

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Overview

Cutting-edge technology, dedicated faculty, and an exemplary curriculum focused on 21st century skills and post secondary success make Plymouth Whitemarsh one of the best high schools in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) has a long history of providing outstanding academic, technical, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs for students.

The rigorous curriculum is aligned with state and national standards and features more than 230 course offerings, including 21 Advanced Placement (AP) courses audited by the College Board and more than 40 honors level courses. A technical education program is available through the Central Montco Technical High School.

Programs are in place to ensure students' post-secondary success in today's competitive global economy. Career pathways in high priority occupational areas guide students toward integrated groupings of courses across various departments. The College Board's *College Ed* program has become the foundation of a career awareness advisory program in the freshman and sophomore years. Job shadowing and supervised internships in each of the career pathways make the junior and senior years more relevant.

PWHS has begun a multi-functional, centralized hub Writing Center to promote literacy throughout the building. PWHS recognizes that all aspects of the students' educational careers, writing and communication skills are essential to success, even beyond the secondary classroom. The Writing Center provides students with a safe, collaborative environment to develop these necessary skills. The benefits of offering this service to students are monumental. Students gain confidence and take ownership over their learning, leading to greater success in their content area classes. Further, the Writing Center establishes a culture that values writing and promotes the school as a community of learners. Equally important, the Writing Center provides leadership opportunities for more advanced learners through the Writing Fellows Program. Students are trained to serve as peer mentors and tutors in the Writing Center where visitors have the opportunity to discuss, plan and successfully complete coursework in a welcoming and friendly setting. In addition, students can obtain assistance with college essays, scholarship essays, and the application process.

The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is another option for some PWHS students. Colonial is the first district in Pennsylvania to implement AVID, a highly structured college prep system that prepares students in the academic middle, who have not previously succeeded in a college preparatory path, for admission to four-year universities and colleges. AVID is for bright students who might be under achieving, under served in the college system or first generation college students.

Student learning has been transformed through instructional technology. All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and digital projectors and document cameras. Polycom videoconferencing technology brings the world to PWHS students through activities such as a narrated autopsy and conversations with noted authors. The school's wireless capacity enables students' daily use of the classroom laptop carts available in social studies, science and English language arts. Other computer labs facilitate the study of world languages, technology enhanced math instruction, and a broad array of computer programming, computer application, and digital media courses such as 3D Animation, Digital Media, Photo Major and Digital Imaging and Graphic Design.

State-of-the-art classroom laboratories in the modern science wing are now home to new forensic science and engineering courses, and students are applying skills learned in their science and technology courses in national competitions such as the Science Olympiad and First Robotics.

PWHS students are active in community service. The school has its own Habitat for Humanity Club. Students also have given time to such organizations as Amnesty International, Best Buddies, Breast Cancer Awareness, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Special Olympics and many more.

The high school has a rich tradition in athletics having claimed three PIAA Boys' Basketball Championships, a PIAA Baseball Championship, two individual PIAA Wrestling Championships and numerous individual state championships in swimming, boys' and girls' track and field and winter track. The Girls' Basketball team also has advanced to the PIAA Finals and the cheerleading squad has won regional and national championships. PWHS sponsors 30 interscholastic teams, 15 each for boys and for girls.

Theater, arts, and music are also part of the well-rounded Plymouth Whitemarsh experience. PWHS students have advanced to state and Mid-Atlantic Region choral festivals, won regional and state-wide art competitions and entertain the public with separate theater and musical performances each year. There are over 70 club activities to meet the diversified needs and interests of all students.

Improved safety and security measures include the installation of 39 monitored security cameras, electronic locking doors and five security officers. This ensures that students and staff have an orderly and safe environment for learning and extracurricular activities.

Mission Statement

The mission of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, a dynamic force in secondary education in the Colonial School District, is to graduate responsible and productive students by providing educational experiences, which develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, encourage mutual respect and appreciation of human diversity, and foster active citizenship through the collaborative efforts of the school community.

Belief Statements

We believe...

The academic achievement of each student is our primary goal.

Education is a shared responsibility among students, family, school staff, community and government.

Learning is a lifelong process.

Every student is a valuable individual able to make positive contributions.

Students learn at varying rates and in different ways.

A safe and respectful school environment fosters educational and social growth for all.

Students develop self-esteem through compassionate, respectful relationships and meaningful experiences.

A system of ethical values empowers students to make valuable contributions to society.

[Click here for a District Overview](#)