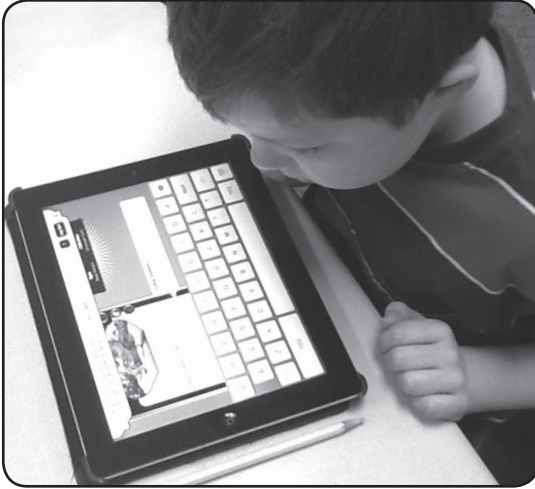




DISTRICT News

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 2013



iPads in the Classroom

In 2011, the Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) obtained funding to pilot the use of iPads in a select group of second grade classrooms. West Shore was one of five districts the CAIU chose to participate in the project's first year. The objectives of this pilot included exploring innovative ways to utilize iPads as instructional tools; focusing on iPad use in centers and small group settings; and utilizing iPads with educational apps to engage students, reinforce skills, and accelerate learning.

Due to the students' overwhelmingly positive response to utilizing iPads during centers and small group activities, the District purchased 240 iPads for use at the primary level, K-2. In January 2013, the District selected thirty teachers to incorporate the iPads into their daily instruction. These teachers used the iPads for instruction for half of the school day and the iPads were made available to all K-2 teachers for the remainder of the day. The District is excited about the instructional opportunities this device has afforded its students.

District Goals for 2013-2014

A good elementary and secondary education is absolutely critical for laying the foundation for success of our society. It continues to be our mission as educators to see to it that we provide our students with the best possible start on the road to a productive and successful life. To that end, over the course of the year, we will be focusing on the following three goals:

Goal #1 - Analyze data to inform and improve instruction, utilize proven instructional practices, and realign curriculum, where necessary, to ensure student success as measured by grade level proficiency targets on a variety of indicators including state standards, formal and informal assessments, PSSA, and Keystone Exams.

Goal #2 - Enhance the flow of information between and among various constituencies to ensure timely and pertinent items of importance are communicated. Effectively communicate opportunities available within the District, at all levels, for community support of curricular and extracurricular programs and initiatives and actively promote the engagement of community members in the District's educational program.

Goal #3 - Ensure the District's financial stability while providing a quality educational program for all students by continuing to explore and implement district-wide cost-savings measures and revenue producing initiatives. This will provide the best opportunity for the District to prosper in the future and withstand the challenging economic conditions we are currently experiencing.

We have an extremely dedicated staff working toward the achievement of these goals on a daily basis. We continue to applaud their commitment to student achievement and the overall well-being of our school community. As a District resident we welcome your questions and input. Please feel free to share your concerns or story ideas for future issues of *District News* with Dr. Ryan Argot at rargot@wssd.k12.pa.us



2013-2014 Budget

The budget process starts each October when principals, with input from their staff members, begin to develop budgets for the next school year. The process continues through the winter as principals meet several times with the Director of Business Affairs and the Assistant Superintendent to review requests and make necessary revisions. In December, the Board begins reviewing the budget with discussions on expenditures and revenue sources. As part of the review process, several taxation options, which comply with Act I guidelines, are presented to the Board of School Directors. The Board's review results in the approval of a tentative budget, which is on display for 30 days. Final adoption of the budget occurs after the public display period.

The 2013-2014 budget, containing the recommended tax levy, was approved at the board meeting on June 13, 2013. Additional information concerning the 2013-2014 budget may be found on the District's website.

Expenditures	2013-2014	% to Total
Instruction	60,895,939	63.29%
Support Services	27,678,644	28.77%
Non-Instructional Services	1,164,881	1.21%
Facilities	96,000	0.10%
Other Financing	6,378,150	6.63%
Total	\$96,213,614	100%

The 2013-2014 expenditure budget totals \$96,213,614. Over 92% of the budget is focused on instruction and support services.

These categories include classroom teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, classroom supplies, and more.

The 2013-2014 revenue budget totals \$96,118,267. The majority of the revenue budget comes from local sources, in particular real estate taxes. In accordance with the Public School Code, school districts must approve a balanced budget. Therefore, the difference between the budgeted revenues and expenditures is offset by the fund balance.

Revenue	2013-2014	% to Total
Local Sources	67,902,966	70.65%
State Sources	26,172,912	27.23%
Federal Sources	1,042,389	1.08%
Other Sources	1,000,000	1.04%
Total	\$96,118,267	100%

Homeowner Tax Relief

With the passage of Act 1 (Tax Payer Relief Act) of 2006, all approved homestead/farmstead properties are eligible for property tax relief from gaming revenue provided by the state. For the 2013-2014 school year, the total number of approved homestead/farmstead properties for Cumberland County and York County is 16,007.

On the real estate tax bill, this results in a \$80.74 reduction in the assessed value of each approved property. The reduction in assessed value for Cumberland County is \$8,589 and for York County it is \$6,449. Participation in homestead/farmstead relief is not mandatory nor is it automatic. Homeowners who are unsure if they qualify, or if their home has been approved, should contact their county's assessment office.

Summer Programs Support Year-Long Learning

The District provides many learning opportunities throughout the school year and over the summer. ESL Summer School, Extended School Year, and Title I COOL School are three programs which ran this summer for the benefit of eligible students.

ESL Summer School

English as a Second Language (ESL) Summer School is a Title III program aimed to foster enhanced reading and writing skills as well as cultural understanding of figurative language. This program was offered to all current students who participated in the ESL program during the 2012-2013 school year.

During the summer of 2013, ESL Summer School was held at Washington Heights Elementary. Six professional and three support staff members provided tutoring to students in the areas of reading, writing, and English language skills.

The program ran for three weeks after the end of the 2012-2013 school year and for three weeks prior to the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. Elementary students completed word work, research, book summaries, Reading A-Z, and played word games to keep their skills fresh and ready for the upcoming year. Secondary students focused on vocabulary and comprehension skills and strategies.

Students also participated in three field trips. At JW Music store in Lemoyne the students received a personalized tour and looked at a variety of different instruments (guitars, pianos, drums, etc.). Their second trip took the students to Rita's in Lemoyne where they watched a video on the franchise's history and sampled Italian Ice. The third trip was to Papa John's in Lemoyne where students were able to make and enjoy their own pizza.

Extended School Year

For many years, the District has provided Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) services to students with disabilities beyond the regular 180-day school year. All students with disabilities must be considered for ESY services each year.

Eligibility for ESY is based on several different factors including the length of time it would take a student to regain an already obtained skill if it was lost during a break in programming and the impact on the student's ability to maintain independence from caretakers. ESY is not day care, respite care, or recreation program; it is based on the goals and objectives in each student's IEP.

This summer, classroom based West Shore ESY services were held at Cedar Cliff High School, Red Land High School, and Washington Heights Elementary. Fifteen professional and thirteen support staff provided services to over seventy students.

Title I COOL School

Children Organizing Ownership of Learning (COOL) School is a Title I summer reading program aimed to help students maintain their reading and writing skills. This six week program is for Title I students who have completed grades one through four during the 2012-2013 school year.

During the summer of 2013, COOL School was held at Washington Heights Elementary. Three professional staff members provided literacy instruction to many District students.

Each week had a different theme and reading strategy focus. The groups began each session by reading aloud a story focused on the theme of the week. In the smaller groups, teachers emphasized the reading strategy. While the teachers were working with students in small groups, the other students rotated independently through work centers such as: read-to-self, word work, writing, and Raz-Kids, a fun website where students can read or listen to stories of their choice. The students worked hard to maintain excellent reading skills.



Mission Statement

The West Shore School District is committed to providing this generation with a quality education serving as a foundation for responsible and successful citizenship.

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Superintendent

Todd B. Stoltz, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

West Shore School District

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The West Shore School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws governing educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577. Revised 12-2012

Textbook Adoption Moves Forward

The District's instructional design process, which includes the writing, revision, and evaluation of curriculum, as well as the purchase of textbooks and other instructional materials to support the curriculum, typically follows a seven year cycle. Although the purchase of textbooks had been previously delayed, new science textbooks have been purchased for high school courses this summer. The science mini-curriculum committee spent several months reviewing textbooks from several publishers, including digital textbooks. Many of the new materials are available to students in electronic format, along with additional instructional materials to support classroom instruction.

The committee will continue its review of new textbooks for the middle school courses. During the 2013-2014 school year, the math mini-curriculum committee will be reviewing textbooks for purchase next year.

Working for the Students

With over 950 employees, West Shore is a major employer in southcentral Pennsylvania. While the largest group of District employees is the teaching/instructional staff, the District also employs several hundred individuals as bus drivers, food service employees, mechanics, custodians, secretaries, aides, and substitute teachers who each support the educational program in a variety of ways.

When vacancies arise, notice of such is posted on the employment page of the District website. All candidates for employment are required to provide current background clearances which support they have no record of offenses that would preclude them from employment in a public school.