



MAY 17, 2019

*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](#).*

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### **Climate, Culture and Equity**

More than 80 community members attended the Climate, Culture and Equity meeting Wednesday, April 3 at Wyncote Elementary. Attendees learned more about educational equity from Pennsylvania School Boards Association Director of Equity Services (and Cheltenham graduate) Dr. Heather Bennett, why it's important and how it pertains to the Cheltenham School District and its path forward. Robert Jarvis, Director of the UPenn's [Coalition for Educational Equity](#), led attendees through a series of exercises, which led to thoughtful conversations about this important work and great feedback on the equity statement draft.

The district is ahead of the curve nationally in examining how to create more equitable outcomes for every student and eliminate the predictability of achievement and educational outcomes. The equity statement development is one of the first steps in that process. For those unable to attend the meeting, please see the presentation link below. CSD Administration will update the community on the next draft of the equity statement as soon as it is available. Please be advised the May 29 Climate, Culture and Equity meeting is being rescheduled. Constituents will be notified once a date has been confirmed. [Presentation>](#)

**[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Pathway 2: Student Success; Pathway 3: Professional Learning; Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences; Pathway 5: Communications and Engagement]**

## Homework

CSD has developed a Homework Committee to examine its homework practices to inform the revision of its homework policy. The Homework committee consists of administrators, teachers and parents and guardians. In order to obtain feedback from all stakeholders, principals have disseminated surveys for parents/guardians and teachers. Parents and guardians can take their survey by [clicking this link](#), which expires Wednesday, May 22. At this Monday's Homework Committee meeting, members reviewed preliminary survey data, next steps and ways to increase participation. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Pathway 5: Communications and Engagement]**

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## ACADEMICS

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade PBL Teaching Teams

CSD administration and the Cheltenham Educators' Association have formalized the 19-20 junior PBL teaching team: Mark Hoff, Avril Somerville, Karen Shaffran and Patrick Fleury. Plans have been formed around the creation of the eighth-grade team for the 19-20 school year. A formal announcement will be made soon. **[Pathway 3: Professional Learning]**

### [SMASH Academy](#) (Summer Math and Science Honors)

CHS administrators, Freshman Transition program coordinator Melanie Jackson and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tamara Thomas Smith met with the Wharton School's SMASH program coordinator to discuss preparing students to apply for the program. SMASH's mission is to empower brilliant, underrepresented students with rigorous STEM education, culturally-relevant coursework and access to resources and social capital that pave a career path in tech and entrepreneurship. SMASH Academy is a three-year STEM intensive residential college prep program. Every summer, scholars are immersed in tuition-free studies at leading universities throughout the county. During the academic year, scholars participate in monthly programming. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Pathway 5: Communications and Engagement]**

### Sophomore English Curriculum Development

Director of Secondary Education Charlene Collins met with the tenth-grade English teachers to begin developing the sophomore English curriculum. The team examined the approved text for 10th grade and identified the topics of "Immigration," "Middle Eastern Conflict," "Holocaust" and "Slavery and Abuse of Power" as the focus. The team reviewed the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Keystone Exam-eligible content to guide the development of instructional units. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction]**

### Freshman English Curriculum Development

Director of Secondary Education Charlene Collins met with the freshman English teachers to continue development of the ninth-grade units of study. The team finalized its argumentative writing unit and units of study for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Of Mice and Men*. The team is developing the narrative writing unit. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction]**

### **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Webinar**

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tamara Thomas Smith participated in “Affirming our Students’ Culture, Identities, and Experiences: Developing a Culturally Competent Focused Education Practice,” a webinar hosted by PSBA Director of Equity Services Dr. Heather Bennett. The webinar included equity toolkits for administrators, culturally responsive leadership, seven principles of culturally responsive teaching, cultural frameworks and theory and practice of culturally relevant education. **[Pathway 2: Student Achievement]**

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## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **Early Intervention Meetings**

Special Education staffers held meetings with families to discuss the transition from early intervention to a school-age program in CSD this winter and spring. The families provided information regarding their children’s preschool early intervention services and supports. Parents/guardians learned about the district’s registration process and special education services and supports. Students eligible for school-age special education services will have an individualized education program developed by the IEP team prior to end of the 2018-2019 school year. IEP team meetings will determine placement and programming for students to receive a free, appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Pathway 2: Student Achievement]**

### **Extended School Year**

Planning has begun for summer’s Extended School Year (ESY) program where students with disabilities who receive special education services require summertime programming to mitigate any academic regression that could occur during summer. Typically, the most impaired among students with disabilities are eligible, including but not limited to the “Armstrong” group, or those with significant autism, intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance and multiple disabilities. The District-run ESY program will run Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. through noon from Monday, July 8 through Thursday, August 1. Elementary-eligible students will attend Cheltenham Elementary School, and secondary-eligible students will attend Cedarbrook Middle School. Instructions about procedures for referring eligible students have been provided to all special education teachers. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Pathway 2: Student Achievement; Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences]**

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## STUDENT SERVICES

### Chapter 339

- **Chapter 339 Plan:** Supervisor of Counseling Services and Holistic Supports Dr. Ray Realdine, Director of Elementary Education Charlene Collins, CHS Guidance Counselor Lori Cohen, CBK Guidance Counselor Khary Blackmon and Wyncote Guidance Counselor Tracy Keeley recently collaborated on the district's [Chapter 339 Plan](#) in advance of sharing it with the District's Chapter 339 Plan Advisory Council, which is comprised of district stakeholders. The team will showcase how curriculum reinforces career exploration and job readiness skills and seek feedback from the council on how to further support the post-secondary needs of students. **[Pathway 2: Student Achievement]**
- **Eastern Center for Arts and Technology:** This spring, Amy Shields from the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology presented to eighth graders a narrative and short film highlighting the [14 career programs available](#) for juniors and seniors in support of the district's Chapter 339 plan. The video showed options to give students a competitive edge in college or a specialized career program, students working in their discipline and successful graduates in their field. **[Pathway 1: Curriculum and Instruction; Pathway 2: Student Achievement]**
- **CHS Students Attend Manufest:** In March, Supervisor of Counseling Services and Holistic Supports Dr. Ray Realdine and several CHS staffers escorted 70 students to Manufest, the Montgomery County Manufacturing and Trade Expo. The event featured on-site carpentry demonstrations and virtual reality training machines, while attendees could converse with local manufacturing companies. The event aimed to expose students to career pathways in manufacturing and trades, including design, electrical, engineering and industrial maintenance; teach students what employers look for in future employees; and connect students with potential internships and/or other hands-on experiences. The students' participation in the event aligns with CSD's Chapter 339 plan. **[Pathway 2: Student Achievement]**

### Girls Inc. Mentoring Program

Earlier this spring, Director of Student Dr. Horsey and Home and School Visitor Jessica Keene convened a conference call with representatives from Girls, Inc. to discuss expanding CHS female student participation in the organization's mentoring program. Freshman Transition students have been meeting with Girls, Inc. mentors and engaging in dialogue regarding social media literacy. **[Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences]**

### Recess and Playground Aides Training

Recess and playground aides received CPR training recently to augment previous training on positive communications skills and bullying prevention. Future training topics will include "Building and Maintaining Respectful Relationships with Students"; "Supporting Students Who are Non-Complaint"; "Youth Mental Health First Aid and Strategies to Support Student Behavior" **[Strategic Plan Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences]**

## FACILITIES

### Consulting Services

The CSD Facilities Department is in transition with Markeith Brown serving in an interim capacity as a new director is hired. Brown's primary focus has been on day-to-day operations. Fidevia, LLC has been retained during this transition to oversee CSD's construction projects, including CHS media center, CBK playground and CHS gym floor.

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## COMMUNICATIONS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 2019 Summer Voyage Program

[Registration is underway](#) for 2019 Summer Voyage, a three-week, "flight"-themed program which runs July 8 – 12; July 15 – 19; and July 22 – 26 at Cheltenham Elementary School from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Camp is \$220/week per camper or \$550 for three weeks. Families receive a 10 percent discount for each sibling.

**[Pathway 4: Holistic Experiences; Pathway 5: Communications and Engagement]**

### Communications Awards

Communications submitted applications for the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association ([PenSPRA](#)) Communications contest and came away with three honors:

- An Award of Excellence in graphic design for Dana Walker's ["If You See Something, Say Something" Safety Infographic](#);
- An Award of Honor in special purpose projects for the [safety portal](#);
- An Award of Honor in video for [#ThisIsCedarbrook](#).

### CSD Earns \$25K Safety Grant

CSD received a \$25,000 school safety grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to purchase security-related technology. On June 22, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed [Act 44 of 2018](#) into law, creating a School Safety and Security Committee within PCCD. The committee is tasked with developing the criteria school entities are to use in performing school safety and security assessments, issuing a survey to school entities to measure school safety and security preparedness, and administering grants.

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## TECHNOLOGY

### Technology Plan

The Technology Plan steering committee held its third meeting with teachers and administrators from all grade levels this past week. The committee's goal is to create a technology plan aligned with the strategic plan. The technology plan will be divided into five categories, including infrastructure, devices, innovation, digital citizenship and professional learning. The committee will be meeting with high school students to ask essential questions pertaining to their technology needs. The Technology Plan is scheduled to be finalized this summer.