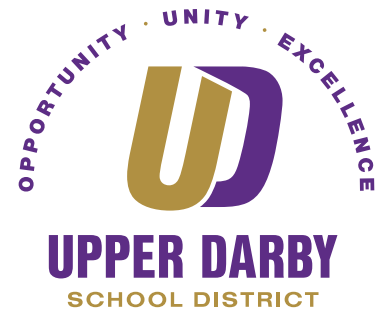


ROYAL SCROLL

50th Edition November 2019



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dr. Daniel McGarry

Board President Mitchell, members of the board, administration, student board representatives, teachers, staff, students, parents, and members of the community of Upper Darby School District.

Thank you to Hillcrest Elementary School and Bywood Elementary School for continuing our monthly theme of celebrating the wonderful accomplishments of our staff and students.

Continued on page 13

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UDSD PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 50TH EDITION OF THE ROYAL SCROLL



1st Royal Scroll



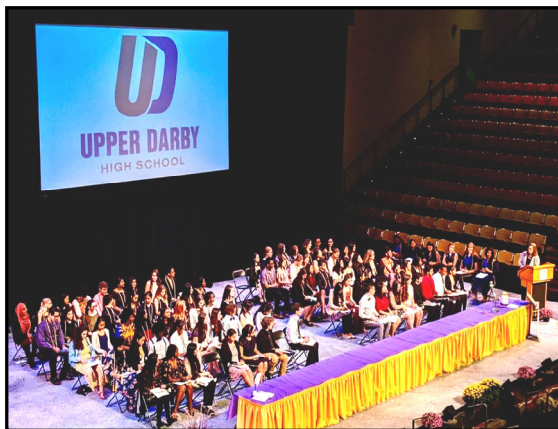
25th Royal Scroll



49th Royal Scroll

We want to extend a Royal thank you to our Principals and school administrators, teachers, and students for providing such amazing and inspiring content over the past few years. For our 50th edition, we are looking to post 50 reasons why you love Upper Darby School District! Students: Is it an amazing teacher, a favorite class, an extra-curricular activity, a special event, playground and recess, or a friend you've made? Teachers: Is it an instructional strategy you learned that has impacted your teaching, an experience you've had with a student, parent or family? Parents: How has a teacher or staff member positively impacted your child's life? What does your child's school do that makes her/him happy? What about the Opportunity, Unity and Excellence our school district provides? Send us a 5-10 second video of why you love Upper Darby School District! We will select the 50 best responses and feature them on our social media! We CANNOT WAIT to see your responses! Please send them to socialmedia@upperdarbysd.org.

UDHS National English & Science Honor Societies



The UDHS Chapter of the National English Honor Society inducted thirty six new members at a ceremony on October 16th. Featured speaker, Phil Heron of the Delaware County Daily Times, inspired the students to find their passion for writing. Students in NEHS demonstrated academic excellence with an A average in accelerated, honors or AP courses and a B average overall. On October 29th, new UDHS students were inducted into the Science National Honor Society.

Students have demonstrated excellence with a grade of 90 or better in Honors or Advanced level science courses and an overall GPA of 80%. Senior Electrical Engineer Adam Schuman of Telefactor Robotics gave an inspirational speech encouraging students to pursue lifelong learning in the sciences.



UDKC Students Celebrate Red Ribbon Week



At the **UDKC**, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week with a canned food drive because **"We CAN say NO to drugs!"** Each day we encouraged a drug free world. Monday: wear red to support red ribbon week, Tuesday: Team Up Against Drugs, Wednesday: Hats off to being drug free, Thursday: Sock it to Drugs, Friday: pajama day because we are **"Dreaming"** of a Drug Free World.

Snakes & Scales Anti-Bullying Program



Snakes -n- Scales Anti- Bullying Program *"Just because someone looks different, doesn't mean they are different. Everyone should still be treated the same."* *"Snakes-N-Scales' Anti-Bullying School Assemblies look at the subject from an entirely different direction than any other program, using animals that are often misunderstood and feared, like snakes, spiders and alligators. Bullying is often born of dislike; and dislike comes from misunderstanding and fear.*

If understanding is created and fear eliminated then much of the bullying goes away."

Kindergarten Center Students of the Month for being safe



A student from each classroom was honored as student of the month for being safe. They were presented with a certificate and their parents were invited to join in the celebration!

Upcoming Events

- 12/3 School Board Meeting 7:30PM (PAC)
- 12/2 - 12/20 UDHS Winter MAP
- 12/5 Faculty Meeting (PAC) 3-4PM
- 12/9 Parent Workshop Special ED

- 12/13 UDHS Choir at St. Dorothy's Church
- 12/15 UDHS Winter Concert 3PM - 5PM
- 12/19 UDHS Operation Royal Pride 7:40AM - 8:40AM
- 12/23, 1/02 Winter Break (Schools & Offices Closed)

ARONIMINK NEWS

Aronimink Second Grade News



October was a busy month in Second Grade. The students have gotten used to the routines of Second Grade and are really focused on learning, sharing ideas, and being good friends. In Math, we worked on place value. Students demonstrated how to show, write, understand and count numbers up to 1,000. Next, we moved into addition and subtraction and understanding basic facts and relationships. In Reading, we worked on determining the central idea and theme of a reading selection. Writing centered around some very interesting descriptive essays and many convincing persuasive pieces. The excitement in Second Grade was not limited to the classroom, however. We all enjoyed our Walk at School, Red Ribbon Week, and the much anticipated Halloween Parade and Party! We are looking forward to the crisp Autumn days ahead and wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!
~Mrs. Symnoski, 2nd Grade Teacher

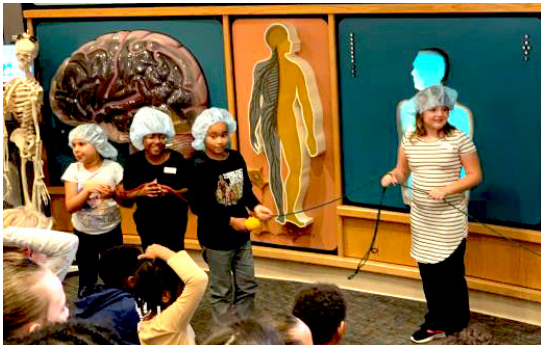
Third Grade News



Third grade is having an awesome fall! We just completed our first chapter on multiplication and the students really worked hard! They love learning about factors and products! In Science some students are working on the water unit, some on plants, and others on sound. In Language Arts we just finished module 3 and worked on an informational essay. Now we are moving into story writing. Nightly reading and fluency practice is so important. Keep up the good work!
~Dr. Sheehan, 3rd Grade Teacher

GARRETTFORD NEWS

Garrettford's Third Grade Students Enjoy Hands On Learning At Lankenau Hospital



Third grade students recently participated in the "Health Adventure" program at Lankenau and really enjoyed the lesson. The program is a hands-on experience focusing on the skeletal and digestive systems, and a brief introduction into the circulatory system. During this interactive program

students learned about how their bodies are amazing machines.

Garrettford's Students Represent At Fire Prevention Event



We are very proud of Skylar M. (4-228) and Ermina A. (1-5) who were both second place winners of the UD Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The young ladies were honored at Aronomink Elementary on October 13th at the opening ceremony of the fire prevention parade. Thank you also to Mr. Carey for helping to organize this contest for the Garrettford students.



A Future UDHS Coach –By Brody Barnes



I am a first grader in Mrs. Palis's room. I was my dad for Halloween. My dad coaches for the **UDHS** football team. He coaches the offense. I go to all the games. I someday want to be a coach for **UD** football, too. I would be good at teaching the players to catch the ball. I like being with the players.



What's Happening

Thank you Primos Families for supporting the H&S Spooktacular Dance and the Trunk-or-Treat. The kids enjoyed dancing and car treating. Thank you Home & School for organizing these events.

Primos' Music Department



The music department at Primos just received a generous donation from the Upper Darby Arts and Education Foundation. This donation included 12 new Remo Tubanos as well as a set of Kajons. The students are very excited to start drum circles during music class. Some of these drums will be used during our winter concert at the PAC on Wednesday, December 4th.



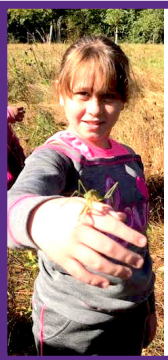
HIGHLAND PARK NEWS

Second Graders Visit Lankenau Hospital



Second Grade students went to Lankenau Hospital and learned about the food groups and how to integrate them into our daily routine for a healthy lifestyle! Lankenau's commitment to incorporating local produce into the primary care setting and cafeteria farm stand to make a direct connection between nutrition and health for patients and visitors. The local produce is provided from both the Delema G. Deaver Wellness Farm, managed by Greener Partners and located on Lankenau Medical Center's campus, and through a collaboration between Lankenau, Aramark and The Common Market.

Highland Park's Fourth Grade News



The students in 4th Grade at Highland Park went to the Natural Lands Saunders Woods for their field trip. While at Saunders Woods, students were able to explore a forest, stream and a meadow. They were able to learn about the habitats and ecosystems. These were donated to Natural Lands in 1988 by Dorothy Saunders, the property—originally known as "Little Farm"—has long been a place of refuge for both people and wildlife. For decades, the preserve's trails and circa-1830 barn have welcomed families, students, scout troops, equestrians, and community members; the forest and meadows are home to a myriad of songbird species and other wildlife.

WESTBROOK PARK NEWS

Westbrook Park's Veteran's Day Assembly



In honor of our veterans students in each grade sang a patriotic song and dressed in red, white and blue.



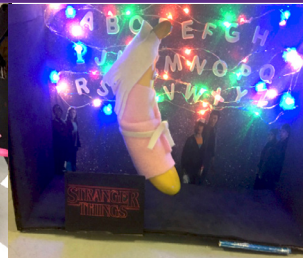
Westbrook Park's Fifth Grade Traveling Science Show



Fifth graders enjoyed the Traveling Science Show from the Franklin Institute. The Color Run was lots of fun too!

HILLCREST NEWS

Fourth Grade Top Bananas



The fourth-grade students had the opportunity to show their creativity by creating a costume and diorama for a banana!

The students came up with great ideas and had fun doing this project.

Projects were displayed in the lobby on October 31st, and adults in the building voted on four categories for each

homeroom: Best in Show, Most Creative, Scariest and Funniest. The votes were then tallied, and winners received a certificate and trophy. All participants received a Top Banana homework pass. All of Hillcrest's students and faculty enjoyed looking at the wonderful creations!

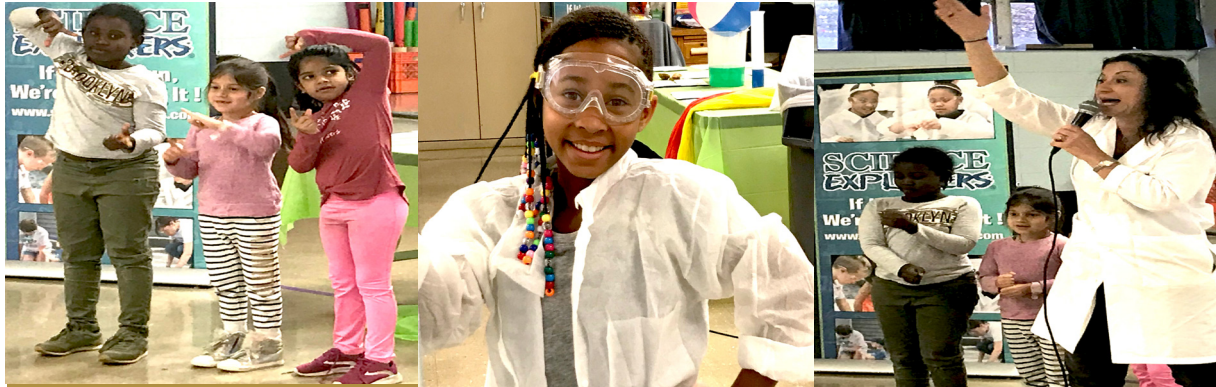
Hillcrest Student Council Elections



Hillcrest's 5th grade held their own elections this past November. Candidates were required to create a poster, request supportive signatures from students and teachers, and prepare speeches. Then the 5th grade class voted for our class President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The entire 5th grade received a lesson on the importance of voting which correlates later this year with our Social Studies unit. Overall, the students and candidates received an excellent experience.

SENKOW NEWS

Senkow's Science Explorers



Science Explorers are providing students at Senkow Elementary School with an opportunity to deepen their STEM skills. The "Science Explorers" assembly was educational and fun. We have many future scientists at Senkow!

First Grade News



First grade students had lots of fun at Sugartown Farms! They were eager to learn about farming, irrigation, and respect for the land and how long it takes for a pumpkin to grow.

BYWOOD NEWS

Bywood's Third Grade News



Mrs. Francis's third grade students are all smiles as they prepare for Bywood's annual Fall Festival Parade. This year, we held an indoor parade where students lined the hallways and had the opportunity to see all students in each grade level around the school. The rain did not stop the fun!



Bywood Staff Host A Parent Math & Literacy Night



This month members of Bywood staff hosted a Parent Math and Literacy Night! Teachers and staff provided resources, activities, and support for parents and their families to use and practice at home.



This month the PBIS team has been working on which rewards and incentives will be highlighted in the coming weeks. So far, students are earning Bywood Bucks, Recess Cherry Bucks, and the Golden Ticket! Students have the opportunity to be selected as Golden ticket winners for demonstrating positive Bywood Banner Behaviors.

CHARLES KELLY NEWS

Charles Kelly's Newly Elected Student Council



Taherima Samiha, Isabella Hassett, Prableen Kaur are the newly elected Student Council for the 2019-2020 school year. (Not pictured Samaiya Usman)

When students get to fifth grade they have the option of running for student council. Every year four students are selected by their peers to be part of the student council. These students have many responsibilities such as running the school store, picking the winning class for spirit day, helping Dr. McCarthy during the student of the month assemblies and most importantly being advocates for their peers. These students represent Charles Kelly so they are always following the three B's. This year nineteen students ran for student council. These students created posters displaying their characteristic traits, wrote their own speeches explaining why they would be a good candidate and spoke in front of the fourth and fifth grade students and teachers.

Charles Kelly's First and Fifth Grade BUDDIES



Building relationships and helping first grade transition to a new school is the goal for first and fifth grade buddies. For the Fall festival fifth grade visited first grade students prior to the parade to help them get into their costumes. They were a great help. Thanks to teamwork, we had a successful parade.

"Teamwork is the dream work."
Mrs. Johnson

STONEHURST HILLS NEWS

Stonehurst Fall Festival was a Trunk or Treat to Remember!



Students and teachers were excited to celebrate the change of fall together. Many grade level teams of teachers dressed up in a fun theme. Teachers and students paraded around the school gladly showing off their fun costumes, and ended the time with a trunk or treat. It was a joyous time!

Stonehurst Fifth Grade Spotlight



On October 25th, the fifth grade classes experienced a day of history at Valley Forge National Park. They enjoyed participating in a scavenger hunt as they explored

George Washington's quarters and his guards' cabins.

Stonehurst Fourth Grade Spotlight



A special shout out to fourth grade's Miss Hill for all her hard work and commitment to making Stonehurst great. We

all wish you the best as you continue with your journey! Your Stonehurst Family will miss you!

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Beverly Hills Goes to the Zoo



On November 7, 2019, the sixth grade visited the Philadelphia Zoo; the first zoo in the United States. With 11 buses and over 420 students, the majority of the sixth grade attended this trip. For 3 hours, students had the opportunity to explore the zoo and observe and learn about the animals living there. They

got to see penguins swimming, monkeys playing, and big cats walking above them as part of the Zoo360 experience. The trip was a huge success as teachers, students, and chaperones all had a great time.

Beverly Hills Fall Fest



Beverly Hills hosted its Fall Rewards Day. This day celebrated our students who have remained Safe, Responsible and Respectful for the first marking period. The fall festival is part of the BHMS Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program. Beverly Hills is on its fourth year of implementation of PBIS.

This program has proved to make a difference in the climate, culture, behavior and scores of our students. These pictures show some of the positive rewards our students received on Fall Festival Rewards Day!

DHMS International Club



International Club members explored Paris through virtual reality glasses. They used VR glasses to climb the Eiffel Tower and see the view from the top. Some students visited Louvre museum. They entered the palace through the glass pyramid entrance and visited the Hall of Mirrors. Some of them decided just wander in the streets of Paris along the Seine River. It was an awesome experience. We had a guest speaker, Mrs. Lihong Ni, Mandarin a teacher from UDHS, who introduced the students to the Chinese culture and language and explained the activities they will be engaged in during our Club meetings.

DHMS Students Celebrate the Day of the Dead



¡Hola! Señora DeFedelto and Señor Coombs created an "ofrenda" with their students in Spanish class to honor Día de los Muertos. The ofrenda is often the most recognized symbol of Día de los Muertos. This temporary altar is a way for families to honor their loved ones and provide them what they need on their journey. Día de los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is a Mexican celebration. It is a day to celebrate, remember and prepare special foods in honor of those who have departed. The students in Spanish class worked hard creating and embracing the Hispanic culture.

UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

UDHS Marine Ecology Webinar



Science-minded **Upper Darby** students attended a fall webinar on the effect of climate change on marine life and what they can do about it. Marine Ecologist Malin Pinsky from Rutgers University shared his data on the state of the oceans and described his plan for sustainable fisheries. Pinsky's Rutgers University lab focuses on understanding changing marine ecosystems and collecting data needed to shape ocean policy amid global temperature rise.

UDHS Math Team Competes At Springside Chestnut Hill Academy



Members of the **UDHS** Math Team represented **UDHS** well at the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Philadelphia and Vicinity (ATMOPAV) contest at Springside-Chestnut Hill Academy. Pictured at left: Max Peters, Luke Finley, Emilio Kamanousa, Sarah DeMott, Aniqa Islam, Chris Dwyer, Nate Polidoro, Emily Fedon, and Catherine Vivo. From left: Catherine Vivo, Sarah DeMott, and Aniqa Islam placed third out of the fourteen competing teams by correctly solving twelve out of fifteen very challenging problems, just under Abington Friends School. **UD's** Chris Dwyer, Emily Fedon and Emilio Kamanousa placed fourth by correctly solving eleven problems, out-scoring every team from Hatboro-Horsham, Perkiomen School and Springside Chestnut Hill Academy.

UDHS ATHLETIC NEWS

Football Coach Rich Gentile Honored



UDSD honored Rich Gentile for his twenty seven years as head coach of the **UDHS** football team and thirty seven years overall coaching for the District. Superintendent Dr. Daniel McGarry presented Coach Gentile, surrounded by his team, with a plaque to commemorate the occasion.



Thank you for your years of dedicated service!

L to R: Dr. John Council, Head Coach Richard Gentile, Superintendent Dr. Daniel McGarry.

Two First Place Trophies For UDHS Royal Cheerleaders



The **Upper Darby Royal Cheerleaders** clinched two first place wins, one at Burlington Township and one at West Chester Rustin High School. Hard work, determination, and a technically difficult routine gave the squad a great start to their season. *Congratulations Royals!*

CROSS COUNTRY Central League Championships



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



With the arrival of fall, the Public Safety Office wishes to remind all students to be safe when walking to and from school. Parents and Guardians encourage your students to use caution while walking and when crossing at appropriate intersections. This is also a good time to remind all parents and guardians to be alert and aware as well when dropping off or picking up students at our schools. Following the traffic pattern at each school will ensure a safe arrival and dismissal for everyone.

Our Public Safety Officers all attended N.A.S.R.O. (National Association of School Resource Officers) training in October. The training was very beneficial, and all of our officers greatly enjoyed it.

Mr. Thomas Nee our Street Safety Supervisor is always looking to hire Crossing Guards. Please feel free to contact him at: 610-259-2675.

The Public Safety Office is very thankful for our students, and staff and community. As always, a safe school is all our responsibility.

NEWS FROM OUR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT



The entire team in Facilities Management had a professional development day on 11/5/2019. Nearly 60 employees that represent Capital unit, Cleaning unit, Custodial unit, Maintenance unit, and Grounds Keeping unit reviewed our roles and responsibilities as a group. A toolbox, which includes essential building maintenance tool, such as power drill, flashlights, tape measure, were given to custodians at each school. The lead custodian at each school also received a laptop computer for more effective communication. It was a great opportunity for all Facilities Management team to get together. The next professional development day will be on 2/14/2020.

We are hiring!

The Administration is actively recruiting Maintenance Mechanics (Plumber, Electrician, & HVAC Mechanics), Building Custodians, and Grounds Keeping Crew. Spread the word and tell your good neighbors to join the Upper Darby School District team!

News from our Transportation Department

Mr. Duane Johnson who used to oversee the Department of Transportation Services resigned from the School District. Thank you for your service, Mr. Johnson!



The Administration posted the job opportunity, nearly 90 candidates applied within a week, 9 candidates were contacted for phone interview, 4 candidates were invited for multiple rounds of in-person interviews, and 1 finalist was selected.

Looking forward to introducing the new Transportation Director in next month's Royal Scroll!

CENTRAL REGISTRATION/ATTENDANCE SERVICES



Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-20 School Year began in January 2019. Please visit the district website for the information on the registration process, a link to our online registration system and the number for our Central Registration office. While initial registration must be done online, a visit to the Central Registration office is required to verify required paperwork and finalize the process. Thank you for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Department with any questions:

UD FIREFIGHTERS VISIT UDHS PRESCHOOL LAB



UD Firefighters, Richard Jernegan, Nick Gerlacher, Paul McCormick, Emily Vlassopoulos and David Lothy arrived via Engine 26 to teach preschool students the importance of fire safety. The firefighters

demonstrated how to use the equipment they wear and even gave preschoolers a look at the inner workings of that big red truck.

UDHS BREWING FOR SUCCESS



From left: Young brewers Zihan Zihan, Base Dayard, Demetrius Merritt, Tenneh Doley and Kara Kenney serve up fresh brewed coffee, tea, hot cocoa and snacks every morning in the library cafe. Hot drinks are \$1, but the smiles are free. Under the supervision of Melanie Brown, the Brewing for Success program helps students develop workplace skills for life beyond high school.



Tenneh Doley prepares her cart for her daily delivery stops.

UDHS RESEARCH VAPING IN PREPARATION FOR ANNEBERG SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM



In preparation for their presentation at the Annenberg Science Symposium, **UDHS** students examined the lungs of a fetal pig as part of their study on how vaping affects the lungs. **UDHS** Anatomy teacher Theresa Diamond gave an informative lecture about the form and function of the lungs and then facilitated the students' lab work. Kindergarten teacher Geri Sullivan later met with students to discuss the serious consequences her son experienced as a result of his vaping. Mrs. Sullivan willingly shared the details of her son's diagnosis, his treatment and his recovery from vaping illness, as well as her concerns about vaping companies targeting teens.



Don't miss this year's GALA Concert featuring the incredible musicians of Upper Darby School District!

The UDAEF Gala Concert is one of the largest concerts to benefit public school education in the state of Pennsylvania.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020 • 3:00 PM

(Snow Date January 25, 2020)

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

on a first-come, first-served basis! No cancellation or postponement.

Makes a GREAT FAMILY HOLIDAY GIFT!!!!

You may purchase your tickets online at www.udpac.org and click on "Buy Tickets" or by phone 610-622-1189 or at the Performing Arts Center Box Office from 1 pm to 4:30 pm Tuesday thru Friday.

VISA, Mastercard or Discover accepted!

----- Call 610-622-1189 or visit www.udpac.org! -----

Thank you for supporting the mission of the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation and making a difference in the lives of Upper Darby children!

UDHS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER NEWS



The Upper Darby Performing Arts Center presents its annual Nutcracker performances on November 22-24.

See a professional performance for as little as \$10 per ticket!

Visit udpac.org for tickets.



The fabulous songs of The Carpenters will be recreated on December 1 at 3 PM.

Don't miss Merry Christmas, Darling, A Carpenters Christmas!

Visit udpac.org for tickets.



The Upper Darby High School Concert Choir performs with the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra on December 8 at 3 PM at the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center.

Visit udpac.org for tickets.



Dr. Daniel McGarry

Tonight, I want to take a moment to thank three members of our Board of School Directors for their service, dedication and participation in the District for several decades. Ms. Judy Gentile has been a parent, a teacher, a member of the board for our local library, a staunch supporter of the history of Collen Brook Farm, and a Board of School Director. Dr. Ken Rucci, who is unfortunately out of town for business and unable to attend this evening, has also been an active home and school member, booster club supporter, and Board of School Director. Ms. Lee Jordan has also been a supporter of our home and school association, booster clubs, and a Board of School Director. Dr. Rucci and Ms. Jordan are also proud, very proud Upper Darby graduates. Ms. Gentile, Dr. Rucci, and Ms. Jordan I want to say thank you for your decades of service to this community. We have been blessed that this Board of School Directors and team has continued to put the focus on the needs of the children we serve and the entire community we serve. Ms. Gentile, Dr. Rucci, and Ms. Jordan thank you for your hours of volunteerism commitment to the continuous improvement of our schools and community.

Congratulations to Ms. Curry, Mr. Fields, Ms. Hegg, Mr. Warsavage, and Mr. Neil on being reelected and elected to serve on the Board of School Directors for the Upper Darby School District. We look forward to working with all of you. We are a team and will continue our relentless pursuit of providing meaningful and equitable opportunities to our students on our path toward reaching excellence.

Members of the Board and community this past October the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania completed its work on the start times for secondary schools. The title of the report is called Sleep Deprivation in Adolescents: The Case For Delaying Secondary School Start Times. I have read the study and it has been posted on our District website for your review. I have asked Assistant Superintendent Ed Marshaleck to provide several options and estimated costs if the District were to change the start of our school day for our secondary schools. It is our plan to present options on meeting the recommendations of the sleep study report and allow the public to provide feedback prior to any final decision. We hope to have preliminary findings and options for the Education and Pupil Services Committee meeting in January. This report has garnered a lot of attention in the county, and we will also share how other districts are addressing the information from the report.

Along with the news of the recently released sleep study, I had promised the Board and the public and update on the recent Superintendents Retreat hosted by the DCIU in Washington, DC. It was really an enjoyable experience. I had the opportunity to meet with Superintendents from the county. We were fortunate to have partnered with George Washington University who led a panel discussion with us on *“Leading Teaching for Equity”* and a discussion on social justice in public education. The discussions and case study really highlighted the work that we have already started here in Upper Darby. I know we still have work to do, but it was very encouraging to know that we are heading in the right direction.

Each month, Dr. Council, Mr. Marshaleck, and I attend Penn Study Council hosted by Dr. Harris Sokoloff. Each month, we discuss research and best practices in education and business with Superintendents from Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. This year, we are all working on *“Rethinking the K-12 experience for children and teachers.”* We have reviewed what the anticipated job market will look like 10 years from now, and how future trends in business and education impact the social and emotional needs of the students and staff we work with each day. We have been asked during our work with the Penn Study Council this year to think about a *“Portrait of a Graduate... and the necessary skills a 2032 high school graduate should learn and possess...”* (PENNGSE, 2019). Penn has provided us a list of terms and definitions to help guide our *“Portrait of a Student.”* I have asked Ms. Kelley and Mr. Marshaleck to use this work as we develop our Comprehensive Plan.

As a result of our work on equity, my most recent Superintendents Retreat in Washington, DC, and the work we are doing with the Center for School Study Councils, it is very clear that we must remove barriers for our students and provide them with multiple pathways and opportunities to graduate from high school. We have to continue to refine our teaching methods to identify student strengths and interests. When I attend these learning opportunities, I take time to reflect on common themes and messages that come from each new experience. I look to see how I can apply what I have learned to help shape and improve the Upper Darby School District.

Continued on page 14

Over the last several months, the following common themes have emerged:

- Districts must focus on equity and inclusive practices,
- Districts must believe that every child has a strength and can contribute in a positive, productive way in society,
- Standardized test results do not determine the success of a student or school district,
- You can always improve communication of your plan, your goals and objectives, and
- We have to continue to better balance the time in our student day to teach prosocial skills and restorative justice in order to develop and promote happy and healthy students and staff.

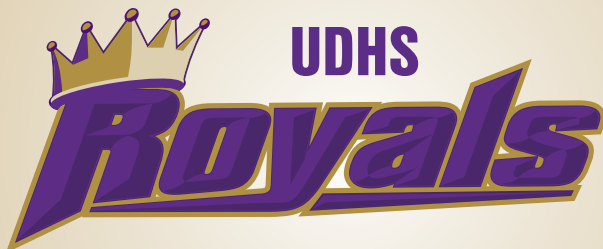
As a District, we are working on each of these themes and attempting to improve. We have an Equity Plan, we value our students as more than a test score, and we continue to encourage and promote prosocial skills, restorative practices, and training on trauma informed care.

Communication, however, continues to be an area where we can improve. At the core of each new learning experience is the opportunity to continue to improve on how a plan, a goal, or an objective can be shared and embraced by a community through effective communication. To that end, I would like to design and implement a Community Advisory Committee (name subject to change) with representation from the following groups (other suggestions are certainly welcome):

1. School Board Representation
2. Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent(s), and CFO
3. School District Employee(s): Teacher, security, etc.
4. School District Administration: Principals, Directors, etc.
5. Township Administration
6. Township Council
7. Township Employee(s): Sanitation, Police, etc.
8. Community Representation (each district and/or school)

We want to galvanize the community to help provide solutions to the concerns we face and work toward common goals. The committee would act as a forum to provide insight from a cross section of community members. I would like to meet either monthly or bimonthly to review District Committee meeting topics, push communication out to community members who do not have children in the District, and establish community events and celebrations.

I've learned that some members of the community crave communication methods that are alternatives to email, social media, board and committee meetings and town hall meetings. At the moment, we are at odds with some members of the community over our plans to improve our facilities and the order of operations for the much needed improvements. Although our Communications have improved, we desire to do more. A committee such as the one I am describing will provide the further representation some community members feel is needed. As we move through the development and implementation of a new District Comprehensive Plan, I am requesting permission to establish a committee that works together to provide the best for this community. Improved communication is a key theme that has emerged from Board meetings such as the one this evening, the discussions during meetings at the University of Pennsylvania, and the recent Superintendents retreat in Washington, DC. As educators, we are life-long learners and the team I work with each day is committed to getting things right for the benefit of our students, their families, and the entire community. Board President Mitchell and members of the School Board, this concludes my report for the evening.



If you have not already, please be sure follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and check out the district website at upperdarbysd.org. See [OUR JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#).

COMPANY INFO

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