



# Huntingdon Area School District

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

## MISSION:

*Our community engages all students to maximize their leadership potential as global contributors.*

## VISION:

*Our students achieve their fullest potential and experience success, leaving school inspired to continue learning every day.*

## VALUES:

*Safety, excellence, respect, integrity and lifelong learning.*

## School Performance Profile

The School Performance Profile (SPP) is a state-created measure that provides demographic data, academic data, and an academic performance score for public schools in the state. In the fall of 2016, Huntingdon Area School District received an academic performance score based upon test scores, progress in closing achievement gaps, and degree of student growth over time. Also factored into the score was graduation, promotion, and attendance rates along with evidence of rigorous course offerings.

The SPP score from 2015-16 is available on the site now, along with PSSA scores and district facts. The enclosed report, created by the HASD, supplements the state's Performance Profile and highlights the successes of our students, faculty, schools and district.

## Your child's future is important to us . . .

It is important for children to receive a well-rounded education where they are have opportunities to excel in areas of interest to them. This document highlights areas of excellence, provides important statistics and data and provides some information on the opportunities that are available for children in the HASD.

## HAHS Music Department Presents "Into the Woods"

The HAHS music department will be presenting Steven Sondheim and James Lapine's musical "Into the Woods" April 27, 28 and 29th. "Into the Woods" is a modern musical featuring fairy-tale characters from Brothers Grimm stories such as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, etc., as well as other characters including a Baker, his wife and a witch. The story follows the wishes of these characters to change their lives and the consequences that do not always lead to "happily ever after."

The musical, with a cast of 38 students, is being directed by Susan Bilich, Southside Elementary music teacher and her husband, John Bilich. For as little as \$2, individuals can sponsor a student and support our production. If you are interested in volunteering to help with one of many committees: costumes, set building and/or painting, ticket sales, baked goods for the shows, etc., contact the high school office at 814 643-1080.



## HASD Educational Foundation

HASDEF supports the belief that everyone can benefit from learning. We fund scholarships for graduating seniors and programs that support continuing education for staff and students. This program has paid for science materials, books, speakers, art projects, new technology and other educational based initiatives. Through our involvement in the State of Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, we have received significant donations from businesses that have paid for the Science in Motion program provided to our schools by Juniata College. HASDEF has also been fortunate to receive several large donations that are professionally invested to fund annual scholarships. To learn more about HASDEF, please visit the School District website ([huntsd.org](http://huntsd.org)) and use the quick link on the left hand side.



## School Wide Positive Behavior Support

School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPB) has been implemented at each of our buildings as a means to create a positive school environment and clear expectations for our students.

Using the SWPB guided model approach to teach clear expectations and positive behavior, faculty, staff, and the positive school wide student teams model positive behavioral expectations. By targeting instructional design and delivery, classroom/school arrangement, and rules and procedures, a significant number of school-wide behavioral problems are prevented, leaving staff with fewer individual problems to manage and increased instructional time.

The core expectations for positive behavior were developed at each of the buildings with student and staff input. At the high school, the core expectations were created using the acronym “BEARCATS” which focuses on the slogan: Be Engaged Act Responsibly Care About the Team Safety Throughout our school. Through this approach, students are rewarded on various levels for following the expectations. These reinforcements are implemented by all employees – principals, teachers, custodians, para-educators, cafeteria staff, etc.

At the middle school, the focus is on positive behaviors that exemplify PRIDE qualities: Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Everyone Together. Implementing this program with fidelity has decreased discipline referrals and created an overall positive school environment.

The elementary schools use the acronym CATS for their program which stands for: Choose to Be Safe; Act Responsibly; Think First; Show Respect. Standing Stone Elementary was recognized at the state level for implementing their program with fidelity at Universal Tier; Southside has been working on their implementation of Tier 2 Intervention and will be assessed in this year.

SWPB is not something new, it has been around for the last 20 plus years. Recently, it became an initiative for the state of Pennsylvania and more and more schools are adding this framework yearly. This program has brought common language, behavioral instruction and consistency to Huntingdon Area Schools.



# Senior High School Academic Program Highlights

## Dual Enrollment Classes

Huntingdon Area students have earned college credits while in high school by participating in Dual Enrollment courses. Students can take college courses through Juniata College, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, Indiana University, and Liberty.

## HAHS Online Academy

The district operates its own online school for the purpose of giving our students educational choices. Students can take all their classes online, or may use the academy to supplement their classroom studies or accelerate in their curriculum. Online classes follow the same curriculum and are taught by the same qualified teachers as our in-school classes. Online courses are noted as such on the transcript.

## Advanced Placement

The district offers 10 Advanced Placement courses: English 12, Chemistry, Calculus, Biology, US History I and II, Physics, Environmental Science & Ecology, Modern World History, and American Government & Economics.

## Technology

The district has a SMaRT Board in every general education classroom, as well as many supplemental rooms. Teachers and students also have access to Chromebook carts, iPad carts, computer labs and supportive instructional software. Students have the ability to work with technology during daily instruction, access information at a moment's notice and

## SAT and ACT Scores

The SAT and ACT are well-known tests used by colleges and universities as part of their entrance requirements. They are both aptitude and achievement tests. The SAT contains two sections: reading and math. The ACT contains: Reading, math, science, and English. In 2016, Huntingdon Area High School scores were above the national and state average on both the SAT and ACT tests.

Class of 2016	SAT Reading	SAT Math	ACT Composites
National	494	508	20.0
PA	500	506	23.1
HASD	514	521	24.1

## Class of 2016 Post Graduation Plans

- Four-year degree — 59%
  - 34 students went to private in state school
  - 28 went to Penn State University
  - 13 went to a Pennsylvania state universities
  - 7 went to a 4 year out of state college/university
- Certificate or two-year degree program — 11%
- Military — 7%
- Workforce — 16%



## Book Studies at HASD

### Inevitable by Charles Schwahn & Beatrice McGarvey

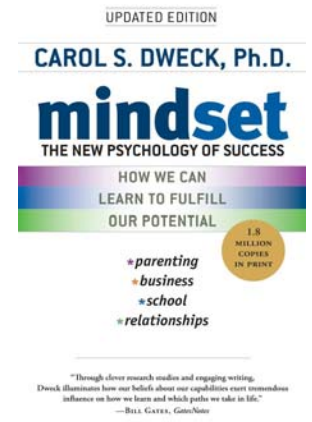
There are several teachers, parents, and community members that attend the Inevitable book study to discuss education and the possibilities of where education could be for students. Much of what will happen in the next twenty years is driven by technological trends that are already in motion. A group of educators and parents are participating in a book study at the secondary level. The book is Inevitable - Mass Customized Learning by Charles Schwahn & Beatrice McGarvey. The authors cast a vision and rationale for schools to make the shift from a mass production model to a mass customization model. The vision for schools of MCL is one that is learner-centered to meet the individual learning needs and interests of every learner every day.



### Mindset by Carol Dweck

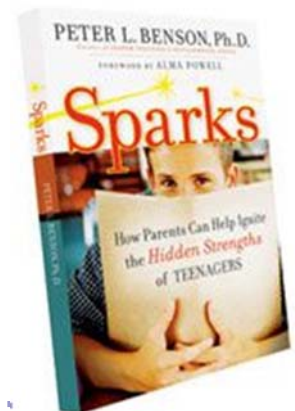
Many of our teachers, administrators, and a few students had the opportunity to participate in a book study – Mindset by Carol Dweck. In the book she talks about having a fixed mindset or a growth mindset. Dweck references three rules that nicely summarize the differences between the two mindsets.

<u>RULE #1</u>	<b>Fixed mindset:</b>	Look clever at all costs.
	<b>Growth mindset:</b>	Learn, learn, learn.
<u>RULE #2</u>	<b>Fixed mindset:</b>	It should come naturally.
	<b>Growth mindset:</b>	Work hard, effort is key.
<u>RULE #3</u>	<b>Fixed mindset:</b>	Hide your mistakes and conceal your deficiencies
	<b>Growth mindset:</b>	Capitalize on your mistakes and confront your deficiencies.



### Sparks by Peter Benson

A number of educators are participating in the book study Sparks by Peter Benson. Benson describes a simple yet powerful plan for awakening the spark that lives inside each and every young person. Sparks offers a step-by-step approach to helping teenagers discover their unique gifts and works for all families.



If you are interested in learning more about MCL, Mindset, and/or Sparks, please contact an administrator at HASD or check out the book by Schwahn & McGarvey, Dweck and/or Benson.

*Huntingdon  
Area Middle  
School  
Highlights*

## **Sustained Silent Reading and LitWits**

The Huntingdon Area Middle School teachers have entered a brave new world with the start of a new interactive read aloud period and dedicated SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) period. SSR has many benefits including: increasing comprehension, building vocabulary, and improving writing skills. Our school has begun the process of building classroom libraries for each teacher with the newest, challenging literature. The library has also focused on providing students with up to date materials to inspire the joy of reading in all of our students.

In addition to our SSR period, our library has continued to build on the LitWits program started last year. The LitWits program is a period of interactive read alouds for students and involves helping students focus on listening and comprehending the text. During the LitWits period this year, students have already investigated several challenging and fun books. During the week of Veteran's Day, many active and retired military servicemen were invited to read a story to the students. Following the reading, students were allowed to ask the readers questions and learn about their service. Many students thought it was cool. LitWits and SSR has helped, and continues to help, create an atmosphere that inspires students to read more.

## **Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)**

The middle school students have been busy in STEM this year! Sixth grade started off the year with a two-part flight unit. During this unit, our students learned about the different forces that affect flight, calculated speed using their measured distance and flight time, and researched famous astronauts. With a small group of their peers, students designed, built, and tested a water bottle rocket and a paper airplane. Continuing with the space travel theme, our sixth grade students started learning about heat in order to design a heat shield that would protect an egg-stronaut. This unit was modeled after the heat shield tiles that NASA uses to protect astronauts as their space shuttles return to Earth. Before designing and building their heat shields, the students learned how to convert between the three temperature scales, Fahrenheit, Celsius, and Kelvin, and how heat moves through conduction, convection, and radiation. Using what they had learned, the students created a heat shield out of materials like aluminum foil, wire mesh, felt, steel, and spackle.

Seventh and eighth grade began the year learning about electricity and magnetism. They explored the relationship between electric currents and magnetic fields and learned how to create a circuit. Using this information, the students designed an electromagnetic apparatus that allowed a pop-up card to open itself. Thanks to the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant, our students also designed and built a float for the Homecoming Parade during this time. Next, the seventh and eighth grade students started a plant unit where they learned about the different characteristics of plants, the various adaptations of invasive plants that allow them to survive and thrive anywhere in the world, and how to design something in three-dimensions using CAD. The students designed a trail sign that will be 3D printed and placed along a local nature trail in the spring.



## Elementary School Highlights

**The New Elementary Report Card** was developed at the end of the 2015-2016 school year by a committee of teachers across grade levels. This reporting tool is more closely aligned to the current curriculum that is in place at each grade level. This report card is standards-based, uses a consistent scale for each reporting item and gives more room for teachers to add more comments. The new scale for measuring student growth is a 1 through 4. More information is available [http://huntsd.org/?page\\_id=9363](http://huntsd.org/?page_id=9363)

**The Writing Curriculum** was reviewed and revised during the 2015-2016 school year and is currently being implemented. The curriculum is aligned with PA Core Standards and includes Focus Correction Areas (FCAs) that teachers use to help students improve their writing throughout all content areas. Teachers meet monthly to review student work and the assessments we use to measure student progress.

**Data Analysis** procedures at the elementary level are progressing with the addition of our On Hands program and continuation of our Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTII) process. This year is a transition year, but we are putting in place a system that will warehouse all student achievement data in one place. This will give faculty the ability to look at each student's achievement data, discipline data and attendance to get a complete picture of the child's strengths and areas of growth. This allows for closer monitoring, greater ability to provide interventions and enrichment.

## School Budget Facts

### Budget

2016-17 Budget: \$28,139,294  
 Millage Rate: 40.35  
 (one mill generates \$222,531)  
 Fund Balance: \$4,942,237

### Funding Sources

Local: \$12,166,019 (44.81%)  
 State: \$14,2228,967 (52.40%)  
 Federal/other: \$757,293 (2.79%)

### Real Estate Taxes

Real Estate Tax is levied on the value of land and buildings owned by individuals and businesses. The assessed values are established by the county assessment office. They determine the assessed value by applying the common level ratio to the market value. The ratio for 2015 in Huntingdon County was 24.3%. The common level ratio is calculated by the Tax Equalization Division (TED). The Tax Equalization Division (TED) (formerly PA State Tax Equalization Board (STEB) was established by the General Assembly in Act 447 PL 1046, 1947, to compensate for the lack of assessment uniformity statewide in distributing school subsidies. A uniform tax millage rate is then levied against the assessed value of each property. One mill is equivalent to \$1.00 of tax for each \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

*How to Compute Assessed Value for a home purchased or built in current year:* Market Value (times) Common Level Ratio = Assessed Value

*How to Compute Real Estate Tax in any year:* Assessed Value (times) Millage Rate = Real Estate Tax

## School Board

Richard Scialabba, President

Danyle Shea, Vice President

Lucinda Dell

Susan Grainey

Apryl Hawn

Janice Metzgar

Carolyn Payne

Tammy Peterson

Ian Thompson

Carl Beard, Solicitor

Faith Swanson, Treasurer

Janet Shaffer, Board Secretary

## Superintendent

Fred Foster

## Administration

Dr. Patricia Wargo, Director Of Education

Faith Swanson, Business Manager

Robin Whitsel, Director of Pupil Services

Cynthia Ritchey, Assistant Director of Pupil Services

Margaret McNitt, Director of Food Services

Andrew Socie, Director of Building and Grounds

David Meyers, Director of Technology

## High School/Middle School

Deborah Luffy, Principal

Nick Payne, Assistant Principal High School

Zach Treese, Assistant Principal Middle School

## Elementary Schools

### Standing Stone Elementary

Dr. Kim Rieffannacht, Principal

Shawn Kopp, Assistant Principal

### Southside Elementary

Sean Powers, Principal

## District Facts

### Population of HASD Community:

Families	4448
Adults 18 & Older	17,042
Under 18	3405
(Source 2010 Census)	

### Enrollment 16-17

High School	600
Middle School	449
Standing Stone	506
Southside	386
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>1941</b>

### District Personnel

Faculty	163
Support Staff	97
Administrative Staff	15

### Faculty Experience

5 years or less	42%
Six to ten years	17%
Eleven to Nineteen	28%
<u>Twenty or more</u>	<u>13%</u>
Master's degree or beyond	33%



## School Addresses

### Huntingdon Area High School

2400 Cassady Avenue Huntingdon, PA 16652  
(814) 643-1080

### Huntingdon Area Middle School

2500 Cassady Avenue Huntingdon, PA 16652  
(814) 643-2900

### Southside Elementary School

10906 Station Road Huntingdon, Pa 16652  
(814) 627-1100

### Standing Stone Elementary

Ten 29th Street Huntingdon, Pa 16652  
(814) 643-0771