COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The strength of our community and the strength of our schools act together in a synergistic relationship. As the quality of education in our schools increases, the value of the homes in our community also increases. Your support of public education is critical in this relationship. For our schools and community to continue to improve and grow together, we must communicate well.

Connect with us:
ssdcougars.org/community/connect-with-us
Facebook
Instagram
Twitter
Mobile App
ssdcougars.org/district/school-board
ssdcougars.org/district/superintendent-of-schools

HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Resident,

Thank you for joining us as we look back at the 2017-2018 school year in: HIGHLIGHTS – Springfield School District at a Glance.

On behalf of our Board of School Directors, administration, faculty, and staff, we are pleased to share this update on our school district and the over 4,000 students we serve. Our students continue to achieve in the areas of Academics, Arts, Athletics/Activities, and Service. We believe within these four pillars, every student can find a place and purpose to establish a growth mindset in order to demonstrate our adage, Pride in All Things.

In Academics, our students continue to achieve at high levels. At the elementary level, the foundational reading program, coupled with a math program implemented in 2016, offer our students the necessary building blocks for success. At the middle school, the Writing Center is well underway, with students focused on effective communication skills. The high school continues to cultivate the College and Career Academy, which emphasizes post-secondary readiness and planning.

In the Arts, our programming remains dedicated to the strong tradition in our district. The fine arts and the performing arts programs bring richness to our students’ lives, allowing for creativity and self-expression.

In Athletics/Activities, our students continue to be involved in their school communities. Our athletics program, after school clubs, and extra-curricular programs help students discover their passions and skills, while also focusing on being a tremendous team member.

In the pillar of Service, our students give back to the community that supports them. Community service is engrained in our students, and the impact of their efforts is far-reaching and close to home.

Furthermore, the new high school master plan project is in full swing and will definitely be a positive investment in the future of our community.

It certainly is an exciting time in the Springfield School District, and we are so thankful for the continued support from the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Lord, Jr.
Board President

Dr. Anthony Barber
Superintendent of Schools

For more information, please contact Debi Marker at 610.938.6004 or debi.marker@ssdcougars.org.
The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a federally mandated, standardized test administered by public schools in the state of Pennsylvania. Students in grades 3-8 are assessed annually in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Consistently, Springfield School District students outperform the state averages by a significant margin on the PSSA as reflected in the accompanying charts.

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments for high school students designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Biology, Literature, and Algebra I. As with the PSSA exams, Springfield School District students outperform the state averages as reflected in the accompanying chart.

### Community Characteristics

#### Springfield Township
- **Total Households:** 8,327
- **Squares MILES:** 6.4
- **Total Population:** 24,253
- **Persons by Age (%)**
  - Ages 0-24: 29.3%
  - Ages 25-64: 53.2%
  - Ages 65+: 17.5%
- **Persons by Ethnicity (%)**
  - White: 92.2%
  - African American: 0.9%
  - Asian: 5.1%
  - Other: 1.8%

#### Morton Borough
- **Total Households:** 1,119
- **Squares MILES:** 0.4
- **Total Population:** 2,688
- **Persons by Age (%)**
  - Ages 0-24: 26.8%
  - Ages 25-64: 57.5%
  - Ages 65+: 15.7%
- **Persons by Ethnicity (%)**
  - White: 69.4%
  - African American: 24.7%
  - Asian: 4.9%
  - Other: 1%

Students in the Springfield School District voluntarily participate in national measures of excellence, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the ACT Test, and Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

In March, 2016, the SAT was redesigned to include two mandatory sections - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Math - and one optional section - Essay. Due to this change, the 2017-2018 data is the new baseline for future longitudinal comparisons. Springfield High School students outperformed students at both the state and national levels.

The ACT Test, similar to the SAT, is a popular standardized test used for college admissions containing four distinct sections - English, Math, Reading, and Science. Springfield High School students have been steadily scoring higher on each section over the past five year period.

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. Students who earn a score of 3 or better on a 5-point scale are considered passing. Springfield High School students have been steadily scoring higher on each section over the past five year period.

The accompanying charts demonstrate this data.

In 2018, Springfield High School graduated 99% of the senior class. Of those graduates, 97.8% reported postsecondary progression, selecting to continue their education by attending a 4-year college or university, a 2-year college, or a technical school; to enter the workforce; or to enlist in the military. On average, 88% of graduating seniors complete freshmen year of college. Of that 88%, 92% return for sophomore year. These persistence and retention rates are above the national average.

The accompanying chart highlights this data.
Springfield School District focuses on four pillars – Academics, Arts, Athletics/Activities, and Service. These are areas that we, as a school district and a community, take pride in. Once again, Springfield School District ranks as one of the best school districts, not only in Delaware County, but in the state of Pennsylvania.

Student performance on assessments remains consistently above state and national averages. This success is the result of an approach focused on continuous improvement and growth mindset. Springfield High School principal, Mr. Joseph Hepp, agrees: “At Springfield High School, and throughout the district, we constantly look for ways to improve. Together, we work toward achievement for all at all levels. This level of achievement would not be possible without the commitment of our teachers, staff, students, and families.”

When asked, Dr. Anthony Barber, the Superintendent of the Springfield School District, also recognizes that hard work is required to maintain success. “Our success is a direct correlation to the hard work that our staff and students perform on a daily basis. We recognize that learning is a process, and although no one score defines a child’s educational journey, our ability to utilize this data enables us to be diagnostic with each child’s instructional plan. The key is to continuously build our academic identity one child at a time.”

For more information, visit https://futurereadypa.org.
Congratulations to both students for representing their school at the Springfield School District. The 2018 Making A Difference Award was presented to two outstanding students. The SLC Home and School Association annually runs 15 student-run clubs in various areas of interest.

Springfield Literacy Center (SLC) is currently in its fourth year of implementing “Go Blue,” an initiative to improve reading skills among first graders. SLC students have been participating in clubs focused around Pokemon, S.T.E.M. projects, and various intramural sports.

The SLC Home and School Association annually runs 15 student-run clubs in various areas of interest. These clubs provide students with opportunities to socialize and gain new skills in a fun and active environment. Clubs include Figaro’s, Pizza; Floor Hockey; Painting with Twists; S.T.E.M.; and Music & Movement.

Scenic Hills Elementary:
- Student Leaders, Intramurals, the Community Service Club, Reading Olympics, Band and Orchestra, and Scenic Singers are some of the activities that take place all year at Scenic Hills Elementary (Scenic).
- Each year, the halls of Scenic are turned into a fantastic museum of student artwork when we hold our annual Scenic Showcase. Our Scenic Singers perform multiple times throughout the year (Winter Concert, Holidays Around the World, Holiday Teas, and Scenic Showcase). Our band and orchestra students perform at the Winter Concert and Spring Concert.
- Four Scenic students were winners in the 2018 Delaware County Young Authors Contest: Bobby Iorio (Gr. 2), Julia Celona (Gr. 3), Jasmeet Phagura (Gr. 3), and Alayna O’Donnell (Gr. 4). Two students were winners in the Young Poets of Delaware County 2018 poetry contest: Maggie Wesnoski (Gr. 4) and Makenna Linsky (Gr. 5). More than 100 students in grades three, four, and five participated in the 2018 Science Fair. In our second year of participation, Scenic’s two Reading Olympics teams earned one first and one second place award.

Scenic was awarded the 2018 Delaware County Veterans’ Memorial Freedom Medal in recognition of our Veterans’ Day celebration and several projects we undertake throughout the year to support veterans and active duty military personnel. Other projects included supporting the One Million Good Nights Pajama Program and a donation to the Springfield Fire Department of 23 Build-A-Bear toys and trays of cookies.

Sabold Elementary:
- Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)’s Division of Federal Programs has recognized Sabold as a 2018-2019 Distinguished Title I School. This is the second time Sabold has received this honor. PDE’s division of Federal Programs selects Distinguished Title I schools based on high achievement, high progress, and annual measurable objectives, which include graduation, participation, and attendance measures.
- Sabold was also one of only a dozen PA schools nominated by PDE for the National Blue Ribbon School designation. This program recognizes excellence in education.
- Sabold continues to have outstanding participation in school activities. There is 100% student participation in Sabold’s Art Show and Red Ribbon Week, which focuses on a commitment to healthy living. Approximately 80% of students participate in before and after school activities such as gymnastics, various intramural sports, and a variety of clubs like the chess club, coding club, sewing club, and many other options.
- Sabold’s third and fourth grade students participated in their Caring & Sharing project again this year. Students earned money by completing chores and donated that money to provide Thanksgiving meals for fifty families in need in the surrounding community.
- More than 200 students participate in our Choir, Band, and/or Orchestra. Each year they perform at the Holiday Teas as well as the Winter and Spring Concerts. Mrs. Crawford, Ms. Cullen, and Mr. Stanford are producing impressive musicians and instilling a love for music.

E. T. Richardson:
- 95% of all E. T. Richardson Middle School (ETR) students participated in a club, sport, or special event during the 2017-2018 school year.
- The seventh and eighth grade instrumental and vocal programs earned Excellent and Distinguished Awards from the High Note Festival.
- ETR continues to grow as the Writing Center. In English Language Arts and Math, our students exceeded the state expectations for growth and achievement on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).
- Each year, the students and staff at ETR collect thousands of non-perishable food items for the Springfield School District Turkey Fund. In addition, close to 100 students and staff participate annually in our Turkey Trot, a fun run designed to further support the Turkey Fund.

Athletic Highlights:
- Three Springfield athletes were named to the All-Delco teams, with over twenty athletes earning honorable mentions for their respective sports.
- In 2017, the Springfield High School Varsity Boys Football Team won the Central League title and were District 1 finalists.
- In 2018, the Varsity Girls Basketball team won the Central League title.
- In 2018, both the Varsity Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams were district finalists and advanced to the state tournament.
- In January 2019, senior Jordan D’Ambrosio scored her 1,000th point in Girls Basketball. She is only the fifth player in Springfield history to hit this grand mark.
Congratulations to both students for representing. The Difference Award was presented to Chuck Kelly. The SLC award for the 2017-2018 school year was presented to Build-A-Bear, which has started and should be completed in early 2019. The project schedule regarding project timelines and financing:

- Over the next six months, future project milestones will include completion of the building foundations, floor slab and steel installation, which is scheduled to commence in February. The second half of 2019 will include completion of the storm water management systems and work on the new stadium will also get underway.

- In June 2019, the existing blue gym will be demolished, and South Rolling Road will be closed between Leamy and Saxer for the summer for expansion of the roadway. The total construction period is projected to be three to four years which includes a two year construction period for the new building and demolition of the existing high school, which will occur once the new building is completed. The final phase of the project will be the development of additional athletic and maintenance facilities, which will start once the existing high school demolition is completed.

- In 2018, the district issued an additional $46 million in new bond proceeds to finance the construction project. To date, the District has issued approximately $76 million in bonds that are funding current project costs. During the initial project planning, the District projected borrowing costs and created a borrowing schedule to finance project construction over time. So far, the district has issued initial bonds through 2018 at interest rates lower than projected rates, which in turn has yielded significant reduction in future interest expense. The district expects to issue additional bonds over the next three years starting in 2019 to complete the construction financing.