

News about the
Tredyffrin/Easttown
School District for an
informed community.

T/E Insight

2007-2008 District Goals Approved

On September 24, 2007, the Board of School Directors approved School District goals for the 2007-2008 school year. Goals are established annually to determine the focus for the coming school year. To review the T/E School District's 2007-2008 goals, objectives and timeline in more detail, please visit www.tesd.net under "District Information."

In This Issue...

2007-2008 Goals
continued... 2

Thank you...2

Pennsylvania's
Graduation
Competency
Assessments...3

Applause...4

Computer Courses
for Adults...5

Budget Development
Timeline...5

2008-2009 School
Year Calendar...5

School Events Open
to the Community...6

Goal 1: To analyze the effectiveness of existing programs and to integrate new strategies identified in the strategic plan.

We will continue our practice of regularly reviewing programs and initiatives to provide support for student success. Thirteen areas have been identified for study during 2007-2008.

Goal 2: To review recent PSSA student performance data to analyze and determine the effectiveness of current programming supports designed to ensure that all students achieve proficiency or advanced status.

The administration will use T/E students' PSSA scores to determine priorities in assigning resources needed to comply with State educational standards. The administration will also make recommendations on ways to meet the needs of T/E students based on the collaborative work of District and building level Student Performance Committees. We will continue to monitor the implementation of No Child Left Behind as Congress considers reauthorization this year.

Goal 3: To submit for Board approval a complete strategic plan that reflects the District vision and fulfills state requirements.

As we begin a new cycle of strategic planning, we have maintained our commitment to involving members of the community in the process. During 2007-2008, the emphasis will be on focus groups, action planning and identification of strategic initiatives for the 2008-2009 school year. While many components relate to compliance with state programs, we will keep our focus on a visionary plan enabling students to prepare for the complexities of life in an expanding technological global community. The process will involve representatives from all facets of the T/E community and all

continued on page 2

T/E Middle School teacher Michelle DeDonato discusses aspects of the Olweus Bullying Prevention program with her students. Students meet in small groups as well as in school-wide assemblies to learn ways to prevent and address bullying behavior. Monitoring the implementation of the bullying prevention program in the middle schools is an objective of Goal 1 this school year.



2007-2008 District Goals, continued

components will be integrated with the e-Strategic Planning initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Goal 4: To use new and traditional communication methods to reach target audiences within the District effectively and economically.

We will enhance our use of electronic communication methods to provide cost-effective, two-way communication with stakeholders. Using electronic and traditional communication methods, we will inform the community about the new Act 1 budget timeline as well as the budgetary impact of state mandates. The administration will conduct a review of communication efforts and obtain community feedback to determine effectiveness.

Goal 5: To meet professional development needs for all staff by continuing or revising existing programs where appropriate and by creating new initiatives as necessary.

The Staff Development Advisory Council continues to work to ensure that programs are available to support the growth and development of the professional staff and that strategies provided in training are transferable to classroom practice.

Goal 6: To confirm that the TESD infrastructure continues to meet programming needs and to forecast future facilities needs.

We will continue to review enrollment changes and program requirements to make sure facilities are adequate to meet student needs. In addition, we will monitor the renovation of the new administration building in the West Valley Business Center in Tredyffrin Township for occupancy by the fall 2008.

Goal 7: To evaluate existing systems to ensure safe school practices and effective emergency preparedness.

In an ongoing effort to promote a safe and secure environment for all students, the District Safety Committee will continue to review current practices, survey results and projected needs related to safety. In the 2007-2008 school year, we will review government requirements for pandemic planning and begin researching a social norming program as a strategy in the prevention of substance abuse. In addition, we will expand pro-social programming to address bullying and defamation issues.

Goal 8: To develop a plan consistent with the provisions of the Tax Payer Relief Act (Act 1) to implement budgeting procedures and a budget timeline in an efficient manner and to enhance financial reporting procedures to accurately reflect the results of District business operation in a transparent manner.

We will implement the requirements of Act 1, the Tax Payer Relief Act and prepare the budget on an accelerated timeline. Implications of the long-term use of the fund balance and opportunities to increase revenue will be studied.

Thank you...

Since our last newsletter, the following gifts were accepted by the School Board:

- \$5,000 from the Class of 2007 to the Conestoga High School's athletic department for the refurbishing and updating of the banners in the gym;
- Items, valued at \$6,200 and including rugs, bullhorns, benches, couches, a coffee table, glass display cases, a smartboard, a projector, a bench, a storage shed and playground equipment, were donated to New Eagle Elementary School from their PTO;
- \$65 for the purchase of a scanner for the Devon Elementary School Kindergarten Program from their PTO;
- SmartBoard, projector and installation services valued at \$3,823 to T/E Middle School from Dr. Anthony Laganelli;
- \$1,000 from Commerce Bank towards the District's Homework Oasis program.

In addition, the School Board Public Information Committee would like to extend a warm thank you to the T/E School District maintenance and custodial staff for keeping our School District buildings clean and safe.

Pennsylvania Graduation Competency Assessments

What They Mean for T/E Students



Currently, students in the T/E School District may earn a high school diploma either by scoring proficient or advanced on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) 11th grade test or by passing a T/E School District proficiency assessment. A new law proposed by the Pennsylvania Legislature could change the way students in Pennsylvania qualify for high school graduation.

Recently the Governor's Commission on College and Career Success has recommended that, in order to graduate, all Pennsylvania high school students demonstrate proficiency either by scoring proficient or advanced on the 11th grade PSSAs or by passing a series of state-developed Graduation Competency Assessments (GCAs). Also under consideration is the use of Advanced Placement examinations or other state-approved assessment tools.

If this initiative becomes law, students will need to pass one of the state-approved assessments in order to graduate. According to the draft proposal from the state, students who fail to demonstrate proficiency through one of these high-stakes tests will not receive a high school diploma.

How many Conestoga students do not score at the proficient level on the PSSAs?

Over the past 5 years, between 40 and 70 students in each graduating class have not scored proficient on the 11th grade PSSA test.

Would students be required to take the PSSAs and the GCAs?

The draft proposal from the state includes a recommendation that all students take both sets of tests.

What advantages do T/E's assessments have over the state GCAs?

All of our planned courses of study are aligned with state standards. Midterm and final exams are required to earn credit in core courses. Seminar courses are provided for students who do not score proficient on the PSSAs. In these courses, students work is specifically related to the state assessment. These students are instructed in small groups. They are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in low-stress settings. Students who show understanding through methods other than traditional paper and pencil high-stakes tests are more likely to demonstrate what they actually know through T/E's assessment model.

Will students who do not score proficient on the PSSAs or the GCAs get a chance to try again?

Students may currently retake the PSSAs in the fall of their senior year. These results are available in the spring. The draft proposal supports student retakes of the GCA tests.

Why is the state considering changing the graduation requirements and adding GCAs?

The state believes that by setting a uniform state standard for proficiency, students will be better prepared to meet college and career expectations.

Do students who do not score proficient on the PSSAs but pass T/E's assessment typically go on to higher education?

Conestoga graduates who did not score proficient on the PSSAs have earned acceptance and experienced success at many fine colleges and universities. A small sampling of such Pennsylvania

schools includes Dickinson, Drexel, Muhlenberg, Temple, Pittsburgh and Penn State. Other students who were not proficient on the 11th grade PSSA have attended out-of-state universities such as Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Rutgers, Southern California and Virginia Tech. Admission to and success at many quality colleges and universities is a further testament to student proficiency as determined by T/E's local model.

How many new tests would result from adding the GCAs?

The latest discussion paper released by the state includes plans for ten new tests: English 10, English 11, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, World History, United States History, Civics and Government, Biology, and Chemistry.

Will these regulations apply to students with disabilities?

The state is currently recommending the awarding of diplomas to students who have satisfactorily completed an Individualized Education Program under the guidelines of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

When are these new regulations scheduled to take effect?

The new regulations, if approved, will be effective beginning with the graduating class of 2014, who will begin 9th grade in the fall of 2010.

What can I do to voice my opinion about the GCAs?

You may contact your local legislators, the Governor's office and the State Board of Education to express your opinion regarding the GCAs. Contact information is available on the T/E District website at www.tesd.net.

Applause!



T/E Students and Staff Highlights

T/E Middle School Team Wins in Bus Safety Poster Contest...Two CHS ninth-graders teamed up last year to produce a poster for PENNDOT's "Stop on Red, Kids Ahead" contest. **Michael W.** and **Philip P.** worked together as eighth-graders to produce a poster for the contest. They won second place in their division.

Conestoga Field Hockey Athletes Win State-wide Recognition... **Megan D., Gabrielle S., Megan B., Lauren K.** and **Caitlin F.** were awarded All-State, All Academic honors. **Megan D.** was also named to the First Team, All State. Congratulations to these young women, their head coach **Karen Gately** and assistant **Meaghan McDugall.**

Conestoga Student Wins AFS Scholarship
...**Rio P.**, a junior at Conestoga High School, won the AFS (American Field Studies) Congress Bundestag Scholarship to Germany. The Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange Program is jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress, through the U.S. Department of State. This unique program provides 250 full scholarships for American high school students to live with a host family and attend school in Germany for a year. Rio left for Germany on September 7th after meeting with Congressman Jim Gerlach in Washington, D.C. Rio lives in Dietramszell, a small village just south of Munich. She attends St. Ursula High School in Lengries and will return to the U.S. in July.

Hillside Elementary School Paraprofessional Wins Award...**Margaret Sweetwood**, who works with children in Hillside's autistic support program, has been named the Outstanding Continuing Education Degree Student by the University Continuing Education Association - Mid-Atlantic Region. **Mrs. Sweetwood** is pursuing an undergraduate degree in elementary education at Widener University.

Conestoga's Lit Mag Wins Gold...Last year's CHS literary magazine has been awarded The Keystone All-State Award by the Pennsylvania School Press Association (PSPA). Tied with one other publication, *Lit Mag* has been judged one of the two best in the state. Congratulations to sponsors **Tricia Ebarvia** and **Ben Smith.**

The Spoke is a Triple Winner...The 2006-2007 edition of *The Spoke*, Conestoga's newspaper, earned gold awards from the Pennsylvania School Press Association's (PSPA) and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The publication was also named First Class by the National School Press Association. Advisers to *The Spoke* are **Susan Houseman, Cynthia Hyatt** and **Kevin Ruggeri.**

Conestoga Girls Soccer Team Wins State Championship...The team and their coaches traveled to Hershey Park Stadium on November 17th to beat Penn Trafford 2-0 in the final round of championship play. Congratulations to the team and Head Coach **Danielle Fagan** and her coaching staff, **Alexandra Hill, Steve Fraser, Megan Brogan** and **Josh Gansky.**

Conestoga High School Named in U.S. News & World Report as One of America's Best High Schools...Congratulations to Conestoga High School for being named one of the best high schools in the country based on test scores and performance in advanced placement courses. Conestoga ranked 79th out of 18,790 high schools and received a "gold-medal" ranking. According to the *The U.S. News and World Report* web site, the ranking, "is based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all its students well, not just those who are bound for college, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes that show the school is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators." Conestoga will be awarded a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives commending the school on its placement in the ranking.

Announcements and Reminders

Budget Development Meetings

March 3, 2008:	Budget Development Workshop
March 31, 2008:	Budget Development Workshop
May 19, 2008:	Regular School Board Meeting - <i>Proposed Final Budget Presentation</i>

These meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Conestoga High School cafeteria. The budget will also be discussed at School Board Finance Committee Meetings. Please visit the T/E School District web site at www.tesd.net for a list of all School Board meeting dates, times and agendas.

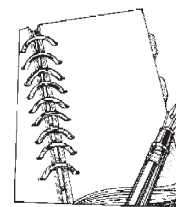
FLITE 2007-2008 Update: Local Preschool Scholarship Opportunities Available

The Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin-Easttown (FLITE) is actively continuing its work to help children in the T/E community who are experiencing challenges that may affect their education. Since its beginning in 2006, through generous community donations, FLITE has funded tutoring and transportation programs at our elementary and middle schools, provided musical instruments for students who otherwise would not have had them and sponsored a reading-support program.

In September 2007, FLITE partnered with the Upper Main Line YMCA to help provide preschool opportunities to children in Tredyffrin and Easttown townships who might not otherwise have the chance to attend preschool. FLITE is excited to announce that a number of scholarships are available for eligible preschool children. Scholarships and preschool costs are based on financial need. If you are interested in finding out more about the preschool scholarships, please call (610) 240-1860 and leave your name and phone number. You may also email FLITE at info@flite-pa.org or visit the FLITE web site at www.flite-pa.org.

Thank you to the entire community for their support of FLITE. Your donations are making a difference for children in our community. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to FLITE: PO Box 806, Southeastern, PA, 19399-0806.

2008-2009 School Year Calendar



The school calendar for the 2008-2009 school year is available on the T/E School District web site at www.tesd.net under "Calendar" on the right side of the home page.

Notable about the new calendar are the following details:

- School will start on September 2, 2008, the day after Labor Day, for students in grades 1-5, 9 and students in grades 1-12 who are new to the District.
- The first day of school for students in grades 6-8 and 10-12 is September 3, 2008.
- The first day of school for kindergarten students is September 8, 2008.
- Conferences will continue to take place during Thanksgiving week. The Thanksgiving holiday will begin on Wednesday to accommodate travel and vacation time.
- Spring break will be the first full week of April.
- The tentative last day of school for students is a half day on June 17, 2009.

Tredyffrin Township Adult Computer Classes at Conestoga High School

Tredyffrin Township Park and Recreation Board, in conjunction with Conestoga High School, is offering computer courses for adults who reside in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. The registration fee is \$35.00 for all classes. Registration forms may be picked up at the Tredyffrin Township Administration Building or downloaded at www.tredyffrin.org. Please call the Township at (610) 644-1400 for more information.

All classes will be held at Conestoga High School
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Digital Photography

(Spring) Wednesday March 5, 12, 26, April 2

Introduction to Microsoft Word 2003

(Spring) Monday March 3, 10, 24, 31

Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003/Power Point

(Spring) Wednesday March 5, 12, 26, April 2

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The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. For information regarding civil rights, grievance procedures, services, activities, and facilities accessible to and usable by disabled persons, contact Mrs. Susan Tiede or Dr. Joyce Videlock, T/E School District, 738 First Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19312-1779, (610) 240-1900.

School Events Open to the Community

The following is a list of school events that are open to the community. Please come visit our schools and enjoy the programs!

Beaumont Elementary School: (610) 240-1400

Feb. 11-14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm Book Fair
Feb. 12, 6:00-8:00 pm Book Fair
Feb. 15, 9:00 am-noon Book Fair

Devon Elementary School: (610) 240-1450

Mar. 13, 1:15-9:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive

Hillside Elementary School: (610) 240-1500

Mar. 12, 7:00 pm Personal Achievement in Learning Fair

New Eagle Elementary School: (610) 240-1550

Feb. 4-8 Learning Fair (call for hours)

Valley Forge Elementary School: (610) 240-1600

Feb. 14, 10:00 am & 2:00 pm Valentine Concerts
Feb. 29, 9:00 am 50th Birthday Celebration

Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School: (610) 240-1200

Mar. 7, 8:00 pm Schuylkill Valley Band Concert
Apr. 29, 7:30 pm 5th/6th Grade Spring Concert

May 1, 1:00 pm 5th/6th Grade Play
May 2, 7:00 pm 5th/6th Grade Play (tentative time)
May 3, 7:00 pm 5th/6th Grade Play
May 14, 7:30 pm 7th/8th Grade Spring Concert

Valley Forge Middle School: (610) 240-1300

Mar. 13 & 14, 7:30 pm 7th/8th Grade Musical:
Bye Bye Birdie *
Apr. 12, 3:00 pm PMEA Bell Fest
May 1, 7:30 pm 5th/6th Grade Spring Concert
May 14, 7:30 pm 7th/8th Grade Spring Concert

Conestoga High School: (610) 240-1000

Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 7:30 pm Spring Musical, *Footloose* *
Feb. 28, 10:00 am Spring Musical, *Footloose* *
Mar. 1, 2:00 pm Spring Musical, *Footloose* *
Mar. 25, 7:30 pm Fashion Show
Mar. 27, 8:00 pm E. Morgan Kelly Scholarship Concert
Mar. 28, 7:00 pm Mr./Mrs. Pioneer
Mar. 29, 6:30 pm Junior Cabaret
Apr. 23 & 24, 7:30 pm Spring Concert (Instrumental)
Apr. 30, 7:30 pm Spring Concert (Choral)

* Tickets must be purchased for this event. Call the school for details.