

Looking Back Moving Forward

ANNUAL REPORT | NO TAX INCREASE REFERENDUM GUIDE



Appoquinimink School District
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Values That Guide Us

- We commit to do what's best for every student.
- We aim for excellence and strive to deliver a world class education.
- We use resources wisely and effectively.
- We embrace new ideas and knowledge, always looking to improve.
- We foster leadership at every level.
- We value diversity and show respect for everyone.
- We listen actively, ask for feedback and are open to change.
- We recognize others for their contributions to success.
- We act with courage and compassion.
- We communicate openly and often to build trust and understanding.
- We accept responsibility for our actions.
- We do not give up when a child needs our help.

A message from
MATT BURROWS



Our annual Report to the Community offers an opportunity to reflect back on how Appoquinimink delivered teaching and learning in the midst of the pandemic, and provides a glimpse at what's in store for the coming year – including the opportunity to expand and update the historically significant Louis L. Redding Middle School without increasing local property taxes. **NO NEW PROPERTY TAXES.**

An explanation of the unique set of circumstances that makes a no tax increase referendum possible, together with an overview of the project, is presented on page 10 of the annual report. On December 14, 2021 we ask for your support to approve this measure at the polls.

We are on a mission to meet the educational needs of families in a vastly different operating environment than the one we knew as children. We have adopted comprehensive safety measures, leveraged technology in powerful new ways, conducted outreach to ensure children have needed food and services, promoted access to testing and vaccines, and worked collaboratively with partners to ensure that students have what they need to grow and learn, whether participating in-person or virtually. Meanwhile, we continue to deliver an education that's rated #1 in the state.

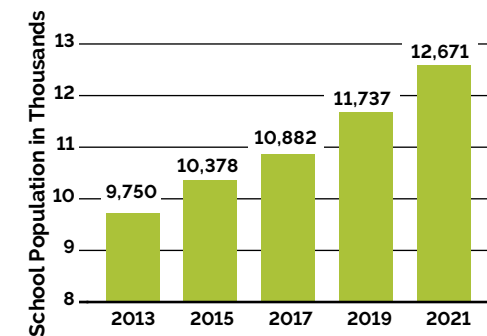
The pandemic has taught us valuable lessons that will impact how we provide a quality education now and in the future – lessons that will be incorporated into the strategic planning process currently underway. I look forward to introducing the new plan to you in 2022.

The staff and I are enormously grateful for your support, which not only makes these programs possible, but provides the ongoing investment in facilities, staff and materials required to meet the demands of a worldwide pandemic and unprecedented growth.

If you are a member of a community or civic group and would like to request a presentation about our schools, I hope you'll contact me.

MATT BURROWS, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

District Growth



Even a pandemic has not slowed enrollment growth. ASD was the only district with an enrollment increase (177 students) last year. That number pales in comparison to what we've experienced this fall. We've gained nearly 600 students since the 2020 enrollment count. To put that into perspective, we could fill a new elementary school with our two-year growth.

These numbers confirm our projections and emphasize the need to be prepared for what the future has in store. Long-range facility planning and the community's strong support of education mean that new and/or expanded facilities are coming online, but we must continue to be proactive with projects like the Redding Middle School expansion to prevent overcrowding.

How We Connected Last Year

Delaware Schools began the year fully remote. In Appoquinimink, staff worked aggressively during August and September to provide an electronic device with software, security and support features preloaded and configured for immediate use so that every K-12 student could take part in distance learning. Moving forward, a 1:1 technology interface for grades K-12 will be our standard.



ASD offers students a 1:1 interface with technology

We modernized registration with an online, contactless process and were Delaware's only school district to post enrollment gains (177 new students).

We expanded our digital curriculum and the online platforms used to access it. Educators participated in hundreds of hours of professional development and coaching support to learn how to effectively teach and reach students using these digital resources.

We used all available tools - from telehealth and teletherapy services, to phone calls and electronic check-ins to support students' social and emotional health.

In areas where internet connectivity was a problem, we enhanced reception by providing families with hotspots. We provided cameras in every classroom so that students, whether in-person or virtual, could learn together.



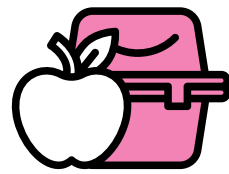
Excellence acknowledged, again!

The education ranking service Niche has declared ASD Delaware's #1 School District for the fourth time since 2018. For the sixth consecutive year, we have been named one of America's Best Communities for Music Education.

Communication happened on a weekly basis at three levels: District, School, Teacher. Monthly School Board meetings and workshops were live-streamed with as many as 13,600 people viewing these sessions in a single month.

In October, we welcomed back hybrid learners while continuing to support those families who needed/ preferred a fully-remote experience. Initially, hybrid students attended school two days a week and spent three days online. By winter break, we were able to expand that to four days in school and one day online - a schedule that continued through the end of the school year.

Our nutrition staff operated a curbside breakfast and lunch program for children, ages 1-18, during the school year; and the summer meals program continued that good work.



Nutrition staff served more than 1 million curbside and in-person meals to children, ages 1-18

Working together, parents and educators found creative solutions to make milestone events memorable for families: drive-thru celebrations, virtual dances, live-streamed events like High School Preview Night & the Senior awards ceremony, yard signs marking graduation from middle and high school, and a structured, in-person graduation ceremony for 12th graders.

World Languages



ASD teachers are language leaders

World Language teachers Kathryn Rump, Jennifer Campbell and Chris Wendel were featured presenters at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Language. Rump is currently the Delaware Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Teacher of the Year and has been awarded a grant to strengthen real-world connections for world-language learners.

Spanish Immersion moves up to middle school

Last Spring, ASD's first cohort of Spanish Immersion students graduated from elementary school. To celebrate, we created a video featuring interviews with our 5th graders, their parents, and teachers about the dual language experience. Our special guest was Former Delaware Governor Jack Markell. One of language immersion's biggest champions, he was responsible for introducing the program to Delaware and offered expert insight about where we are today and where we're headed. **Watch our video using the QR code below.**



Certificate recognizes language learning as a critical workplace skill

58 high school students earned a Certificate of Multiliteracy this year after participating in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) performance assessment. Our students were recognized for dual language proficiency in English and American Sign Language, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Korean.





Grow Your Own workforce

We celebrated the first group of high school students to complete ASD's Teacher Academy Pathway by extending an offer of future employment to four outstanding teens from the program: Angelie Ross-Jimenez, Jordan Johnson, Madison Bilips and Ashley Middleton. All four completed a 50+ hour practicum in a child care program as their capstone experience. This innovative program made national news including the Washington Post, USA Today and CNN.



37 industry partners presented workshops to more than 875 students at our Workforce Readiness Fair

Capstone Project

We made school more relevant for Seniors with the introduction of a capstone project. This multifaceted experience includes mentorship from an industry professional in the Senior's pathway of study, and features an in-depth project that develops research, problem-solving and presentation skills. A mix of in-person and virtual support allowed us to match students with professionals here in Delaware and across the nation.

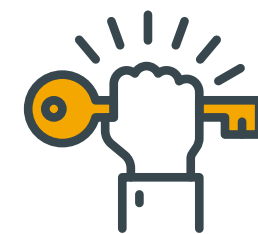


Helping students meet college and career readiness requirements

We introduced an award-winning program called Xello to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and planning to be *future ready*.

Nearly 2,000 students connected with a guest speaker in their pathway

The program guides students through tasks like goal setting, academic planning, and course scheduling. A learning style inventory helps build self-knowledge. Interactive features offer access to hundreds of career profiles and the associated readiness requirements. Finally, integrated test preparation allows students to see how their scores align with acceptance requirements in order to choose schools that offer a good fit.



471 Seniors completed 50+ hours of work experience with an industry partner



Work-Based Learning

The new Brick Mill Early Childhood Center serves 3-year olds, 4-year olds and kindergartners. It includes two Spanish immersion KG classrooms.



Growing with our community



Odessa High makes three (high schools)

Odessa High School opened in Fall 2020. The school features a performing arts center equipped with a theatre that seats 800+, a "black box" experimental theatre & dance studio, a scene design & fabrication studio, band room, chorus room, music practice rooms, and music library.



Career exploration is supported by assets like a digital design studio, science labs, technology lab, healthcare lab, engineering/robotics lab, small animal lab, pole barn (large animals),

greenhouse, aquaponics center and preschool lab. Student-run enterprises include a cafe/coffee bar, school store and flower shop.

A fitness center, all-weather track, tennis courts, fields (football, soccer, field hockey, baseball & softball), wrestling room, and 1,000+ seat athletic stadium round out the complex.

Our new high school connects with Cantwell's Bridge Middle School at an L-shaped "hub." This innovative design allowed us to make smart use of financial resources, elevate the features and function of both schools, reduce our impact on the environment, and develop collaborations that benefit students at both buildings.



Use the QR Code to Tour OHS.

Cantwell's Cobras have arrived!

Delaware's newest middle school opened in September. Cantwell's Bridge offers a project-based approach to learning. Students use the knowledge and skills they've acquired in class to solve real-world challenges that require critical thinking, creativity, communication, self-management and collaboration. It's a proven approach that creates engagement by establishing the connection between classroom learning and the real world. CBM currently serves a diverse enrollment of 750+ students.



Use QR Code to Tour CBM.



Math and Science



Beam Topping marks construction milestone

The Everett Meredith Middle School learning community is spending its final year housed at Odessa High. Next fall, they'll return home to a facility that's been rebuilt from the ground up to meet the demands of fast-paced growth. In September, we celebrated a construction milestone when the last structural steel beam was lifted into place at the new EMMS. We were proud to have members of the Meredith Family join us at the celebration.

Welcome Starfish

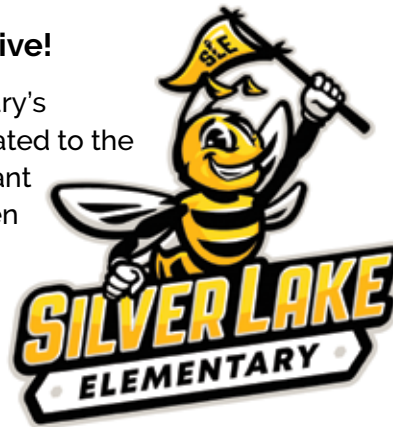
Our new building is home to both preschool and KG students and includes two classrooms of Spanish Immersion learners – a kindergarten “choice” option that families apply for during the registration process. Staff are highly qualified educators selected for their expertise in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education and Child Development.



Use the QR Code to Tour BMECC.

The Bees are back in the hive!

Last year, Silver Lake Elementary's learning community was relocated to the Fairview Campus so an important expansion project could happen at their school. In September, the Bees returned home to a building that's larger, infused with technology and suffused with natural light.



A Maker Space, dedicated STEM Classroom, and outdoor courtyard have been added to extend independent and guided learning opportunities. A regulation-size gymnasium offers access to the community after hours.



Use the QR Code to Tour SLE.



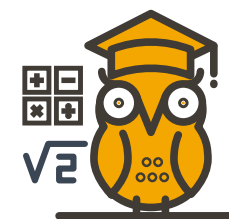
DreamBox Learning

We introduced a math software program called DreamBox that supplements direct instruction in grades K-8. Content adapts to the individual learner, and provides continuous assessments to make sure students move to the right lesson at the right time. It supplies standards-aligned data so teachers are able to identify whether students are struggling, on-level, or advanced and develop appropriate strategies. Students who completed five or more lessons a week on the program showed 130% growth.



Virtual Math Nights

Virtual Math Nights featured fun games designed to spark an interest in STEM, reinforce classroom concepts, and reduce math anxiety. They helped students show off their skills and understand that math is used in many different ways in real life. They gave busy parents a chance to connect with teachers, talk about resources, and solve interesting challenges with their children.



More than 600 families participated in a virtual Math Night event last year

Illustrative Math

High Schools are building math skills in new ways by challenging students to use reasoning, collaboration and communication to arrive at answers to problem-based questions. Rich conversations help students deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts and their ability to represent, interpret and communicate them. And they bring awareness that a challenge could have one, none, or infinitely many approaches to a solution.

Strength in science

Four ASD elementary schools placed in the Top 10 in the Delaware State Science Assessment administered in 2019. (2020 test results did not allow for comparison as statewide participation was too low due to the pandemic.) District proficiency was almost twice that of the state average.

Middle Schools field tested, then adopted a new curriculum called Amplify Science. Over 92% of students surveyed shared positive experiences with the program, including the simulations which were crucial for science experiences during a year impacted by COVID-19.

Proud history, exciting future

Renovation and expansion of the historic Louis L. Redding Middle School

On December 14, ASD is asking residents to go to the polls in support of a proposal to rebuild and expand the existing Louis L. Redding Middle School. The current structure is well beyond its intended lifespan and suffers from numerous problems. There is no tax increase resulting from the referendum as the district is able to pay its share of the costs using developer impact fees and growth in property taxes associated with new home construction.



How bad is the situation?

Louis L. Redding Middle School has been well maintained, but after 70 years of service the school's plumbing, roofing, floors, doors, electric, windows, technology... have all exceeded their lifespan. Recent challenges have included flooding, sewer backups, and damage from the leaking roof. The technology needed for communication, learning

and security is not up to the standards of the District. In short, the school cannot provide a 21st century education without a major investment.

This evaluation is shared by the Department of Education and the State, who has agreed to fund 76% (\$43.3 million) of the renovation project.

While repairs are underway, more classrooms will be added so that we can remove rented trailers housing the overflow of students at our school and address the long-term need for more space.

If taxes aren't increasing, why hold a referendum?

State law requires a referendum to verify that the community supports the project before it will invest significant funding.

Why is it important that this referendum pass?

The major infrastructure challenges we've discussed won't go away. We have a unique opportunity to get a brand new building, without any tax increase, by investing monies that would otherwise be spent on costly repairs.

Positioned for many more years of service

We propose to keep what's good while modernizing and expanding aspects of the building that can no longer provide the support that's needed. We will maintain the original front entrance (currently located inside security doors) and a freestanding auditorium added in 2006, but will reconfigure the building's footprint to support 21st century learning. Similar to Everett Meredith Middle, we'll establish a history wall and will invite members of the community to help us support this effort.



How we fund a No Tax Increase Referendum

- \$6.7 million in impact fees – formally referred to as “voluntary assessment” money has been collected from developers and will be applied to the local cost of construction.
- Our assessment base is growing. The new homes being built are helping to contribute toward the debt that was authorized in the 2000's. They also contribute to the new construction.
- The State of Delaware's strong bond rating (Triple-A) allows us to borrow at relatively low rates.
- We are managing our money effectively and maximizing interest earnings.

Dollars and cents

This construction request represents a \$56,980,398 investment. The State has committed to fund the majority of the project – a 76% share representing \$43,305,100. The remaining 24% (\$13,675,300) will be paid for with a mix of developer fees and growth in the local tax base. That allows ASD to accomplish this much-needed project without increasing the local tax rate.

Construction timeline

- Summer 2023:** Renovation/Expansion of Louis L. Redding Middle School begins
- Fall 2023:** Crystal Run School – the first building on the Summit Campus – is completed. The Redding Middle School Learning Community relocates to Crystal Run for two years. During this time RMS will require full use of the school.
- Fall 2025:** Redding Middle School's expansion is completed. The Redding Middle School learning community returns home. Crystal Run opens as an elementary school serving grades 1-5.

Referendum

Why vote if your children attend another school?

A neighborhood feeder pattern should never determine who does, and does not, receive support or have access to quality facilities. Louis L. Redding Middle School is one of our oldest and most important buildings – academically, culturally and historically.

Redding families have shown their support time and time again for referendums that did not directly benefit their learning community. Now it's our turn to lift up the students and staff at RMS with a much-needed renovation.

Investing in the next generation is a time-honored American tradition and a community-wide responsibility.

Why support the Referendum if you don't have young children?

Public education impacts everyone. Good schools increase property values. They help make our neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life. They attract new businesses which bring jobs, investment and income. They provide a home for dozens of deserving groups after-school and on the weekends. In short, they're a vital part of our community. Finally, please remember that there will be NO INCREASE in your taxes as a result of this referendum.

Managing funds effectively

Did you know that referendum expenditures are discussed on a monthly basis during School Board Meetings? You can attend in person or watch these sessions on our YouTube channel. Information is also available on ASD's website or by contacting Finance Director Eric Loftus at Eric.Loftus@appo.k12.de.us.

Support for Seniors

While this referendum WILL NOT INCREASE your taxes, the State of Delaware does offer tax relief for Seniors. Individuals 65 and older, who meet a residency requirement (three years if you established residency before 12/31/2017; ten years if you established residency after that date), are eligible for a school tax credit of up to \$400 on their principle residence. A School Tax Credit Application can be found at <https://www.nccde.org/182/Tax-Exemptions>. Seniors may also apply for additional reductions in sewer and county property tax based on income. For more information about these programs, call the County at 302.395.5520.

Absentee ballots

Registered voters can request an absentee ballot by visiting the voter portal: <https://ivote.de.gov>. The Department of Elections sends ballots by U.S. Mail. DE Code does not permit electronic delivery or return of referendum ballots.



Cast your vote on December 14

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. If you live in the Appoquinimink School District, are at least 18-years old, a citizen of Delaware and the USA; you can cast your vote at one of the registered polling places listed below. Be prepared to show proof of identity – a State Driver's license or State I.D.

- Alfred G. Waters Middle School
- Appoquinimink Activity Center
- Brick Mill Elementary School
- Bunker Hill Elementary School
- Lorewood Grove Elementary School
- Louis L. Redding Middle School
- Marion E. Proffitt Training Center
- Middletown High School
- Old State Elementary School
- Olive B. Loss Elementary School
- Silver Lake Elementary
- Townsend Elementary School

Social Studies, ELA

Advice to POTUS

Teachers at Loss Elementary seized on a fun way to introduce economics. They created a lesson around a national contest sponsored by the Council for Economic Education, "What economic advice would you give to President Biden?" The project resulted in multiple entries, but one stood out from the rest – a video created by 2nd grader (and self-declared future President) John Nyabiosi. Contest organizers agreed and awarded John *First Place* in the K-2 division.

Students find their voice



We introduced Project Soapbox, a challenge designed to give middle and high school students a platform to speak out about the issues impacting their

lives. Contestants delivered a two-minute speech incorporating researched evidence and a call to action. Judges narrowed 1500 entries down to 10, including three semifinalists from ASD: Jillian Kersey–sexism, Sanai Gallmon–pollution, and Nadia Nyannor–colorism. Nadia's speech won the student choice award.

Poster Project

Teachers at the elementary and secondary level connected with *UD Civic Engagement in America* classes to identify issues that are important to our students and investigate do-able solutions. The conversations led to poster projects that inspired awareness and action. Winning entries included a team from Loss Elementary, "How to Help the Environment" and a team from Meredith Middle, "Food for Thought."

High quality instructional materials

After in-depth research, we adopted highly rated new ELA curricula for elementary & secondary schools. Our new elementary curriculum is Amplify's *Core Knowledge English Language Arts*. Our secondary curriculum is Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *Into Literature*. Both selections feature strong alignment to the common core state standards, showcase diversity, immerse students in engaging texts and tasks, and feature rich digital platforms. Our selection committee included teachers, students and administrators.

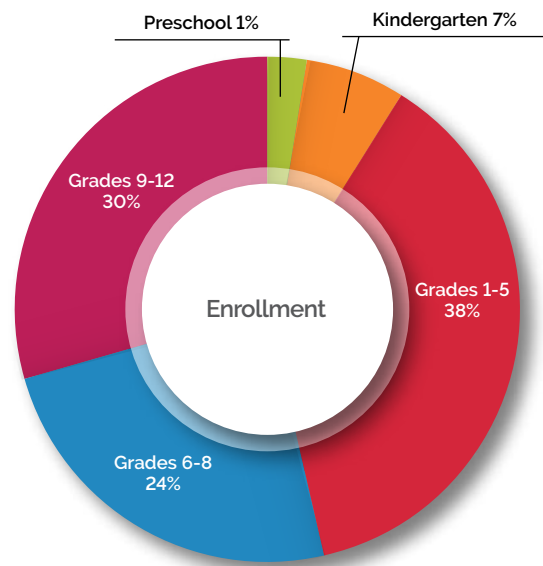


School librarians gave out 14,756 free books during Words On Wheels bookmobile events last year

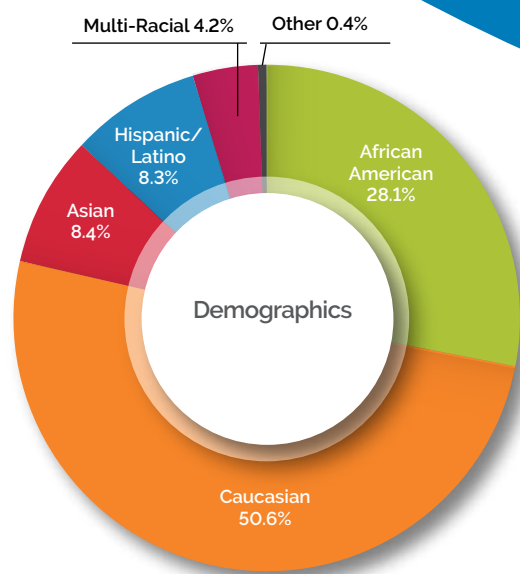


Performance Indicators

FALL 2020 ENROLLMENT



STUDENT BODY



ENROLLMENT

Fall Unit Count:	11,914
One-year growth	(177) 1.5%
Five-year growth	(1,270) 11.9%
District size:	3rd largest

KEY INDICATORS

# Students per teacher	15.5
# Students per administrator	298
Children with a disability	15.6%
Low income	10.6%
Daily attendance	94.4%
Graduation rate (4-year)	94%
Dropout rate	<1%
# Suspensions per 100	3.6
# Expulsions per 100	.000%

TOP 5 LANGUAGES AMONG ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

% Overall student population	3.3%
Composition	
Spanish	38%
Telugu	6%
Arabic	4%
Chinese	4%
Vietnamese	3%

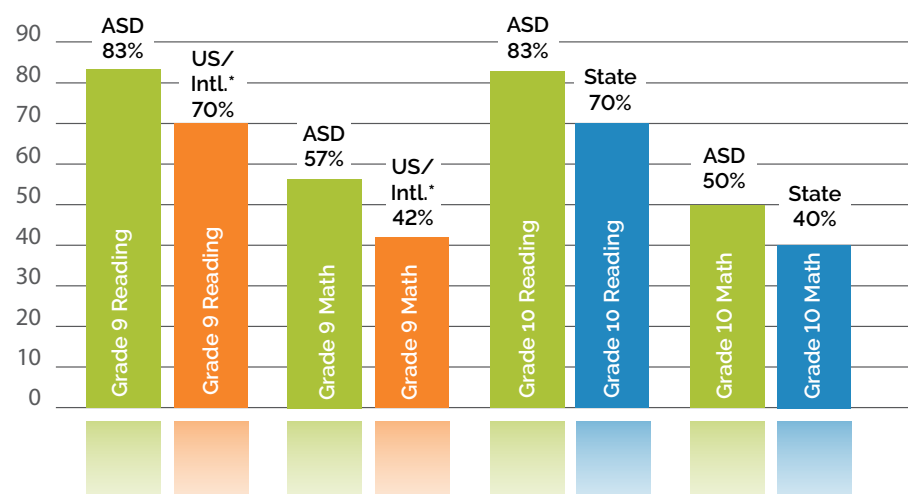
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Bachelor's	34.4%
Master's	63.5%
Doctorate	2.1%

PER PUPIL FUNDING



PSAT TESTING RESULTS



*US/International data is used due to the small number of in-state test takers.

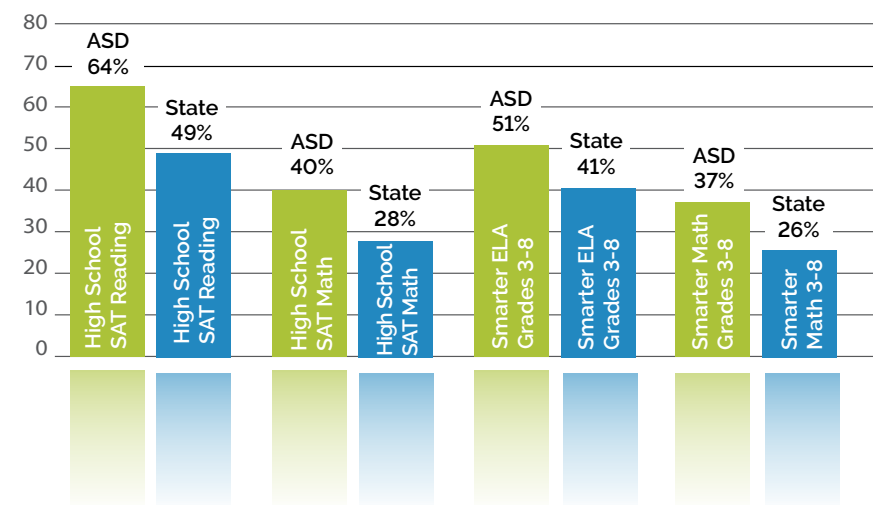
PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE

# AP courses	28
Students taking 1+ AP course	20.2%
AP attainment: PL 3	31%
AP attainment: PL 4	22%
AP attainment: PL5	17%
# Dual Enrollment courses	11
Seniors w/Dual Enrollment class	20%

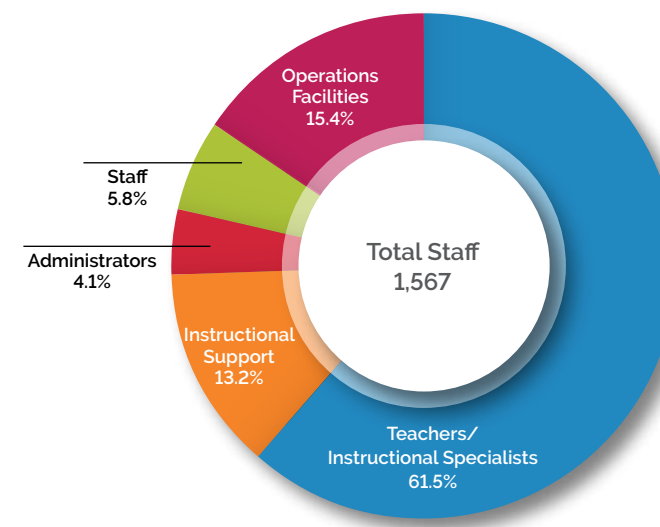
COLLEGE PERSISTENCE: FRESHMAN TO SOPHOMORE

4-year institution	93%
2-year institution	70%

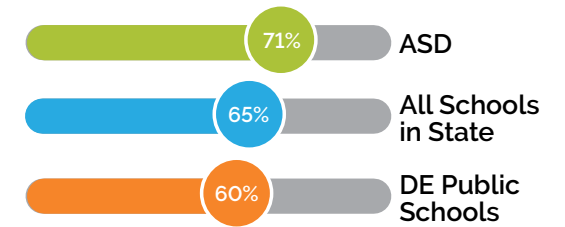
STANDARDIZED TESTING COMPARISONS



STAFF RESOURCE ALLOCATION

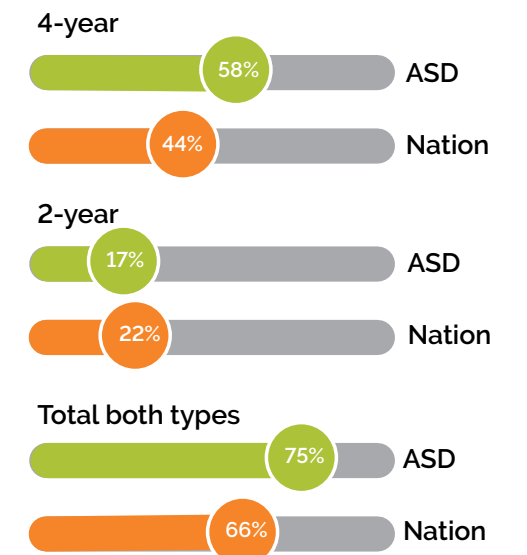


AP EXCELLENCE (PL 3+)*

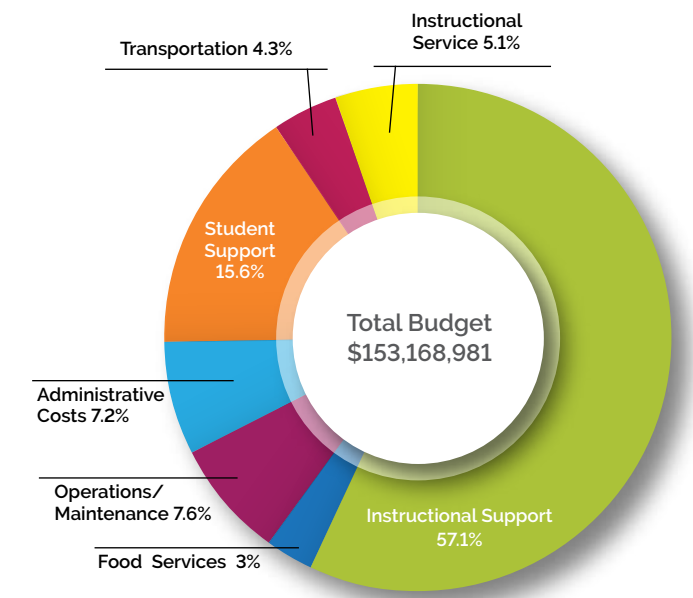


*Reflects one-year lag. Spring 2020 data.

COLLEGE BOUND



FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES



Spotlight on Schools

While it's not possible to capture every student, staff or building accomplishment, we're proud to celebrate a sampling of the creativity in our schools.

Alfred G. Waters Middle

We launched a Rocketry/Drone Club that introduced teens to building, launching, flying, repair and safety skills.



A partnership with TeachFX provided teachers with instructional feedback about online engagement (teacher talk, student talk, group talk and wait time) to promote more meaningful, equitable dialogue in the classroom.

We are home to Delaware's 2021 Junior Solar Spring Champion Aarushi Nayak who earned 1st place for her solar-powered car design.

Milton Downing was named Art Teacher of the Year by the DE Art Educator's Association. His students were featured in an art exhibit at Nemours Children's Hospital.

Emily Handlin placed 1st in Junior Extemporaneous Speaking in statewide FFA competition.

Sam Whitman is an AGW Hero. He took decisive action to help prevent a fire from destroying a neighbor's house.

Appoquinimink High

The Class of 2021 was awarded more than \$16 million dollars in scholarships and merit awards.

Three Seniors and 17 underclassmen qualified for Delaware's Certificate of Multiliteracy.



Sisters Ethni and Serene Abiy were selected as inaugural members of the NCCo Youth Planning Board and participated in creation of the Master Plan Update that will be sent to the Governor.

The National Honor Society donated 4,097 hours of service to the community. Megan Traver won the top service award, logging more than 366 hours at the local fire company.

The Black Student Union hosted keynote speaker U.S. Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester who helped welcome the installation of the 2021-22 leadership team.

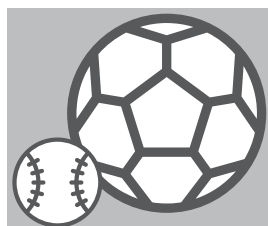
The Boys Soccer team capped a perfect season by winning the State Championship (15-0).

Girls Basketball (11-3), Boys Basketball (13-2), Girls and Boys Tennis, and Boys Soccer were all Blue Hen Conference Champions.

State Title Holders included Kevin Lewke-Boys Swimming, Jordan Tierney-Girls Swimming, and Delaney Brooks-Track & Field.

12 students were named to an All State Team in a DIAA-recognized sport.

Aidan McDade-Soccer and Lorenzo Carrier-Baseball won prestigious Gatorade Player of the Year titles.



25 student athletes were recruited to play at the college level and signed National Letters of Intent.

Wendy Schweiker was honored as our District's Paraeducator of the Year.

Appoquinimink Preschool Center

A Donor's Choose grant provided funding for "Baby Doll Circle Time," a preschool program that fosters connections through playful rituals and routines with dolls. Teacher Torey Clem is developing weekly lesson plans for all our PK teachers.



We embraced *Conscious Discipline* a learning approach that helps children express their feelings, regulate emotions, practice kindness, problem-solve through an issue, and create strong connections with others. Evening workshops helped families reinforce and extend these practices.

Brick Mill Elementary

A virtual assembly, "Is it Magic or Science?" showed students how simple household items could be combined to produce amazing interactions. At the end of each "trick," an online poll solicited feedback about whether what they'd just witnessed was magic or science.

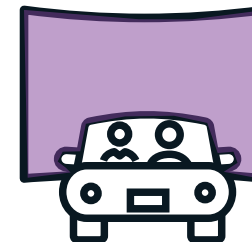


The National Association of Elementary School Principals named Dr. Rebecca Feathers a 2021 National Distinguished Principal. One of only 40 leaders in the U.S. to achieve this status, she was honored for setting high standards for instruction, achievement, character, and climate.

Bunker Hill Elementary

School librarian Susan Austin was named DE's Librarian of the Year. Austin is not only a leader in building-level initiatives, she's been one of the driving forces behind the District's popular Bookmobile program.

To celebrate the support and participation in this year's One School, One Book initiative, BHE families were treated to a Drive-in Movie Night under the stars.



More than 100 students joined us for a new Expanded Learning program that offered accelerated, teacher-designed courses focusing on social-emotional and academic learning with a cumulating activity and reflection.

The school's Make A Wish Campaign raised more than \$3,300 to help make dreams come true for children with life-threatening medical conditions. As a reward, the top fundraising class in each grade designed a COVID mask that their teacher wore for a week.

Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center

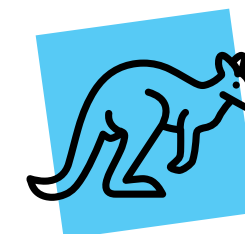
Kindergartners were part of the Friendship Dance in February. Our year-end celebration, a beach-themed event, brought the entire family together to celebrate a year that was like no other.



Cedar Lane Elementary

Dr. Jerod Phillips was honored as DE's Assistant Principal of the Year. *In Fall 2021, he was named principal of the school.*

To celebrate Black History month, a virtual assembly offered students the opportunity to meet local heroes who drew on their experiences to offer inspiration, encourage perseverance, and send a message about the power of following your dreams.



CLE's Satya Kokonda placed 1st in Delaware and 7th in the nation in the Math Kangaroo competition.

A colored pencil drawing by Eva Scott was selected for "Pages: A Collection of Creativity by Children," assembled by the New Castle County Libraries.

Staff and parents participated in an online book club where they discussed Beverly Daniel Tatum's non-fiction novel, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?"

Everett Meredith Middle

EMMS' Mark Daliessio was named 2021 Delaware Social Studies Teacher of the Year at a ceremony at the University of Delaware.

The Math League team finished in the Top 10 at the State Championships. Team member Brian Whelan placed 8th in the State.

Parents and staff hosted a Block Party to celebrate 8th graders who were moving up to high school. The event featured games, a DJ, and plenty of food and refreshments. COVID safety protocols were observed.



Spotlight on Schools

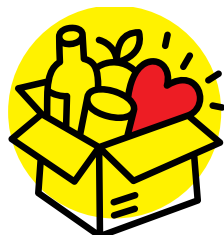
All our students, in-person and virtual, were invited to an end-of-year Kona Ice celebration where we celebrated their hard work and accomplishments while observing COVID protocols.

Lorewood Grove Elementary

More than 300 students engaged in summer extended learning opportunities: STEAM, Engineering, Art and Academic Boot Camp.

We celebrated I Love to Read Month with Family Trivia nights and staff read-alouds every day.

Our morning news program moved to YouTube, and we welcomed guests like Special Olympics Delaware Hall of Fame athlete Jon Stoklosa.



Staff came together to create a Food Pantry for families and community members who needed support.

Louis L. Redding Middle

Members of the Community Service Club partnered with the Air Force Junior ROTC from Middletown High to redevelop the garden and koi pond at the Veterans Resiliency Center on Broad Street.

Teacher Nicole Crawford's work was cited in the book, "Rough Draft Math, Revising to Learn," by Amanda Jansen.

Seventh grader Kylie Kiess won a Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award.



Student Victoria Parrish placed third in the AKA Essay and Spoken Word Contest.

Middletown High School

The Department of Education recognized Middletown High as a World Language Proficiency Champion School, one of only four in Delaware.

The Best Buddies Program named us DE's Outstanding High School Chapter of the Year.



Our BPA Team had five individual State Champions and two Top 10 National finishers, including a 2nd Place at BPA Nationals.

The FFA Program had two State Championship Teams and two Individual State Champions. One student earned the prestigious American Degree.

TSA and FCCLA teams each had one Statewide winner. HOSA had one State Championship team and two individual State Champions.

Four MHS teams went undefeated during regular season play: Football (6-0), Boys Cross Country (9-0), Boys Swimming (7-0), Boys Spring Track (9-0).

Boys Basketball (9-2), Softball (13-4) and Girls Lacrosse (10-4) also had winning seasons. With one exception, all these teams were Flight A Champions (or Co-Champions).

In addition, Boys Cross Country and Girls Lacrosse were the Blue Hen Conference Champions.



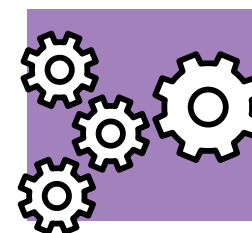
State Title Holders included Tysean Baronette-Indoor Track, Ryan Wallace-Indoor Track, Tyler Green-Spring Track, Ryan Wallace-Spring Track, Gwen Radecki-Diving, Philip Townsend-Diving, Sean Burke-Spring Track.

14 student athletes, representing nine different sports, were recruited to play at the college level and signed National Letters of Intent.

33 students were named to an All State Team in a DIAA-recognized sport and our school was awarded a DIAA Sportsmanship Award.

Odessa High

Engineering and computer science teacher Amanda Binkley received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the national STEM organization *Project Lead the Way*. Binkley was also named our District's Teacher of the Year and will spend the coming year as our spokesperson.



Katy Hoffecker has been selected as a Delaware State Finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. The award represents the highest honor available to K-12 teachers in these fields.

Logan Ament was one of 10,000 students in the U.S. to be selected as a Carson Scholar; an honor reserved for students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, integrity, civic and social responsibility.

Although live theatre was paused, a creative partnership between the Theatre Departments at OHS and MHS resulted in the creation of three radio plays. Shows were produced virtually (rehearsals, recordings and editing), then streamed online where they found a warm welcome.

Ella Vandervort became the first student at our new school to win a national competition, taking first place in the FFA National Creed Speaking contest.

In their first year of competition, our TSA teams, comprised entirely of freshmen, placed first in Engineering Design, 2nd in Biotechnology and 3rd in Architectural Design at the State Conference.

OHS became the first high school in ASD to enroll every ninth grader in AP Human Geography, a course that explores how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth.



Old State Elementary

Becca Will, a Foundations teacher and Special Olympics volunteer, rappelled 17 stories (222-ft.) down a high-rise in Wilmington, raising \$2,700 for Special Olympics while our learning community watched on a live-stream feed in their classrooms.



Staff leaders Ashley Moore and Gwen Marsh provided team-building activities so staff could engage, rebound from a year of distanced learning, and grow professional relationships that benefit our staff & students.

Olive B. Loss Elementary

Second grader (and future President) John Nyabiosi was recognized by the Council for Economic Education for his video submission offering advice to our newly inaugurated President. John's entry was selected from 400+ entries and celebrated for both content and charisma!

Staff engaged in 100+ Pen Pal partnerships over the summer as they worked to build positive home-school connections while developing our students' writing skills.

For the third year in a row, OBL won the Great Schools, Clean Streams contest, a pledge drive that builds environmental awareness. As winners they received a \$1,250 award. Redding Middle and Brick Mill Elementary were recognized for the first time with \$250 grants.



4th Grader Dhruv Neerumalla was honored by the DE Art Education Association for his outstanding Youth Art Month flag design. The design was made into postcards and sent to lucky recipients around DE.

Expanded learning opportunities this summer: 1st Grade Reading Boot Camp, 5th Grade Math Boot Camp, helped close skill gaps and continue strengthening competencies with twice weekly sessions.

Spotlight on Schools

Students across all grade levels received feedback on their self-paced progress through programs Read Naturally and Zearn. Our goal with all summer programming is to prevent summer slippage and continue building and strengthening skills.

Silver Lake Elementary

Relationship-building was more important than ever last year. In addition to academics, families connected online for yoga sessions, baking classes, paint nights and more!



In the Spring, staff boarded buses and traveled to area neighborhoods to celebrate SLE's One School, One Book reading selection, *One and Only Ivan* – handing out books and curriculum.

Teacher Tara Greene was recognized with an ASD Innovation Award for her efforts to lead equity and inclusion.

A Mirrors & Windows Book Club and Culture Corner program allowed students and families to explore and celebrate the many identities, cultures and experiences that make up our learning community and world.

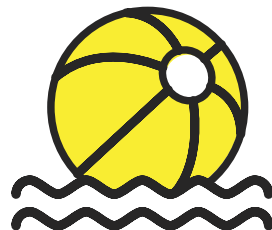


Spring Meadow Early Childhood Center

Members of Delaware's Nanticoke Indian Tribe thrilled kindergartners when they visited to talk about their history and culture. Our guests brought educational artifacts, answered the children's questions, and performed a native dance. The event was arranged by Teacher Abby Hartranft and correlated with language arts and social studies investigations.

We celebrated the end of the school year with a first of its kind, drive-through Beach Party. Kindergartners and their families drove around our campus in cars, stopping

to receive leis, play games like Feed the Shark, Flamingo Ring Toss and Beach Ball Match. They guessed the number of shells in a jar, had their photo taken, and got to say goodbyes to our staff "Lifeguards."



Townsend Early Childhood Center

COVID meant we couldn't sing together in person, so music teacher Nicolette Fernandez created video lessons that kept children engaged while building a repertoire of songs. All spring long they practiced, then recorded their parts and sent them to Fernandez. She blended their voices into a magical video that sounds just like a live concert, and married it with images from a rainbow art project.



Kindergartners in our Spanish immersion program celebrated Cinco de Mayo, then accompanied their teacher Sra. Velasquez as she visited traditional classrooms to share information about the culture and traditions of Mexico – an experience that built awareness and respect.

Townsend Elementary

Virtual assemblies helped us explore diversity in new and interesting ways. Members of Ballet Hispanico took us on a journey through Latinx dance and culture. Hip Hop Fundamentals helped students learn about the American Civil Rights movement through dance and interactive activities.



Our fifth graders conversed with a sister school in Spain. At first, the children exchanged letters. The relationship has progressed and students are now connecting through Google docs and Zoom sessions.



Fourth grader Che Willis co-authored a book with his mother called, "The Amazing Wethead's First Adventure," about a 10-year old crime fighter with water-based superhero skills. English and Spanish language versions are available.

8-year old Olivia Brill had an essay, "In the Meadow," published in the Fall 2020 edition of Magic Dragon Magazine. The publication's mission is to encourage creative expression and support arts education.

TES fourth graders decorated rocks with inspiring messages and artwork and placed them around their neighborhoods to spread kindness and inspire hope during the pandemic.

Second grader Zil Desai's project, Milky Explosion of Colors, won 2nd place in a virtual science fair sponsored by the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League.

Fifth grader Michela Davis and her family donated a Little Free Library to the school. Art teacher Brenda Price helped with graphics and painting. The colorful book-sharing box is located at the front entrance of our building.

Multi-School

High school students had a unique opportunity to participate in free, credit-bearing courses *Leadership & Collaboration*, and *Gene Editing* over the summer. Classes filled quickly. We hope to build upon on this promising start.



A Musical Carfari at the Fairview Campus gave elementary families a chance to see and hear the array of instruments available in our band and strings programs, meet the music educators at their child's school, and get information about these programs.

The AHS-MHS-OHS Polar Bear Plunge Team raised \$9,300 for Delaware Special Olympics.



375 educators were nominated for Teacher of the Year recognition by our families and staff. Building-level winners included: Bill Barton-AGW, Mary Filippone-AHS, Kimberly Wingo-APC, Lauren Quintana-BME, Maria Parks-BHE, Anne Price-CLECC, Danielle Moore-CLE, Dan Sullivan-EMMS, Kimberly Anthony-Thompson-LGE, Wendy Wallace-LRMS, Colleen Barrett-MHS, Amanda Binkley-OHS, Susan Carpenter-OSE, Christine Hadfield-OBL, Molly McCommons-SLE, Ruixue Wang-SMECC, Maria Neira-TECC, Melodie Miller-TES.



DE's Secretary of Education honored six Senior Scholars from our high schools: Collin Bowers-MHS, Aditya Kadade-AHS, Victor Shi-MHS, Thomas Stewart-AHS, Megan Tarr-AHS, Kyle Wright-MHS.



The Appoquinimink Foundation's 7th annual Golf Classic featured a record 26 teams, 11 corporate sponsors, and 22 hole sponsors who raised \$11,500 – money that will fund scholarships, provide teacher mini-grants, and underwrite initiatives that encourage positive student outcomes.





Appoquinimink School District

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School Board

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Who We Are

The Appoquinimink School District is a nonprofit public education system dedicated to serving children from preschool through grade 12. A leader in career-related studies, we are working to prepare students for a wide range of high-wage, high skill, high demand careers. An extensive catalogue of academic courses, combined with career exposure, provides early college credit, industry certification and access to work-based learning and professionals.

Appoquinimink has been named the #1 School District in Delaware by education ranking firm Niche. We have earned multiple Readers Choice Awards and are a six-time honoree as one of America's Best Communities for Music Education. ASD is home to two National Blue Ribbon Schools, offers instruction in six world languages, and provides immersion language programs in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Our technology interface from kindergarten through grade 12 is 1:1.

Our mission is to create an education system where each student is engaged, supported and successful.

District Office

- Marion E. Proffitt Training Center
- Tony J. Marchio Administrative Offices

Brick Mill Campus

- Brick Mill Early Childhood Center
- Brick Mill Elementary

Bunker Hill Campus

- Bunker Hill Elementary
- Appoquinimink High

Cedar Lane Campus

- Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center
- Cedar Lane Elementary
- Alfred G. Waters Middle

Fairview Campus

- Spring Meadow Early Childhood Center
- Old State Elementary
- Cantwell's Bridge Middle
- Odessa High

Lorewood Grove Elementary

Louis L. Redding Middle

Meredith Campus

- Appoquinimink Preschool Center
- Everett Meredith Middle

Middletown High

Olive B. Loss Elementary

Silver Lake Elementary

Summit Campus

- Crystal Run Elementary, opening 2025

Townsend Campus

- Townsend Early Childhood Center
- Townsend Elementary