

CSD PRIDE In Action



Centennial School District

2013-2014 Annual Report



Dear Centennial Community,

We entered the school year with a message that we hoped would resonate with our District. Our message is one of pride... **CSD PRIDE!** It is a powerful message that challenges our entire community to connect and work together to move the District toward greatness through specific actions:

C *Challenge the Status Quo*

S *Share Your Talents*

D *Do What Matters*

P *Practice Gratitude*

R *Row Together*

I *Inspire Creativity*

D *Defy Expectations*

E *Embrace Diversity*

It is with great pride that we share with you the District's many initiatives and successes, which are summarized in the **2013-2014 Centennial School District Annual Report**. It is impressive to see how much the District has accomplished in such a short period of time. We applaud the efforts and commitment demonstrated by the School Board, administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, community, business leaders and others.

2013-2014 has been an eventful year and District sponsored initiatives have helped to establish a strong foundation upon which change can take root. We anticipate that the upcoming school year will benefit greatly from the progress that was made this year.

Honest and open communication from stakeholders this year has been instrumental in determining specific steps that must be taken to ensure that our **CSD PRIDE** is strong. We ask for your continued support and feedback and thank you for your commitment to ensuring that the District thrives.

We invite you to review the events and accomplishments of the past year. It is evident that the message was received and embraced by the Centennial community.



Yours in Pride,

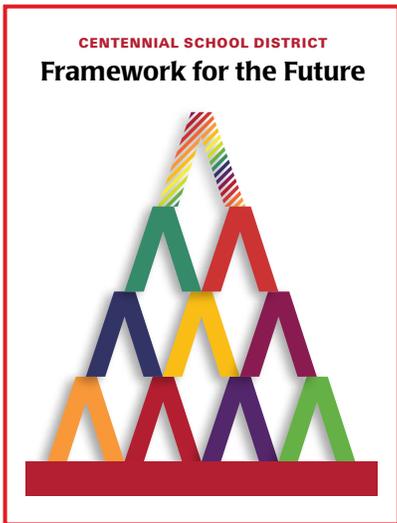
Dr. Joyce Mundy
Superintendent of Schools

Jane Schrader Lynch
School Board President



Framework for the Future

Superintendent Joyce Mundy, Ed.D. took office in July, 2013. During her first year as District Superintendent, Dr. Mundy collected data from District stakeholders, including: Board members, cabinet members, building principals, CEA President and President Elect, community leaders, community members, teachers, staff, parents and students.



The goal of the process was to understand the District’s people, programs and culture, identify goals and priorities and increase communication with all stakeholders.

Over a period of approximately nine months, Dr. Mundy met with stakeholder representatives who thoughtfully and candidly assessed the District’s strengths and identified barriers to effectiveness. These insights were analyzed, discussed and used to create *Framework for the Future*, which outlines the fundamental elements that are essential to the District’s Comprehensive Plan and include:

- Leadership team support and participation
- Dynamic educational programs
- A positive school environment that creates an optimal setting for teaching and learning
- Innovation to inspire

As the process moves forward, the plan will be guided by fiscally sound decisions, a clear focus on shared priorities, and a commitment to innovation.

Framework for the Future was presented at a community meeting in June, 2014.

Business as usual is not necessarily good business. To challenge the status quo requires a critical analysis of what works, what does not work and what should be changed. At times it may be uncomfortable to chart a new course; it is a process that is necessary for organizations, institutions and individuals to change and grow.

for Teaching and Learning

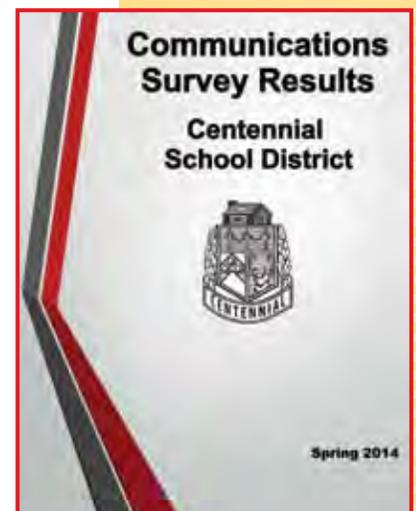
- Promote respect, support and understanding among students and staff to create a safe, nurturing school environment.
- Include bullying prevention, conflict resolution and effective communication programs.
- Engage students who are disconnected with learning or the school culture.
- Increase resources for families in need.

Communication Survey Invites Public Evaluation

A survey designed to assess the effectiveness of District communications was released in January, 2014. More than 800 community members, parents, staff members, business leaders and students shared their opinions.

Although the majority of the respondents indicated that communication between the District and stakeholders has improved with the implementation of new communication strategies, further improvement is needed. Respondents appreciated that communication has become more transparent and a number of participants — especially students — were pleased that the District has expanded its social media presence.

The survey findings will be used by the District as it explores new and innovative strategies for engaging the Centennial community and strengthening their involvement in District activities, issues and events.



The broad and diverse talents of Centennial students, staff and faculty are what makes the District unique. When these talents are shared, the entire community benefits. During 2013-2014, our community had many opportunities to enjoy these special talents.

Broadway Comes to Centennial

In February, 2014, Klinger Middle School students worked their own form of magic and transformed the stage into Agrabah, City of Enchantment, for the school's spring musical, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* The adaptation of the hit movie delighted the audience.

In March, 2014, Log College Middle School took to the stage and performed *Into the Woods, Jr.* The actors packed the house and impressed the audience with their talent and professionalism.

Kudos go to the stage crew and their sets that rivaled those of a Broadway show.

In April, 2014, William Tennent High School staged its most ambitious performance to date, involving 90 cast members, stage crew members and musicians. *Oklahoma!*, the endearing Rogers and Hammerstein favorite, proved a popular draw. The production combined elements of the 1943 play and the 1999 film version and included updated twists.



District Drivers: Driven to Achieve Excellence

Bucks and Montgomery County School Districts joined together in the spring to hold the School Bus Safety Competition, popularly referred to as the Road-EO. The one day event, which began in 1973, was held at Willow Dale Elementary School and showcased the remarkable skills that drivers demonstrate as they maneuver through obstacle courses. A written exam was also administered.

Eight districts competed and nine Centennial drivers participated.

Centennial's team earned the first place spot. Congratulations to Larry Hannon, Sr., Larry Hannon, Jr., Paul Smith, Larry Sicher, Larry Schumacher, Sr., Larry Schumacher, Jr., Paul Schumacher, Carolyn Costa, and Devindra (Robbie) Nagassar.



Night of 2,500 Art Stars

Centennial families, community members and staff members came out in force to support the arts at Showcase Night in May, 2014. More than 2,500 works of art created by Centennial students were displayed. Family and Consumer Science students prepared and served hors d'oeuvres, beverages and desserts throughout the show.

The Senior Exhibition contained 887 works of art, which were created by 56 participants. Six local artists juried the high school portion and more than \$1,200 was awarded to students.



Festival Celebrates Talent

The Annual Fine Arts Festival is the highlight of the school year because it unites students across all grade levels and spotlights their many talents. Since 1980, the five day festival has celebrated the musical and artistic accomplishments of students in grades K-12. Works of art are exhibited and groups perform for Orchestra Night, Jazz Night, Chorus Night and Band Night. With more than 1,000 students participating, the event is well attended by parents, families and community members.

Centennial Education Foundation

Founded almost 15 years ago by volunteers, the Centennial Education Foundation (CEF) is committed to funding enriching educational experiences and projects that supplement the District's well-rounded curriculum. The Foundation relies solely on donations from individuals, corporations, community organizations and other foundations to support its efforts.

Each year, CEF honors individual teachers with up to \$1,000 to provide educational enrichment programs for projects not funded by tax revenues. At the 2014 Grant Awards and Recognition Program, the Foundation awarded grants to 40 District teachers. Programs that were funded include: Holocaust Remembrance, Writers Workshop, Using Technology to Improve Math and others.

During 2013-2014, CEF also provided significant funding for a summer enrichment program in the creative and performing arts and an elementary school environmental program.

Safer Schools, Safer Communities

Over 3.2 million students are bullied each year. Centennial School District, under the leadership of Dr. Mundy, is committed to preventing the spread of bullying behavior by ensuring that effective anti-bullying mechanisms are in place. The District has implemented proactive programs that promote behavior that resolves conflict effectively.

Centennial is one of the first area school districts to tap the resources of The Peace Center's Bullying Prevention Resource Center in Langhorne. The Peace Center has assisted with peer mediation and conflict resolution at the high school and our students are using their newly acquired skills to mentor younger children. In the middle schools, Girls Unlimited teaches students to sort out their issues productively.

The Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), which provides an array of services, including student workshops, has also partnered with the District. Programs are conducted at the elementary schools, middle schools and the high school.

Elementary school students are inspired by initiatives like Random Acts of Kindness which promote respect and caring behavior.

Middle School Gears Up For Positive Behavior Program

School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) is one program in the District's sequence of character-building programs. The Board of School Directors approved SWPBIS in October, 2013. The program will be implemented in Centennial's middle schools. Character Counts is taught at the elementary level and Responsible Behavior is available at the high school level.

SWPBIS teaches behavioral expectations in the same way that other subjects in the curriculum are taught. Clear rules and expectations are defined for student behavior, which are phrased as positive statements, such as "walk in the halls" rather than "no running in the halls." Expectations will be identified for all areas of the school, including the gym, cafeteria, classrooms, restrooms and library.

A core team of teachers was trained by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and the program's framework will be in place in 2014 – 2015.

District Students Help Knock Out Hunger!

One in 10 residents and 15 percent of all children in Bucks County are considered "food insecure." *Bucks Knocks Out Hunger* is a community-driven, hunger-fighting project that unites thousands of donors, advocates, and volunteers. District students helped pack meals that were distributed to families and individuals in need.

Making time for the initiatives that impact the community and improve the lives of others enhances the quality of life within the District and strengthens community connections.



Veterans Wall Rededicated

The Veterans Wall at William Tennent High School served as a reminder of the sacrifices that District alumni, faculty and staff made by serving their country. During construction of the new high school, the Wall was placed in storage waiting to be returned to its place of honor. On November 11, 2013, the community paid tribute to District veterans at a Veterans Wall Rededication Ceremony.

Listed on the Wall are the names of more than 125 William Tennent graduates, as well as District faculty and staff, who served in branches of the U.S. Military, including: U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserves.

After the ceremony, veterans participated in social studies panels that offered students a unique opportunity to hear from those who courageously played a role in significant events in our country's history.



Teams Express Their Pride

When *Framework for the Future* was hosted in June, 2014, the meeting began with team representatives sharing their thoughts about the District. The comments were thoughtful, inspiring and highlighted the spirit of appreciation and pride that is evident throughout the District.

"I received an extraordinary education at Centennial, and I plan to use it to make my mark on the world."

Gianna Asterito, Student Team

"It is because of the visionary leadership of our Superintendent, the support of our School Board, the collaboration amongst Cabinet members, the dedicated leadership of our Principals, the professionalism of our teachers and the commitment of our support staff that we can say with Centennial School District pride that we stand for the betterment of our students and our community."

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Leadership Team

Arts Flourish with Alliance's Support

William Tennent High School offers a wide array of programs in theater, visual, vocal, instrumental, literary, digital and culinary arts. While popular with students and essential to a well-rounded education, these programs compete with other vital programs for limited resources.

Parents who wished to maintain the quality and variety of the high school's arts programming were instrumental in establishing the William Tennent Arts Alliance, a fundraising organization dedicated to supporting the arts. For the Alliance, it has been a busy inaugural year.

The Alliance has been recognized by the Centennial Board of School Directors for its contributions to student life.



When we practice gratitude and recognize and appreciate the events and people who impact our lives, we reinforce their good works and create a culture of kindness and respect.

Honoring Those Who Serve

William Tennent High School Student Government and District Administration hosted *Dinner for Those Who Serve*. Custodial staff, transportation workers and cafeteria employees were invited to enjoy a special dinner as guests of the District.

The dinner recognized the District's unsung heroes — those whose efforts are responsible for making the school experience one that is safe and pleasant. The event is the District's way of saying "thank you".

The District is a Good Neighbor

Following February's severe winter ice storm that left a record number of PECO customers and the Centennial community without power, the District opened its doors to help its friends and neighbors.



Residents were invited to rest and recharge at William Tennent High School. Shuttle services were available for those needing transportation. Amenities included water, restrooms, and charging stations for cell phones. Guests were welcome to use the library and gymnasium and to view a planetarium show.



District Employees Congratulated On Milestones

The 36th Annual Retirement and Recognition Reception honored close to 75 District employees for achieving service milestones. The District also bid farewell and thanks to 22 District employees who retired. School Board Vice-President Mark B. Miller and Centennial Education Association representative Joe O'Connor welcomed and congratulated the participants.

Superintendent Joyce Mundy presented Fifteen Year Service Awards to 64 employees, Twenty-Five Year Service Awards to seven employees, and Thirty-Five Year Service Awards to two employees.

Dr. Mundy offered her congratulations and commended the participants for their many years of loyal service and noted that their commitment and achievement are qualities that the District values.



Teamwork is essential to any organization. When individuals learn to work effectively in teams, they enjoy better relationships, are more cohesive and are more likely to achieve their common goals.

Centennial School District Board of School Directors



Jane Schrader Lynch, *President*
Mark B. Miller, *Vice President*
Betty Huf, *Assistant Secretary*
Steve Adams
Kati Driban
Michael Hartline
Chuck Kleinschmidt
Dr. Andrew Pollock
David Shafter

"Our Board has worked closely together and with our administration to put students first. We have open communication, and coordinating with all of the teams has made us stronger, more effective, and more efficient. We enjoy working to make Centennial exceptional, and we are excited to keep moving above and beyond where we are."

Centennial Board of School Directors

What It Means to Row Together



"Having the right people in the room with a shared vision of communicating and solving problems together makes for a stronger, more focused organization. We are in a better place as a District and a community as a result of rowing together."

Centennial Education Association



"Rowing together as principals has made our schools more coordinated, cohesive, and consistent for students, regardless of which school a student attends. We have seen a lot of progress as we now work together as a team with our District administration, and communication is much more effective as a result."

Centennial Building Principals



"For cabinet members, rowing together means that we set the cadence for the team. We provide the structures and supports to all team members to ensure they can do their part with students, faculty, and community. We coordinate and cooperate together "behind the scenes" to ensure that the students and community have the highest level of service."

Centennial Cabinet

'Daydream' Featured In Gallery

The Bucks County Intermediate Unit honors student artists from Bucks County public and private schools by creating a rotating student art gallery, which changes annually.

This year, senior Natalie Javage was selected to represent Centennial School District. Her submission entitled 'Daydream' is a self-portrait in watercolor.



Students are encouraged to explore the world in ways that excite and motivate them to contribute to a vibrant environment that fosters innovation.

Computer Programming is for the Birds!

William Tennent High School's Instructional Technology Specialist Philip Vinogradov introduced District students to computer programming using Finch robots on loan from Carnegie Mellon University and BirdBrain Technologies.

The tabletop robots, which closely resemble birds, are being used to engage students and excite them about computer programming careers. Middle school students visited the high school's 21st Century Learning Lab and experimented with programming the Finches.

While working in pairs, students experimented with the Finches to learn programming concepts first hand and to increase their programming comfort level. It was only a matter of minutes before Finches were scurrying around the room and meeting up with other Finches.

Mr. Vinogradov secured the Finches through a competitive application process at no cost to the District.



Strike Up the Band!

William Tennent Marching Band enjoyed a successful year. Their field show entitled, "Carmen – A Tragic Fantasy," earned the top rating at adjudications held at area high schools. Throughout the year, students participated in community parades and events. The school year closed on an exciting note as the Marching Panthers performed at a Philadelphia Phillies game and were joined by Log College and Klinger musicians.



Inspiring students to use their talents, intelligence and imagination to move beyond the expected makes for an exciting learning environment where greatness is possible. The District's goal is to encourage students to challenge what they believe they can accomplish as well as what others think they should achieve, in order to put their abilities to the highest and best use.

How Does Centennial Measure Achievement?

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has developed a comprehensive system for measuring a school's performance. All of our schools met or exceeded state expectations this year. The School Performance Profile uses multiple measures of student achievement such as:

- Student's PSSA and Keystone Exam scores, grade 3 reading proficiency, and college readiness (SAT, ACT) and industry assessments (NOCTI, NIMS).
- Indicators of closing the achievement gap for not just students who historically underperform, but all students.
- Indicators of student achievement such as graduation rate, rigorous courses, attendance, etc.

School	SPP Score
William Tennent High School	80.9/100
Klinger Middle School	91.0/100
Log College Middle School	84.2/100
Davis Elementary School	84.4/100
McDonald Elementary School	80.8/100
Willow Dale Elementary School	76.4/100

William Tennent Debate Team

- Ranked in the top 10 percent of all schools nationally by the National Forensics League.
- Five members are ranked in the top 150 students in Pennsylvania.
- Three members qualified for the NCFL National Tournament in Chicago.
- Senior Michael Pronin captured eighth place at the National Speech and Debate Association's national tournament in Kansas.



William Tennent Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA members are preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. Club members participate in community service projects, attend conferences and compete in competitions. During the 2013-2014 school year, members have had many notable accomplishments:

- Twenty-nine students attended the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA.
- FBLA's National Awards Program recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. Five students placed in the top 10 in Pennsylvania.
- National Leadership Conference Qualifiers are Francis Sokolowski and Jonathan Montgomery and Top Ten Finishers are Robert Shaw, Lawrence Garber and Ian Yannuzzi.



Silence Speaks Volumes

Day of Silence is the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) annual day of action to protest violence directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students. Across the country, students will remain silent for all or part of the day to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools. William Tennent High School recognized the day on April 30, 2014. More than 250 students, along with District faculty and Superintendent Mundy participated to protest anti-LGBT motivated behavior.



There is a richness of difference that exists in our community. We share much in common but it is our diversity that makes the District unique.

McDonald Reaches Out to ESL Parents

In January, 2014, McDonald Elementary School launched an outreach program to improve communication with the families of its English as a Second Language (ESL) students and to increase participation of ESL parents at school events. Parents were surveyed and asked to identify the obstacles to attending school events.

McDonald now holds monthly meetings to announce and discuss upcoming events, to review the minutes of the Home and School Association (HSA) meetings, and to answer questions about the school, classroom, tests, homework and more. Meetings are held during the day and in the evening and a Spanish interpreter is present to assist the parents.

McDonald plans to host monthly ESL Family Meetings during the 2014-2015 school year to strengthen its home and school partnership with its multicultural families. As parents become more knowledgeable about the school and its events, they become more engaged and involved with their children’s educational experiences.

Vita: One Year Later

Vita Family Literacy is based on the finding that a mother’s reading skill is the most significant determinant of her children’s future academic success. To ensure that children of non-English speaking parents have the support to thrive in the classroom, Vita has partnered with the Centennial School District to offer literacy services to parents, age 17 or older, with limited English language skills or without a high school diploma.

There are four critical components of the Vita program: English as a Second Language instruction, parenting education, literacy activities that promote interaction between parent and child, and pre-school and elementary education.

Participants have advanced significantly in their skills since the beginning of the school year and have noted that they now can better support their children’s classroom efforts.



¡Bravo! Gratulation!

Log College 8th grade students, enrolled in Spanish and German, put their language skills to the test at the Bucks County World Language Competition that was held in February, 2014. The students competed with students from throughout the county. The competition focused on vocabulary, grammar, culture and spelling. Log College took home a Red Ribbon.



Centennial School District

433 Centennial Road • Warminster, PA 18974

215.441.6000 PH • 215.441.5105 FAX

www.centennialsd.org

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About Centennial's Board of School Directors

The Centennial School Board is a dynamic group that governs and guides our school district. They are the stewards of the district and work diligently to provide strong leadership of our district. They provide oversight in the areas of finance, operations, education, and the development of policies for governance of our actions. Our Board of School Directors has a diverse set of talents and experiences, which helps us to make decisions with a variety of perspectives. Students are always at the heart of what they do, and it is clear that our Board is extremely proud of our district. They are also focused on the larger community so that we are good partners and provide support for our municipalities.

Who Is Centennial?

The Centennial School District is comprised of 3 regional elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Serving the communities of Ivyland, Huntingdon Valley, Southampton, and Warminster, 5,601 students attended our schools during the 2013-14 school year.

The Centennial School District is a diverse community of learners. Our students represent a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

- 8.35% of students K-5 and 2.74% of students 6-12 receive instruction in English as a Second Language.

What Sets Centennial Apart?

The Centennial School District prides itself on the specialized programs it offers to students. These programs enhance students' ability to achieve academic excellence and individual development.

- 3.21% of students K-12 receive gifted education services.
- 17.87% of students K-12 receive special education services.
- 33.73% of students are eligible for programs designated for economically disadvantaged students.

Ethnicity	District Percent
American Indian/Alaskan	0.09
Asian	2.95
Black or African American	3.57
Hispanic	12.27
Multi-racial	2.32
White	78.7
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.11

The Centennial School District offers 14 Advanced Placement courses at William Tennent High School.

- Students participated in 317 Advanced Placement Exams.
- 78% of the students scored a 3 or higher, making them eligible for college credit.