

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 2018

Dear Parents,

The start of the 2018 - 2019 school year is finally here! I am so proud of the SWSD staff for working incredibly hard over the summer to prepare for this amazing school year. Each year it is getting harder and harder to top the previous year successes, but we are VERY much up for the challenge!

2017 – 2018 Celebrated Successes:

You can find all of these highlights (AND MORE) on our District's [SWSD Recognized](#) link:

1. This past May, the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District was informed that the District earned the designation of a **"HIGH PERFORMING"** school district by the New Jersey Department of Education as a result of our QSAC review.
2. Mrs. Bussott's 2nd grade class was awarded 2nd place in the Philadelphia Zoo Unless Contest. This class also received a total of \$1500.00 through their efforts to promote water conservation. These funds are being used to support the District's efforts to become more environmentally conscious.
3. The 5th grade band, the 6th grade band, and the 6th grade chorus all earned scores of **"SUPERIOR"** at the 2018 NJ High Notes Festival. 5th grade even earned two scores of 95 out of 100!
4. The SWSD STEAM/Enrichment coursework was featured by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators in their publication known as ["On Target."](#)
5. Mrs. Hubbard's student created holiday ornaments were selected and displayed on one of 13 Children's Christmas Trees displayed at Longwood Gardens. It was an incredible honor!

2018 – 2019 Exciting Moments AHEAD:

1. The 2018 – 2019 Gloucester County Teacher of the Year works right here in SWSD! Vanessa Paccione (SWSD Art Teacher) is extremely deserving of this recognition, and she represents the hard work, passion, and dedication demonstrated by our entire staff each and every day. The District is very proud to have her represent our County and District!
2. The New Jersey Classroom Close-Up program will be filming right here in SWSD. The District's STEAM programming will be featured. More information will be shared this fall!
3. The District is also excited to announce the addition of a full-time School Resource Officer. SWSD is excited to partner with the Woolwich Twp. Police Department and Woolwich Twp.

The staff in SWSD work really hard each and every day to make this a wonderful place of learning. They not only deserve every moment of recognition, our parents and children do, too! Congratulations on these celebratory highlights!

This year promises to continue to build upon those wonderful and unique experiences. Below are some special learning opportunities and programs that we would like to highlight for the upcoming school year:

The Swedesboro-Woolwich School District:

"A community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners."

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1. The Character Education program was further developed over the summer break to embed Stephen Covey's seven habits as outlined in his book, The Leader in Me. Ms. Paccione has been working hard to expand the targeted learning opportunities in this area.
 2. A Full Functional Living component will be integrated into our special education ABA program in grades 3 – 5 this year.
 3. The Clifford School plans to implement an instructional classroom volunteer program to support student learning opportunities in a structured way. More information will be forth coming.
 4. Library instruction has now been added to Kindergarten. Library instruction will be concentrated at the K – 2 level. Literacy, research, and the integration of interdisciplinary subject matter will be taught with a STEAM focus in grades 3 – 6.
 5. A dedicated STEAM classroom has been identified at the Stratton School. 3-D printing capabilities now exist in grades 1 – 6.
 6. The District's world language program will broaden its focus to integrate multiple cultures and languages throughout grades 3 – 5. Each year Spanish will continue to be part of the curriculum so that students are prepared for a full year Spanish focus by grade 6.
 7. The 1:1 Chromebook program is expanding into the 3rd grade. Continuing to expand our technological programming in such a responsible way allows the district to systematically provide excellent learning opportunities that align to the New Jersey Technology Learning Standards: 8.1 Educational Technology and 8.2 Technology, Engineering, Design and Computational Thinking.
 8. Advanced math programming will expand into 3rd grade this year. This program offers students the opportunity to learn at an accelerated pace while engaging in very challenging coursework.
 9. All classes in grades 3 – 5 will benefit from one period of writing extensions each week.
 10. A "Relaxation Room" has been added to the Hill School to promote mindfulness. As adults, in times of stress and/or frustration, we can choose to take a break when we need it. Children need this space and time, too.
 11. The Hill School will be adding a Makerspace Room with a Google Jam Board!

Please know that I am not only excited to welcome all of our students back to another fantastic year, I am beyond proud of the SWSD staff and all of their work to support and enhance student learning. 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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