

by Pennbrook Middle School student

The annual **IronKnights Triathlon** saw a record number of elementary student participation to compete in running, biking, and swimming.



NPHS student Julia Shearer was named the 2022-2023 **Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year** for the second time. The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field.



NPSP was awarded the **EVERFI 2023 Empowered District seal**. This seal is given to districts committed to whole-child education and providing students with the skills to succeed in today's changing world.



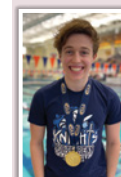
The 2023 PIAA Boys **Swimming and Diving PA State Championship** was awarded to NPSP.



NPSP athlete Taylor Forbes beat out competitors for the **triple jump** at the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) Indoor State Championship.



NPSP Cross Country placed fourth at the **PA State Championships**.



NPSP diver Brady Stanton secured the Individual Boys **State Diving Champion** medal.

The North Penn Valley Boys and Girls Club honored NPSP with the 2023 **Community Spirit Award** at its 25th Annual Celebration of Children & Youth featuring guest speaker Brandon Graham, Eagles Defensive End.



NPSP swimmer Madeline Faikish won the **500 Freestyle Swimming State Championship**.



The combined 9th grade Pennbrook, Penndale and Pennfield football team finished **undefeated** during the 2022-2023 season.



*Baseball Player of the Year*

NPSP standout Jack Picozzi was named **Baseball Player of the Year** by Phillyburbs.com.

The North Penn softball team was honored in Harrisburg for winning the PIAA 6A **State Championship** after an undefeated season!





The North Penn Muslim Student Association (MSA) competed in the annual **Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST)** and won first place in “Best Overall Team” and placed Top 3 in multiple competitions, qualifying them to compete at MIST Nationals. MIST inspires high school students to collaborate and compete, develop creative skills, and learn from professionals, while educating about Islam and Muslims.



The North Penn Marching Knights performed ahead of the **Peach Bowl game**. The band received second place for their performance at the parade.



21 NPHS students qualified for the **Commended National Merit Scholarship Program**.

15 NPHS students qualified for the **Semifinalist National Merit Scholarship Program**.



Pennbrook Middle School students placed in the top 10 at the State Technology Student Association (TSA) conference and qualified for the national competition by competing **STEM related** competitions. Club advisor, Diana Rickert, also received PA-TSA Middle School Advisor of the Year.



NPHS seniors Jijee Dhinesh and Marianne Mathew were selected as winners of the **National Merit College-Sponsored Scholarships** funded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

NPHS seniors Irene Chung was selected as a winner of the **National Merit Calmer L Johnson/ John W. Leslie ITW Scholarship** sponsored by the Illinois Tool Works Foundation and Jacob Yin was selected as a winner of the **National Merit-The PwC Charitable Foundation Scholarship** sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation.

NPHS senior Esha Velaga was selected as a winner of the **National Merit Scholarship** funded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



(PHOTO 1) North Penn Marching Knights won Bronze in the **US Bands 2022 Open Class National Championship** with a score of 94.55.

(PHOTO 2) NPHS Chess Club won the **PA State Chess Federation Championship**.

(PHOTO 3) Five teams of NPHS students competed in a **coding competition** at Lockheed Martin and took home first place in both the advanced and novice divisions.

(PHOTO 4) Teams from NPHS, Pennedale, Montgomery, Inglewood, York Ave, Bridle Path, Montgomery, and Gwynedd Square competed and used their creativity to find solutions to their team’s “problem” at the **Odyssey of the Mind PA State Tournament**. Bridle Path (Technical), Gwynedd Square (Structure), Gwynedd Square (Performance), Inglewood (Technical), Montgomery (Structure), Montgomery (Vehicle), and York Avenue (Technical) advanced to States. Gwynedd Square (Structure) and Inglewood (Vehicle) also received an “OMer Award” at the SEPA OM Regional Awards Ceremony. The OMer Award recognizes teams who, during a tournament, serve as exemplary examples or role models through their actions or words.

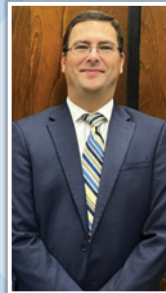
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(PHOTO 5) NPSD opened the doors to the North Penn Healthcare Center in April 2023 after many months of planning. The center offers free healthcare, including no-cost medications, to employees and their dependents enrolled in the North Penn insurance plans. The center is staffed by Everside Health employees. Patients can receive primary and preventative care, all at no-cost. The center is projected to save NPSD up to \$10 million over the next 10 years in health care costs by providing lower-cost treatments and options before medical issues grow costly. Since opening, the center staff have conducted 887 appointments and 90 percent of patients scored the care they received as a 9 or a 10, on a scale of 1 through 10.

Nearly 200 NPSD students from elementary, middle and high schools were selected to perform in honors ensembles at the 2023 **Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Conference** and the **National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Eastern Division Conference**.

The NPSD Office of School and Community Engagement earned seven awards through the **Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA)** annual Excellence in Education Communication Contest. The group also received seven awards in the **National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA)** as part of its annual Publications and Digital Media Excellence awards.



Ronald Linke Jr. joined North Penn as **Assistant Director of Business Administration**, with over 20 years experience in public school business administration, most recently as the Business Administrator for the Pottsgrove School District.



Nineteen North Penn choir students successfully auditioned for the 2022 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 choir. 22 North Penn band students successfully auditioned for the 2022 **Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 band**.

Jason Theodore, Montgomery Elementary physical education teacher and IronKnights chair was recognized as the **NPEA Game Changer Award** recipient for elementary physical education teachers.



(PHOTO 6) The North Penn business office received the **Association of School Business Officials' Meritorious Budget Award** for the 8th year in a row. This award is given to schools for a commitment to fiscal integrity and transparency in the budgeting process. In 2022, only eight school districts in Pennsylvania, including North Penn, earned this award.

(PHOTO 7) York Avenue Elementary school teacher Brianna Vandegrift won the **Lansdale VFW Post 32 Teacher of the Year Award**. The award is given to teachers who represent the best of their communities, promote civic responsibility, and inspire their students to be better every day.

(PHOTO 8) North Penn High School health and physical education teacher Katie Kelley was recognized as a **Protective School Leader** by Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc. Protective leaders work to modify school spaces and create a protective environment by implementing efforts that work to stop sexual violence before it happens.

Four NPHS students earned a place in the **Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Chorus Festival**.

Twelve North Penn orchestra students successfully auditioned for the 2022 **Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 orchestra**.

NPHS music students Nathan Cho (Bass 2), and Michele Schwartz (French Horn) were selected to perform with the **All-National Honor Ensembles at the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) National Conference**.



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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SAFE SCHOOLS

Brandon J. Rhone was sworn in as the **Coordinator of Emergency Management & Safe Schools** and is responsible for public safety solutions within the district as well as direction of safety personnel within the 18 North Penn schools. Brandon came to North Penn with 17 years experience as a police officer in Pennsylvania with a focus on school safety. He retired from the force as a decorated Operations Captain.



The Office of Emergency Management and Safe Schools covered 800 shifts, including normal day shifts, special events and sports. Officers documented 1,416 security related incidents across the district and were often called upon to assist building administration with a variety of situations.

The district's threat assessment team, led by Brandon Rhone, Coordinator of Emergency Management & Safe Schools, grew during the 2022-2023 school year. All members of the team received level 1 and level 2 training through the CSTAG model. The district was able to customize and integrate the reporting and interview process into the current Infinite Campus student database streamlining the documentation warehousing. This allowed for better followup and communication within the district's teams.

The district added two full time positions to Pennbrook and Pennfield middle schools. These resources provided additional support to the building and allowed Officers to foster meaningful relationships with students to create a safe environment that is conducive to learning. The department also added 60 cameras in buildings across the district.

Coordinator of Emergency Management and Safe Schools, Brandon Rhone established the first North Penn High School Student Safety Committee. This committee of students meet to discuss safety related topics concerning the student body.

The department hosted its first **Building Bridges** event where community members including students and law enforcement discussed their experiences in the community. This was an impactful event and all parties walked away being able to understand each other's experiences.

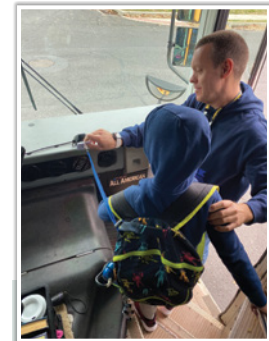


## TRANSPORTATION

Between North Penn, First Student and other contracted drivers, they drove over **2.2 million miles** during the 2022-2023 school year.



**Eight new propane buses** were added to the fleet through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).



**Here Comes the Bus** launched to the entire district in January 2023, providing families with real-time data about when the bus will arrive and any delays that may occur.



Dennis Ryan, Coordinator of Transportation, accepted the **"Energy for Everyone Hero" Award** by the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) on behalf of NPSD. The award recognizes a school district that is implementing clean energy initiatives that put students, the community and the environment first.

## EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE

Jacqueline O'Beirne, Ed.D. was appointed as the new **Extended School Care Coordinator** and joins NPSD with over 20 years of experience in education and childcare.



Focused on reducing the waitlist for students to enter the Extended School Care program.

- **16** additional students started on September 11
- **36** additional students were invited into the program for October 1 due to the hiring of two additional staff hired at Gwyn Nor Elementary and one additional staff member at Gwynedd Square Elementary. These additions eliminated the waitlist at both schools.
- **12** students were invited to start at Bridle Path Elementary on October 16 due to the hiring of an additional staff member.
- Reshifting of staff allowed the program to welcome seven students into Hatfield Elementary and an additional **12** students were removed from the waitlist at Montgomery Elementary.



### EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE BY THE NUMBERS

Regular staff total	57
Substitute staff total	14
Student enrollment total per month vs served throughout the school year	689
Summer camp staff total	8
Summer Camper total per week vs total attended	65 students enrolled throughout the summer

## NPSD 2022-2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY\*

**ESTIMATED UNASSIGNED BEGINNING FUND BALANCE: \$21,744,774**

### REVENUE

LOCAL: \$236,608,420
STATE: \$59,539,461
FEDERAL: \$5,429,481
OTHER: \$950,221
<b>TOTAL REVENUES: \$302,527,583</b>

### EXPENDITURES

INSTRUCTION: \$182,492,645
SUPPORT SERVICES: \$87,450,304
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL: \$3,031,375
FACILITIES, ACQUISITION, IMPR SVCS: \$64,219
OTHER FINANCING: \$17,137,661
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$290,176,204</b>

**ESTIMATED UNASSIGNED ENDING FUND BALANCE: \$34,096,153**

*\*unaudited results*

### INVESTMENT INCOME

2013-2014	\$177,082
2014-2015	\$235,509
2015-2016	\$385,008
2016-2017	\$610,613
2017-2018	\$1,634,250
2018-2019	\$2,931,626
2019-2020	\$2,347,310
2020-2021	\$439,168
2021-2022	\$527,730
2022-2023	\$6,063,008



[www.npenn.org](http://www.npenn.org)

[facebook.com/NorthPennSD](https://www.facebook.com/NorthPennSD)

[twitter.com/NPSD](https://twitter.com/NPSD)



North Penn School District  
401 East Hancock Street  
Lansdale, PA 19446-3960

Non-Profit Organization  
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**PAID**  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
Permit NO. 286

# North Penn High School's Re-Imagined Future

Although conversations have occurred for many years, renovations to North Penn High School and the idea to bring ninth graders to NPHS intensified in the 2022-2023 school year and significant plans were made. Throughout the year, administration encouraged everyone to be involved and stay informed as the decision facing the North Penn community will shape the school district for generations to come.

Not renovating NPHS is not an option. It must occur because of the age and condition of the building and the financial challenges to operate it. However to what extent NPHS will be transformed is still to be determined and there are two options before the community.

**Option one** takes care of the infrastructure needs of the building, but also re-imagines NPHS to be a modern, flexible school with common areas, allowing for improved collaboration and learning. This option brings with it a unique opportunity to move ninth graders to the high school campus creating expanded opportunities for those students. An electoral debt referendum is required to fund this option.

**Option two** updates the school's infrastructures including electrical, plumbing and lighting, and the layout of NPHS would remain similar to what it has looked like since it opened in 1971. Ninth grade students would remain at middle schools.

To help community members better understand the needs of NPHS and how it could be transformed, tours are being held on Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm throughout the fall 2023 and into January 2024 (11/14, 11/28, 12/12 and 1/9).



It is important that the entire North Penn community be informed and knowledgeable about the options, the estimated costs, and the serious physical needs at NPHS. **Please visit the Re-Imagine NPHS website at [www.reimaginephs.org](http://www.reimaginephs.org) to learn more about the historic decision that is before the community.**

*Note, at the time of this annual report's printing in early October, the referendum date and the exact costs of option 1 and 2 were not finalized.*

In many countries, including the United States, 9th grade is typically part of high school. Why?

- **Academic Preparedness:** 9th graders are generally considered academically prepared for more advanced coursework compared to younger students in middle school. High school curriculum includes more specialized and challenging subjects, making it appropriate for students in 9th grade who are ready for more advanced learning. Moving 9th grade to NPHS will give our students direct access to this coursework.
- **Curriculum Continuity:** Moving 9th grade to NPHS would provide more curriculum continuity, offering a seamless transition from 9th to 12th grade and allowing students to build on their knowledge and skills year by year.
- **Graduation Requirements:** High school graduation requirements span four years, and 9th grade is counted as the first year. This structure ensures that students have enough time to meet the necessary credit requirements and complete their coursework before graduating.

• **Social Development:** High school is not just about academics; it's also a time for students to continue their social development. And 9th graders are often better equipped to handle the social dynamics of high school, including interacting with older students and navigating more complex social situations.

• **Transition to Adulthood:** High school is seen as a time when students prepare for adulthood, and 9th grade is considered a crucial year in this process. Students start exploring their interests, career goals, and college plans during this time. This can be better accomplished if 9th graders were to move to NPHS.



Rendering: Potential re-imagined North Penn High School.