

Volume 26

Number 4

Spring 2011

Facing the Challenges Ahead

2011-2012 Proposed General Fund Budget



This budget summary is intended to provide you with the information needed to understand the district's financial situation.

The 2011-12 proposed budget has been quite challenging. We are just beginning to emerge from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. This has drastically reduced many of the school district's revenue sources. For example, due to low interest rates, investment income has fallen from a high of nearly \$655,000 to less than \$100,000 and the housing crisis has led to a severe reduction in real estate transfer tax.

The district responded to the economic downturn with the current year by reducing the building and program expenditures by 20% or \$277,700. Additional budget reductions totaling \$1.2 million were made including the implementation of a salary freeze for the administrative staff. For the 2011-12 budget, an additional reduction of 5% or \$90,758 was made to the current building and program expenditures. No additional staffing was requested, and equipment requests were minimized. After the first overview of the budget, \$204,226 of budget reductions were proposed by the administration and included educational software, music instruments,

field trips and all teacher conferences. After the Governor announced his proposed budget on March 8th, the district administration recommended additional cuts of \$427,007 that included computer equipment, eliminating a part-time teaching position, Recreation Commission contribution, and not replacing all retiring teachers. Great effort has been made to maintain as close to the current compliment of staff, making budget reductions to supplies and equipment while maintaining the integrity of our strong educational program.

There are also challenges from the expense side of the 2011-12 proposed budget. The health insur-

Our school board directors and administrators have always strived to provide the best education for our students in the most fiscally responsible way.

***Dr. Barbara A. Rupp,
Superintendent of Schools***

ance costs are increasing at a rate of 7%, which is less than trends in our area of the state, but nonetheless a significant amount. The school district's budgeted contribution to the Pennsylvania State Employee's Re-

Continued on pg. 4 

A Note From the Superintendent

Dr. Barbara Rupp


Doing More With Less

These are financially challenging times for all, especially our schools. I would like to explain what this means for the South Western School District. Our school board directors and administrators have always strived to provide the best education for our students in the most fiscally responsible way. What exactly does that mean? That means that we have consistently kept our vision on the big picture, so we have an understanding of what is coming our way with regards to demands and to restrictions on our financial resources with the ever-present goal of providing the best education for the children.



Our board saw this crisis coming last year and asked the administrators to take a pay freeze, and they did. They strongly considered asking the support staff to take a pay freeze last year as well, but reconsidered as they thought it was unfair to strive to balance the budget by asking the lowest paid employees to take a pay freeze. During last year's budget process, building allocations, which the principals get for resources and equipment, were cut by 20%. Also only one new bus and very little new equipment were purchased. The budget was drastically reduced.

This year, we faced an even bigger challenge as we were planning for the next school year. As you will read in another article by the business administrator, the money that we count on from the state was cut by 1.7

Continued on pg. 2 

Inside

- Teachers of the Year
- Report Card News

A Note From the Superintendent

Continued from cover

million dollars. This forced further cuts which included no new equipment that was not absolutely necessary, no additional staff, and further reductions in the building allocations. Once again, to balance out class size at the elementary level so that an additional teacher does not need to be hired, we are recommending moving some students to another elementary school. We will be striving to reduce the number of teachers throughout the district through attrition.

The school board directors and the administration continue to examine the budget to reduce the expenses. In spite of all the efforts, there will still be a need for a tax increase. That tax increase, as allowed by ACT I, will be a .27 millage increase, which amounts to a 1.66% increase. This increase equates to \$39.22 based on the average value of a residential property in the district, which is \$145,277. Adding the .27 to our current millage rate gives us a 16.55 millage rate for next year. This is still the lowest tax rate for Adams and York Counties. This means that if you lived in any other school district in either of those two counties, you would be paying more taxes.

However, as the title of the article suggests, we will be striving to do more. We have a mandate from the federal government, under No Child Left Behind, to continue to increase the proficiency levels of our students in math and reading. We believe in that and are committed to that goal. The teachers, support staff, administrators, and the school board will be doing more for our students with less for school year 2011-12.

Barbara A. Rupp



The Future of Report Cards & Assessments

By Dr. Barbara Kehr
Assistant Superintendent

Report cards are an important part of the South Western School District's system for assessing student progress. Throughout the past year, a committee of district teachers and administrators has been meeting to examine best practices in grading and to revise our district report cards.

Although the terms "assess" and "grade" are often used interchangeably, they are actually two different, although related practices. Assessing means providing feedback to the student and teacher on what a student knows or is able to do. Grading means providing a formal report of student progress to students and parents.

In our work as a committee, we agreed that the purpose of grading in the South Western School District is to communicate achievement to all stakeholders, including parents, students, colleges, employers, and teachers. We also agreed that the following best practices would be followed as we began to make changes to our report cards:

- *Grading will reflect what students know, understand, and are able to do.*
- *Non-academic factors such as behavior, effort, participation, attendance, and attitude will be reported separately from achievement.*
- *Homework and practice will be reported separately from academic achievement.*
- *Grades will be based on a variety of high-quality common assessments*
- *Formative assessments will be used to inform instruction, provide feedback, and assess progress but not to report academic achievement.*

Each level in the district has used these guidelines in the development of their report cards. At the elementary level, a change is being made in the grading scale. Rather than grading students with A, B, C, or S (satisfactory) and N (needs improvement), we will be reporting reading and math achievement in specific skill areas using a numeric system, with a 3 representing grade level expectations. Reading levels will also be reported

each marking period to give parents a clear understanding of the level at which their child is reading compared to grade level expectations. In art, music, and physical education, students will receive two numeric grades: one for achievement and one for citizenship.



At the middle and high school levels, we will be phasing in report card changes over a two-year period. Beginning in 2011-12 students will receive an academic grade for each course, as well as a rubric score of 4 (commendable), 3 (effective), 2 (developing), or 1 (limited) in areas of habits and behavior such as motivation, cooperation, communication, and responsibility. In 2012-13 we hope to transition from percentage grades to a new grading scale that will communicate student success in completing basic, target and complex learning goals.

During the 2011-2012 school year the grading and assessment committee will continue refining our reporting system. We will also begin focusing on developing assessments that better indicate to teachers, students, and parents specific areas of strength or need for improvement. We are excited about these changes to our grading and assessment practices and are confident that they will help to make a difference in the achievement of our South Western students.

2010-11 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 2010-11 school year.

Faculty throughout the district nominated 7 teachers at the elementary schools, 17 teachers at the intermediate school, and 27 teachers at the high school. High school students also nominated 95 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.



Mrs. Jill Shirey Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Jill Shirey has been an educator for several years at South Western. She first began her career in Western Pennsylvania working with disabled children in a group home setting. Jill returned to Clarion and received her Bachelor's degree in Special Education. When relocating to the Hanover area, she taught in both the Bermudian Springs and Littlestown School Districts prior to coming to South Western. She accepted a full time position at EHMIS as an instructional support teacher. While at the intermediate school, she accepted a guidance position. When the fifth grade was realigned, Jill was asked to become an elementary guidance counselor at Baresville. Although she had mixed feelings about moving levels, she absolutely loves where she is in her career and does not see herself in any other place.

Jill strives to teach empathy, global awareness, and responsibility through project harmony lessons, which include school-wide service learning projects. She works to meet the needs of students in small counseling groups which change depending on the students' needs. She develops a "Welcome Wall" for new students and teachers to help introduce them to the Baresville students and staff. Mrs. Shirey co-coordinates an after school service learning club called the Good Deeds Club for 4th and 5th grade students and teams with the elementary guidance department to organize a Girls' Night Out and a Guys' Night Out for the 5th grade students of South Western and their parents.

Mrs. Shirey strives to keep abreast of effective teaching practices in order to improve her instruction and attends numerous workshops and graduate

Elementary Schools

Jill Shirey, Guidance Counselor - Baresville

Sara Staub, 5th Grade - West Manheim

Intermediate School

Mark Myers, Mathematics

(Finalist) Jan Fritz, Learning Support

(Finalist) Matthew Lawhead, Social Studies

High School

Bruce Lee, Technology Education

(Finalist) Neil Ecker, Social Studies

(Finalist) Michael Renoll, Science



Mrs. Jill Shirey

classes to continually support the daily instruction that occurs in the classrooms. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (Society for Women Educators); serves as a Baresville representative for SWEA; volunteers for Make A Difference Day, and serves on the district's Diversity Committee.



Sara Staub 5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Sara Staub has been a fifth grade teacher at South Western for the past nine years. She started her career at EHMIS and moved to West Manheim after the 5th grade realignment. In May of 2008, Sara received her Master of Science degree in Counselor Education and she continues to take graduate credits working towards her secondary school counselor's degree.

Mrs. Staub collaborates in a co-teaching environment that is designed to reach and teach all students. She differentiates instruction on a daily basis to meet the needs of her students. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the integration of technology into her classroom lessons including a wikispace which she continually updates to communicate with parents and students. She updates the fifth grade curriculum to meet district and state standards. Most recently she helped to design an American Revolutionary War culminating project using technology such as creating a podcast or video presentation.

Sara serves as a mentor to new teachers and presents at the York County

Continued on pg. 6

tirement Fund is increasing by more than 30% (10.5% of payroll to 13.5% of payroll), increasing costs by \$1.5 million.

State mandated costs for cyber charter schools and highly regulated special education expenses continue to grow rapidly without relief in sight. Finally, 2011-12 will be the final year of a 5-year contract with our professional staff - a contract that set out to compensate our teachers at a rate slightly higher than the County average; a reasonable position since our academic success is at the top or near the top in all areas - a direct result of an excellent faculty.

Under Act 1, the district is limited to a 1.7% increase in the real estate tax rate. As a result, the board is looking to increase real estate taxes by 0.27 mills or 1.66%. This increase equates to \$39.22 for the average residential property, which is assessed at \$145,277.

The Board of Education, administrators, faculty and staff take very seriously the financial contribution that each member of our community makes to ensure our students have an excellent education. We remain dedicated to managing each and every dollar carefully. We embrace the importance of open, thorough, and regular communication with our citizens.

In addition to this budget summary, the school district's business office is readily available to meet with you individually or in groups to present and discuss budget and financial information related to the school district. It is our desire that the budget process and financial affairs of the school district are open and understood by the citizens of our community. This is our pledge to you. Detailed budget information is available at all district offices and on the district web site at: blog.swsd.k12.pa.us/budget/.

Budget Summary

The South Western school district's proposed budget for 2011-12 is \$54,493,489. The proposed budget includes a 1.66% real estate tax increase (0.27 mills) over the current budget.

The proposed increase is 0.04% below the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) index. The current PDE index for 2011-12 is 1.7%. The index is the amount determined by PDE as the allowable tax increase for the South Western school district.

It is worth mentioning that the strategy of many school districts is to tax at or near the PDE index - a strategy that is difficult to dispute due to the uncertainties of revenue sources and known expenditure increases. It should be noted, however, that this is not the strategy of our Board of Education. The strategy of our Board of Education is to do everything possible to maintain the lowest possible tax rate necessary to carry on our outstanding educational program. In short, we are not taxing to build up a surplus.

What is a Mill?

A mill is a unit of currency that is equivalent to 1/1000 of a United States dollar (1/10 of one cent or \$.001). A mill levy is the number of dollars a taxpayer must pay for every \$1,000 of assessed value. For example, the current 2010-11 real estate tax rate of 16.28 mills results in a tax bill of \$1,628 for a home assessed at \$100,000. With the proposed 2011-12 real estate tax rate of 16.55 mills, the same taxpayer would pay \$1,655 annual real estate taxes - \$27 more than last year.

What is an Equalized Mill?

An equalized mill is a standard millage calculated by dividing a school district's total taxes by its total market value. In other words, equalized mills express tax rates as a percentage of market value. Equalized mills are used to provide real comparisons of actual tax efforts across district lines. This comparison is important because the calculation includes the entire market value of school districts, including residential and commercial properties.

York County Tax Rates

	2010-11 Real Estate Tax Rates	2008-09 Equalized Mills*
York City	29.54	33.8
Northeastern	23.28	23.2
Dallastown	22.26	22.4
Red Lion	22.0579	21.8
South Eastern	20.4824	20.5
Dover	20.33	22.9
York Suburban	20.171	22.8
West York	19.8121	20.6
Spring Grove	19.13	21.0
Hanover	19.07	20.9
Eastern	18.85	20.9
Central	17.76	18.8
Southern	16.62	17.7
South Western	16.28	15.6

**2008-09 is the most recent data on equalized mills*

South Western school district remains the lowest in York County for equalized millage rates.

Cost Control

As mentioned in the budget overview, the 2011-12 proposed budget includes the following budget reductions, totaling more than \$600,000:

- **The elimination of one part-time IST teacher - position not filled due to attrition.**
- **Reduction in teaching positions through attrition.**
- **Reduction in benefits - four part-time library aides will be hired to replace two full-time library aides with benefits that are retiring.**
- **The band uniform contribution was eliminated.**
- **The food service fund transfer to help purchase replacement equipment was eliminated.**
- **The athletic fund transfer was reduced.**
- **Special education and language arts software was eliminated.**
- **Funding for the district's wellness program was eliminated.**
- **Funding for the environmental area clean-up was eliminated.**
- **The district's participation in the York County Teacher's Consortium was eliminated.**

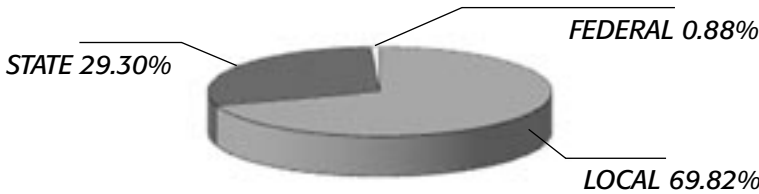
- Curriculum writing was reduced.
- Teacher conferences were eliminated.
- Field trips were reduced.
- The purchase of new and replacement musical instruments was eliminated.
- Document cameras were eliminated.
- The district's contribution to the summer recreational program was eliminated.
- The contribution to the Hanover Public Library was eliminated.
- The funding for a new bus route was eliminated.
- New equipment district-wide for the 2011-12 school year was reduced to \$13,437.
- The majority of the technology replacement budget has been cut from the current budget. This money was intended to update existing technology in the classrooms.

In addition to the cuts mentioned above, all building and program budgets were reduced 5% from the 2010-11 levels. This is in addition to the 20% reduction in those areas for the 2010-11.

It is important to note that these cuts should not be considered permanent in nature. While we all agree that it is necessary to make the cuts in these unusual economic times, each cut will have a negative impact on the quality of our children's education and the district's physical plant if continued beyond the short term.

Revenue

Like all school districts in Pennsylvania, the South Western school district receives revenue from three primary sources: local, state and federal. The individual revenue breakdown is as follows:



Total revenue for 2011-12 from all sources is budgeted to decrease 1.33%. This includes a budget-to-budget increase in local revenue of 5.42% and a decrease in state revenue of 15.09% (primarily due to the nearly \$1 million decrease in the Basic Education Funding, the elimination of over \$500,000 from the Accountability Block Grant, and \$185,000 in charter school reimbursements).

The 2011-12 proposed budget includes no increase in special education subsidy - the third year in a row the state has frozen special education subsidy. In addition, the budget includes no state subsidy for alternative education - a mandated program.

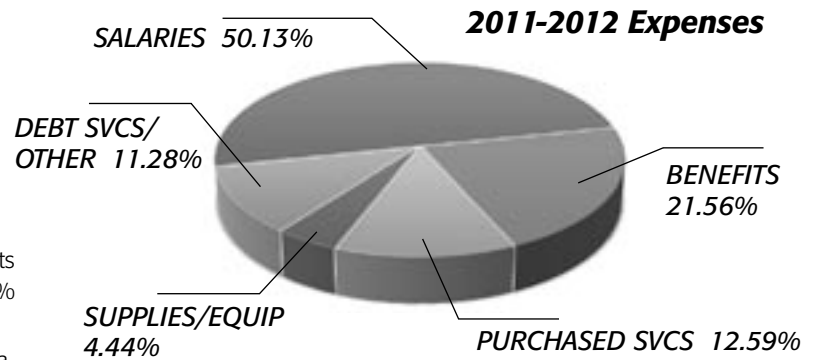
Finally, the state formula for determining basic education subsidy for school districts includes a provision for minimizing subsidy to school districts that have an equalized millage below an established level. South Western's equalized millage falls below this level, which has resulted in consecutive years of minimal basic education funding. One could argue that the funding formula penalizes school districts with low tax rates.

Expenditures

Total expenditures are projected to increase 2.43%, primarily due to areas already mentioned: legislated contributions to the state retirement system, state mandated payments for cyber charter schools, increased health insurance premiums and expanded special education expenses.

Balancing the Budget

In addition to a tax increase of 1.66% needed to balance the budget, approximately \$2.96 million of fund balance will be used. This includes the normal use of \$2.46 million from the general fund unreserved fund balance, and \$500,000 of designated fund balance (designated for the purposes of offsetting retirement contributions).



Excellent Financial Condition

We are pleased to report that the school district is in excellent financial condition. This is a result of mandated internal expenditure control, which is projected to generate a surplus of approximately \$700,000 during the current budget year, as well as sound and conservative management practices.

Demonstrated examples of sound management practices include our student transportation services, which operate on a per student basis \$1.9 million less than other school districts in the Lincoln Intermediate Unit area. In addition, a recent benchmarking study conducted by the

Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials revealed that total operation and maintenance costs are \$975,800 less than other school districts in Pennsylvania of similar size.

Finally, the general fund unreserved fund balance is projected to be 5.68% of the budget. This amount is slightly below the district's desired level and state limit of 8%. Additionally, the school district's physical plant is in excellent condition due to an ongoing capital program.

Taxpayer Relief

The 2006 Taxpayer Relief Act created the State Property Tax Relief Fund as a way to use state gaming revenue to reduce property taxes. Last year, the relief fund reduced the average residential property taxes by \$152.41. According to information received from the Governor's office, broad-based property tax relief will again be provided from the State Property Tax Relief Fund - an amount to be determined in May 2011.

Approved homeowners will see the property tax reduction itemized on their real estate tax bill, which will be issued July 15, 2011. The amount will be based upon state funds divided by the number of district properties approved. According to state law, all approved homestead properties in the school district will see the same reduction on their real estate tax bill, regardless of the property assessment.



Mrs. Sara Staub

Consortium Teacher Induction Program to share ideas to new teachers of how to effectively communicate with parents. She has served as cooperating teacher to student teachers and demonstrates to new South Western teachers the requirements for the PDE 426-427 evaluation forms.

Mrs. Staub serves as a building liaison member for West Manheim; serves as a representative for SWEA; organized the West Manheim PSSA Prep Rally; and has served on the retirement social committee.

 **Mark Myers**
EHMIS Mathematics

Mr. Mark Myers feels that the most important trait a teacher can possess is a desire to continue growing in their chosen field as well as in their understanding of the children they teach. When he switched districts to teach at EHMIS, it was a refreshing change. Since the change, much of his professional growth has occurred through many discussions with the other math teachers at EHMIS. He feels one of the best ways to continue to grow professionally is to have frank discussions about beliefs and methods of teaching.

Mr. Myers strives to make his classroom a “fun” environment so that students want to be there and he arrives to school optimistic and enthusiastic every day. He works hard to prepare every day so that the class can run smoothly and the students have confidence in his mathematical knowledge. Mark integrates technology in my classroom - using technology helps to keep the class fresh and students interested in class. He has created many PSSA Power Point and Turning point reviews used

by the math department and incorporates Turning Point into his classroom to identify students that are having difficulty with the material. In Mr. Myers’ classroom, students are pushed to explain the “how” and “why” of mathematics. When responding to a question, students must support their answer with mathematical justification. They can not say “that’s what the teacher told me.”

Mark has served as a cooperating teacher for student teachers and had several college students visit his classroom to satisfy their course requirements - they come to observe but he encourages them participate. As team captain of the math team, he has fostered professional sharing and dialogue between all math teachers. Mr. Myers is willing to share materials and ideas with all teach-



Mr. Mark Myers

ers - have created and shared PSSA prep materials as well as classroom materials.

Mr. Myers is a member of the district Math Curriculum Committee that assessed K-12 math curriculum and implemented the Connected Math Program and Cognitive Tutor Algebra course at the middle school. He began the after school tutorial for 7th and 8th grade math and was involved with hiring five of the eight members of the 7th and 8th grade math department.

 **Bruce Lee**
High School Technology Education

Mr. Bruce Lee creates a classroom environment where all students feel welcomed, respected, and encouraged to do their best. He is very effective at meeting the needs of all of his students. Bruce uses a variety of instructional techniques


and assessment strategies to aid students in their learning and academic growth. The differentiated strategies that he uses on a daily basis provide all students, regardless of their academic ability, with opportunities to experience success. Mr. Lee believes that every person deserves the best education possible. Moreover, he believes that all students possess the ability to learn even though they might be good at learning different things.

Bruce demonstrates a sincere interest in the lives of his students and athletes. He believes in a learn-by-doing approach whether it is in the classroom or on the playing field. He believes that every child enters the classroom wanting to do well. Mr. Lee tries his best to make that come true. He wants the students to find something that they love doing and then work hard at doing it right. He believes that a good work ethic is the key to success and he models that to his students. Mr. Lee also encourages young women and men to get involved with something that is “greater than themselves.” He wants his students to become a part of a team whether it is a classroom “team” or an actual sport’s team.

Mr. Lee represents the Technology Education Department very well both in school and in the community. He is now teaching an adult welding class offered though HACC. The adults who take these classes are able to improve their welding skills and learn the necessary skills to succeed in manufacturing. They often comment on how lucky our students are here at South Western because they can get these same welding skills for free. Mr. Lee allows the community to see first hand



Mr. Bruce Lee

Continued on pg. 7 

Shippensburg University School Study Council Recognizes Exemplary Programs



From left to right; Dr. Nellie Cyr, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Services; Dr. Barbara Rupp, South Western Superintendent; Kristine Strausbaugh, Principal, West Manheim Elementary; Michelle Hartlaub, Reading Specialist, West Manheim Elementary; Julie Dunlop, Reading Specialist, West Manheim Elementary; Dr. James Johnson, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

At the 24th Annual Exemplary Program Presentations and Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, Dr. Nellie Cyr, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, cited the "creative and innovative collaboration by teams of teachers, administrators and staff in developing highly effective programs that meet a wide range of student needs". The most important component in a student's success is the quality and experience of the classroom teacher based on the WIN - What I Need principle.

"Pony Power Time" Elementary Reading Intervention from the South Western School District, was recognized as one of fifteen programs for the eleven county area of South Central Pennsylvania.

"Pony Power Time" is an intervention time used


at West Manheim Elementary for a team approach to assist students with reading. During "Pony Power Time", which lasts approximately 40 minutes each day, students receive specialized reading instruction based on specific needs and individual reading levels. As a result of the implementation of this program, there has been an overall increase in PSSA reading scores of 7.4%.

The programs were selected by a committee of school administrators and University faculty and were based on the following criteria: they need a generally recognized critical educational need; they utilized an innovative or creative approach; they were cost effective; they were easily replicated in another school setting; and showed significant student improvement over a significant time period.

Teachers of the Year *Continued from page 6*

what our South Western kids can learn. He is also extremely involved with bringing local businesses into education. Mr. Lee has been involved with the Educator in the Workplace program and he has had the opportunity to develop a professional relationship with members of the business community through this program. He is currently teamed up with ESAB Welding & Cutting and together they are helping South Western students see how their skills will be used when they enter the work force.

Bruce has spent the last 26 years giving to the South Western community as a teacher and

a coach. His commitment and passion regarding South Western academics and athletics is obvious from the moment you talk to him. In addition to sports, Mr. Lee's class projects can be seen in many households throughout Hanover and for each student to see as they enter the high school through the main lobby. His students take pride in their work and are excited when local customers purchase their work. Moreover, the local partnerships that Mr. Lee has established with Hanover area businesses have been key in creating positive school and community relations. 

It's Going to be a Busy Summer!



Camp Learn-A-Lot

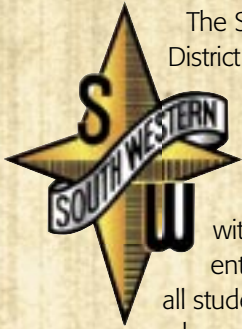
Camp Learn-A-Lot is a summer school session offered by South Western School District to children who are currently enrolled in grades kindergarten through fourth receiving learning support services, or Title I support services, or reading support services, or teacher recommendations for kindergarten students. The program is a wonderful opportunity for the child to participate with other children in previewing activities in reading and math skills for their upcoming school year. The goal of the program is to provide reinforcement and additional practice in reading, writing, and math skills so children are more prepared to enter their new grade in September. The program for grades K-2 will run Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 am - 12 noon from July 5th through 28th at Manheim Elementary School. The program for grades 3 and 4 will be held during the same dates and times at EHMIS. Instructors and para-educators are current employees of the district. All expenses will be paid by our school district. At the conclusion of the Camp Learn-A-Lot morning session, parents may choose to have your child dropped off at their assigned elementary school to participate in the South Western Summer Recreation Program.

Summer Rec

South Western Recreation Commission will once again provide supervised playground activities at Park Hills, Baresville, West Manheim, and Manheim Elementary playgrounds this summer from June 20, 2011 - August 5, 2011. The playground will be staffed with qualified supervisors who are education majors at local colleges and universities. The staff will be offering different activities each day. The program is offered to children who live in Penn, West Manheim, and Manheim Townships and who are currently in grades kindergarten through fifth. Manheim, Park Hills, Baresville, and West Manheim Elementary playgrounds will be supervised Monday through Thursday each week from 1-4 pm except for the week of July 4th. Due to the July 4th holiday, the playgrounds will be open from Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 pm, on July 5th-8th.

For more information on these programs, contact Brian Cromer at brian_cromer@swsd.k12.pa.us or call [717-229-2930](tel:717-229-2930).

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*

South Western School District
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Dates to Note

May 31
**New Kindergarten Student
Visitation Day**

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

June 9
**Last Day of School (Grades K-11)
Early Dismissal**

June 10
**Last Day of School (Grade 12)
Early Dismissal**

June 10
**Commencement Ceremony
7:00 PM**

June 22
School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

July 20
School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

August 30
**First Day of 2011-2012
School Year for Grades K-9**

August 31
**First Day of 2011-2012
School Year for Grades 10-12**



Recently the parents of Jim Ernst donated a generous monetary gift to Dollars for Scholars in his memory. Jim graduated from South Western in 1985 and high school was the pivotal point in his life. The \$25,000 donated will be utilized as a scholarship in his memory. Pictured above: (L to R) Dr. Jil Manga, president of the South Western Dollars for Scholars Chapter, Jean and Jim Ernst, Jim's parents, and Dr. Barbara Rupp, South Western Superintendent.



Summer Reading Program at Guthrie Library

Wednesday, June 1

Registration begins at the library or
online at www.yorklibraries.org

Saturday, June 11, 11AM-2PM

Sovereign Stadium Kick-off Event!

Join us for a FREE day at the park at
the Revs Stadium in York with DreamWrights, Dave
Rojahn, Skeeta the Clown and Steven Courtney!

**For more information, call the library at
632-5183, or visit www.yorklibraries.org.**

All programs are free of charge.

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.



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.