



JANUARY 24, 2018

The following information has been collected from CSD administrative departments and reflects updates on key programs, priorities and initiatives. Items specifically related to the progress of Cheltenham's strategic plan, Five Pathways, One Destination, are noted along with specific plan pathways. To access the plan and a description of each pathway, [click here](#).

EduCon Presentation

Supervisor of STEM Dr. Brian Reilly and Cheltenham Elementary Challenge Consultant Mr. Gerald Aungst met to discuss their upcoming presentation "[Keeping Kids Curious: The Art and Science of Making](#)" at the innovation conference EduCon at Philadelphia's Science Leadership Academy on Sunday, Jan. 28. The presentation aims to raise the awareness of the need to foster curiosity in students in and around STEAM education and makerspaces. Mr. Aungst will lead the presentation with Dr. Reilly assisting. **[Strategic Plan Pathway 5: Communications and Engagement]**

Project Based Learning

Dr. Reilly and Supervisor of Professional Learning and Gifted Education Matt Pimental hosted a conversation with "[Beyond Measure](#)" videographer Mark Smith. The documentary follows the progress of several school districts which have embraced project based learning (PBL) as a way to provide a 21st century education to students from diverse backgrounds. Cheltenham has screened the documentary twice to illustrate the greater mission of PBL in the District. CSD is on the leading edge of implementation and offers a unique case study as a traditional public institution and a diverse District. Smith is looking to film PBL in action at Cheltenham as a way to update PBL-interested schools and add to the national PBL conversation, which began taking shape following the movie's release.

Unified Bocce

Last winter, Cheltenham High School complemented its existing Unified Panther Athletic Program of Cheer and Track and Field with the addition of a bocce squad. In its first season, the Unified Panthers Bocce Team captured the gold medal at the first Montgomery County Unified Bocce Championship at Souderton High School. The school-wide response has been so positive that Cheltenham is fielding two bocce teams this year. There will be 13 Unified Athletes on the team, which Coach Mr. Gus Ekhardt and Assistant Coach Ms. Jessica Mann lead. The Unified Panthers aim to defend their title with matches at North Penn (Jan. 30) and home (Feb. 13). Each match runs from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

[Strategic Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences]

Elementary Mental Health Symposium

Supervisor of Elementary Special Education Ms. Christina Lewis, Drs. Beverly Gallagher, Director of Special Education, and Cheryl Horsey, Director of Student Services, and Ms. Ambrosia Martin, Mental Health and Wellness Counselor for grades 5-8, attended an elementary mental health symposium sponsored by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on Thursday, Jan. 11. The symposium examined programming structure; gaps in mental health services within Montgomery County; and ways to enhance positive working practices and feedback between service providers, school districts and families. **[Strategic Plan Pathway: 4 Holistic Experiences]**

Staff Wellbeing Workshop

On Monday, Jan. 22, the District offered staff the unique wellbeing workshop “Discover Your Inner Drummer” at Elkins Park School. EP Music Teacher Mr. John Moran hosted a drumming circle for attendees to engage in the spontaneous creation of drum music while enhancing their wellbeing. **[Strategic Plan Pathway: 4 Holistic Experiences]**

Cedarbrook Middle School Construction Schedule Update

Cedarbrook schedule No. 14 showed a substantial completion date of May 9, 2018. Director of Facilities and Maintenance Dr. Ray Bavi received schedule No. 15, which indicated a substantial completion date of May 3, 2018 due to added labor for terrazzo installation. This construction schedule may fluctuate, but there should also be time allotted for furniture installation, building cleaning and final move.

Positive Action

Director of Elementary Education Dr. Renato Lajara met with Dr. Horsey and Supervisor of Counseling Dr. Raymond Realdine to discuss the Positive Action program for the elementary schools. Positive Action teaches students how to live a positive physical, intellectual, social and emotional life. The three will visit schools in the coming weeks to get a better look at how the program is being taught and how to better support teachers using the program. **[Strategic Plan Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences]**

Homework Committee

Author [Alfie Kohn](#) is tentatively scheduled to visit the district on Feb. 22 to speak with the Homework committee and make an evening presentation for the community.

[Strategic Plan Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction]

7th & 8th Grade English

Cedarbrook Middle School 7th and 8th grade English teachers worked with writing instruction consultant Dr. Andy Fishman on the development of Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) questions for the Writing Assessment aligned to the PA Core Standards. Due to PSSA revisions, TDA questions are now 25 percent of the total score.

[Strategic Plan Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Strategic Plan Pathway 3: Professional Learning]

CHS Course Catalog

Dr. Reilly met with High School Vice Principal Dr. Ben Hammond and High School Science Teacher Mr. Paul Desipio to discuss changes to the high school course catalog. The new engineering course descriptions were reviewed, and course names and descriptions were modified in the Technology Education department to reflect the shift towards an engineering focus. Structures and technical drawing were reworded to have a greater emphasis on CADD, design and modeling.

[Strategic Plan Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction]

Positive Action/PTO Presentation

Dr. Horsey joined Climate and Culture Administrators Ms. Shareese Nelson and Ms. Elise Butler and Student Achievement Teacher Leader Mr. Andre Clark at the Elkins Park School PTO meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10 for a presentation on Positive Action, the social emotional program being implemented in grades K-6. Positive Action trainer Ms. Carolyn Peterson virtually provided parents with a brief overview of the program and specifically shared the parent component, which teaches how to apply the Positive Action philosophy. "You feel good about yourself when you do positive actions, and there is a positive way to do everything," she said. A Positive Action Brainstorming Committee will be formed comprising PTO members and Ms. Nelson and Ms. Butler to develop an evening or Saturday class for K-6 parents/guardians and their children on a unit of the program. Dr. Horsey asked PTO members to consider conducting the class as one of the District's May Mindfulness activities.

[Strategic Plan Pathway: 4 Holistic Experiences]