



POINTS of PRIDE

INSPIRE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER

COMMUNITY
UPDATE

Winter 2024



COMING AUGUST 2024

See Page 2 for details about the District's new Intermediate Schools



2024-2025 STUDENT SCHEDULES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Grades K-4

8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL Grades 5-6

8:10 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL Grades 7-8

7:32 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9-12

7:32 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING

After much planning and design work, construction is well underway to open two new intermediate schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Fairview Intermediate is located on the existing Fairview Elementary site and Old Trail Intermediate is located on District property at the intersection of Valley and Beinhower Roads in Fairview Township. Next school year, these two schools will serve all of West Shore's students in grades five and six.

STUDENT LEARNING AT THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

From the early planning stages, we were determined to develop an intermediate program that provides engaging, developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for students in fifth and sixth grade. Students will have a minimum of 114 minutes for Core Courses (English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science) and 38 minutes each day for specials (Art, Music and Physical Education). Library will not be a scheduled class; instead, the learning commons will be utilized as a research and collaboration center and be staffed by a librarian five days per cycle. Band, Chorus and Orchestra will be offered at least two times per cycle for students who choose to participate. Intervention and Enrichment time will be provided during the WIN (What I Need) block and students will have one 30-minute recess period per day.



NEW ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

With the addition of two new intermediate schools and the closure of Fairview Elementary, we can begin the process of adjusting attendance boundaries for our elementary and middle schools.

The new attendance boundaries for students in kindergarten through eighth grade will allow us to better accommodate our growing District and result in each elementary, intermediate, and middle school aligning with Cedar Cliff High School or Red Land High School. This is known as a feeder school concept, and it will keep students with the same group of classmates from kindergarten through graduation. No changes are being made to the existing high school boundary line.

In accordance with the new attendance boundaries, on January 11, 2024, families of students currently in grades K-7 received an email with details on their child's school assignment for the 2024-2025 school year.

What is next?

We are committed to supporting students and families throughout our transition to these new attendance boundaries. As we approach next school year, families will receive additional information about activities planned to familiarize students with their new schools, new teachers and other staff, and new classmates.

COVER + OPPOSITE PAGE

Our Intermediate Schools are equipped with STEM labs in every classroom pod, a full-size gymnasium, a spacious cafeteria (pictured), a learning commons and three separate music spaces. Outside learning areas include play structures, field spaces, raised garden beds, an outdoor pavilion with solar panels and a water collection system.

Moving Ahead

FEASIBILITY PLAN TIMELINE

Projects have been broken into phases which show the sequence of construction.

Updated timelines for the first three phases of our Feasibility Plan are shown below.

PHASE 1: COMPLETED

- open new Rossmoyne Elementary (K-5)
- close Lower Allen Elementary
- demolish existing Rossmoyne

PHASE 2: 2024-2025

- open new Fairview and Old Trail Intermediate Schools
- demolish Fairview Elementary
- all elementary schools change to K-4, intermediate schools serve grades 5 and 6, middle schools change to grades 7 and 8, and high schools remain grades 9-12
- attendance boundary changes take place to align with existing high school boundaries

PHASE 3: 2026-2028

- renovations and additions made to Allen Middle School
- New Cumberland Middle School closes
- planning for the future of Fishing Creek and Newberry Elementary Schools



BUDGET UPDATE: 2024-2025 PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Each year, the West Shore School District strives to deliver a quality education for every student while adhering to fiscally responsible ideals. Those efforts continued with the development of the 2024-2025 budget.

At the December Board Meeting, an introduction to the preliminary general fund budget was presented to the community and members of the school board. The presentation, which can also be found on the Business Department page on the District website, included a historical look at local, state, and federal revenue.

The preliminary general fund budget at this stage in the budget process serves as the foundation for

the District's final budget. Currently, the budget includes many assumptions that could impact revenue and expenditures for the upcoming school year. The budget assumptions are dynamic and will change as more information is gathered throughout the budget process.

At its December 14, 2023 meeting, the Board adopted a resolution indicating they will not raise property taxes by more than the 6.2% adjusted index for 2024-2025. During the next several months, the Board and administration will continue to review and revise the preliminary budget and ultimately present a recommended budget for approval by the Board on June 13, 2024.

2022-2023 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

School districts are required to conduct an independent local audit of their financial statements each year. Boyer & Ritter, LLC, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, completed their audit of the District's funds for the 2022-2023 school year. The auditor's full report can be found on the Business Department page on the District website.

CURRENT PROJECTIONS FOR 2024-2025

Expenditures \$161,776,787

Instruction	63.34%
Support Services	27.86%
Non-Instructional Services	1.76%
Facilities	1.08%
Other Financing	5.96%

Revenue \$146,642,791

Local Sources	70.70%
State Sources	27.62%
Federal Sources	1.66%
Other Sources	.02%

IMPACT OF THE CYBER CHARTER FUNDING SYSTEM ON TAXPAYERS

Cyber charter schools have been in existence in Pennsylvania since 2002, but the funding formula used to calculate tuition is the same one established under the 1997 charter school law that authorized the creation of brick-and-mortar charter schools. As a result, cyber charter schools, despite not having to maintain a physical school building, receive the same tuition payment from school districts as charter schools teaching students in-person. Additionally, because each school district calculates its own unique tuition rates based on the school district's expenses, vastly different tuition rates are being paid to the cyber charter schools despite all students in the school being provided the same education at the same cost.

In 2020-2021, the West Shore School District spent an average of \$16,099.52 to educate each of our special education students. However, the District was required to pay outside cyber charter schools \$24,715.58 in annual tuition for special education students enrolled at their schools. All of the cyber charter schools reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education that their special education expenses were well below the amount they received from the District to educate those same students. The lowest is 21st Century Cyber which self reported that they spent \$7,170.69 for a special education student and the highest is Agora Cyber which reported spending \$15,774.56.

It is important for residents to note that, at this point in time, the projected total the District will spend to outside cyber charter schools for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is approximately \$9.8 million.

Unless there is a change in the cyber charter tuition formula, these expenses will continue to place a significant financial burden on the District and its taxpayers.

A CLOSER LOOK AT CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT TUITION OVERPAYMENT

The District was required to pay cyber charter schools \$24,715.58 in annual tuition for each District special education student who was enrolled at their school regardless of how much that school spent to educate the student.

CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL	SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT	EXPENSES PER STUDENT	SURPLUS PER STUDENT
21st Century Cyber Charter School	4	\$7,170.69	\$17,544.89
Capital Area School for the Arts	4	\$7,860.18	\$16,855.40
Insight PA Cyber Charter School	2	\$9,420.15	\$15,295.43
Commonwealth Charter Academy	86	\$9,445.69	\$15,269.89
PA Leadership Charter School	6	\$11,866.89	\$12,848.69
Reach Cyber Charter School	18	\$12,028.64	\$12,686.94
Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School	27	\$14,647.70	\$10,067.88
Agora Cyber Charter School	10	\$15,774.56	\$8,941.02

Student enrollment fluctuates throughout the year. Data reflects enrollment at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

WEST SHORE PROUD

OUR STUDENTS & STAFF CONTINUE TO GIVE US CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

West Shore Named an Outstanding Visual Arts Community by PAEA

For providing an art program that is rigorous and inclusive, highly accessible, and highly visible, West Shore was one of only 50 Pennsylvania school districts to be named an Outstanding Visual Arts Community by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA). This honor can be attributed to the dedication of our amazing art educators.



Marching Band & Color Guard Named USBands State Champs

The West Shore Marching Band and Color Guard had an incredible 2023 season. Honors our students and directors brought home included - first place at the USBands Pennsylvania State Championship with awards for Best Music, Best Visual, Best Color Guard, and Best Percussion; first place at the USBands Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship with awards for Best Overall Effect, Best Music, and Best Visual, Best Percussion; and second place at the USBands National Championship.



Farm Bill Grant Awarded

A PA Farm Bill Grant in the amount of \$6,143 was awarded to Mr. Justin Weaver, Cedar Cliff High School Science Teacher, and his Aquaponics students. The funding will be used to expand apiary education, (hands-on learning about beekeeping, pollination, etc.) to other West Shore schools.

U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Red Land High School ranked #9 out of 19 high schools in York County and in the top 40% of high schools in the country according to the 2023 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Rankings. Additionally, according to the 2024 U.S. News & World Report Best PA Middle and Elementary Schools Rankings, Allen Middle School ranked #254 out of 2,134 middle schools, and Red Mill Elementary ranked #355 and Fairview Elementary ranked #393 out of 2,978 elementary schools.

Outstanding Teachers Named by the Shippensburg University School Study Council

Two very deserving West Shore educators were named "Outstanding Teachers" by the Shippensburg University School Study Council.

Katherine Bright, Music Teacher at Fairview and Red Mill Elementaries, and Rebecca Diehl, Librarian at New Cumberland Middle School, received this honor for their service to our school community, dedication to our students, and commitment to ongoing professional development.



Cedar Cliff and Red Land Students Recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program

Two West Shore students have been named 2024 National Merit Commended Scholars. Congratulations to seniors Valerie Weigner, Cedar Cliff, and Sue Lingenfelter, Red Land. Of the over 1.5 million seniors who took the PSAT last year, commended students scored in the top 3% of the country's brightest seniors.

Making History

GIRLS WRESTLING TEAM

This school year, the District made history by approving girls wrestling as an official high school sport for Red Land and Cedar Cliff High School athletes. The girls wrestling team, which operates as part of the existing Red Land High School Wrestling program, includes students from both high schools and started its season strong with a win during its first home match in January.





“ We remain committed to providing students with inspiring and relevant experiences so they may live meaningful, purposeful, and impactful lives. ”

*Dr. Todd Stoltz
Superintendent*

ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

The District uses data from a variety of assessments during the school year to determine if we are meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of each student. Together, these assessments supply the District with a more complete profile of student achievement than any one of them could provide alone. As the District and schools analyze scores and testing data, we are able to implement changes necessary to increase student achievement and plan professional learning for teachers to help identify, promote, and support successful programs, effective curriculum, and strong instructional strategies.

FUTURE READY PA INDEX

The Future Ready PA Index, launched by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), is a collection of school progress measures related to school and student success. The Index includes a range of assessment, on-track, and readiness indicators to more accurately report student learning, growth, and success in the classroom and beyond. District scores provide insight into what students can do in terms of the content and skills assessed for each area. They are also a means of comparing test results with standards of academic performance. Overall, according to the Future Ready PA Index, our schools, like those across the nation, are seeing learning gaps and a decline in student achievement and growth in college and career measures. The District is committed to addressing these learning gaps and is in the process of developing a response to the data.



ENGAGING OPPORTUNITIES

PATHWAYS FOR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

Prior to graduation, all District high school students will chart their own personalized pathways for future careers inclusive of the skills, training and/or college degree necessary for achieving their postsecondary visions and plans.

EACH STUDENT'S PERSONALIZED ACADEMIC AND CAREER EDUCATION ROADMAP (PACER) MAY CONSIST OF:

- an entirely academic course of study or
- a blend of academic, technical, online, college in the high school or dual enrollment courses

WE WILL:

- ensure our high schools offer rigorous and relevant academics with flexible scheduling and coursework aimed at multiple pathways for students to become college and/or career ready prior to graduation
- ensure the necessary information and supports are in place along with high quality career and personal counseling
- ensure that students can develop meaningful connections and relationships with adults in the school and within the community

PATHWAY INTERNSHIPS

Students interested in applying the skills and knowledge they have learned and developed through specific courses in the high school curriculum, may elect to participate in a Pathway Internship for one or two semesters.

Each Pathway Internship is individually tailored to the skills and interests of the intern.



Jordan Kauffman, Red Land High School Senior, is exploring a career in education during her paid Pathway Internship at Newberry Elementary.

PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS

Thanks to the District's partnership with the York County Alliance for Learning (YCAL), students have the opportunity to participate in pre-apprenticeship programs designed to help them determine if pursuing an apprenticeship in a specific field is a good career fit. Pre-apprenticeship opportunities exist in building trades, electrical, and manufacturing.

WEST SHORE CONNECT

Transition planning helps young people with disabilities make a smooth transition into adulthood. West Shore Connect is one transition opportunity offered by the District for students between the ages of 18-22 who have completed four traditional years of high school. Through the program, students enroll at Central Penn College where they participate in age-appropriate opportunities and practice functional academic, social, and emotional skills.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Heidi E. Thomas, President
Kelly J. Brent, Vice President
David R. Brinton
Brenda L. Cox
Mandy L. Davis
Brian K. Guistwhite
Christopher J. Kambic
Abigail A. Tierney
Adam M. Trone

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board Meetings are held twice monthly, typically on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., at the Administration Center located at 507 Fishing Creek Road, Lewisberry.

A complete list of meeting dates can be found on the School Board page of the District website. Board and Committee Meetings are also livestreamed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

District students, parents, residents, taxpayers, partners, and community groups are encouraged to attend meetings and provide public comment. Comments may be made in person or submitted electronically.

Guidelines for public participation can be found on the School Board page of the District website.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

HACC CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCY

The District uses an online process to issue HACC Certificates of Residency. To be eligible for a resident fee discount at HACC, you must have been a resident of the West Shore School District on or before July 1. Please note, students need not re-apply every semester for a new certificate. The certificates are valid for the entire school year, July 1 through June 30. Additional details, including the online application, can be found on the District website under the Community tab.

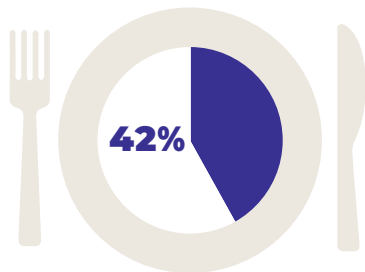
SENIOR GOLD CARDS

Senior Gold Cards are available to District residents age 62 and older. This card entitles seniors to free admission to all school-sponsored events, including home athletic events and musicals. To receive a Gold Card, residents need only bring proof of age and residence to the Administration Center. It is not necessary to renew the card each year. Once residents receive a Gold Card, they may enjoy its benefits year after year.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING RESOURCES AVAILABLE

In support of our ongoing commitment to the well-being of our staff and students, we have partnered with Care Solace to provide an additional layer of care for our community. Care Solace assists individuals in finding mental health care providers and substance use treatment centers. Their services may be accessed at no cost, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, and in 200+ languages. To utilize Care Solace, call 1-888-515-0595. A Care Solace team member will help you every step of the way to research options, secure appointments, and follow up to make sure it is a good fit. For anonymous help, answer a few questions to get matched with an extensive list of care providers at www.caresolace.com/westshore.

FAST FACTS: CLOSER LOOK AT OUR DIVERSE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



FREE + REDUCED MEALS

3,173 students, approximately 42% of our enrollment, are approved for free or reduced lunch. All students are eligible for breakfast at no cost this year.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

The District employs two School Social Workers to assist students and families with meeting their basic needs, including food, shelter and medical care.

81
STUDENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

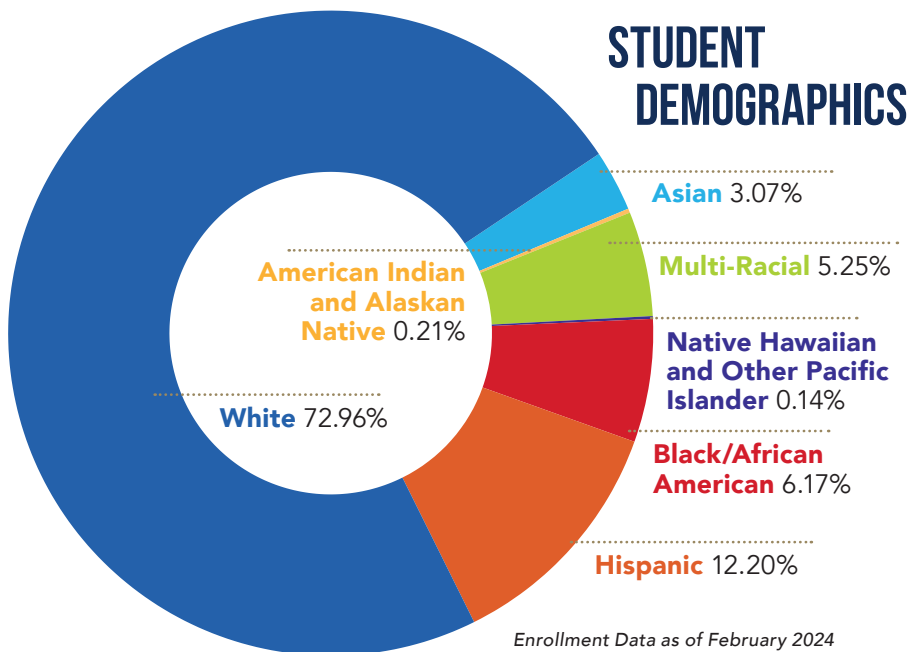
SPECIAL EDUCATION

This school year, the District is providing Special Education Services to **2,129 students** (1,651 with IEPs, 221 with GIEPs, and 257 with 504s). This represents 28.37% of the total enrollment.



ENGLISH LEARNERS

We currently provide English Language Development Services to more than **350 students**. 35 different languages are spoken by our English Learners.





WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER

507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803

New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803

717-938-9577 www.wssd.k12.pa.us

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024

After careful review and consideration of available dates for the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2024 will be held on Friday, June 7, 2024.

Cedar Cliff's ceremony will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Red Land's ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Parking at the Farm Show is free and all are welcome to join us. Both ceremonies will also be livestreamed.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Each month throughout the school year, the District's Communications Department publishes an electronic newsletter. To view the most recent issue of e-News, scan the QR code or visit the Communications page of the District website.

