



The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District wishes all of you a safe and happy summer.

School re-opens for students on September 5, 2019. We can't wait to see you then!

Growing Innovation: The Class of 2032

I grew up in the farmlands of South Jersey, where the adage, “don’t plant your annuals until Mother’s Day” is common practice. There is art and science to growing hearty plants. At this time of year, we, as educators, enthusiastically begin planting the seeds for the upcoming school year.

Think about it. We have the privilege of planning for the class of 2032. Are our students still in rows answering the questions at the end of Chapter 2? We cannot deny that our students learn, create and share what they know quite differently than the students who preceded them. With this in mind, we are supporting innovations to prepare students for their future.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a lecture given by Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs, author of, “Bold Moves for Schools.” Dr. Hayes Jacobs challenged us to give up on reform, and make new. There are new ways of upgrading every subject we teach. Dr. Hayes Jacobs advocated for learners who need contemporary teachers and leaders who are:

- Literate self-navigators
- Professional learners
- Social Contractors
- Media critics
- Savvy media makers
- Mindful citizens
- Global ambassadors
- Innovative designers
- Advocates for learning

Along with advocating for perpetual learning by our students and staff, a close read of the aforementioned points leads us to think about educational personalization that includes, “new literacies: digital, media and global.” In terms of pedagogy, our focus must be on keeping the, “classical,” and “creating the contemporary.” Although we may recognize the need for and the benefits of these innovations, if we do not provide an embedded structure for innovation, the point is mute.

In order to prepare the soil for a fertile harvest, throughout the past year, our high school colleagues have worked collaboratively to update our high school bell schedule. Together, we are creating a structure for innovation. Realizing that we are not the first school to do this, we are planning to utilize time around student lunches to give our students a chance to self-select activities from learning labs, to clubs, to open gym time. Office hours are planned for staff to assist students with self-advocacy and social learning.

Yet, the most exciting part of the new schedule is that it affords teachers common planning time. We plan to utilize the Connected Action Roadmap Model of lesson planning to view, review and reform our work with our New Jersey Student Learning Standards. We are planting the seeds with our teachers by giving them time to collaborate and learn from shared experiences and shared leadership. They in turn, plant the seeds of learning with our most important asset, our students. Our administrative team is so looking forward to listening and learning as our colleagues begin this work.

District Strategic Plan Approved by the Board of Education

This year, our District underwent a full, Strategic Planning initiative. I would like to again thank the all of the students, parents, community members and colleagues who participated in this important work. The plan was officially approved by our Board of Education at our regular meeting in May. One facet of this initiative involved updating our District Mission Statement as follows:

Woodstown Pilesgrove Regional Schools embody a collaborative partnership that provides a secure, supportive environment with high quality resources based upon New Jersey's Student Learning Standards, committed to challenging and empowering each individual to see and pursue his/her potential and to develop a passion for life-long learning in our diverse and changing world.

Our mission reflects the strong, core values that prevail in the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District. We believe that positive relationships are our core strength. We are committed to excellence. We expect excellence, and will always do our best. We uphold integrity, accountability for our actions and honesty.

After each of the four Strategic Planning Meetings were held last October, November, December and January, comments and suggestions were carefully tabulated, and

analyzed for both frequency and understanding. This analysis became the cornerstone of our plan.

The first and foremost goal of our Strategic Plan focuses on STUDENT LEARNING. We will provide learning opportunities for all of our students based on a curriculum that is supported by technology, professional development and data driven decisions. Learning is different, in a very positive way, here in our Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District. Our strong staff teaches and leads our students, imparting tools for success.

Our Strategic Plan includes a communication goal. We plan to increase communications by utilizing a variety of new media. Be on the lookout for our launch of a Woodstown Pilesgrove Regional School District App in the beginning of the upcoming school year! Yes! We will have our own app!

As you know, our budget has been, and continues to be, a significant challenge. With the charter school opening at Appel Farm, portions of both our state and federal aid moves to this school. Our general fund is reduced by approximately \$120,000.00 because of the charter.

Yet, we remain diligent on doing the best we can with what we have for our students. Sustainability is our budgetary mantra. We have made plans to research and pursue diverse funding systems, enhancing both internal and external advocacy to maximize opportunities.

Our plan also highlights diversity and inclusivity. Our school community is committed to preparing our students to value, respect and welcome individuals, in all of their diversity. Serving others is woven throughout the years at our Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional Schools. Our Strategic Plan puts forth actions for continued equity and excellence, ensuring a welcoming, safe and unbiased school community.

Throughout the upcoming 2019-2020 School Year, references to our Strategic Plan will be found on the Agendas of our Regular Board of Education meetings. This will serve to keep the plan alive, fluid, and will insure that our goals are subject to accountability.



Suggestions/Comments/Questions

We would like to hear from you! If you have any suggestions, comments or questions about something please [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our website and complete a short survey.

Wolverine of the Month!

High School

Eric Quinones	April 2019
Sophia Delia	April 2019
Devon Gatanis	May 2019
Alexander Strobel	May 2019
Juliana Morell	June 2019
Zachary McHarness	June 2019

Middle School

Marissa Flores	April 2019
Patrick McVeigh	April 2019
Gabriella Pasqua	May 2019
Evan Gao	May 2019
Nashaya Polo	June 2019
Nathan Rabenold	June 2019

Mary Shoemaker School

Carson Bradway	April 2019
Jala Thomas	April 2019
Chloe Hitchner	May 2019
Andrew Stengel	May 2019
John Felizzi	June 2019
Casey Zaluske	June 2019

Upcoming BOE Work Session Dates

Thursday	7/18/19	6:00 pm	MSS Library
Thursday	8/15/19	6:00 pm	MSS Library
Thursday	9/19/19	6:00 pm	MSS Library

Upcoming BOE Public Meeting Dates

Thursday	7/25/19	7:00 pm	MSS Library
Thursday	8/22/19	7:00 pm	MSS Library
Thursday	9/26/19	7:00 pm	MSS Library

