

Volume 24 Number 4 May 2009

# '08-'09 Teachers of the Year

In this issue, we are excited to announce the individuals who have been selected by their peers as Teachers of the Year for the 2008-09 school year.

Faculty throughout the district nominated 16 teachers at the elementary schools, 20 teachers at the intermediate school, and 20 teachers at the high school. High school students also nominated 85 teachers. As we have consistently said here at South Western, these teachers are representative of the many outstanding, dedicated, and caring teachers with whom we interact daily. Please take time to congratulate our selected representatives.



## Elementary Schools

- Judith Feather, First Grade - Park Hills*
- Mary Rose Lawhead, First Grade - Manheim*
- (Finalist) Claudia Simmons, Kindergarten - Manheim*

## Intermediate School

- Jennifer Bowman, 6th Grade*
- (Finalist) Kasi Buchanan, 6th Grade*
- (Finalist) Mark Myers, Mathematics*


## High School

- Theresa Kern, English*
- (Finalist) Zachary Sheerer, Science*
- (Finalist) Molly Wiles, German*

### **Judith Feather** 1st Grade Teacher

Mrs. Judy Feather has been an educator for 38 and a half years. She has taught at Park Hills Elementary as a primary teacher for all of her teaching years. Colleagues describe Mrs. Feather as a positive, enthusiastic, caring, and dedicated teacher. She feels strongly that building relationships with children, parents, colleagues, and community is a key component of her success.

Mrs. Feather demonstrates excellence in her classroom by modeling to

*Continued on pg. 4* 

## A Note From the Superintendent

**Dr. Barbara Rupp**



Celebrations are a good thing and everybody likes to celebrate good things! We especially like to celebrate our students' and teachers' achievements as you will see when you read this edition of our newsletter. I am excited to share with you that during the next school year, 2009-2010, we will have a year of celebrating. The celebration is the 50th anniversary of our high school and the 50th anniversary of us, as a district. In the fall of 1959, the doors of the high school opened. Prior to that year, when students finished 8th grade, they attended high school at Hanover, Littlestown, or Spring Grove with the cost of their tuition being paid by their local township school systems. That meant that students who had gone through eight years of schooling together had to go their separate ways to finish their education.

A dedicated board of directors at that time, took a calculated risk and decided to build a high school for the district. The high school was designed for grades 7-12 and the original

*Continued on pg. 2* 

## Inside

- *Students Win Big At The PA-TSA Conference*
- *Summer Reading Club*

*We're Proud of Our Mustang Achievers!*

## A Note From the Superintendent

*Continued from cover*

cost was approximately \$1,800,000. The building opened for students in the fall of 1959. There was no senior class because the seniors were allowed to finish their schooling at the high schools they had been attending.

More information about the creation of South Western as a district will be shared in a variety of ways during the next school year. An enthusiastic committee of retired teachers, alumni, current teachers, administrators, and students has been meeting to plan special events throughout the entire 2009-2010 school year. An array of exciting events is being planned. It is our hope that the entire South Western community will join in the celebrations by attending the events that will be offered. The events will provide an opportunity to learn more about the history of our district and the dedicated people who have made this district so successful.

*Barbara A. Rupp*

## What Makes a Great Teacher?

By  
**Dr. Barbara Kehr**  
Assistant  
Superintendent



Research has shown that having a great teacher is the single most important factor in giving a child a great education. In our society where students are expected to know and be able to do more than ever before, teaching is an increasingly challenging profession. An internet search under the term "great teacher" yields a surprising number of hits which I used to develop a Top 10 list of characteristics that make a teacher great.

10. *Great teachers have a broad knowledge of the subjects they teach. They exhibit expertise in those subjects and spend time continuing to gain new knowledge in their field.*
9. *Great teachers are prepared and organized. They develop plans that give students a clear idea of what they will be learning. Their assignments have learning goals and give students ample opportunities to practice new skills.*
8. *Great teachers set high expectations for all students. They expect that all students can and will achieve in their classroom, and they don't give up on struggling students.*
7. *A great teacher collaborates with colleagues on a regular basis. Great teachers view collaboration as a way to learn from a fellow professional. They view constructive suggestions and advice as an opportunity to grow rather than a sign of weakness.*
6. *Great teachers form strong relationships with their students and show that they care about them as people. They are good listeners and take time for anyone who needs them.*
5. *Great teachers communicate frequently with parents. They don't hesitate to pick up the telephone to call a parent if they are concerned about a student, or they send an e-mail if they think that's the method of communication that a particular parent will prefer.*
4. *A great teacher maintains professionalism in all areas -from personal appearance to organizational skills and their preparation for each day.*
3. *Great teachers have a great work ethic. They are known to stay after school and make themselves available to students and parents who need them. They are involved in school-wide committees and activities, and they demonstrate a commitment to the school beyond the time they spend in the classroom*
2. *Great teachers engage students. They keep students motivated with varied, lively approaches to learning. They ask questions frequently to make sure students are following along. They inspire students to want to learn more on their own.*
1. *Great teachers understand the role of a school in a child's life. They understand that school is about the kids. They realize that a student might be able to teach them something that they don't know. They know that school is more than just the sum of the classes the kids take. It's a time to grow and gain experiences that might just last a lifetime.*



# 2009 Graduation

Friday, June 5, 2009 | 7 PM in the stadium

# South Western Students Compete at TSA State Conference

The Technology Student Association chapters from EHMIS and South Western High School recently attended the 2009 PA State TSA Conference held at Seven Springs Resort. Nearly 1400 students from across the state gathered for the 4-day leadership conference to compete in a variety of events related to technology education.

To attend the PA State Conference, students needed to qualify at the regional level competition, which was held in February at Cedar Cliff High School. Twenty-five students from EHMIS and four from the High School qualified and were able to represent South Western at states. They all performed well in their state events, with commendable results.

Two 2nd place trophies were awarded to EHMIS. In the "Inventions and Innovations" event, the team of Kate Hessie, Jamine Null, and Laken Bull designed and built a thermally protected dog house entitled "Therma Paw". The other 2nd place trophy went to Laken Bull, who composed and produce an exceptional black and white photo entitled "TSA - Shaping the Future". Kennedy Bahlow won a 3rd place trophy for her T-shirt stencil logo design for next year's conference entitled "TSA - Tomorrow's Leaders."

Congratulations to all the students from South Western on a job well done! Melissa



*Several students from South Western High School and EHMIS recently competed and placed in their events at the 2009 Pennsylvania Technology Students Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference held at Seven Springs Resort.*

*1st Row (seated): Advisor Melissa Wilson, Jacob Parrott, Kaitlyn Gough, Jody Slagle, Laken Bull, Nate Mart, Jacob Biddle, Brandon McMinn, Alyx May, Andi Duran-Dean.*

*2nd Row (standing): Ryan Dotson, Matt Hoke, Jennifer Reasin, Kennedy Bahlow, Jasmine Null, Kaleb Gatz, Katie Hessie, Mackenzie Devilbiss, Katie Rhone, Mackenzie Bortner, Hayley Small, Matt Myers, Advisor Jana Zinn.*

*3rd Row (standing): Briana Rohrbaugh, Josh Hughes, Aaron Oaster, Taylor Kail, Ben Wisner, Krista Mamet, Emily Todd, Hannah Myers, Brooke Krysiak, Courtney Helt.*

Wilson, Jana Zinn, and David Zinn (the faculty advisors for South Western's TSA chapters) would like to thank the SW district administration, teachers, and parents for all their support for TSA this year.

The top winners in the state will now have the opportunity to compete at the National TSA Conference, which will be held this June in Denver, Colorado.

For more information in regards to TSA visit [www.PATSA.org](http://www.PATSA.org).



## Hey Mr. DJ, Keep Those Records Playin'!



Recently six fifth grade students from Baresville Elementary School were featured on the radio station WHVR AM 1280. They were invited by Officer John Carbaugh of the Penn Township Police, to read the D.A.R.E. essays they wrote as a culminating activity for the 10 sessions of D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instruction. Officer Carbaugh's lessons focused on the dangers of substance abuse and how students can make better life choices. The students who read their essays live on the radio were Lauren Frank, Matthew Dickson, Jayce Shipley, Kyle Mills,

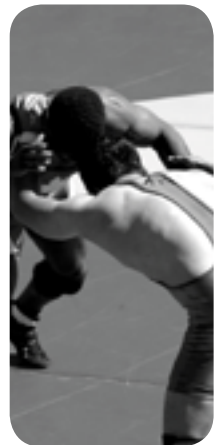
**D.A.R.E.** Abigail Stevenson and Austin Latta. They did a wonderful job and the fifth grade class of Mrs. Neiderer listened intently to the radio program that featured their fellow classmates.

The D.A.R.E. Program is also taught to second and fourth graders by Officer Carbaugh, who teaches them fewer lessons but ones that are developmentally appropriate.

## Wrestling Stars

Tenth grader Cameron Throckmorton won a medal by finishing in 6th place during the PIAA State Wrestling Championships held in Hershey on March 5th through 7th. Eleventh grader Drew Rebling placed at an impressive 9th after much hard work.

Both students represented South Western School District extremely well, and we look forward to them returning to the mat next season.



# Teachers of the Year *Continued from front page*

her students. She emphasizes a positive classroom environment and uses cooperative learning settings. Mrs. Feather utilizes the philosophy of Love and Logic in her classroom and believes in modifying proven strategies to best suit the needs of her learners. She presents readiness information to any incoming first grade parents

Mrs. Feather has taken endless workshops and graduate courses throughout her career contributing to her extensive knowledge in many areas of education. Mrs. Feather is a first grade curriculum leader. She has taught summer school and served

as an instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College. Mrs. Feather has facilitated Love and Logic training to her peers as well as Dimensions of Learning training to the district staff. She accepts new challenges and initiatives with a positive outlook.

Mrs. Feather is a very active participant as a faculty member at Park Hills. She herself has stated, "Park Hills is my home and my family." Her students and colleagues count on her to lead the December carol singing with parents, attend Bingo Night, Project Fair, PTA functions and lead an area during math nights. Mrs. Feather directs two plays with her children each school year, one at Christmas and another on Grandparent's Day. She serves on the elementary and district level liaison committees.

Mrs. Feather mentors many teachers new to the district and collaborates with colleagues on a daily basis. She has enjoyed mentoring many student teachers and allows prospective educators to shadow her. Mrs. Feather has also presented at the York County Induction meetings for new teachers.

Mrs. Feather is truly passionate about teaching. In her own words, "Teaching is who I am. I love my job. It is my joy."

## **Mary Rose Lawhead 1st Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Mary Rose Lawhead has been an educator for nearly 26 years. She first began her career in a parochial school. After raising her three successful children with her husband, Rick, she served as a substitute teacher for South Western for several years. In 1983, Mrs. Lawhead was hired by the South Western School District and she has been a dedicated team member of Manheim for 23 years. She describes herself as a caring, dedicated, hardworking educator.

Mrs. Lawhead demonstrates good teaching by modeling to her students and she emphasizes a positive classroom environment. She uses Reader's Theater to engage her students and extends her



**Mrs. Judith Feather**

curriculum with fun activities such as cooking. She creates a weekly study guide for parents and her students and utilizes technology to enhance her teaching. Mrs. Lawhead differentiates her instruction to meet the needs of all of her students and believes accountability is important in everything students do. She welcomed Mr. Dale Myers, board president, into her classroom to participate in the district initiative, "Adopt a Board Member"

Mrs. Lawhead believes it is crucial to keep up with current trends and continue taking classes in order to stay sharp, current and motivated and has taken endless workshops and graduate courses throughout her career. Each summer, she is involved in all curriculum revisions and writing of first grade curriculum. She is always willing to give anything a try - in her own words, "Try it. Give the kids credit. They will amaze you."

The faculty, staff, students and parents at Manheim look to Mrs. Lawhead as a pillar within the building. She participated in Bedtime Story Night and Family Math nights at Manheim each year they were offered. She attends many

Manheim PTA meetings each year and participates in many of the PTA fund-raisers. She also organizes the Manheim talent show.

She shares anything and everything with teachers in and out of South Western. She has allowed several interning principals to observe her and write her up for practice. Mrs. Lawhead welcomes prospective educators to observe her classroom and mentors new teachers.

She is active within the district in many ways including serving as a representative on the elementary and district liaison committee and as a member of the Wellness



**Mrs. Mary Rose Lawhead and Students**

**'08-'09  
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of the Y**



Committee. She was a team leader and recorder for the 10,000 step challenge at Manheim. Mrs. Lawhead is a member of the South Western Athletic Boosters Club and attends all JV and Varsity South Western basketball games. She participates in the United Way, American Heart/Stroke Association, ALS organization, and Cancer Society and is a past member of the Girl Scout Council for 25 years.

Mrs. Lawhead enjoys her job teaching first grade students at Manheim. When asked the question, "What is most important for your children to learn in your classroom?" she answered, "I want the children to WANT to come to school. I want them to be happy in school. I want them to think school is fun. With all of this in place, I would like them to be readers and gain life math skills." Mrs. Lawhead is a fine example of the many wonderful teachers we have in our district.

# Teachers Year

## **Jennifer Bowman** **6th Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Bowman truly believes teachers need to be life-long learners. A year of her teaching career has not gone by where she hasn't been involved in some form of professional growth. She feels it necessary to stay current on new educational trends and what is working best for the students. Mrs. Bowman finished her Masters through Penn State in Curriculum and Instruction, and continues to pursue professional coursework.

Mrs. Bowman tries extremely hard to differentiate instruction for all students. There are a variety of teaching techniques that she implements to target all types of learners. Mrs. Bowman does a lot of group work, hands-on learning, singing, physical movements, use of technology, and more. Keeping students engaged is the number one goal in Mrs. Bowman's classroom. Every student must be held accountable. In her science lessons, she tries a variety of techniques to ensure that this happens. When students are doing group work or stations, everyone has a specific role. Students are often using word sort cards or matching cause and effect relationships to engage their higher level thinking skills. Classes act out or use hand motions to remember key vocabulary. There is no time for boredom in Mrs. Bowman's room!

Mrs. Bowman truly cares about her students and has developed a strong rapport with them. She takes the extra time to call parents, meet students in the morning, run extra-curricular activities with students, and put in the extra time necessary to offer all that she can to the students. Mrs. Bowman is a Peer Helper Advisor. This allows her to work with students and get to know some of them on a more personal level. Two

years ago, she started coordinating the walk-a-thon that occurs in October. The group has been able to raise more money every year with this year's total reaching over \$2, 500! Science Olympiad is an intramural that Mrs. Bowman co-led. For the years that this activity has run, it allowed all those "science lovers" to engage in higher level thinking activities and experiments that are not offered in the curriculum. She enjoyed working with these students, seeing them in a different light other than a student in the classroom.

Mrs. Bowman coached high school field hockey for 6 years and also ran a field hockey intramural for the middle school players. She has



**Mrs. Jennifer Bowman  
and Students**

loved working with the girls and getting to know them outside the classroom. Coaching taught her a lot and she has a new appreciation for any coach after having done it herself.

Mrs. Bowman likes to think of herself as a team player and would be the first to step up and offer assistance to anyone. There is nothing better than collaboration among colleagues and she always passes along any new ideas or activities she creates for others to adapt and use for their classes.

Mrs. Bowman shares her love for teaching when she says, "I love what I do and cannot see myself in any other profession. I will always continue to be the best teacher I can be."

## **Theresa Kern High School Language Arts**

- "Watch your thoughts, they become your words.*
- Watch your words, they become your feelings.*
- Watch you feelings, they become your actions.*
- Watch your actions, they become your habits.*
- Watch your habits, they become your lifestyle.*
- Watch your lifestyle, it controls your destiny."*

Mrs. Kern shares this quotation with her classes at the start of each semester. It not only serves as a reminder to her about the importance of educators to model professionalism, but also as a reminder to students that they, no matter what, are responsible for their education now and in a few short years they alone will control their future.

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Mrs. Kern leaves no doubt in the minds of all those who know her that she's in this profession because of her passion for helping students achieve success in the classroom and in their own lives.

Her extensive teaching career is one that spans three decades, two academic areas, and two building levels. Because of her experiences, Mrs. Kern is truly one of the most respected members of South Western School District. Additionally, she has a comprehensive and impressive understanding of the physiological and psychological differences in students across grade levels. Because of these factors, Mrs. Kern is relied upon for her knowledge and wisdom, and freely shares her mastery of proven instructional strategies and materials with colleagues and new teachers alike. As the challenges of teaching continue to increase, she is fully aware of what new teachers face on a daily basis and provides encouragement and support via new teacher mentoring, assistance with day-to-day tasks, and working closely within and outside her department to enhance the learning and support of both students and colleagues.

Mrs. Kern works tirelessly to cultivate a classroom environment where students feel welcomed, respected, supported, and encouraged to perform to the very best of their ability. She utilizes a variety of teaching strategies that actively engage all students in activities that are designed to not only teach content, but more importantly, to prepare students for



**Mrs. Theresa Kern**

life's challenges. Mrs. Kern projects to her students a positive attitude toward education and learning. She chooses to "raise the bar" and help all students meet her high expectations with regards to excellence in the classroom.

She utilizes a variety of instructional techniques and assessment strategies to aid students in their learning and academic growth. Her classroom performance, teaching strategies, and innovative techniques are creative, rigorous, and demanding. Her students have come to expect highly engaging activities, such as research projects, role-playing, video discussions, drama projects, and oral presentations in her classroom. Furthermore, she understands the importance of Learning Focused Schools and Classrooms for the Future in preparing our students for 21st century society and works extremely hard to incorporate their underlying concepts into her instructional repertoire.

Mrs. Kern still maintains the same love of students and passion for teaching that guided her into the field of education 32 years ago. Having two sons who graduated from South Western, she knows first-hand the high caliber of so many of the educators who work in this district. Her commitment to South Western and enthusiasm for the teaching profession is underscored when she says, "I have tried these past 32 years to instill in these children/adolescents the same lessons that all South Western teachers and staff do on a daily basis: learn something every day; actively participate in class and school opportunities; and recognize self-worth."

## **Amy Kauffman Named A Finalist for Middle Level Student Council Adviser of the Year**



Mrs. Amy Kaufman has been named a finalist for the 2009 Warren E. Shull National Middle Level Student Council Adviser of the Year Award sponsored by the National Association of Student Councils and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Kauffman is one of seven finalists from which a national winner will be announced during NASC's national conference in Colorado this summer.

Amy Kauffman is a certified Social Studies Teacher who is currently on special assignment as a Student Achievement Specialist at EHMIS. In Amy's role, she has the ability to coach classroom teachers on best practices, facilitate projects that

address the needs of students in need of additional support, and provide ideas, support and resources that have helped lead students to success in and out of the classroom. Amy is a wonderful teacher, advisor, coach, and mentor to students and teachers alike. Her ability to motivate students and facilitate activities has led to many great activities for the students and teachers of EHMIS. South Western is blessed to have such a dedicated individual as part of our team.

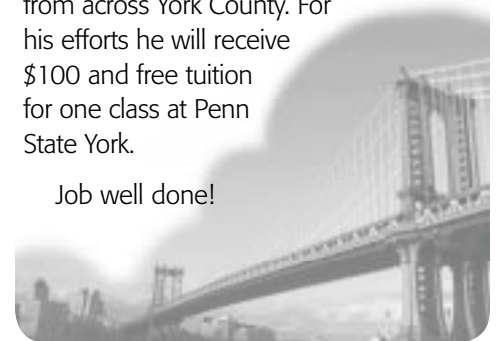


## **Building Bridges To The Future**

Congratulations to Eike Maas for winning the Penn State York Engineering Fair - Bridge Building Competition during the weekend of March 6.

Along with Ben Shultz, Jordan Gall, and Chris Green, Eike competed against approximately 45 other students from across York County. For his efforts he will receive \$100 and free tuition for one class at Penn State York.

Job well done!



# community *info*

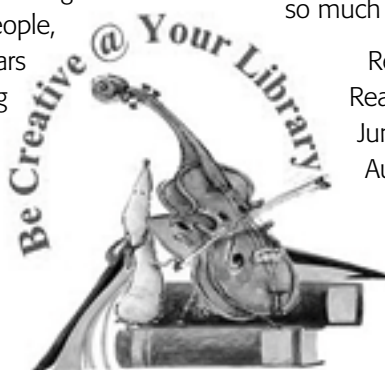
## Summertime is the Time to Be Creative at Guthrie Memorial Library

This summer, children and their parents can all *Be Creative @ Your Library!* They're invited to participate and enjoy all the activities offered during the library's summer reading program at Guthrie Memorial Library - Hanover's Public Library.

The 2009 Summer Reading Club is open to young people, preschool through 18 years old with programs, reading incentives, prize drawings, and much more. Students in grades 7-12 are also welcome to serve as volunteers.

Programs scheduled for this summer include: Steven Courtney - LIVE!; "Lights, Camera, AOK!"

with the AOK Players; Storyteller Beth Rebert telling the classic *"The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything;"* creative culinary artist Patty Hegberg with Treasured Times; "Create Your Own Kind of Magic" with magician Dave Rojahn, Skeeta the Clown's spectacular face painting; puppet shows and so much more!



Summer Reading Club 2009

Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins Monday, June 8th and continues through August 1st. Readers can continue logging minutes through August 15th. This year the York County Library System is offering online registration beginning June 1st. Visit [www.yorklibraries.org](http://www.yorklibraries.org) to register online.

**For more information, call the library at 632-5183, or visit [www.guthrielibrary.org](http://www.guthrielibrary.org). All programs are free of charge.**

## South Western High School Senior Honored With 2009 PSAT National Merit Scholarship



Congratulations to Nathaniel Sutherland for his outstanding achievement in being recognized as a "Commended Student" in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. As a "Commended Student," Nathaniel's PSAT Selection Index total, the combination of his math, critical reading, and writing scores, placed him among the top 50,000 out of 1.5 million students who took the PSAT exam.



Currently, Nathaniel is a senior at South Western High School and he will attend Carnegie Mellon University in the Fall of 2009, majoring in English and History. Nathaniel is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ecker of Hanover.

## Have you thought about substitute teaching?

South Western is always looking for people with a valid Pennsylvania Teacher Certificate to serve as substitute teachers. If you have a bachelor's degree in any discipline, you may also qualify. For more information, please contact the District Administration Office at 632-2500.

## Now THAT'S using your head!

Five of our high school students have represented the district extremely well at the 2009 York County Science and Engineering Fair held at Penn State York.



Junior Abby Jones earned third place honors in the category of Physics for her project entitled "The Need for Speed." Junior Emily Taylor also earned third place honors in the category of Physics for her project, "Sustainability: Energy Retained From Light Bulbs." Junior Dave Stevens earned third place honors in the category of Physics for his project called "Get A Jolt Out Of Solar Energy."

Sophomore Chae Jubb earned first place honors in the category of Physics and was also honored with the United States Air Force Science Fair award for his project on diamagnetic levitation. Sophomore Ryan McCabe earned first place honors in the category of Engineering with his project "Rocket Nozzles" and was honored with a second place certificate for the Troy Connor Memorial award for enthusiasm in the sciences. Both Ryan and Chae were invited to a reception with the Penn State York science faculty to discuss career and college options in the sciences. We are extremely proud of our science students and thank them for their willingness to go above and beyond for their science classes.

Currently, Nathaniel is a senior at South Western High School and he will attend Carnegie Mellon University in the Fall of 2009, majoring in English and History. Nathaniel is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ecker of Hanover.

## Dates to Note

**May 25**  
**Schools Closed**  
**Memorial Day Holiday**

**May 27**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**June 5**  
**Last Day of School**  
**Commencement**

**June 10**  
**School Board**  
**Planning Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**June 24**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**July 15**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**August 12**  
**School Board**  
**Planning Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**August 26**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**September 1**  
**First Day of 2009-2010**  
**School Year for**  
**Grades K-9**

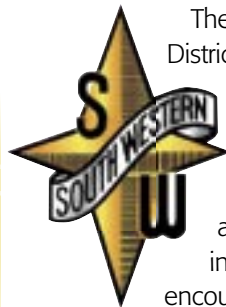
**September 2**  
**First Day of 2009-2010**  
**School Year for**  
**Grades 10-12**

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## Mission Statement



The South Western School District is dedicated to providing a continually improving educational environment, through a cooperative effort with the family and the entire community, in which all students are encouraged and expected to achieve their full potential, to express themselves clearly, to think reflectively, and to interact responsibly in preparation for lifelong personal growth.

*Adopted by the Board of School Directors  
October 24, 1990: Revised March 25, 2002*



## School Board Meetings

School Board meetings are conducted at 7:00 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the Administrative Conference Room, unless otherwise announced. Residents are invited to attend. Requests to formally address the Board should be made in writing to the Superintendent's office ten days in advance of public meetings.



## Congrats Grads!

The South Western School District complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Public Law 90-202 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or physical handicap.

Any questions concerning South Western School District's programs and policies should be addressed to: Administration Office, 225 Bowman Road, Hanover, PA 17331, 717-632-2500.