



Appoquinimink School District

THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

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HIGH SCHOOLS

Appoquinimink High, 1080 Bunker Hill Road, Middletown, DE 19709
Middletown High, 120 Silver Lake Road, Middletown, DE 19709

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Alfred G. Waters Middle, 1235 Cedar Lane Road, Middletown, DE 19709
Everett Meredith Middle, 504 South Broad Street, Middletown, DE 19709
Louis L. Redding Middle, 201 New Street, Middletown, DE 19709

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Brick Mill Elementary, 378 Brick Mill Road, Middletown, DE 19709
Bunker Hill Elementary, 1070 Bunker Hill Road, Middletown, DE 19709
Cedar Lane Elementary, 1259 Cedar Lane Road, Middletown, DE 19709
Olive B. Loss Elementary, 200 Brennan Boulevard, Bear, DE 19701
Silver Lake Elementary, 200 East Cochran Street, Middletown, DE 19709
Townsend Elementary, 126 Main Street, Townsend, DE 19734

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

Appoquinimink ECC, 502 South Broad Street, Middletown, DE 19709
Cedar Lane ECC, 1221 Cedar Lane Road, Middletown, DE 19709
Townsend ECC, 10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend, DE 19734

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION (ACE)

Appoquinimink ACE Programs, 120 Silver Lake Road, Middletown, DE 19709

ECRWSS
Residential Customer

Our 12th annual Education Fair featured a "Go Green," theme. More than 3,000 students, parents and friends joined us for educational games and activities that underscored a commitment to reduce, reuse, recycle and support the health and sustainability of our planet. There were Discovery Zones in math, science, reading, world languages, social studies, health, safety, nutrition and more. New events included an Instrument Petting Zoo and a Science Expo for grades 4-12. Our business community demonstrated its support by underwriting the cost for this popular event.



The Appoquinimink School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, national origin, or other legally protected categories in its educational programs, activities, employment or student admissions policies or practices. Inquiries regarding compliance with the above can be directed to Section 504 Contact Kittie Rehrig, Supervisor of Student Services, 313 S. Fifth Street, PO 4010, Odessa, DE 19730. Responsibilities: To coordinate the ASD's efforts to comply with the disability discrimination laws. Title IX Contact Matt Fallis, Director of Personnel, 313 S. Fifth Street, Odessa, DE 19730. Responsibilities: To coordinate the Appoquinimink School District's efforts to comply with and carry out the district's responsibilities under Title IX, including investigating any complaint alleging noncompliance with Title IX or actions which would be prohibited by Title IX.



Appoquinimink School District

THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

a world of possibilities annual report



2009/10

Our mission is to provide a world-class education where each of our students gains the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes needed to contribute and flourish in a global society.

Delaware's educational landscape is changing. Our state is attempting to create one of the most rigorous, well-respected school systems in the world. We believe the transformation is crucial if our graduates are to compete successfully in the global marketplace of the 21st Century. But progress will not occur without its share of challenges. As



Superintendent of the Appoquinimink School District, it's my job to keep you informed about these developments and what they will mean to your student, your school and your district.

The stakes have been raised. In September, Delaware's Department of Education announced it was raising the bar with rigorous new expectations for performance on the DCAS exam. In an announcement to the press, the Department of Education indicated that as a result of higher cut scores, the number of students expected to meet state standards will drop by 10 to 28 percentage points this year. To put this in perspective, new performance standards will mean that many students who scored 3, 4 or 5 (the designation for meeting and/or exceeding the state standards in the past) could score 1, 2 or 3 this year.

Lower scores should not be interpreted as a sign that students are regressing – just the opposite. They should be viewed as an indication that Delaware and its teachers believe that our children can compete at significantly higher levels and are committed to take this important first step to change.

What will this mean for our students? The data from the state's new standardized test, DCAS, will provide the classroom-level information needed to institute supportive programs and instruction. Scores from the test will also factor into the decision about whether or not students in our district are invited to summer school and/or recommended to repeat a grade. However, they are, and will continue to be, weighed alongside a variety of other factors including teacher grades and a portfolio of your child's classroom work.

What will this mean for our schools? Rigorous new benchmarks are expected to significantly decrease the number of students meeting the standard this year. This will have an immediate impact on schools' ability to meet goals identified by the No Child Left Behind Law, federal legislation that requires schools and districts to raise the test performance of key subgroups as well as the entire school population each year.*

With Delaware's Department of Education projecting that significantly fewer students will achieve a pass rate on the state exam, it seems unlikely that schools in Delaware will meet the federal benchmark this year.

the educational landscape is changing

What will this mean for our district?

Delaware's 19 public school districts, its charter schools, parents, students and educators will face this challenge together. At this time, we are awaiting answers to these and other difficult questions from the Department of Education. As soon as information becomes available, you have our promise that we will move quickly to share the results with you.

However, it seems likely that the short term effect of raising the bar will likely mean that schools and districts will be identified as "underperforming" by the federal government this year and could face sanctions.

What will this mean for our state? Delaware's instructional leaders – the teachers, principals and staff in your building – are among the most talented and committed educators working in America today. We have set high goals. We have courageously tied our performance to student achievement. And we find ourselves propelled into the national spotlight in our desire to create an educational system that is second to none. The path forward will not be easy or quick. There will be some missteps along the way. But remember, nothing worth having comes easily.

So we ask for your patience, confidence and continued strong investment in our schools and staff. The difference between the status quo and world class results will ultimately rest in the support we receive from parents, students, policymakers and the public. Working together, we can deliver a world of possibilities to our children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Marchio".

Tony Marchio, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

* In the past, subgroups required to demonstrate improvement each year have included: Low Income, English Language Learners, Special Education, African American, Hispanic and Caucasian; but, depending on enrollment, schools and districts can be held responsible for demonstrating progress in as many as 39 different categories each year. Failure to make the prescribed progress in each subgroup automatically places a building under academic watch. The second and subsequent year, the designation would become academic review and possible consequences could include reorganization.



In January 2010, Delaware's Department of Education submitted a proposal to the federal government outlining our vision for transforming schools. The application, which earned the unanimous support of teachers, educational leaders, policymakers and advocacy groups, was hailed for its ambitious scope and far-reaching ideas. As a result, Delaware was awarded a \$100 million, *Race to the Top* federal grant.

At the local level, Appoquinimink will receive approximately \$64,000 this year. While the number is not large, it will be well utilized. We have identified three initiatives that you will be hearing more about this year:

- 1) The creation of an accelerated learner program for K-12 students
- 2) More and better strategies to help children with learning disabilities recognize their potential
- 3) Establishment of an orientation process to provide academic support and social engagement for new students

Equally important, we will be the beneficiaries of new statewide tools and instructional strategies that will fundamentally improve teachers' ability to engage students and improve achievement.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

Appoquinimink

■ We introduced a new program called Handwriting Without Tears. HWT takes an entertaining approach to teaching young children letter and number formation and combines that with educationally sound practices. Children learn to print using hands-on materials and developmentally appropriate activities. Based on our success, Appoquinimink's other Early Childhood Centers will soon be exploring this program.

■ Research shows that male role models who demonstrate support for what's happening in school positively influence a child's academic achievement. With that in mind, we asked dads to join us in March to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles and friends led the students in a sing-along, a read-aloud, a science experiment, a game and a snack.

Cedar Lane

■ In October, we took part in a record-setting attempt. Our four and five-year olds joined with thousands of

schools, homes and child care centers around the globe to participate in *Read for the Record*. The event brings preschoolers together to read the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world to focus attention on the need for early education and make it an international priority.

■ We held a school-wide drive for the *Pajama Program*, a charity that provides sleepwear and comforting books to needy children awaiting adoption. We'll be bringing the popular program back this fall

and hope to break last year's record of 75+ donated pajamas!

■ Parents, relatives and celebrities joined us as guest readers during national "I Love to Read Month." Guests, including many locally elected officials, shared a favorite story and then donated a copy of the book to our library.

Townsend

■ Our staff and families collaborated with the Appoquinimink ECC on a *Get Fit Fundraiser* at Billings Stadium. By combining age-appropriate activities like soccer, relay races, Jazzercise, karate and



an inflatable obstacle course, we showed more than 500 kindergarteners just how many fun and easy ways there are to get moving and stay fit.

■ In June, we offered a parent workshop called, "What are we going to do this summer?" Teachers provided a wealth of educational games and activities that reinforced reading, writing and math skills and introduced families to our Summer Reading Program.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Brick Mill

■ Involving the entire family in activities at school continues to be a priority. Last year we introduced parenting programs that provide practical techniques that are easy to learn, promote responsible behavior and improve communication.

■ Crowd pleasers like "Muffins for Moms" and "Donuts for Dads" continue to be among our most popular events. These relaxed activities give busy parents a chance to meet their child's

friends and teachers, while enjoying a morning meal where our students shine as guest hosts.

■ Our Library Media Specialist, Janice Haney, was honored by the Delaware Nature Center as their *2010 Environmental Educator of the Year* for her work developing a student-run recycling program at school. Each class and office, as well as several churches and area businesses, now recycle their paper in bins located at our school. The recycled material is reborn as newspaper, a project that helps sustain the environment while earning money for our school library.

Bunker Hill

■ On August 19, our new school was officially dedicated! Guests included the Board of Education, a host of VIPs, and most importantly, hundreds of Bunker Hill students and parents. After a program that included music, speeches and a ribbon cutting ceremony, families had

a chance to tour the school and meet their new teachers. Thanks to everyone who made this special night a success!

■ One of the ways we recognize positive behavior is to refer students to the office when we notice them doing something above & beyond expectations. This earns a positive phone call to mom or dad and entry in our "Student of the Month" drawing, which includes free lunch for two. Incredibly, our school-wide target of 200 positive referrals was met in February! So, students readjusted their goal upwards to 300 and finished with 328 positive referrals. Way to go, Bulldogs!

■ On May 26, more than 600 students and dozens of volunteers helped us launch SMART Kids Day. The event stressed teamwork, creativity and hands-on problem solving to answer math and science challenges located throughout the building. We capped off our day of fun with medals awarded to the

winning teams by Lt. Gov. Matt Denn.

Cedar Lane

■ Our school began a massive, year-long renovation in 2009. Beautiful, technology-rich classrooms, a library and band room were all completed during the school year. In August 2010, our makeover was completed when a new reception area, gym and cafeteria were unveiled. We celebrated with a re-dedication ceremony attended by hundreds of friends and family.

■ Our "new" school introduced its mascot, SOAR the eagle, this year. SOAR joins us at school celebrations, dances and family events. Named by students, he reminds us we can soar to new heights with education!

■ A change in feeder patterns meant we welcomed a number of new students this year. To ease the transition, we established Morning Meetings, a set of practices designed to promote communication, cooperation, responsibility, empathy



Growth in the tax base, the accumulation of developer impact fees, savings realized from debt relief, and frugal spending allowed us to go to our community with a request to build new schools without increasing taxes. Voters passed the December 8, referendum by a wide margin and we began planning the following capital projects:

- New 840-student elementary school opening fall 2012
- New early childhood center opening fall 2012
- Meredith Middle auditorium renovation to be completed fall 2011
- Appoquinimink ECC kitchen addition to be completed fall 2012
- Olive B. Loss Elementary addition to be completed fall 2013
- Townsend Elementary renovations to be completed in fall 2013

Included in the cost of construction for the elementary school and early childhood center was the acquisition of land. Not just any land, but a parcel large enough to build a K-12 campus. A site plan envisions the addition of a middle school, high school, performing arts center, environmental center and swimming center. These proposed additions could be accomplished with a referendum sometime in the next decade if enrollment continues to grow as anticipated. An update on these and other construction projects is offered monthly at the School Board Meeting.

and self-control. The results were so positive that we have adopted the Morning Meeting as permanent part of our school culture.

- On December 8, we hosted a Multicultural Fair for students and their families. Guests received a passport and traveled from country to county (classroom to classroom) where they experienced world music, dance, food and art, gaining an appreciation for the diversity in our school community and our world.

Olive B. Loss

- Music education students from Orebro University in Sweden visited us in March. Through a partnership with the University of Delaware, the undergraduates were in the USA to observe how music instruction was conducted here. During their visit, they enjoyed listening to original compositions created by the fifth graders in Ms. Katie Martinenza's music class in an event featured by our local paper.

- A team from OBL took first place in the Creative Problem Solving Category at Delaware's Odyssey of the Mind Tournament in March. Our students earned top scores in all three components of the challenge: long term, style and spontaneous, becoming one of the first schools to join the "350 Club," signifying that they attained the maximum points available in their challenge. After a win at the state level, the team was invited to compete at the World Finals at Michigan State University and placed fifth in the nation.

- Nemours Health and Prevention Services sponsored a contest on it's Making Kids Healthy website, inviting parents to submit stories about how their child's school promoted healthier lifestyles. OBL was nominated and subsequently won the contest. The grand prize was a Radio Disney Move-It Event, a school-wide celebration that included singing, dancing & a discussion of healthy lifestyle

choices featuring the Radio Disney Team.

Silver Lake

- Our first annual, PTA-sponsored Walkathon was a huge success! Students earned enough in pledges to install a new rock-climbing wall in our gymnasium. With individual prizes supplied by the Department of Transportation and our own PTA, this event was a FUN-raiser for our whole school.

- Informational meetings called, "What's the buzz at Silver Lake?" offered our principal and asst. principal a chance to visit community groups and neighborhoods to get to know our families in a more relaxed setting. We shared news about our programs & celebrations and took questions from the audience. They reciprocated by offering suggestions that have led to positive changes and new connections for our students and staff.

- "Dads Come to School Week," has become one of our signature events. During a week-long

celebration in the fall, we invite a significant male role model from each family to visit with us at school and show our children that they value education. Our guests sign up to read to students, share information about their careers, and even assist with classroom assignments. The event ends with a celebration dinner for the children and their dads.

Townsend

- Townsend was one of the first schools to develop its own website. This year we decided it was time for an upgrade and launched an all-new site named after our mascot, townsendthunderbirds.org. This resource is updated weekly and is a great source of information for parents, students, and visitors. Be sure to visit us soon!

- At the urging of School Nutrition Manager Renee Horn, we piloted a new "Recess before Lunch" program to give students an opportunity to work up a healthy appetite before meals and help them settle

Our state has a new standardized test. The online exam, called the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS), will measure progress in reading and mathematics for grades 3-10; social studies in grades 4 and 7; and science in grades 5, 8 and 10.

Tests are adaptive. Every time a student answers a question, the response will help determine the next question asked. Questions could get harder or easier based on the responses given. This means we can more accurately measure a student's knowledge of the subject matter – on grade, below grade, above grade.

Testing will occur three times during the year in reading and mathematics in order to allow schools to measure progress and adjust instruction to support areas of weakness and/or provide more challenges as needed. It is important to remember that we are testing students to assess their knowledge of standards that should be mastered by the END of the school year. Therefore few students will "meet" or "exceed" the standard (scores of 3-4) when they take the test in the fall or winter.

The Department of Education will issue a printed summary of your student's performance at the end of the school year. In addition, schools will be able to generate reports to share with parents at conferences and other key times during the year and secondary schools will post scores on the Home Access Center. To sample the new test, go to <http://de.portal.airast.org>.



down to work quicker after the break. This research-driven initiative has been well received by students and staff and will continue in 2010/11.

- We started a recycling program that grew exponentially throughout the year. In addition to paper and cans, our students now recycle all their lunch waste. A program that began with a few recycling bins is now so effective that we employ a full-sized dumpster that is emptied once per week. A high five to the

staff and students at TES for their efforts to go green!

- With sponsorship from School Business Partner Willis Ford, we brought back our Science Fair. Students in grades 4-5 conducted fun, useful experiments that were shared with the entire school community. Guests gained plenty of information from their research, including which laundry detergent really works best, and what kind of orange juice has the most Vitamin C.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS
Alfred G. Waters

- Our spelling bee champion, 6th grader Pranay Malempati, went on to win the state championship in February and represented Delaware at the Scripps National Spelling Bee Contest in Washington, DC. Students, staff and families from across the district watched proudly as Pranay competed on national TV.
- *Real Men Read 2*, the return of our popular literacy event, brought sons, fathers,

grandfathers, brothers and mentors together for a fun-filled night with local celebrities representing sports, music, law enforcement and more. Over 500 people attended the celebration organized by our Library Media Specialists to send a message that reading is important in everything you do.

- We staged our own version of *American Idol* to showcase the musical talent of our students. Drawing from a pool of seventy-five contestants, our grand



finale featured finalists competing in three categories: male solo, female solo and group performance. Our whole student body voted to determine the winners. Congratulations to Jonathan Hartwell, Regan Coday, Ceara Dougherty and Kelsey Fromal our AGW Idol winners.

- In March, we sent two Science Olympiad Teams to Dover for the state-wide competition.

Everett Meredith

- Our focus on providing global exposures for students included participation in the district's first Model UN Program and Summit; lessons with international Steel Pan Artist Aneysha de Coteau; and a visit with Madame Martine Kerber, a Middle School Principal from Academie de Creteil in France who spent the day conversing with sixth graders in our

assisted with a garage sale and other duties.

- Ten MMS teachers were the recipients of \$100 grants from Wal-Mart as part of their *Educators of the Year Program*. The money they received was used to purchase items for the classroom. In addition, Peggy Borthwick, one of our building secretaries, won a \$500 award from Horace Mann Insurance Co. and donated half her

Awards Ceremonies occurred once each semester, recognizing: A-Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, A+ Award, Most Improved, Citizenship, Knight after Knight, Specialty, and B.U.G. (Bring Up Grades). Our Student Council facilitated these events, demonstrating their leadership and serving as role models for their peers.

- Our student leaders, the FISHERS (Friends

expectations in each class and school-wide. They continued to meet monthly for "fishing expeditions" designed to uncover and celebrate positive things happening in our school.

- Through after-school programs like *In Charge!* we stressed the importance of teens taking control of their academic destiny. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from September through May, we provided a safe, quiet place to complete homework with academic support for those who needed it. An after-school bus took students home at 4:30 p.m.
- We partnered with Girl Scouts USA to provide an after-school leadership program for teens and tweens. Twenty students took part in weekly activities designed to increase self-esteem, improve social skills, expand cultural experiences, and promote academic and career goal setting.
- Our Positive Behavior Support Program inspired students to strive for good grades

and demonstrate respectful behavior. Rewards included trips to Milburn Orchards, the skate park, the movies, a school dance and recess. Our culminating event was a school-wide carnival with inflatable games, karaoke, water ice, popcorn, a dunk tank, photo booth, fortune telling, football toss, prize room and more.

HIGH SCHOOL
Appoquinimink

- We launched three student-run enterprises in our school: a Wilmington Trust Bank branch staffed by student tellers; *Apponings*, a store that sells AHS apparel and school supplies; and the Jags Café, offering a breakfast and lunch menu for students and staff. These programs provide entrepreneurial experiences and help our students make connections to the world of work. In order to be involved, students must be enrolled in related coursework, maintain good grades, take part in a competitive interview process, and train for the position. "This is an

opportunity to actually do what we're learning about in class," explains Monique Riddick, chair of the Career and Technology Education Department.

- It was a year of "firsts" for our Music Department. We put on our first musical, launched a Jazz Band, hosted four major events – a band festival, a marching band competition, the All-State Orchestra and the ACDA Children's Honor Choir Concerts – competed in the Trills and Thrills Music Festival and had students qualify for All-State Choir and All-State Jr. Band.
- We want AHS to be known as a school that demonstrates good sportsmanship. Last year, a student-run committee created monthly activities promoting this message to our athletes, spectators and fans. Their efforts were rewarded when AHS was recognized by the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association with a 2009-10 State Champion in Sportsmanship Award.

- Thanks to increased interest, we were able to form two (Grade 9, Grade 10-11) Math League Teams this year. Our students competed in regional meets similar to sporting events, and a member of the Freshman Team, Samantha Robeson, was invited to the State Invitational based on her strong performance.
- We implemented the *Jefferson Awards Program* in our school. The Jefferson Awards recognizes students and schools who are involved in meaningful service projects throughout the community. Parents, friends and community members were encouraged to nominate our teens and in our first year of eligibility, AHS earned a bronze-level award.
- Our World Languages Program continues to be a source of pride. We hosted the General Consul to the French Embassy at our school and participated in a webcam exchange with representatives from our sister school in Creteil, France. German II students participated in the Delaware Valley



International music educator Aneysha de Coteau joined us as our *Artist In Residence* for six weeks this spring. DeCoteau, a native of the Island of Trinidad and Tobago, is a master of the steel pan (also known as the steel drum). During her visit, she had an opportunity to provide an introductory class to every middle school student in our district while offering professional development to music educators and other interested staff. Working with deCoteau, our teens and adults had an opportunity to learn about the cultural and historic significance of the steel pan (considered the national instrument Trinidad and Tobago) while they explored the scales and learned to play several simple tunes. Percussion students, and those who showed exceptional interest and ability, were invited back for additional lessons before joining deCoteau at a culminating event, an open-air concert held on June 1, on the outdoor stage at Bunker Hill Elementary.

Our students brought home a total of 46 medals and placed 7th and 10th overall, a terrific finish. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

French classes.

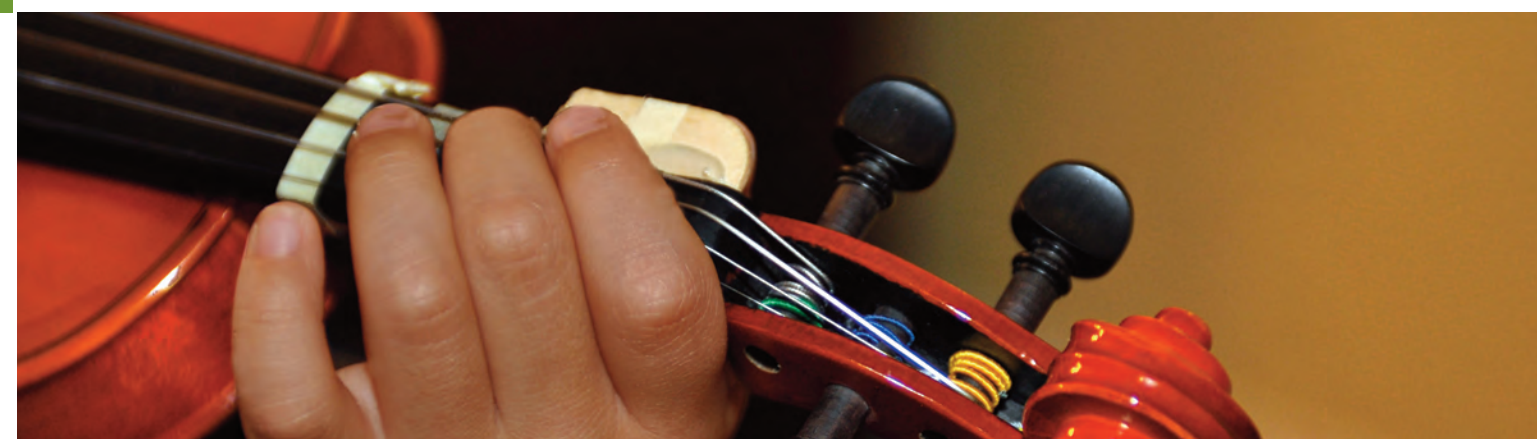
- Eighteen students from the *Real Men* talent development class were involved in a service learning project at Connection Community Church where they

winnings to our Positive Behavior Support Program.

Louis L. Redding

- Positive recognition is an important part of our school culture.

In School Helping Everyone Succeed) began the year by hosting get acquainted activities, skits and videos designed to help our student body understand the



Deutschfest where they showcased their talents in spelling, poetry recitation, storytelling, singing, writing and German culture. Not to be left out, the Japanese Department received a grant from the Japan Foundation to purchase instructional DVD's, calligraphy boards and much more.

Middletown High

- The College Board® announced that twenty-nine students

million in scholarship assistance to enter college in 2010.

- Before graduating, students completed a challenging *Senior Project* requiring the research and defense of a published paper and a culminating project or service. The Class of 2010 presented a total of 485 different projects, exploring everything from a business plan and menu tastings for a new restaurant, to shark repellent technology, a study of height and

feet, 10.75 inches. With the win, he became just the seventh student from Delaware to win a boys individual event at the Penn Relays. His accomplishment was highlighted in the national publication, *Sports Illustrated*.

- Our Science Olympiad Teams competed in 23 events in science, math and technology at the state championships. The group took home 22 medals and one team placed fifth (out of 54) overall.

contributions made by teachers everywhere.

- 11th grader Alex Cummiskey was selected as the winner of Delaware's *Poetry Out Loud* contest. The win represents a "three-peat" for our school. We're proud of Alex, his predecessor Tonisha Jones (a 2-time winner) and Performing Arts teacher Amanda Chas who plays a big part in encouraging talented students to participate, cultivating their natural ability, and

number of state and national competitions.

DISTRICT

- Appoquinimink became the first school district in Delaware to "go green" in chemistry. Our high schools now study, "A Natural Approach to Chemistry," a textbook

that communicates with any computer. "In the world of science, it's critical to stay on the cutting edge," notes Science Specialist Sandra Smithers. "If Delaware is to continue to be a leader in science-based industry, this is the kind of innovative thinking we need to embrace.

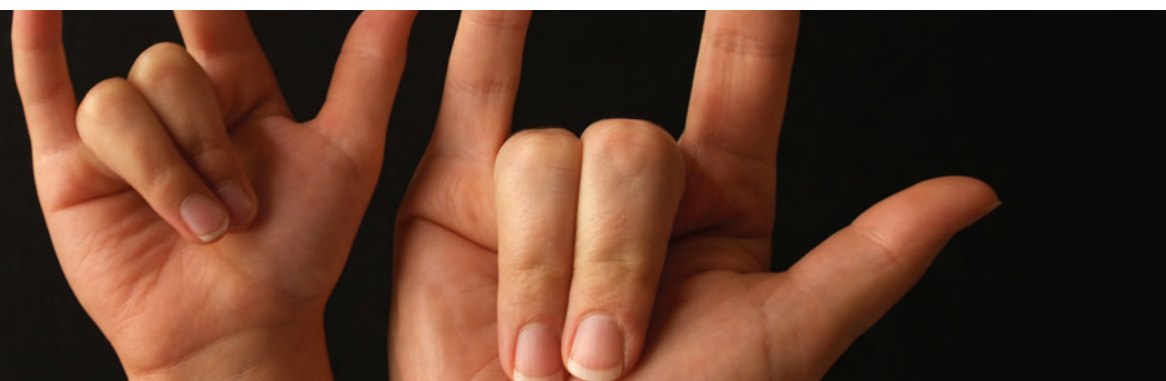
returned in the fall. Book titles included: "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens," "Small Steps," and "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time."

- Middle School Science Teacher Kelly Green

Administrators honored Maryann Mieczkowski as Special Education Director of the Year.

- Appoquinimink became the first school district in Delaware to offer hot and cold vegetarian options in all its schools.

Our Student Art Show featured more than 300 pieces of 2- and 3-D art this year. Thanks to a unique partnership with the Historic Houses of Odessa, student work was displayed in two of the five historic properties on the site and enjoyed more than 1,000 visitors during the opening day reception. Afterwards, artists and their families enjoyed food and music at the carriage house and relaxed in the property's beautiful gardens.



from Middletown High and one student from Appoquinimink High earned an AP Scholar Award this year, becoming part of an elite group of just 18 percent of the more than 1.8 million students who took AP Exams and demonstrated high levels of mastery in multiple content areas. In order to be recognized, these students each earned an average score of 3+ on three or more AP exams.

- Middletown graduates earned more than \$2

weight discrimination at amusement parks, and an examination of the differences between real-life and television forensics. Their efforts were highlighted by a feature story in *The News Journal* in March.

- MHS Junior Marquis Dendy won the high school boys' triple jump championship at the Penn Relays, the USA's oldest and largest track and field event. Marquis is the first student from Delaware ever to eclipse 50 feet, achieving a jump of 50

English teacher Abby Shubert was named Appoquinimink's *Teacher of the Year*. Now in her seventh year as an educator, Abby has worked with freshmen, juniors and seniors; including those who are ready to move at an advanced pace, and those who need extra encouragement to overcome learning disabilities. Throughout the 2010/11 school year, Abby will serve as an ambassador for our district, sharing her dedication, knowledge and skill while representing the positive

preparing them for the contest.

- A cow raised by MHS Senior Laura Emerson and her brother Robbie (Class of 2008) was named Grand Champion among Holsteins at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, the world's largest dairy contest. The crowd was stunned when the Emerson's entry defeated a three-time winner valued at more than \$300,000. Laura and Robbie have participated in our FFA programs for many years, representing Middletown at a

developed by Dr. Thomas Hsu, a plasma physicist at MIT recognized for his innovative approach to chemistry education. Hands-on labs use environmentally safe supplies like water, vinegar, ice, bleach and food coloring that can easily be tossed in lab drains and trash cans after class. Experiments are conducted with an innovative device called a Lab-Master that features a built-in test tube heater, temperature and voltage probe, and a data collection device

We're one of the first states to actively champion this approach and we believe it's the wave of the future."

- Our Middle and High Schools initiated a "One Book, One School" summer reading program as a way to build community, broaden awareness and create a common dialogue. Teens were challenged to read a selection specially chosen for that building with discussion and related activities occurring in every classroom when they

was honored with a *Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching*. In recognition of her contributions, Kelly received a trip to Washington, D.C. where she took part in an awards ceremony and visited with members of Congress and science agency leaders.

- Delaware's Administrative Policy & Practice Institute named Dr. Deborah Panchisin State Curriculum Director of the Year, while the Delaware Association of School

■ We introduced Professional Learning Communities in our middle and high schools. PLCs feature a collective approach. Leadership and responsibility for student learning are extensively shared, with group reflection and activities designed to constantly improve their students' performance. To support the practice, time is now dedicated during the normal teacher day for these collaborations.

- We introduced SAT Prep as a one-credit,

The national touring company of FoodPlay entertained at our elementary schools and put on an evening performance for the entire community. The Emmy-award winning show, which featured music, juggling and comedy routines, promoted the importance of healthy food choices & exercise and was sponsored by our School Nutrition Services Department.



elective course at both high schools. Students were able to study, prepare and practice for the SAT test, learn how the test is scored, review content and practice test-taking strategies. Moving forward, we will continue to offer the free class and hope to see enrollment climb.

Students in our FFA Program presented a *Healthy Living Forum* featuring discussions on the value of incorporating fresh fruit and produce into the diet of young children as well as sources for locally-grown crops.

Schools supported the 2010 Census initiative with take-home materials, electronic articles, posters and lessons in the classroom. We celebrated "Move Up Day" by giving rising first-, sixth- and ninth-graders a chance to tour the school they'd be attending in the fall. After riding buses to their "new" school, visitors were welcomed by student greeters, teachers and administrators. Each child received a free tee shirt and had a chance to explore the building, see a presentation about classes, homework and

expectations, and get answers to their most pressing questions including the dress code and expectations for summer reading. In May, at an event billed as "Five hot bands. Five hot sounds. One cool night!" Louis L. Redding Middle School played host to the fifth annual Appoquinimink Jazz Night. Featured performers included school-based bands and Middletown's own *Generations Band*, an all-ages group. The free concert was a huge hit and will return in the spring. High Schools continued their popular *Preview*

Night Event. Grade 8 students and their families were invited to meet with staff, tour the building with their families and get important information about our Ninth Grade Academy, courses and scheduling.

For the second year in a row, we were able to reduce the overall school tax rate in our district. Our stewardship efforts also included enhancing the district's budget document to include more information about tax rates, bonded debt and fund balances.

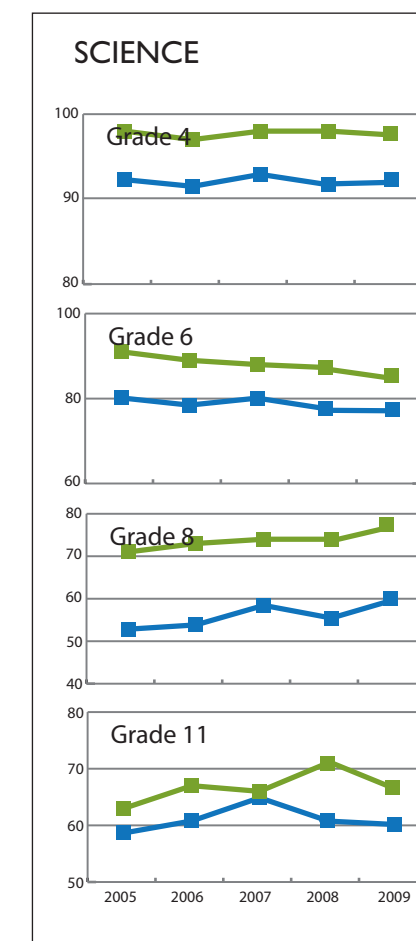
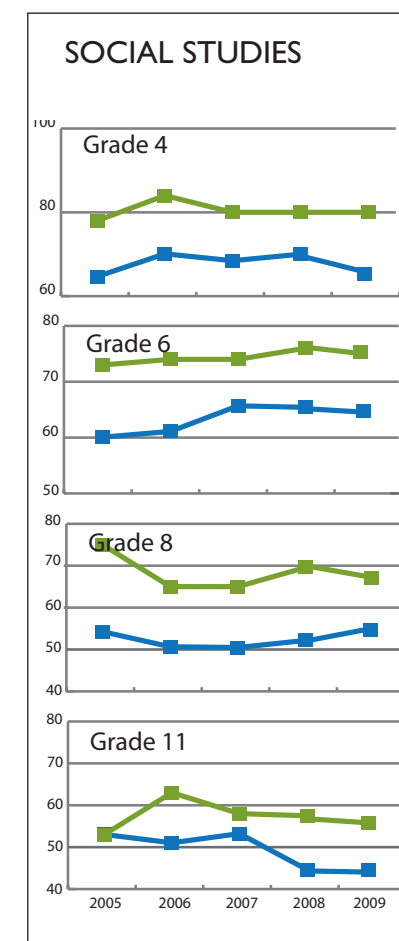
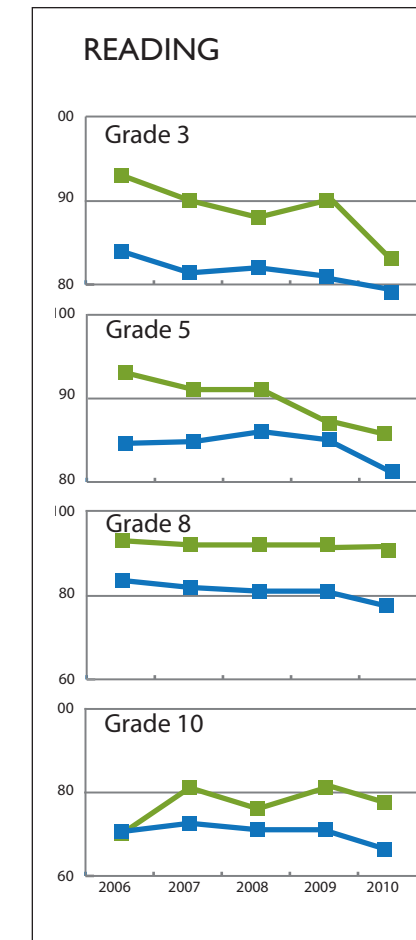
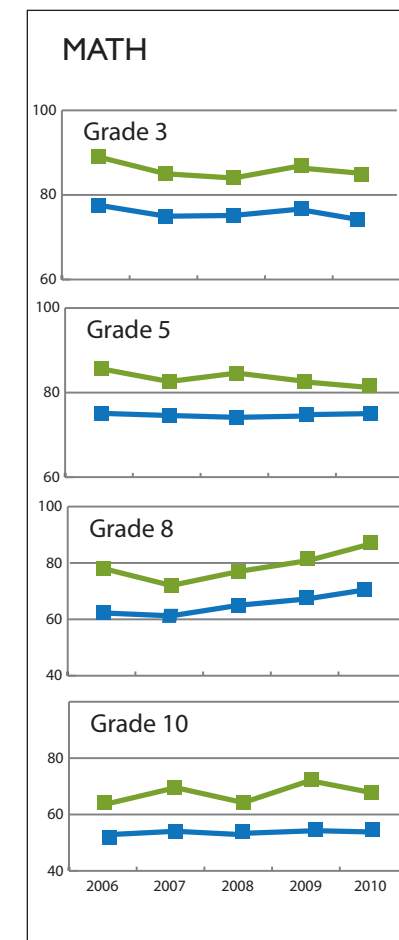


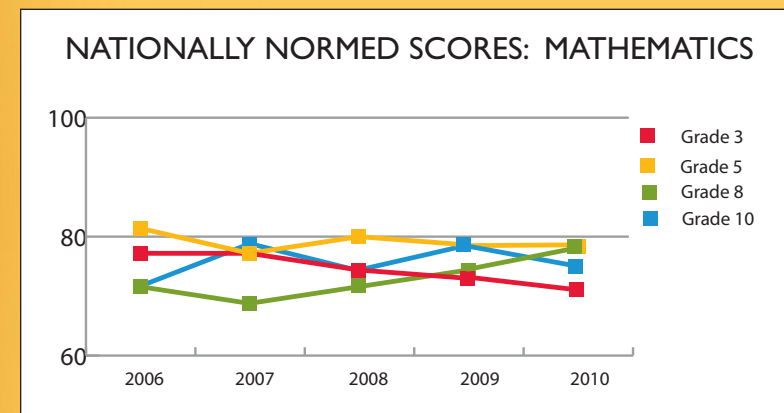
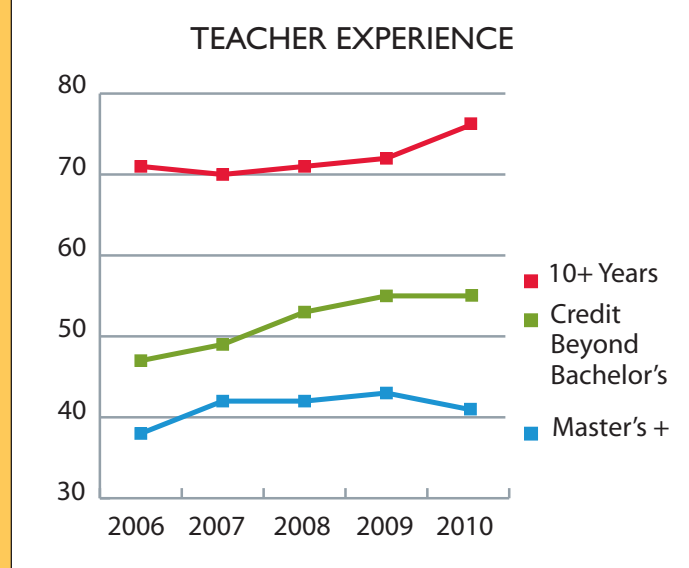
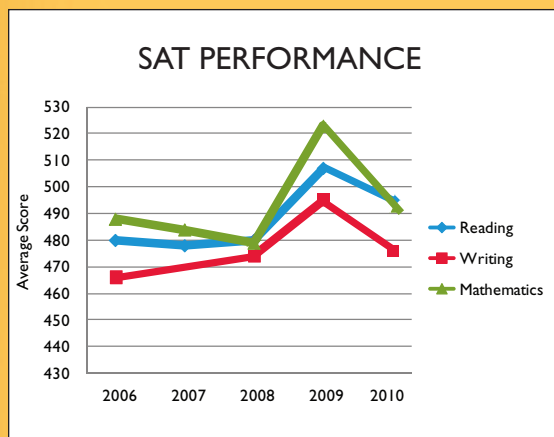
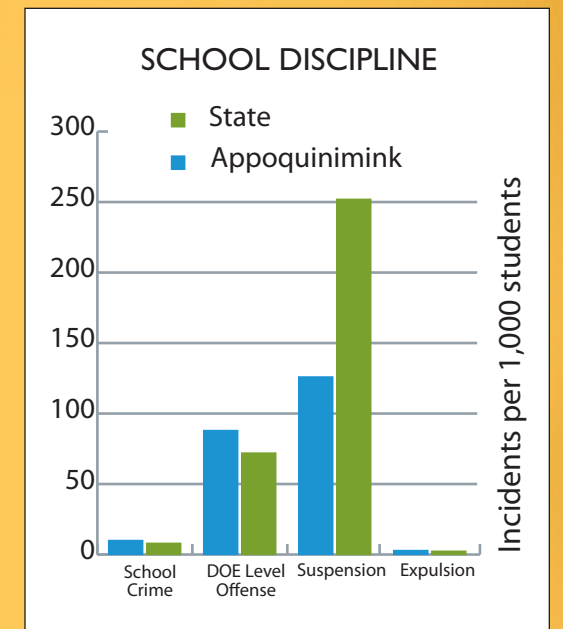
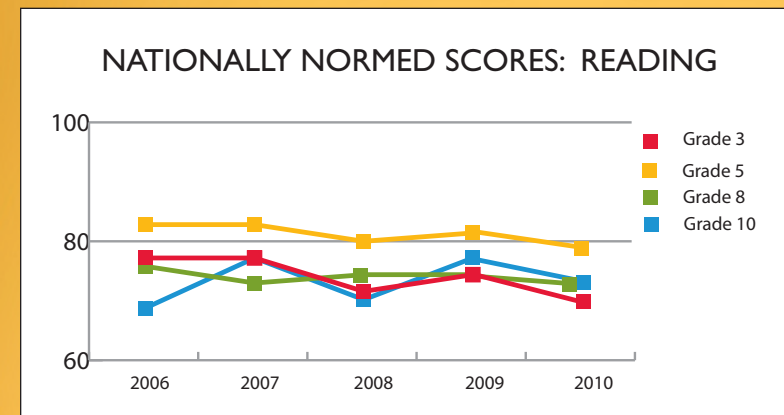
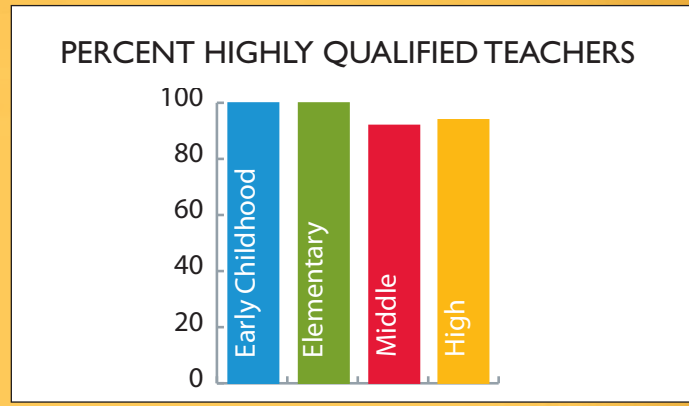
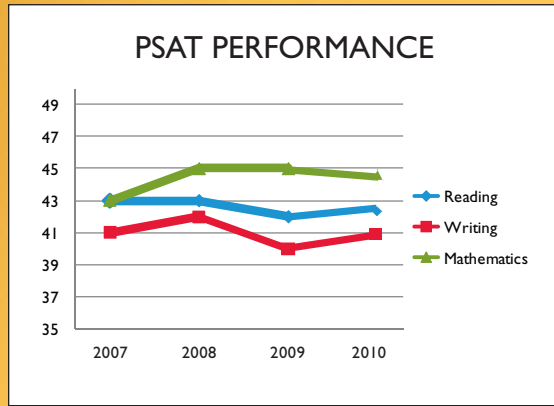
STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Delaware's student testing program measures academic progress in four content areas: Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies. These charts offer a look at how Appoquinimink students have performed over time and contrasts that information with average test scores for the state. Percentages denote the number of students who met or exceeded the state's standards by earning a score of 3 or above on the test. Appoquinimink's scores are shown in green, with the state averages appearing in blue. As you can see, ASD students have consistently outperformed their peers and continued to do so again last year, earning praise from our parents and the public.

COMMON CORE CONTENT STANDARDS

Delaware is participating in a 37-state, voluntary effort to establish shared educational standards in English, mathematics, science and social studies. Designed to ensure America maintains its competitive edge, the standards will gradually be incorporated into classroom studies over a five year period with full alignment expected by 2015.





SCHOOL CLIMATE

Daily Attendance Rate95%
 District Graduation Rate85.7%
 Based on National Governor's Association standard

