

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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Kristin P. O'Neil, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

Christopher J. DeStratis
School Business Administrator

August 2019

Dear SWSD Families,

The start of the 2019 – 2020 school year is finally here! The Swedesboro-Woolwich staff continues to impress me with their dedication to their students and their passion for teaching and learning. As a result of their dedication, the entire school community benefits from many wonderful successes and exciting new experiences. Here are few of many highlights:

2018 - 2019 Celebrated Successes:

1. Vanessa Paccione (gr. 3 – 5 art teacher) was not only named Gloucester County Teacher of the Year in the spring of 2018, she was named a finalist for New Jersey Teacher of the Year in the fall of the 2018 – 2019 school year! We couldn't be more proud to have her represent our outstanding school district!
2. This year Mrs. Bussott's 2nd grade class participated in an UNLESS Contest Documentary filmed by the Philadelphia Zoo. Their outstanding work, once again, earned them recognition as a finalist in the competition and now will be memorialized in a documentary. What an honor!
3. Our 4th and 5th grade students in the Gifted & Talented Program qualified for the New Jersey Math Competition with a victory at the Green Woods Charter School Math Competition.
4. In 2018 – 2019, the District was excited to add both a 3rd and a 4th grade choir! In addition, once again, our 6th Grade SWSD Band and Choir earned the highest rating at the High Notes Festival this year. They earned the score of SUPERIOR! SWSD was only one of two schools to reach this extraordinary achievement.

2019 – 2020 Exciting Moments AHEAD:

1. Grades K – 2 will be implementing a new reading framework this year produced by the American Reading Company (ARC). EdReports.Org provides an excellent review of the ARC Framework. One component of the framework, Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA), was implemented by designated staff throughout the 2018 - 2019 school year. With the full implementation of the framework this year, all students in grades K - 2 will have many opportunities to explore science, extend writing, target foundational skills, and apply critical thinking skills.

Staff have been participating in trainings of the full program since spring 2019. The teaching staff will also benefit from direct coaching experiences throughout this upcoming school year to ensure a successful implementation.

2. Grades K – 6 will be engaged in a math pilot for the upcoming school year. Two math programs will be explored by staff. Staff pilot volunteers received training this past spring 2019. The goal is to fully implement a new math program (K – 6) in 2020 – 2021.
3. Mathematics Staff in grades 3 – 6 will benefit from mathematics professional development and coaching during the 2019 – 2020 school year by Denis Sheeran, author of [Hacking Mathematics](#) and [Instant Relevance](#).
4. ELA Staff in grades 3 – 6 will benefit from Lucy Calkins based writing support.

The Swedesboro-Woolwich School District:

“A community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners.”

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5 The District will begin embarking on a new investigative process: Equity Strategic Planning. In addition, we will continue with our equity support partnership with Mrs. Samantha King from the [Gender & Sexuality Development Clinic](#) at CHOP, and we will expand our work with the support of [Dr. Ebony Green from the Institute for Student Achievement](#).

The District is fortunate to have such a supportive Board of Education who continue to prioritize the educational needs of all of our students.

We have also welcomed many new amazing staff to our SWSD Team. Please join me in welcoming:

New Positions & Staff for 2019 – 2020:

- Ms. Tricia Leigh-Best: Harker (Part-Time Guidance)
- Two Class 3 Police Officers will be assigned to our schools
- Ms. Stephanie Conti: Harker (Special Education)

New Staff for 2019 – 2020:

- Ms. Kayla Kushner: District (School Psychologist)
- Ms. Kristen Sanders: District (LDTC)
- Ms. Kristen Wilkers: Harker (World Cultures)
- Ms. Amanda Seal: Harker & Hill (World Cultures)
- Ms. Patty Lynn-Wingate: Stratton School (Nurse)
- Ms. Caroline Canora: Harker (Part-Time Nurse)
- Ms. Alanna Schell: Clifford (Pre-School ABA)
- Ms. Heather Dietch: Stratton & Clifford (Media Specialist)
- Ms. Dana Fatcher: Stratton Teacher (1st Grade)
- Ms. Morgan Baals: Stratton Teacher (1st Grade)
- Ms. ChaeUn Hwang: Hill (Guidance)
- Ms. Kathleen Kennedy: (6th Grade ICR)
- Ms. Lauren Henry: (6th Grade ELA)

Returning Staff in New Roles or in Permanent Positions:

- Ms. Denise Barr: District (LDTC)
- Ms. Rebekah Schultz: Harker (Special Education)
- Ms. Angela Blomquist: Harker School (Full-Time Nurse)
- Ms. Katelyn Hutchinson: (6th Grade Science)

We are all very excited to welcome all of our students back to another fantastic year. On behalf of the entire District, we hope that you all enjoy the rest of your summer days.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil

Swedesboro-Woolwich School Superintendent

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