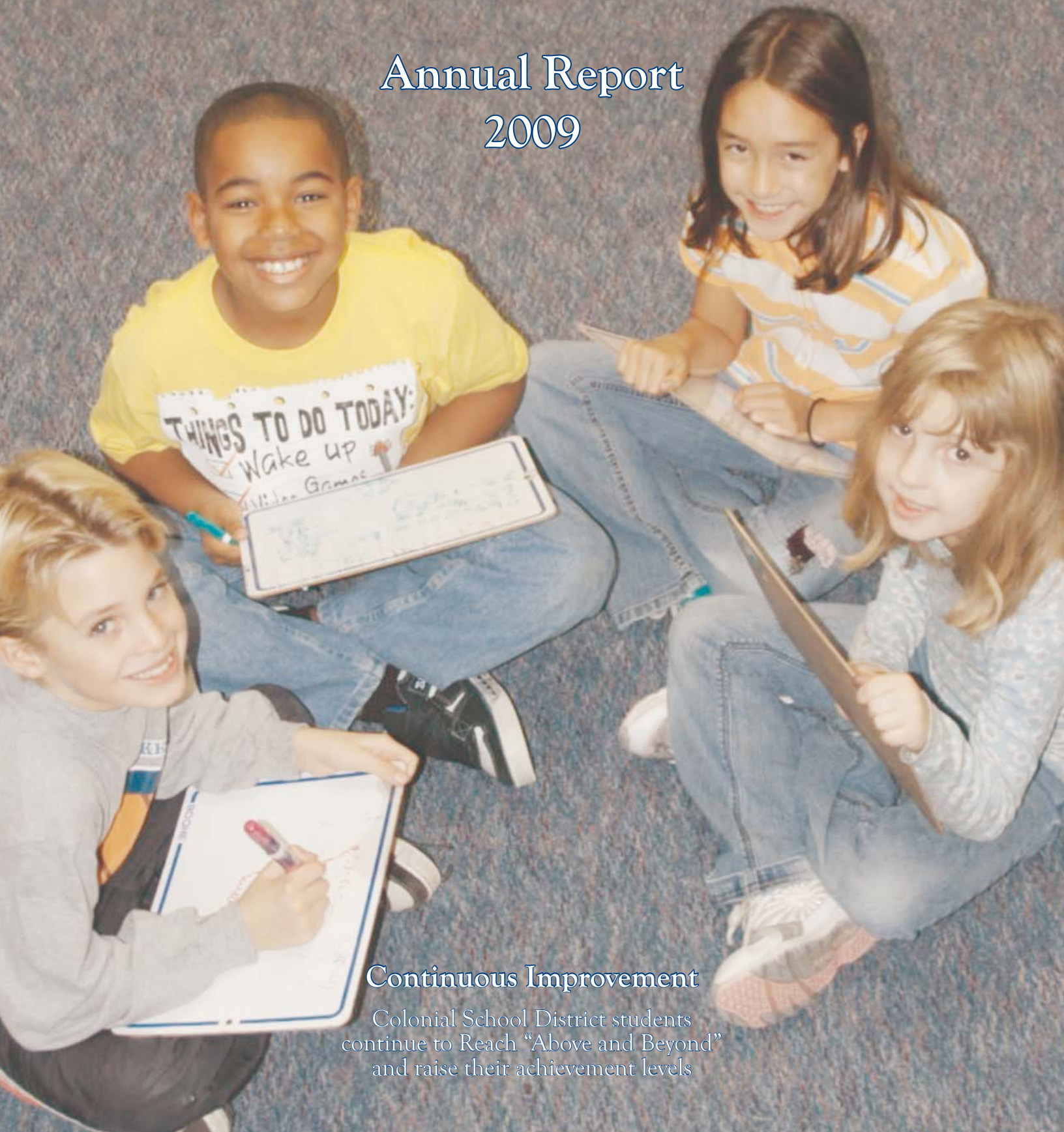


Colonial[★]

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Annual Report 2009



Continuous Improvement

Colonial School District students continue to Reach "Above and Beyond" and raise their achievement levels

Quick Facts

Location.....Plymouth Meeting, PA
Serving Conshohocken Borough
and Plymouth and Whitemarsh
townships
District Population* 40,336
White 91.0%
African American 4.0%
Asian 3.8%
Hispanic 1.1%
Other 0.1%
* 2000 United States Census Bureau
Data from American FactFinder.
Number of Employees 720
374 Teachers
50 Administrators
296 Support Staff
Total Enrollment 4,678
Special Education 791
Gifted 209
Low Income 15%
Average Class Size 19-22
2009-10 Budget \$92,580,000
Actual Instructional Expense ..\$10,651.04
Highly Qualified Teachers 100%

School Board

Gary J. Johnson President
Susan Moore Vice President
Lenore Bruno Member
Tom Davis Member
Kelly Jowett Member
Hope Luken Member
Dr. Bill Ryan Member
Steven Slutsky Member
Mitch Zimmer Member

Administration

Dr. Vincent F. Cotter
Superintendent
Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer
Assistant Superintendent
Joseph P. Bickleman
Chief Financial Officer
Terry Yemm
Director of Operations
Karen Berk
Director of Pupil Services and
Special Education
Andrew Boegly
Chief Information Officer
Richard Hartz
Director of Human Resources
Dr. Elizabeth McKeane
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment
Sergio Anaya
Curriculum Supervisor
Maria Bellino
Curriculum Supervisor
Donna Gaffney
Curriculum Supervisor
Kathleen Hamill
Curriculum Supervisor
Rebe Hayes-Kennedy
Supervisor of Special Education,
K-5
Eileen Spector
Supervisor of Special Education,
6-12

Schools

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School
Principal: Dr. Monica Sullivan
Associate Principal: Karen Gebhardt
Assistant Principal: Daniel Balek
Assistant Principal: Joseph Carracappa
Activities Director: Charles Forster
Phone: 610-825-1500
Fax: 610-832-0766

Colonial Middle School
Principal: Robert Fahler
Assistant Principal: Maico Azcona
Assistant Principal: Katy Swetkowski
Phone: 610-275-5100
Fax: 610-278-2447

Colonial Elementary School
Principal: Terese Boegly
Assistant Principal: Michael McKenna
Phone: 610-941-0426
Fax: 610-834-8701

Conshohocken Elementary School
Principal: Denise Marks
Phone: 610-828-0362
Fax: 610-828-4582

Plymouth Elementary School
Principal: Judith A. Lipson
Phone: 610-825-8190
Fax: 610-825-7853

Ridge Park Elementary School
Principal: Jason Bacani
Phone: 610-825-1083
Fax: 610-825-7983

Whitemarsh Elementary School
Principal: Donna Drizin
Phone: 610-828-9092
Fax: 610-828-1516

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The Colonial School District (CSD) is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability and/or handicap or age in its admissions procedures, educational programs, services, activities or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 and/or any applicable federal statute.

The CSD will assist students who have Limited English Proficiency to participate in all programs, services and activities.

For information regarding civil rights, admissions, grievance procedures, bilingual education and accessibility of programs, services, activities and facilities that are usable by persons with disabilities, contact the Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Colonial School District, 230 Flourtown Road, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, 19462.

Message from the Superintendent

The Colonial School District has made impressive strides during this first decade of the new millennium. The information on the following pages documents why Colonial is among the top public school districts in the region and state in terms of student achievement, fiscal management and more. Our success, in large part, can be attributed to the “Above and Beyond” program, a collaborative and thorough plan that has become a blueprint for other districts to model.

One of the hallmarks of the “Above and Beyond” program is a commitment to continuous improvement. Adhering to that principle, Colonial administrators, staff and students will not rest on our laurels. Knowing that you either move forward, stay the same or fall behind, all of us will continue

to strive for excellence in our classrooms and in every facet of the District operation.

Our District goals for the 2009-2010 school year focus on student achievement, systemic reform and fiscal responsibility. We have been successful in implementing cutting-edge programs in the areas of curriculum delivery, data analysis, integration of technology and staff development, and we want to maintain that forward thinking approach as we continue to reach “Above and Beyond” in the year ahead.

As a school district, we are honored to be at the center of such a vibrant and prideful community and look forward to continue working with you to enhance Colonial’s reputation as a top tier school district. Remember, schools



function best when the School Board, administrators, staff, parents, students and the community work together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vincent F. Cotter". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Vincent F. Cotter, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Message from the Board of School Directors

Each member of the Colonial Board of School Directors knows the significant role a school district plays

in the area it serves. A high achieving district has a direct and positive impact on the value of our homes and the overall quality, appeal and pride of our community. The success of our schools throughout the past decade has made Colonial a destination district. Families seeking the best education and environment for their children to learn and grow have chosen to become a part of the Colonial community.

As a School Board, we are pleased with the quality of our schools, administrators, teachers and students. We also are committed to persist in raising the bar for expectations so

that we may continue to provide our children with the best educational opportunities available. And, especially during these difficult economic times, the Board remains steadfast in its pledge to be financially diligent so that we may maintain one of the lowest tax burdens in Montgomery County.

As residents, tax payers and school directors, we are all proud to be part of the Colonial School District and look forward to ensuring that Colonial remains a community to which others aspire to emulate.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary J. Johnson". The signature is cursive and written over a white background.

Gary J. Johnson
School Board President



The pride of the Colonial community

Student Achievement

- All seven Colonial schools met or exceeded all Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets established by the No Child Left Behind Act for the 2008-2009 school year. AYP is determined by performance on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exam.
- Colonial students on all grade levels ranked at or near the top of their Montgomery County peers on both reading and math portions of the PSSA.
- Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) was rated among the top 25 public high schools in the Philadelphia region by *Philadelphia Magazine*.
- PWHS students posted improved Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores in reading, writing and math while state and national averages on the SAT decreased or remained the same.
- PWHS had more Advanced Placement (AP) scholars, 70, than ever before.

First-Class Facilities

- Colonial's facilities are among the best of any public school district or private school in the region.
- Renovations to all Colonial Elementary School classrooms, the library and new District meeting room are complete.
- The installation of lights on Victory Fields #1 and #3 are waiting final approvals from Whitemarsh Township.

Financial Stability

- The Colonial School District (CSD) is in the top 1.2 percent of districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in terms of financial management and stability. Moody's Investors Service gives the CSD an Aa2 rating. Only five of 501 districts have a better rating.
- Over the past seven years, the CSD real estate tax increases have averaged less than 3.0 percent per year. Tax increases for the period are the lowest in the county and well below the rate of inflation.

"We, as a School Board, plan to continue to work diligently to remain good stewards of the tax payers' dollars," says Colonial Board of School Directors Finance and Audit Committee Chairman Steven Slutsky.

A Secure Learning Environment

Despite a glowing audit report from a nationally recognized independent security consultant, the CSD continues to improve safety measures at all schools.

- The existing analog camera system at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School has been upgraded to an IP-based camera system covering the entire District. There are now 93 IP cameras from which video data may be stored for over 30 days. All schools now have cameras in and outside of their buildings.
- Additionally, electronic security doors are being installed on the first and third floors of Colonial Elementary School to limit public access to the upper levels of the building.

"Our son transferred to Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) from St. Joe's Prep in February 2008, his sophomore year. The transition was a very positive experience for him. He adjusted very well with the help of an amazing group of teachers and his counselor, Mr. Grouke. We have been very impressed with the challenging curriculum that is offered at PWHS along with the dedication of the teachers to encourage success and promote a positive atmosphere in the classroom. Additionally, the classrooms are clean, bright and have plenty of room. The technology available to support each student is impressive. We are very happy with our decision."

Katie Radicioni, Parent



Student Achievement

The Colonial School District prides itself on continuous improvement. The District established new highs for student achievement during the 2008-09 school year.

Colonial students continue to reach “Above and Beyond” and

One of the key components of the Colonial School District’s (CSD) successful “Above and Beyond” program is the goal of Continuous Improvement. Throughout all grade levels, the District’s students answered that call again during the 2008-09 school year. Whether in the classroom, on standardized assessments such as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), ACT or in regional, state and national competitions, Colonial students performed at higher levels than in years past.

“There is no status quo,” says CSD Superintendent Dr. Vincent F. Cotter. “Either you are moving forward, staying the same or falling behind. And, if you stay the same it’s only a matter of time before others move past you. We choose to move forward.”

All seven Colonial Schools met or exceeded all of their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets as established by the No Child Left Behind Act. In all, District schools met 95 AYP targets in attendance, student achievement and percentage of students taking the PSSA.

CSD third graders ranked first among all Montgomery County School Districts in reading and math on the 2009 PSSA. In math, 95.4 percent of Colonial third graders were proficient or advanced, while 93.3 percent were proficient or advanced in reading.

- CSD 3rd Graders are 1st in Montgomery County in reading and math PSSA scores.
- Eighty percent of CSD 3rd graders scored at the advanced level in math.
- CSD SAT mean math, critical reading and writing scores have increased while state and national averages have declined.
- Since 2005, the number of AP tests taken by PWHS students increased by 30 percent while the number of students taking AP exams increased by 28 percent.
- PWHS had 70 AP Scholars including 21 AP Scholars with Distinction in 2009.

Impressively, 80 percent of Colonial third graders scored at the advanced level in math. That is more than 14 percent better than the next district.

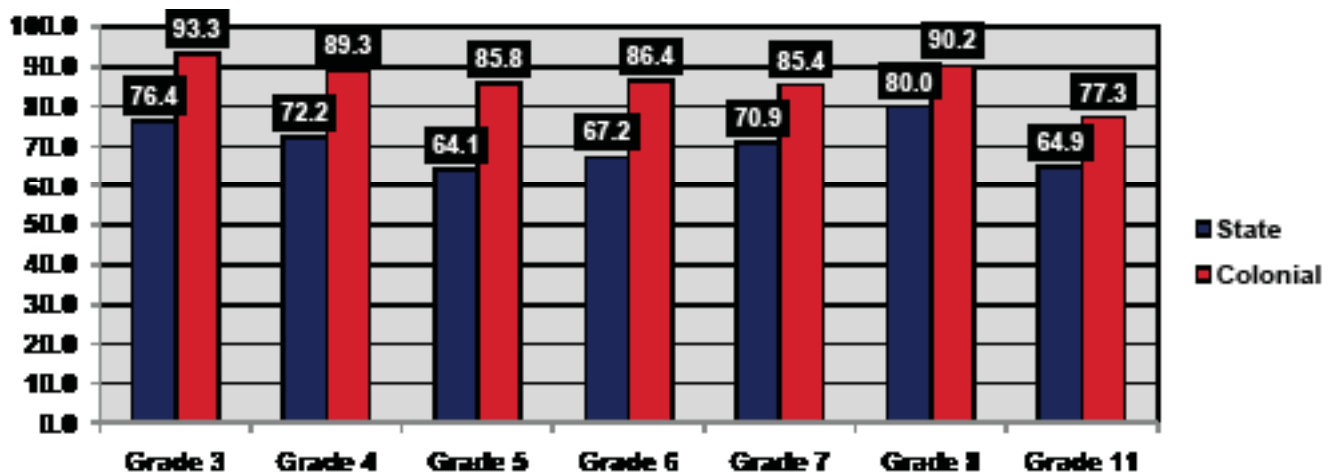
CSD fifth graders were third in the county in both reading and math. In math, 90.7 percent of CSD fifth graders were proficient or advanced, and 85.8 percent were proficient or advanced in reading.

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) students

showed a dramatic increase in their performance on the math portion of the PSSA. The 11th graders were ranked fifth in the county as 74.6 percent were proficient or advanced. Just four years ago PWHS was ranked 19th in the county for math PSSA scores.

On the SAT, the mean score for PWHS students was up 11 points in math from 538 in 2008 to 549 in 2009.

2009 PSSA Reading % Proficient or Advanced



Notes: PSSA data is from the eMetric Web site.

perform at higher levels

The average critical reading score was up nine points from 513 to 522, and the writing mean writing score was up six points from 514 to 520. Over time, the increases are more significant. Since 2006 the mean PWHS math score has improved 22 points, while the critical reading score is up 18 points, and the writing score is 21 points better. Over that same period, both the average state and national SAT scores have decreased on all three tests.

“We have looked hard at our curriculum in terms of how it addresses the national and state standards,” said Dr. Cotter. “We have worked to align our curriculum with the expectations of what students need to know to be successful in college or in working in the real world. Our goal is to give students those skills.”

To those who feel Colonial’s success on standardized assessments is a direct result of specific test preparation, Cotter urges them to visit a classroom.

“In our classrooms today, students are engaged,” he said. “They are talking with each other. They are interacting

with their teacher and actually applying the skills that they are learning to real world problems and situations.

“There is a lot of creativity in the classrooms,” Dr. Cotter continued. “Teachers have a myriad of resources



Plymouth Elementary School students discuss their opinions and interpretations of a chapter in a book.

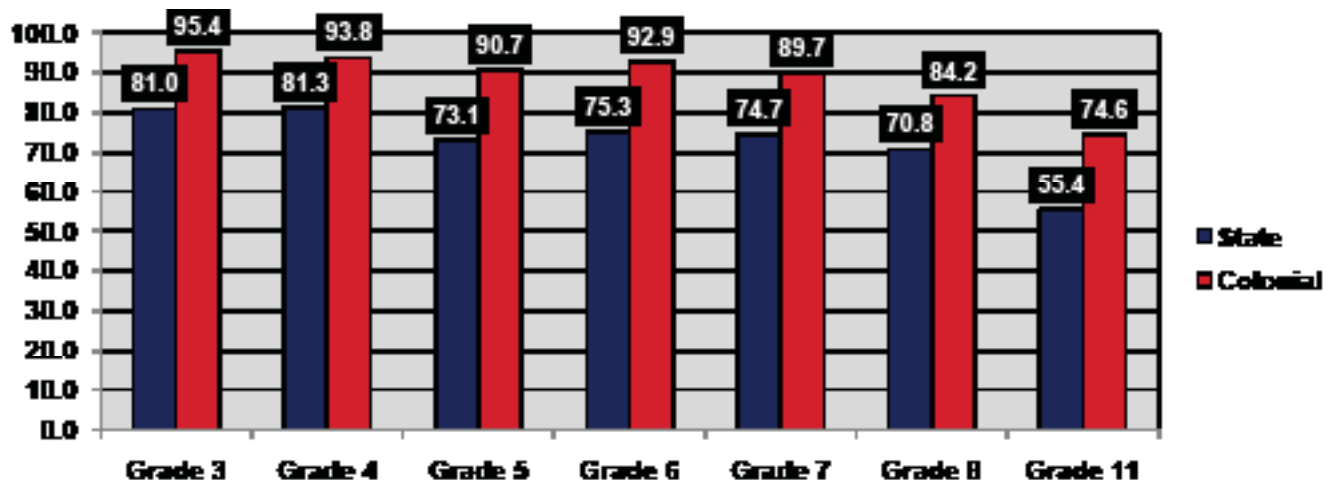
that they can use, and they put them to use creatively in terms of how they implement that curriculum. I am generally amazed at the types of activities that I see going on in our classrooms day in and day out. I think that has paid dividends.”

Student performance is not limited to standardized exams. Ninety-eight members of the PWHS Class of 2009 graduated with a cumulative weighted grade

point average of 4.0 or better. The school also had more Advanced Placement Scholars than in any year during its history. Elementary, middle and high school students also distinguished themselves in state and national competitions.

For the third straight year, Colonial Elementary School sent a team to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The PWHS Science Olympics Team placed 14th

2009 PSSA Math % Proficient or Advanced



Notes: PSSA data is from the eMetric Web site.

Student Achievement

among 35 schools at the state competition and brought home four medals for finishing in the top five of an event. Eighteen students, nine each from PWHS and Colonial Middle School qualified for the Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference and one student finished as high as third place. Another student placed among the top 10 at the International Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Conference. Students also distinguished themselves in art and music competitions.

“We have found that the critical component that really makes a difference in student achievement is differentiated instruction,” Dr. Cotter stated. “Our teachers look at student’s strengths and weaknesses, and then fabricate a program, not just for each class but for each individual based upon that data, so that each student gets the instruction that they need.

“We believe that all children can learn,” he added.

“We give each student the resources and, if necessary, the remediation that he or she needs to maximize his or her potential.”



More than a week before students returned to school, Colonial teachers were hard at work preparing for the new school year. Above (L to R), Colonial Middle School teachers Tom Ortlieb, Tanya Prickett and Carissa Holland take part in a meeting of secondary department heads and curriculum liaisons. The meeting focused on how teachers could use the Professional Learning Time periods to increase collaboration between courses and across disciplines.

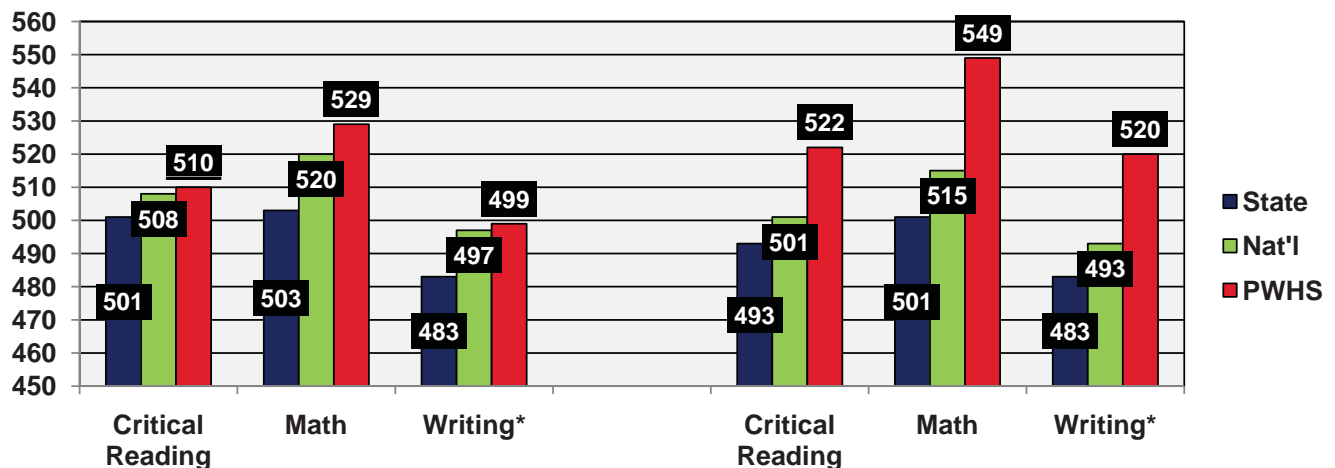
Curriculum review

Adhering to the continuous improvement philosophy, the District embarked on a comprehensive review of Colonial’s language arts and math curriculum during the 2008-2009 school year. Nearly 70 teachers and administrators took part in the year-long review that assessed the effectiveness of the curriculum, assessments, instructional materials, curriculum access on the HUB and student performance in the targeted subject areas.

“Findings of the review indicated a high degree of quality and rigor across the K-12 language arts and math curriculum,” said Assistant Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer. “However, the results also suggested a need for further study of the transition grades, from fifth to sixth

2005 SAT Mean Scores

2009 SAT Mean Scores



Note: SAT scores are from the College Board.
* The writing test began in 2006.

and eighth to ninth.”

Teachers and administrators will use the data from the review to develop an action plan with the goal of increasing the effectiveness of curriculum, instruction and student performance.

Others take notice

The CSD fifth and 11th graders were ranked among the top quintile of area schools in math and reading in a recent “Report Card” published by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The paper compared 2009 PSSA results in rating the region’s schools.

The high school was also rated among the top 25 public high schools in the Philadelphia metropolitan region by *Philadelphia Magazine*. PWHS was the seventh ranked high school in Montgomery County. The magazine ranked the top 50 schools in the region and highlighted other “bests” the area had to offer. Colonial’s Dr. Cotter was named the tri-state area’s top

superintendent. The magazine called Cotter “a master at collecting data, implementing technology, training teachers, communicating with parents and...tooting the school’s horn.” The piece also referred to CSD as “the new Main Line.”

PWHS also received rave reviews from the Middle Atlantic States Accreditation team that visited the school in April.

“From the moment we entered this school we saw and heard that this is a very special place,” said Paula Valenti, the validation team chairperson. “The accreditation team was impressed with the strong central office leadership and support of the initiatives being implemented at [PWHS],

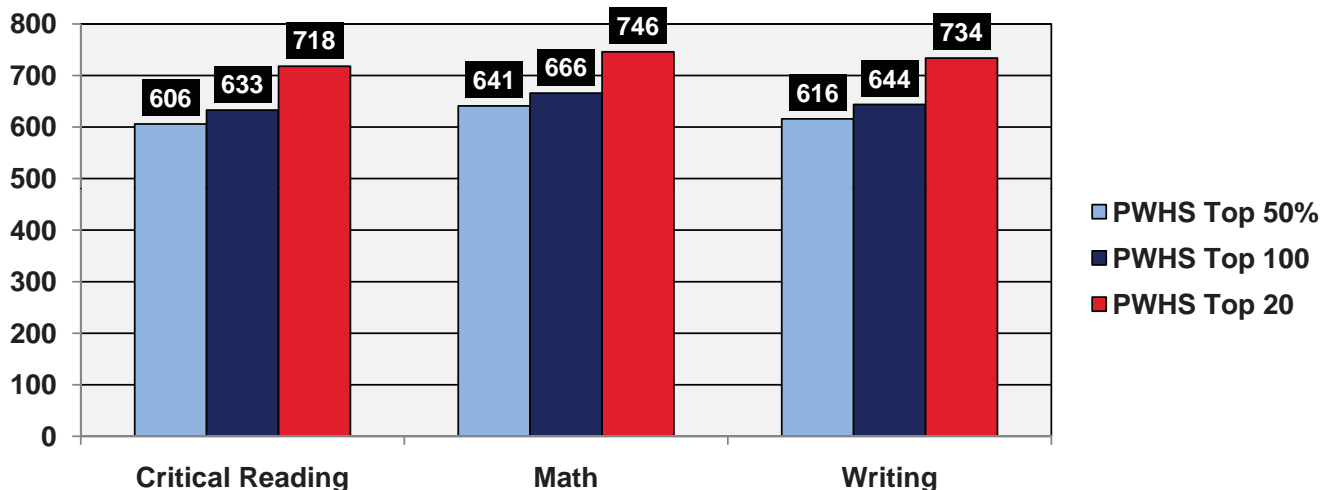
specifically the comittment to raise the academic achievement of all students.”

The Middle States Accreditation team recommended that PWHS be re-accredited for another seven years.



Two Plymouth Whitmarsh High School students discuss the mechanics of a go cart that they constructed in their engineering class.

2009 SAT Mean Scores of Top PWHS Students



Note: SAT scores are from the College Board.

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Comcast Cable and Verizon FiOS Channel 28

Nominated for a 2008 Mid-Atlantic Emmy[®] Award



Since 2002, CITV has won 11 Telly Awards and 15 awards from the National School Public Relations Association and the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association.

Watch student performances, athletic events, School Board meetings, *Colonial News Update*, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School morning announcements and the Community Bulletin Board, and enter the classroom through our *Teachable Moment* series.

**Watch us on Comcast Cable
and Verizon FiOS Channel 28**



Student News

Throughout the year, Colonial students distinguished themselves in state and national competitions and through deeds of community service. Above, Class of 2009 President Simon Wong receives a certificate of thanks from Colonial Neighborhood Council (CNC) Vice President Bob Heebner and President Joni McCormick. The class donated \$2,009 and a large amount of food items to the CNC.

Seven students recognized as National Merit Scholars

Seven Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) seniors have been recognized for their “exceptional academic promise” by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Shown at right are (Front Row L to R): Maria Donnini, Jessica Wang and Bonnie Bronenberg. (Back Row L to R): Ashley Young, Stephanie Weakland, Brittany MacLean and Jesse Goldshear. They were named Commended Students for scoring among the top five percent of the approximately 1.5 million high school juniors who took the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Since 2006, PWHS has had a total of 31 Commended Students and nine Finalists honored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



Record number of PWHS students are AP Scholars

More students than in any one year in the history of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) have been honored as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board. Seventy students, including 12 current seniors, received the honor in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP program exams.

Twenty-one students qualified for an AP Scholar with Distinction Award for earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3.0 or higher on five or more of the exams. Current senior Jaehyeon Lee was one of two PWHS students to score a 5.0 on all of the exams he has taken. Lee earned the perfect score on six tests, including Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science A, Physics C Electricity and Magnetism, Physics C Mechanics and Statistics. Recent graduate Andrea Kaplan was perfect on seven of the exams. The other Scholars with Distinction include 2009 graduates Andrew Carpenter, Sarah Corcoran, Zachary Cylinder, Brittany Davis, Leia Epstein, Rachel Feldstein, Ariel Finegold, Molly Flanagan, Daniel Horning, Keith Horrocks, Benjamin Kripke, Peter Orlor, Rachel Sandercock, Dev Sharma, Alina Sigmond, Kristina Smith, Lillian Wang, Emily Werth and Simon Wong. By earning the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, these students will be included in the PWHS Academic Hall of Fame.



Current PWHS senior Jaehyeon Lee scored a perfect 5.0 on all six AP exams that he took.

Sixteen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3.0 or higher on four or more of the exams. The students include recent graduates

James Brodovsky, Evan Chapman, Simon Coplan, Anna Eberle, David Flanagan, Katiemarie Gale, Elizabeth Garvey, Michael Graney, Timothy Grossman, Jacob Ingber, John Matkowski, Kelly Moyer, Lauren Rosenberg and Jennifer Wilson and current seniors Jessica Wang and Philip Yaure.

Thirty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3.0 or higher. They include 2009 graduates Tyler Aaron, Colin Brown, Elisa Chang, Matthieu Drotar, Annette Dvorak, Erin Gorenflo, Lauren Green, Amanda Harris, Ethan Heary, Jessica Heebner, Nicholas Iaccarino, Grant Klein, David Lipner, Lauren Marcus, Hilary McGrath, Corey Mele,

Alix Miller, David Miller, Michael Ravitch, Samantha Regnery, Lauren Roop, David Russ, Brett Schwab and Vy Vu, and current seniors Bonnie Bronenberg, Carly Cottone, Maria Donnini, Jessica Friedman, Evan Hodge, Ryan Hom, Luke Mercurio, Ashley Vuong and Kathryn Walker.

AP courses provide students with the opportunity for in-depth college-level study and college credit for successful performance on the AP exams.

“As a freshman at Penn, I found I performed better than my peers in my engineering courses and in my freshman writing seminar. I primarily attribute this to the content and skills I learned in AP science courses (Physics and Chemistry), AP English and AP Latin. AP Physics put me ahead of my peers in the engineering courses I took freshman year. I feel that my experience in AP Physics is the primary reason I have been successful in my major at Penn and continue to be inspired to pursue a career in engineering and applied science. Overall, PW prepared me very well for Penn. I certainly learned a lot about handling a higher work load at a faster pace upon arriving at college, but I attribute much of my success freshman year to PW’s AP courses and strong science department.”

Evan Dvorak, PWHS '07

PWHS graduates find themselves in demand

The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Class of 2009 was the largest class (432) in more than a decade. Ninety-eight members of the class graduated with a cumulative weighted grade point average of 4.0 or better. The PWHS Class of 2009 includes 13 National Merit Scholars and 21 students who were named AP Scholars following their junior year. Class of 2009 members were offered \$7,225,648 in scholarship money to continue their education over the next four to five years, including \$1.9 million in the coming year. Overall, 95 percent of the class is continuing their education. Sixty-five percent are attending four-year colleges and universities, while 30 percent are attending two-year schools. Of the top 200 students in the class, 96 percent are attending four-year schools, and four percent are taking classes at two-year schools. PWHS graduates were accepted at some of the nation's top colleges and universities including the following:



Colonial Board of School Directors President Gary Johnson presents Nakiah DeBeary with a diploma during graduation ceremonies in June.

Albright College
American Univ.
Arcadia Univ.
Boston Univ.
Brown Univ.
Bucknell Univ.
Case Western Reserve
Catholic Univ. of America
Chestnut Hill College
Cornell Univ.
Dartmouth College
Dickinson College
Drexel Univ.
Duquesne Univ.
Elizabethtown College
Emerson Univ.
Fordham Univ.
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington Univ.
Gettysburg College

Haverford College
Hofstra Univ.
Hood College
Immaculata Univ.
Ithaca College
James Madison Univ.
Lafayette College
Lehigh Univ.
McGill Univ.
Michigan State Univ.
Moravian College
Muhlenberg College
New York Univ.
North Carolina State Univ.
Northeastern Univ.
Northwestern Univ.
The Peabody Conservatory
Penn State Univ.
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
Rutgers Univ.

St. Joseph's Univ.
Swarthmore College
Syracuse Univ.
Temple Univ.
Tulane Univ.
Univ. of Arizona
Univ. of California LA
Univ. of Central Florida
Univ. of Chicago
Univ. of Colorado
Univ. of Connecticut
Univ. of Delaware
Univ. of Illinois
Univ. of Iowa
Univ. of Maryland
Univ. of Miami
Univ. of Michigan
Univ. of North Carolina
Univ. of Notre Dame
Univ. of Pennsylvania

Univ. of Pittsburgh
Univ. of Rhode Island
Univ. of Richmond
Univ. of San Diego
Univ. of Southern Calif.
Univ. of Tennessee
Univ. of Texas at Austin
Univ. of Vermont
Univ. of Virginia
Univ. of Wisconsin
Ursinus College
Vanderbilt Univ.
Vassar College
Villanova Univ.
Virginia Polytechnic Inst.
Wake Forest Univ.
Washington & Lee Univ.
Washington Univ., St. Louis
Widener Univ.
Worcester Polytechnic Inst.

“Each year Villanova looks forward to visiting Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and reviewing the applications we receive from their talented students. We have enjoyed our relationship with their highly respected counseling staff who prepares the PW students well for the college admission process. In recent years we have hosted underclassmen from PW so they may visit a college campus early in high school, in order to provide them with a glimpse of the reward available to those who work hard in the classroom.”

Michael Gaynor

Director of Admissions, Villanova University

Kaplan earns prestigious Jefferson Scholarship

Recent Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) graduate Andrea Kaplan is one of 27 students to earn the prestigious Jefferson Scholarship for study at the University of Virginia (UVA).

Kaplan, the daughter of Gary and Elise Kaplan of Plymouth Meeting, was a National Merit Scholarship winner, a Presidential Scholars candidate, a Coca-Cola Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction and one of five Pennsylvania students to win a National Honor Society Scholarship.

Kaplan received the 2009 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, a TD Bank American Dream Scholarship, a Family Dollar Save and Make the Grade Scholarship, the Pennsylvania DECA Scholarship and the National DECA Otis Spunkmeyer Scholarship.

Jefferson Scholarships are awarded by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation solely on the basis of merit. Recipients receive stipends to cover the complete cost of attending UVA for four years, including tuition, room and board, books and other university-

related expenses, as well as leadership training programs and foreign travel/study. Over four years a Jefferson Scholarship provides approximately \$80,000 for a Virginia student and more than \$175,000 to an out-of-state student.

The criteria for selection are demonstrated excellence and exceptional potential in the areas of leadership, scholarship and citizenship. The 27 Jefferson Scholarship winners were named after a rigorous selection process that began with over 1000 nominees from across the nation as well as international candidates. The list was pared to 105 finalists who participated in the Jefferson Scholars Selection Weekend March 25-29, from which the 27 recipients emerged.

The group of 27 includes students from 15 different states, Washington, D.C. and three foreign countries. The average combined SAT score for the incoming class of Jefferson Scholars is 2254; this average includes 22 perfect scores of 800 on at least one portion of the exam.



Andrea Kaplan

School Board recognizes distinguished students

During the 2008-09 school year, the Colonial Board of School Directors honored more than 115 students for outstanding achievement in state and national competitions. The Board recognized students for being named National Merit Scholars and for their performance in events and with organizations such as the Science Olympics, Math Olympics, Odyssey of the Mind, the Distributive Education Clubs of America, the Technology Student Association and the Pennsylvania Computer Fair. Students were also recognized for their performance in art and music competitions, as well as athletics. Shown at right are students whose artwork was chosen for the District's holiday card. They are (L to R): Conshohocken Elementary School second grader John Catagnus; cover artist Carolyn Rodgers a fifth grader from Colonial Elementary School (CES), eighth grader Sherrell Gray from Colonial Middle School (CMS), CES fifth grader Claire McAllister, CMS sixth grader Felicia Kan and Plymouth Elementary School second grader Mary Barretta.



“Colonial is by far the best school district in all areas of education that I have seen. I considered a private school for my daughter but couldn't be happier with the Colonial School District. The teachers and administrators are so knowledgeable and up on all of the latest techniques. The entire District staff is very supportive and really cares about every single student. There is a family atmosphere throughout the District.”

Diane Boyle, Parent

Fishman receives \$10,000 scholarship

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School 2009 graduate Danielle Fishman was one of 25 students throughout the Delaware Valley, Lehigh Valley and South Jersey to be honored in the 40th Annual Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program. Fishman received the \$10,000 grand prize in the essay contest “How I Will Use a College Education to Cultivate Prosperity in My Community” sponsored by Firsttrust. Essays were judged on the basis of content, grammar and style.

Fishman, shown at right, is the daughter of Karen and Alan Fishman of Lafayette Hill. She is currently studying speech pathology at Towson University.

The Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program was named in honor of Firsttrust founder Samuel A. Green. The program has awarded more than one million dollars in scholarships to nearly 1,000 students.



PWHS Scholarship Fund recognizes top seniors

The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Scholarship Fund awarded more than \$36,500 to 33 members of the Class of 2009 at graduation. The PWHS Scholarship Fund annually provides financial assistance to graduating seniors who apply for the grant and plan to continue their education.

According to Scholarship Fund Director Bernie Biasi, the students who receive grants are ranked among the top in their class academically and are involved in a multitude of extracurricular and charitable activities during and outside of school.

The PWHS Scholarship Fund gives outright grants to students attending technical schools, two and four-year colleges and other post-secondary institutions. Since 1986, the non-profit organization has awarded more than \$458,405.00 to 446 PWHS graduates.

The PWHS Scholarship Fund welcomes tax deductible contributions from the public. Gifts may be sent to the PWHS Scholarship Fund, 201 E. Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, Pa., 19462. Checks should be made payable to “PWHS Scholarship Fund.”



Front Row (L to R): Ariel Finegold, Emily Werth, Sarah Corcoran, Alexandra Leshner, Lauren Rosenberg, Julia Rosenberg, Megan McLaughlin and Scholarship Fund President Bernie Biasi. Second Row (L to R): Lillian Wang, Rachel Feldstein, Zack Cylinder, Leia Epstein, Kristina Smith, Taylor McGarvey and Simon Wong. Third Row (L to R): Hilary McGrath, Rachel Sandercock, Katiemarie Gale, Amanda Harris, Shannon McCullough, Kelly Moyer, Jessica Heebner and Lauren Marcus. Fourth Row (L to R): Anita Wade, Alina Sigmond, Brittany Enslin and Lauren Roop. Back Row (L to R): Grant Klein, Dan Horning, Dev Sharma, Ben Kripke, Jake Ingber, Evan Chapman, Mike Klein and Andrea Kaplan.

Colonial students perform well at national competition

Following qualifying competitions at the regional and state level, 11 students from Colonial Middle School (CMS) and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) traveled to Denver, Colo., to compete in the Technology Student Association (TSA) national competition from June 28 through July 2. CMS students Joseph Weir and Maggie Smith placed among the top 10 in “Challenging Technology Issues.” They also teamed with Christian Schaeffer to compete in the finals of the “Agricultural and Biotechnology Challenge.”

PWHS student Mark Forsberg finished third in “Extemporaneous Presentation.” That is the highest a PWHS student has placed at the TSA national competition.

TSA is a non-profit organization that fosters personal growth, leadership and opportunities in technology, innovation, design and engineering for high school and middle school students.



Eleven Colonial School District students took part in the Technology Student Association national competition in Denver, Colo. last summer. They are (L to R) Maggie King, Christian Schaeffer, Joe Weir, Bonnie Bronenberg, Mark Forsberg, Jim Gallagher, Anthony Williams, Bryan Bennett, Nick Dryslewski, Joe Narke and Arianna Horn.

President Obama encourages students to work hard

President Obama welcomed students back to school with a speech that stressed the importance of hard work and education. While the Colonial School District did not air the President’s address live, the District did make it available on Colonial’s in-house video network. Teachers were able to share the speech with students as it applied to their classes. As

of October 15, the speech was shown 457 times. That does not include whether or not a teacher accessed the speech via the Internet. The District also broadcast the speech at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Colonial Instructional Television Channel 28 each night during the week that the speech originally aired.

Hepler, Walter honored by Next magazine

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students Courtney Hepler and Sarah Walter were presented with the 2009 Student Excellence Award in May at a luncheon in the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. Hepler and Walter were among 25 young men and 25 young women who were selected across the state of Pennsylvania by an independent panel of judges for their dedication to their school and

their community. The award winners are profiled in the Fall 2009 issue of *Next* magazine. A guide to life after high school, *Next* is a statewide publication that is delivered twice each year to high school juniors across the state.

Hepler is the daughter of Matthew and Leah Hepler of Conshohocken, while Walter is the daughter of Gregory and Ann Marie Walter of Lafayette Hill.



“With the advanced placement and honors courses that PW had to offer me, I had a strong background knowledge and understanding of content when I took my general education classes at Penn State University. The material we were taught in our classes at PW held high expectations for us. We were taught critical thinking skills and problem solving strategies that were necessary to dive into a college curriculum. My peers at Penn State would always tell me that it seemed I had been provided with a stronger high school knowledge base in a lot of areas.”

Colleen Dougherty, PWHS ‘03

PWHS student wins congressional art contest

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) graduate Casey Bowne (left in photo at right) won first prize among 46 Philadelphia area students who entered the 2009 13th District Congressional Art Competition sponsored by Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz (right in photo at right). Bowne's photograph entitled "I've Got the Whole World in My Hands" is being displayed for one year at the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. PWHS graduate Jake Malone was one of three students to receive honorable mention. His painting is hanging in Schwartz's office for the next year.



PWHS students win television production awards

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Television Production students earned seven awards at The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Mid-Atlantic Chapter Student Television Awards held in May. Ian Rose and Dave Cox teamed to win two Awards for Excellence with "Drive to Save Lives," a public service announcement promoting the PWHS blood drive. The piece won the top prize in the categories of "Craft Achievement" and "Public Service Announcement." Rose also took home an Award for Excellence for his feature on the Colonial Players 2008 production of *Les Miserables* in the "Long Form" category. That piece also earned him honorable mention in the "Craft Achievement" category.



Television production teacher Chris McWilliams and his students show the awards they won at The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Mid-Atlantic Chapter Student Television Awards. They are (L to R): McWilliams, Alex Mandel, Nate Labruscianno, Dave Cox and Ian Rose. Not Pictured, Jesse Goldshear.

Rose and Alex Mandel received an honorable mention for "PW Cribs: Yeagle Edition" in the "Long Form" category. Cox, Mandel and Nate Labruscianno received honorable mention in "Sports" for their feature "In the Locker Room:

Luca Sbisa," and Jesse Goldshear also received honorable mention in "Craft Achievement" for "Jesse G's Biology Bonanza."

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is the organization responsible for the Emmy® Awards.

Rose and Cox also won a Greenfield Youth Foundation Film Festival first-place award in the "Fiction/Narrative" category for their piece "The Rise and Fall of the Weatherman."

"CITV was a great source to get hands-on experience with professional grade equipment. I came up to [Syracuse University] being ahead of the curve in many areas. I already had three-camera studio production experience, produced live-to-tape sports, shot concerts/freelance-style work, produced, written, edited, worked on PSAs and more. Final Cut Pro, the editing software used by CITV, is also fantastic. It's used heavily up at Syracuse, and it just put me ahead of others because I'd been using it for four years. It's an industry standard and an incredible tool for a high school student to use."

Michael Morse, PWHS '07

Fifteen PWHS grads earn scholarships from CMTHS

At the Colonial Board of School Directors meeting on June 18, Board Curriculum Committee Chairman Tom Davis reported that among the 27 graduating seniors receiving scholarships from the Central Montco Technical High School (CMTHS), more than half, or 15, were Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) students. Davis noted that 70 members of the PWHS Class of 2009 attended CMTHS, and 91 percent already have future plans. He stated that 27 plan to attend four-year colleges, 23 plan to attend a two-year school, 11 are now employed in their field of study, and three are enlisting in the military. At right, 2009 graduate Damien Delaney works on his construction project. Delaney built the foundation for the structure and completed the frame, plumbing, electrical work and drywall. He is shown working on the steps.



PWHS students earn Health Occupation honors

Eleven students from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and the Center for Technical Studies qualified for the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) national competition in Nashville, Tenn., June 23-28. The students advanced based upon their performance at the state competition held in Lancaster, Pa., from April 22-24. Seniors Christina Knecht and William Majer won gold medals in Biomedical Debate, while senior Joseph LoMonaco earned a gold medal in Biotechnology. Junior Brandon Brown won a gold medal in Prepared Speech, and

junior Brandon Friedberg took home the gold in Epidemiology.

Silver medal winners were junior Teresa Byron in Sports Medicine, senior Brooke English in Extemporaneous Health Poster, junior Cora Fulmer in Pharmacology, senior Katiemarie Gale in Pathophysiology and senior Jasmine Walton in Home Health Aide.

Junior Anne Pierce took home a bronze medal in Physical Therapy.

Freshman Orientation

Approximately 320 incoming freshman attended Plymouth Whitemarsh High School orientation on August 27, 2009. This was the first time the school held freshman orientation prior to the start of the school year. In addition to meeting their teachers and familiarizing themselves with their schedules and the building, students got a glimpse of the more than 100 activities, clubs and sports programs available to them. At right, a student signs up for the PWHS Science Olympics Team. Last year PWHS advanced to the state Science Olympics competition and brought home several medals.



District News

District Safety Officer Paul Antal views the bank of video monitors (inset) in his office. Antal can remotely control up to 93 video cameras located throughout the District. The new system can store data for up to 30 days. The cameras cover building entrances, playgrounds, cafeterias and high traffic areas.



Berk, Bellino join Colonial administrative staff

Karen Berk and Maria Bellino joined the Colonial School District (CSD) administrative team over the summer.

Berk is the District's new Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, hired to replace Cassandra DeLong who retired. Berk has over 35 years experience in special education as a classroom teacher, consultant, supervisor and director. She spent the past 28 years in the Souderton School District, including the past five years as Director of Special Education. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Temple University as well as Pennsylvania certifications in elementary education, special education, secondary principal and supervisor of special education.

Bellino moves into the role of Curriculum Supervisor for Science. She has 11 years experience as a teacher and assistant principal at Upper Darby High School. She spent

the past three years as Assistant Principal for the Classes of 2008 and 2012. Bellino holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Scranton and a master's degree from Saint Joseph's University.



Karen Berk



Maria Bellino

Both Berk and Bellino have hit the ground running in CSD. Berk is heading the formulation of a Pupil Services Review Committee, while Bellino has already conducted a needs assessment of the District's science curriculum.

District names eight new Master Teachers

The Colonial School District has named eight new Master Teachers. Colonial's innovative Master Teacher program began in 2001 and provides career ladder opportunities for classroom teachers wishing to remain in the classroom while assuming leadership responsibilities. The eight new teachers include Colonial Middle School teachers Kim Clemente and Gina Nelson, Whitemarsh Elementary School teacher Marna Caintic, Ridge Park Elementary School teacher Laura Yeakel and Whitemarsh Elementary School teacher Jane Rush. Also included are elementary school teachers Brian Adams, who splits time between Plymouth and Ridge Park and Hope Garfinkle and Michelle Gilbert, who both split time between Conshohocken and Plymouth.

Teachers may apply for Master Teacher status each spring. To be eligible they must possess an Instructional II Certificate, receive satisfactory final ratings in all categories for a minimum of five years without having any "needs improvement" ratings during the same time period, participate in the "Pathways to Excellence" Program for a minimum of one year and demonstrate leadership among their peers. Meeting those criteria then qualifies candidates to undergo an extensive peer and administrative evaluation process. The Master Teacher is a two-year designation as long as the requirements are maintained. Master Teachers receive an additional salary increment of \$5,000 per year.



Adams



Caintic



Clemente



Garfinkle



Gilbert



Nelson



Rush



Yeakel

"Being a Master Teacher has been a rewarding experience in a variety of ways. While still performing my everyday teaching duties, I have been given the opportunity to attend a national conference, open my classroom for visiting colleagues, facilitate professional development sessions and mentor new teachers. Last school year, I was able to implement a successful new morning announcement program at Ridge Park and serve in various leadership capacities in the building. I am enjoying my time as a Master Teacher and look forward to future opportunities."

Amy Venkus, Ridge Park Elementary School

Board approves 2009-10 spending plan

The Colonial Board of School Directors voted unanimously to adopt a 2009-10 General Fund Budget of \$92,580,000 at their public business meeting on Thursday, June 18. The budget represents an increase of 3.01 percent over the 2008-2009 spending plan and includes a real estate tax rate of 17.249 mils, an increase of 4.1 percent. Property owners will see a real estate tax increase of \$67.90 per \$100,000 of assessed value or \$99.82 on the District's median assessed value of \$147,010. The budget utilizes \$4,850,000 of the projected \$10,233,825 Fund Balance.

Local revenues continue to be the primary source of funding for the Colonial School District. Approximately 79 percent of total revenues are derived from local sources which include current and interim real estate taxes, transfer and delinquent taxes, public utility tax, interest earnings, payments from other districts, tuition and facility rental payments.

Due to the unfavorable economic conditions some sources of local revenue have declined from the 2008-09

budget. Taxable real estate assessments have decreased 36 percent or \$13,875,856 over the previous year. The decline in the tax base results in a loss of \$239,192 of real estate tax revenue. Real estate transfer taxes are budgeted \$500,000 less than last year due to the slowdown in the residential and commercial real estate markets.

Interest income is projected to decrease \$279,800 from last year. This reduction combined with the 2008-09 reduction, accounts for an overall decrease of \$823,289 over two years.

Also reduced is the amount of real estate tax relief from the state's Real Estate Tax Relief Program. Colonial received \$63,561 less than last year. The tax relief program is funded by the state's share of slot machine revenue. The number of qualifying homestead/farmsteads totals 10,290, an

increase of 334 from last year. This translates to a real estate tax reduction of \$248 for 2009-10 for each approved homestead or farmstead. The tax reduction provided in 2008-09 was \$263.

District passes state audit

The Colonial School District underwent its regular state audit last spring. The audit of the District's finances and financial practices covered the 2004-2005 through 2007-2008 school years. The state issued Colonial a clean report with no findings or recommendations for corrections. The District has received clean audits from the state for the past six years. Additionally, Colonial undergoes an annual independent audit conducted by Barbacane, Thornton and Company. That firm also gave the District a financial stamp of approval last year and for the previous 11 years.

Bond refinancing nets significant savings for District

The Colonial School Board had hoped to save as much as \$150,000 when it approved a resolution to refinance its Series 2002A and 2003 bonds last winter. The actual debt reduction turned out to be more than \$500,000 in savings over the next 18

months. Board members were explicit in stating that the refinancing was not lengthening the term of the debt, merely reducing the debt burden.

The significant savings was made possible by Colonial's Aa2 rating that places it among the

top 1.2 percent of Pennsylvania school districts in terms of financial stability. The rating is by Moody's Investor Services. Only five of the Commonwealth's 501 school districts statewide have a better financial rating than Colonial.

"The residents of Whitemarsh, Plymouth and Conshohocken are blessed with outstanding schools for our children. This is not an accident. As parents and concerned citizens, we know our children are learning. Colonial Schools achieved "Top Tier" (top 20%) status in the "School Report Card" recently published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. As taxpayers, we can take satisfaction that we get outstanding value. The Colonial School District has the 2nd lowest tax burden in all of Montgomery County. Add to that innovative programs such as the forward-thinking academic/athletic facility cooperative agreement with Chestnut Hill College that empowers our high school students to achieve college credits while still at PW High School, and it is clear that the dedicated members of the Colonial School District have earned our adulation and our gratitude."

Joe Meo, Lafayette Hill

PWHS adds three to Distinguished Graduates Organization

The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Distinguished Graduates Organization (DGO) added three new members during its 24th annual luncheon and induction ceremony in May. Walter Blackburn, Kenneth Pearson and Kathleen Biggar joined more than 100 other graduates honored by the DGO.

A 1957 PWHS graduate, Blackburn was recognized for achievement in the Arts. He is a private teacher and retired college music professor. He holds a B.S. in music education from West Chester University and a master's of music in conducting from the University of Indiana. He also attended the prestigious Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Md. and the L'Institut Dalcroze in Geneva, Switzerland, internationally recognized as a center for music excellence and training.

A 1968 PWHS graduate, Kenneth Pearson was recognized for achievement in Business. He is the Senior Vice President of Operations for ASTM International based in West Conshohocken. Mr. Pearson is responsible for the management of the Committee on Technical Committee Operations, as well as the Finance

and Accounting, Information Technology and Buildings and Grounds Divisions.

Mr. Pearson holds a B.S. in civil engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in civil engineering from Villanova University.



The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Distinguished Graduates Organization added three new members last spring. The new inductees are (L to R) Walter Blackburn, Kathleen Biggar and Kenneth Pearson.

A 1969 PWHS graduate, Kathleen Biggar was recognized for achievement in Public Service. She serves as Assistant Regional Commissioner for Management and Operations Support in the Philadelphia region of the Social Security Administration (SSA). Ms. Biggar is responsible for program, policies and administrative support in the region which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. She holds a B.S. from the University of Pittsburgh and is a member of the SSA Federal Executive Board.

The purpose of the PWHS DGO is to recognize distinguished

graduates of PWHS in the areas of Academics, Arts, Athletics, Business, Humanities and Public Service and to serve as examples of excellence for undergraduate students.

Mini laptops pay big dividends in CSD classrooms

While the Mini Cooper may be one of the cars in vogue today the mini computer is all the rage in the Colonial School District (CSD). After a successful pilot program by the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School AVID program, CSD has added nearly 200 of the mini computers at Colonial Middle School and the District's five elementary schools. The mini laptops are considerably smaller than the current average laptop. They boast a nine-inch display screen and weigh less than four pounds but come with 160 gigabytes of hard drive space.

The addition of the mini laptops helps to bring CSD closer to its goal of attaining a one-to-one computer solution for students, while focusing on "anywhere, anytime learning."

"The laptops are used several times a week to enhance the classroom experience," says Ridge Park Elementary School third grade teacher Natalie Cook. "The minis provide quick access to internet resources and increase differentiation through the use of multi-level student software programs. Teachers and students alike enjoy the handling of the kid-friendly notebook combined with the accessibility of a mobile lab."



Ridge Park Elementary School students take advantage of wireless mini laptops.

The wireless capability of the laptops allows students to compete against each other in educational exercises while each having their own computer.

While the minis don't have floppy or CD drives, they are faster than regular sized laptops and are about \$500 cheaper.



Building Updates

The new Colonial Elementary School Library is open for business. The courtyard of the building was enclosed and now houses the school's library and the District General Meeting Room.

Conshohocken Elementary School

Location:301 Harry Street, Conshohocken, PA 19428
Phone: 610-828-0362
Fax:..... 610-828-4582
Principal:.....Denise Marks
Grades:K-3
Enrollment: 152
2009 3rd Grade PSSA Math:.....92.9% Proficient or Advanced
2009 3rd Grade PSSA Reading:.....89.3% Proficient or Advanced

2008-2009 Highlights

Conshohocken Elementary maintains its strong community ties

Living up to its reputation as a neighborhood school, Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) continued its rich relationships with community businesses during the year. The school received grants from Morgan Stanley, ASTM International, GlaxoSmithKline and TD Bank. The donations were used to support a field trip to the Arden Theatre, advancements in technology, independent reading libraries, an expansion of the building library, physical education materials and assembly programs. CE also worked with many community organizations including the Montgomery County Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's America Reads. The students have also benefited

from the school's mentoring program with Morgan Stanley. Additionally, CE received a major grant from the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation to help



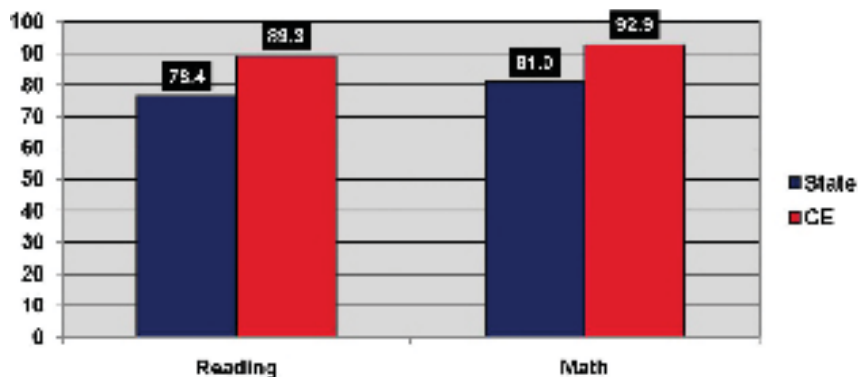
Above, a student serves one of the local senior citizens at the school's annual Thanksgiving Lunch.

fund an optional after school science activity for interested students.

CE students also worked to give back to the community that gives so much to them. The third grade Helping Hands Club, led by school nurse Cathy Greenly, met monthly to promote community service. This year, the club established a pen pal relationship with a United States Marine with local ties

who was serving in Iraq. He visited the students when he returned to the area on leave.

2009 PSSA % Proficient or Advanced



Note: School-level PSSA data includes only those students attending Colonial School District schools.

Plymouth Elementary School

Location: 542 Plymouth Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
 Phone: 610-825-8190
 Fax: 610-825-7853
 Principal: Judith A. Lipson
 Grades: K-3
 Enrollment: 461
 2009 3rd Grade PSSA Math: 97.3% Proficient or Advanced
 2009 3rd Grade PSSA Reading: 94.7% Proficient or Advanced

2008-2009 Highlights

Plymouth Pride shines throughout the year

Pride Day was again a big hit in Plymouth Elementary School (PE). Pride Day is the all-school celebration in which parents and family members join students to view school work and share in their academic progress. An all-school art show and the third grade musical were featured during the day.

Multicultural efforts continued throughout the year at PE as students learned about their own cultures as well as those of their classmates. Parents and children shared their family culture, traditions, clothing, language, dance, music

and artifacts.

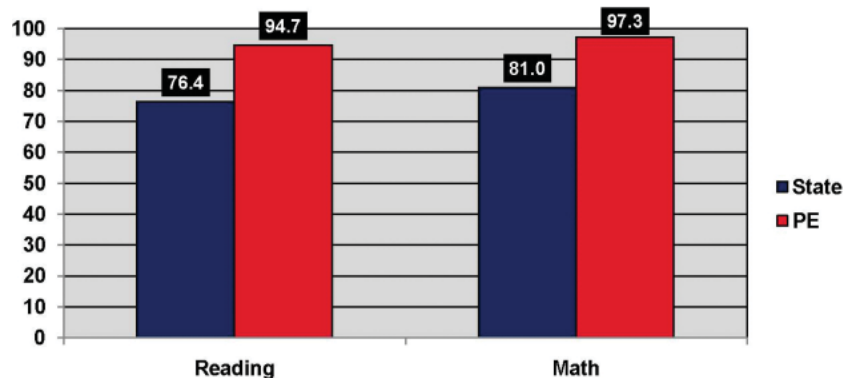
Students also took time out to honor and thank

the nation's veterans. Stephanie Kundtz' second-grade class received a visit from several veterans on Veteran's Day. Two students' fathers and the grandfather of another student were celebrated as heroes by the students for their service in the armed forces. The class made an American flag out of cut outs in the shapes of hands and hearts since they cover their hearts with their hands when they recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



A student meets a new friend at Kindergarten Orientation.

2009 PSSA % Proficient or Advanced



Note: School-level PSSA data includes only those students attending Colonial School District schools.

Ridge Park Elementary School

Location: 200 Karris Lane, Conshohocken, PA 19428
Phone: 610-825-1083
Fax: 610-825-7983
Principal: Jason Bacani
Grades: K-3
Enrollment: 352
2009 3rd Grade PSSA Math: 96.6% Proficient or Advanced
2009 3rd Grade PSSA Reading: 94.3% Proficient or Advanced

2008-2009 Highlights

Ridge Park students show their Panther Pride

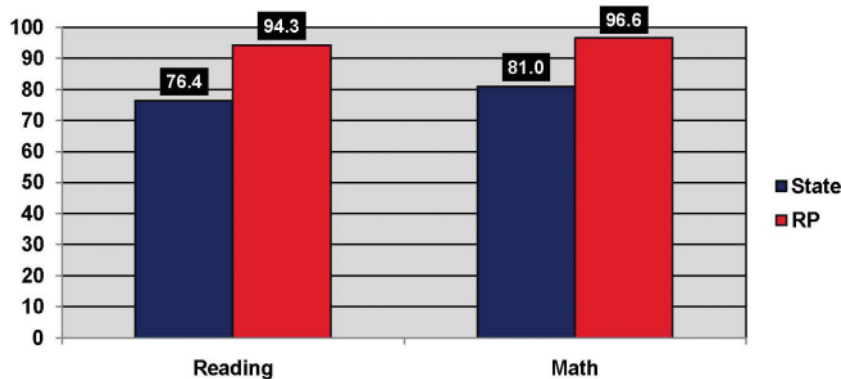
Panther Pride is a community-building, school-wide event that occurs every six weeks at Ridge Park Elementary School (RP). Students are given the opportunity to participate in age-appropriate activities that promote collaboration, socialization and enjoyment. Over the past two years, students have taken part in pumpkin decorating, scarecrow making, creating friendship bracelets for their peers, Earth Day cleanup, candy bingo and many more activities. All RP students and teachers look forward to each Panther Pride activity with anticipation.



Ridge Park Elementary School students decorate pumpkins as part of Panther Pride activities.

Panther pride is covered on RP Today. The school was the first K-3 elementary school in Colonial to implement a televised morning announcement program. RP Today is broadcast live every Wednesday and Friday morning through the interactive whiteboards in each classroom. Third grade students serve as the anchors for the program with each student getting the opportunity. RP Today includes the Pledge of Allegiance, daily lunch choice, weather, sports and school happenings.

2009 PSSA % Proficient or Advanced



Note: School-level PSSA data includes only those students attending Colonial School District schools.

Whitemarsh Elementary School

Location: 4120 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
 Phone: 610-828-9092
 Fax: 610-828-1516
 Principal: Donna Drizin
 Grades: K-3
 Enrollment: 419
 2009 3rd Grade PSSA Math 95.7% Proficient or Advanced
 2009 3rd Grade PSSA Reading 96.7% Proficient or Advanced

2008-2009 Highlights

Whitemarsh Elementary students learn the importance of service

Service learning and community service are part of the fabric of Whitemarsh Elementary School. Students again prepared Thanksgiving Baskets for individuals and families in need, donated Pennies for Patients and supported the troops by writing letters and sending care packages. Additionally, the Student Council members, in conjunction with the school's PTO, conceived and organized a hat and visor sale to raise money for pediatric cancer research.

Every student also had the chance to be a

recycling trooper during the year to check recycling bins for the appropriate items. The entire student body once

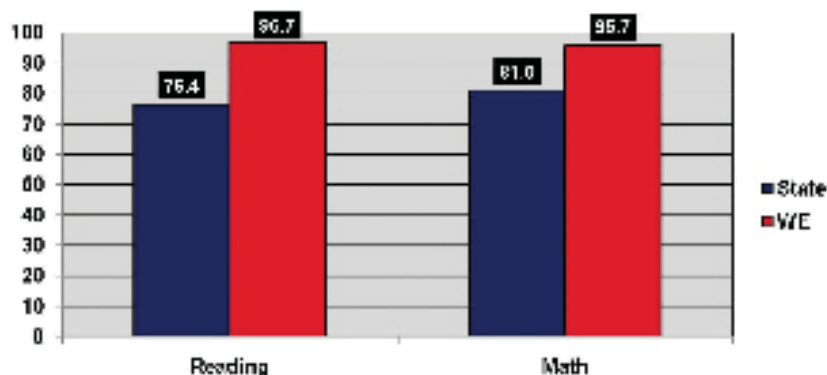
again participated in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup Project and helped tidy up the wooded area along McCarthy Park and Victory Fields.

The whole school also commemorated the tragic events of September 11, 2001 with a ceremony on the front lawn. Students sang songs and presented cards of thanks to local first responders.



All Whitemarsh Elementary School teachers and students commemorated September 11, 2001 by thanking area first responders for their service to the community.

2009 PSSA % Proficient or Advanced



Note: School-level PSSA data includes only those students attending Colonial School District schools.

Colonial Elementary School

Location: 230 Flourtown Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
Phone: 610-941-0426
Fax: 610-834-8701
Principal: Terese Boegly
Assistant Principal: Michael McKenna
Grades: 4-5
Enrollment: 679
2009 4th Grade PSSA Math/Reading 93.8%/89.6% Proficient of Advanced
2009 5th Grade PSSA Math/Reading: 91.2%/86.5% Proficient or Advanced

2008-2009 Highlights

Colonial Elementary School renovations are worth the wait

The Colonial Elementary School renovations that took place in phases throughout the 2008-09 school year are complete. During each phase of the project, a group of classes was moved to temporary locations while their rooms were being upgraded.

The new classrooms received rave reviews from the students. Each classroom was equipped with new technology including Interwrite Boards and digital projectors. Wireless Internet access was also installed throughout the building.

Classrooms were also fitted with new carpeting, acoustical drop ceilings, full spectrum lighting and state-of-the-art air temperature and humidity controls. The renovations

have significantly improved the instructional environment for the students and their teachers.

A number of security upgrades were made to the building, including a new fire alarm and fire suppression

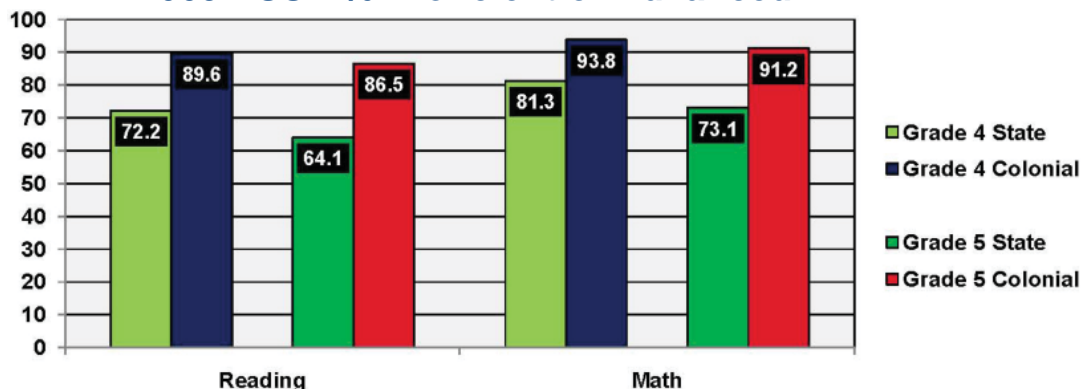
systems and a new lock system. New entry ways to the gymnasium and music hallway were also created to limit student exposure to the main public corridor. Additionally, the old School Board room was moved to the former courtyard area on the first floor to reduce public traffic in the classroom areas of the building. The new library, also in the former

courtyard area (see photo page 21), is more expansive.



A student works a math problem on a new whiteboard.

2009 PSSA % Proficient or Advanced



Note: School-level PSSA data includes only those students attending Colonial School District schools.

Colonial Middle School

Location: 716 Belvoir Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
Phone: 610-275-5100
Fax: 610-278-2447
Principal: Robert Fahler
Assistant Principals: Maico Azcona, Katy Swetkowski
Grades: 6-8
Enrollment: 1,028
2009 6th Grade PSSA Math/Reading 92.9%/86.4% Proficient or Advanced
2009 7th Grade PSSA Math/Reading 90.1%/85.8% Proficient or Advanced
2009 8th Grade PSSA Math/Reading/Writing 86.1%/92.0%/91.2% Proficient or Advanced

2008-2009 Highlights

Colonial Middle School students “Respect the Difference”

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) certified Colonial Middle School (CMS) as a No Place for Hate® school for the third consecutive year. Led by the Multicultural Club, CMS students participated in a number of activities promoting diversity. One of the highlights of the year was the school’s participation in National Mix-it-Up at Lunch Day. CMS administrators and teachers took the place of the cafeteria staff and served lunch to the students. Students challenged the social barriers that divide them by sitting with peers outside of their normal social groups. The activity was featured in the ADL’s No Place for Hate® newsletter.

During the year, the Multicultural Club also assisted in the effort to have each

student sign the Respect the Difference Pledge and created a No Place for Hate video with the central message being to respect the differences at CMS. Students also took a

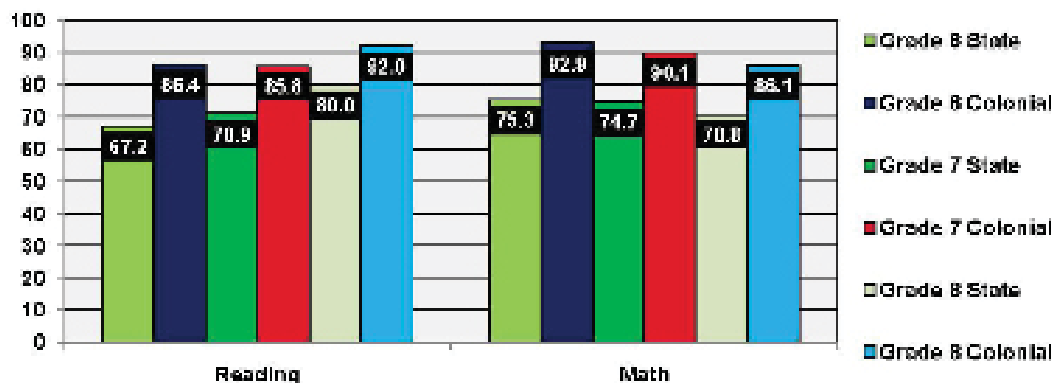
Mural Arts trolley tour of Center City Philadelphia where they learned the artist’s perspective and the design significance of each mural. Also successful was the school’s participation in Challenge Day for the seventh consecutive year. Challenge Day is a nationally recognized bullying and prevention program.

Other key aspects of the building’s anti-bullying efforts are rewards programs such as Random Acts of Kindness, Personal Bests, Monthly Behavior, Marking Period Behavior and Bus of the Month.



CMS students take part in a team-building exercise during a day of anti-bullying activities at the school.

2009 PSSA % Proficient or Advanced



Note: School-level PSSA data includes only those students attending Colonial School District schools.

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School

Location: 201 E. Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
 Phone: 610-825-1500
 Fax: 610-832-0766
 Principal: Dr. Monica Sullivan
 Associate Principal: Karen Gebhardt
 Assistant Principals: Daniel Balek, Joseph Carracappa
 Grades: 9-12
 Enrollment: 1,587
 2009 SAT Math/Critical Reading/Writing Mean Scores: 549/522/531
 2009 ACT English/Math/Reading/Science Mean Scores: 23.5/24.6/24.1/23.1
 2009 11th Grade PSSA Math: 76.3% Proficient or Above
 2009 11th Grade PSSA Reading: 79.1% Proficient or Above
 Note: School-level PSSA data is for students attending Colonial School District schools

2008-2009 Highlights

PWHS students get a taste of life on the job

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) students can not only excel in the classroom but also in the workplace. Students have opportunities to get hands-on experience through job shadowing and supervised internship programs. Job shadowing and internships are available in each of the school's Career Pathways, or integrated groupings of courses such as Business, Finance & Information Technology, Science & Health, Arts & Communications, Engineering & Industrial Technology and Human Services.

Students may take advantage of three types of internships – education, human services and Block 4 which encompasses all other fields of interest. The education internship is for students interested in teaching. They are paired with a teacher in the District for a semester.

Approximately 40-50 students each year participate in the education internships.

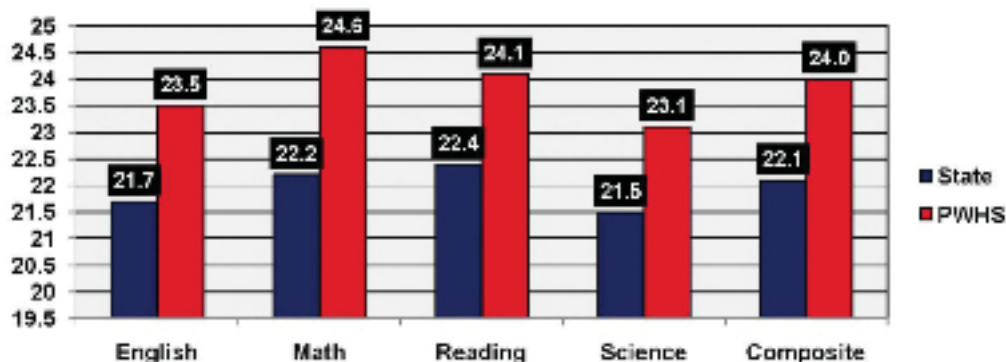
Between 10 and 14 students intern in the human services area which involves working with students with disabilities. Many of the interns work with Life Skills students in the District. For the first time during the 2008-09 school year, students were also placed in internships with businesses throughout the area. More than four dozen students took part in the program, working internships in a variety of businesses from a local barber shop to an orthopedist to the Montgomery County Public Defenders' Office.

The job shadowing and internship programs make students' junior and senior years at PWHS more relevant.



Dr. Kim Woudsma received a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to PWHS interns. Shown are (L to R): Teacher Nancy Labricciosa, Sam Regnery, Dr. Woudsma, Michelle Won and Career Counselor Stacy Anderson.

2009 Mean ACT Scores



Note: Data is from ACT

Colonial Board of School Directors

The nine members of the Colonial School Board are elected at large to serve the citizens of Conshohocken Borough and Plymouth and Whitemarsh townships. The Board meets on the third Thursday of the month, with other meeting dates announced. Citizen input is welcomed and encouraged, and the community is urged to attend School Board meetings.



Gary J. Johnson
President



Susan Moore
Vice President



Lenore Bruno
Board Member



Tom Davis
Board Member



Kelly Jowett
Board Member



Hope Luken
Board Member



Dr. Bill Ryan
Board Member



Steven Slutsky
Board Member



Mitch Zimmer
Board Member



Joseph P. Bickleman
Board Treasurer



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary



Jeffrey T. Sultanik
Board Solicitor



Dr. Vincent F. Cotter
Superintendent



Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer
Assistant Superintendent

Did You Know?

- School Board members are elected agents of the State Legislature and are designated by law to administer the school system.
- School Board service is voluntary. Members are not paid for their work.
- School Board service requires a sizeable time commitment. Colonial School Board Members attend more than 130 meetings a year, not including local government meetings or committee meetings for organizations such as the Central Montco Technical High School.

Committee Assignments

Curriculum and Program

Tom Davis, Chairperson
Susan Moore
Dr. Bill Ryan

Finance and Audit

Steven Slutsky, Chairperson
Hope Luken
Dr. Bill Ryan
Mitch Zimmer

Human Relations

Hope Luken, Chairperson
Tom Davis
Steven Slutsky

Facilities Management and Transportation

Susan Moore, Chairperson
Lenore Bruno
Kelly Jowett

Community Relations and Student Life

Mitch Zimmer, Chairperson
Lenore Bruno
Kelly Jowett
Hope Luken

Safety and Wellness

Lenore Bruno, Chairperson
Kelly Jowett
Hope Luken
Susan Moore
Mitch Zimmer

Central Montco Technical High School

Tom Davis
Gary Johnson
Susan Moore

Municipal Government Liaisons

Dr. Bill Ryan, Conshohocken
Lenore Bruno, Plymouth
Hope Luken, Whitemarsh

Plymouth Parks and Recreation Board

Lenore Bruno

Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation Board

Hope Luken

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23

Mitch Zimmer

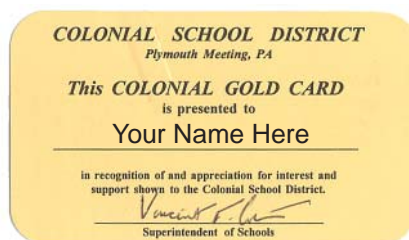
Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Dr. Bill Ryan

The mission of the Colonial School District, the vital educational force in the Conshohocken, Plymouth and Whitemarsh community, is to Reach “Above and Beyond” by graduating citizens who are able and committed to fulfilling their potential and maximizing their contribution to society. The District shall achieve this mission by working in partnership with the community to: provide learning experiences which instill common societal values, develop critical thinking skills, value human diversity and prepare a generation of lifelong learners to inherit and lead our complex society.

Colonial cares about senior citizens

The Colonial “Gold Card” provides the District’s senior citizens with free admission to one adult evening school class per semester and free access to regular season home athletic events, concerts, musicals and other School District activities. A complimentary luncheon and matinee performance of the high school spring musical occur annually.



For more information contact:
Dave Sherman, District Office
(610) 834-1671, ext. 2115
e-mail: dsherman@colonialsd.org

Receive the latest Colonial School District news via e-mail

Receive news updates and announcements from the Colonial School District via e-mail. Simply send an e-mail to dsherman@colonialsd.org with the words “Subscribe News” in the subject line.