

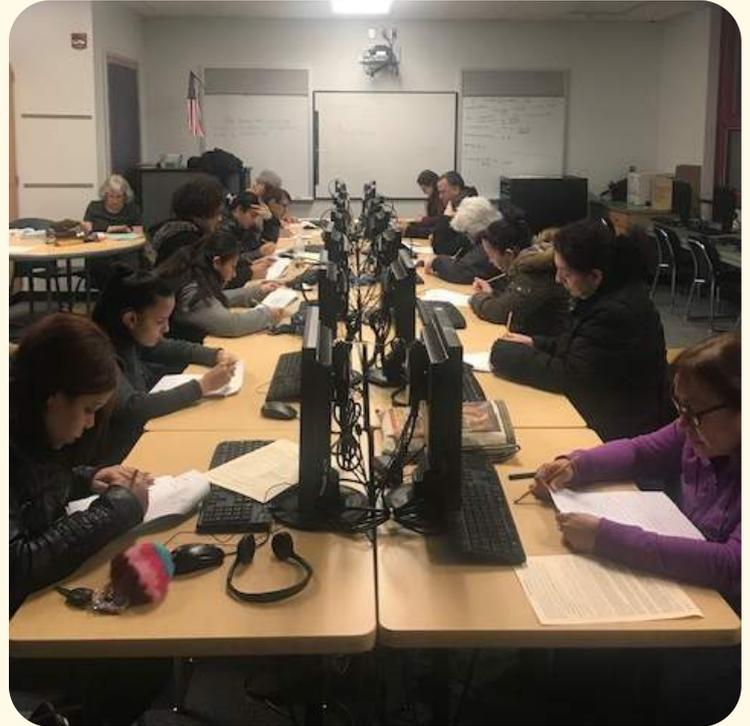
BEARCAT BULLETIN

Newsletter of the School District of the City of York

Evening English classes empower parents

About a quarter of all York City students are learning English as a second language. An even larger percentage of students' families speak a native language other than English. In recent years, the School District of the City of York has expanded its offerings of free English-as-a-second-language classes to the parents and guardians of its students. About 45 people have signed up for the latest round of classes that began in January and will end in May.

Below, bilingual outreach worker Gabriela De Hart explains the history and goals of the program.



Q: Why does the District offer free English classes to the parents and guardians of our students?

A: Our mission says that we are a learning community and we educate the whole child. This means that parents are part of the child's education at home. By offering English classes to the non-English speakers, we are giving them the tools they need to help and support their child with school assignments at home. Also, by offering these classes, we give them confidence to be more involved in school and in the community.

Q: What can you tell us about the diversity of the parents/guardians who take the classes?

A: We have participating parents from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, China and Egypt.

Q: Tell us about what happens in a typical class.

A: All classes are given in English, of course. We start with vocabulary words, which they practice in small groups. We show them how to use those words in questions, and then they work in pairs/small groups asking different questions related to the topic of the day. Sometimes we play games with them or have small competitions to reinforce the meaning and use of the vocabulary words.

Q: In these classes, what does success look and feel like?

A: Parents tell us how they are able to understand a little more English and how they are able to use that knowledge at work and at home to help their children with homework assignments.



At Ferguson, Spanish teacher combines creativity and communication



Students in Mr. Brian Miller's Spanish classes (K-Grade 4) at Ferguson K-8 recently enjoyed learning the story "El Muñeco de Nieve."



This fun story provided an opportunity to learn words related to the body parts of the snowman (ojos, nariz, boca, brazos) as well as winter clothing items (gorro, guantes, botones).



In addition to TPR (Total Physical Response) activities to pre-teach key vocabulary, students practiced reading (interpretive communication) their own mini-books of the story.



Students also had the opportunity to create their own snowman out of Play-Doh and talk about their snowman in Spanish (presentational communication).



Continued from Page 1: English classes build bridges to new neighbors

Q: How do you know you've made a positive difference for a family?

A: Parents feel more confident to engage in school activities. We know we've made a positive difference when we see our parents taking active roles at their child's school. For example, one of those parents just became a parent liaison for Jackson!

Q: As a bilingual outreach worker, what do you wish the broader community understood about the students and parents you work with?

A: I wish the community understood that moving to York from another country is a BIG change for both the parents and the kids. Adapting to a new culture can be difficult at times. The parents I work with are caring, friendly hard workers who have a lot of respect for teachers.

Q: What do you want us to know about our neighbors who speak or are learning English as a second language?

A: They have the desire to learn and speak English but sometimes feel embarrassed about saying the wrong thing. If they speak their native language in front of English speakers, it doesn't mean that they are rude or that they are talking about them. They just feel more comfortable speaking in their native language. I would encourage people to be patient and willing to help these parents learn a new language.



STEAM ACADEMY STUDENTS SHINE FOR REP. HILL-EVANS

STEAM students had a tremendous evening at state Representative Carol Hill-Evans' Open House on January 24.

For the second year in a row, a 6th grader from the STEAM Academy won the Community Service Essay from entries all over the 95th District. Malcolm Wilson won for his creative idea about community block parties.

Josue Jaimes-Casillas' essay won honorable mention, a new category Hill-Evans created because Josue's essay on suicide education moved her so deeply.

Two teams of 5th grade students presented their project of following the Design Thinking Process to advocate and make change toward public health issues in York County.

One is an anti-opioid district-wide campaign, and another is a 3D printed prototype for a prosthetic arm to allow for guitar playing for the physically disabled.

In addition, 4th graders presented how they are incorporating coding Dash and circuitry to light up a geometry city.

Our students impressed Carol Hill-Evans so much, she offered them a trip to the Capitol floor and lunch to speak about their initiatives.

-- Jennifer Swartz, STEAM teacher



Josue Jaimes-Casillas



Malcolm Wilson



William Penn music students to perform at Special Olympics

The Music Department of William Penn Senior High School is proud to announce that the William Penn Sax Ensemble +1 has been invited to perform during the opening ceremonies of the Pennsylvania Special Olympics Indoor Winter Games on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at the York Expo Center.

York County has won the bid to host the PA Special Olympics Indoor Winter Games for the next three years. The events that will be taking place are field hockey, bowling, figure skating and speed skating. The event, which is expected to bring 600 athletes and 400 coaches to York County, is taking place March 2-3, 2019.

Please join us in wishing the William Penn Sax Ensemble +1 the best of luck. This is a great honor for the students and their families, for William Penn High School, the School District of the City of York and the City of York community.



YORK CITY
The Caskey Group

Vote

Vote for York City!

Six 8th graders at the Edgar Fahs Smith STEAM Academy have created a video for the annual "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?" contest produced by MANTEC.

In the South Central PA category, STEAM students are up against 20 other schools from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties. The STEAM video features the printing and communications company Caskey Group.

Each contest features an online vote for its Viewers Choice Award. Voting opens TODAY -- Wednesday, Feb. 6 -- and closes Friday, Feb. 8. You may vote as many times as you want. See the video and VOTE at mantec.org/vote.

Two William Penn seniors honored for "Living the Dream"

As part of its Annual MLK Day of Service, Crispus Attucks honors local youth with Living The Dream awards. This award is earned by junior and senior students who exemplify Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy through academic efforts, community service, and leadership.

Two William Penn Senior High School students received the award on January 21. Both young women were recognized for their commitment to academic achievement, community service and leadership.

Destinee Burgos, a senior, is a member of the National Honor Society and is ranked near the top of her class with a GPA of 4.1.

She is also a volunteer with the United Way, the York YWCA, and the York Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. She serves as a class officer for the Class of 2019 and also works at a local nursing home with her mother.



Amiia Martin



Destinee Burgos

Amiia Martin, also a senior, challenges herself academically with honors courses and dual enrollment. At William Penn, she has found a passion for the performing arts.

Ms. Martin is also an active volunteer for school events and serves in an advisory role as the student member on the district's Board of School Directors.

Communities in Schools pilots 'walking school bus' at Hannah Penn

Through the Communities of Hope initiative to boost community support for York City families, Communities in Schools has begun offering a "Walking School Bus" for Hannah Penn students on Mondays.

A Walking School Bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school, or as structured as a planned route with meeting points, a timetable and a schedule of trained volunteers.

CIS is organizing a structured plan for Mondays to keep kids safe and encourage students to arrive to school on time. For more information, contact Kiersten Sutton at (717) 849-1256, ext. 2137.



William Penn offers academic help, credit recovery at Saturday School

Every Saturday through the end of the school year, William Penn Senior High School is offering "Saturday School" to all students.

This is an opportunity for students who might be struggling academically to get some extra help from teachers and/or take "credit recovery" classes to stay on track for graduation.

Students who have failed a class required to graduate can enroll in an Edmentum (computer-based) class. Upon successful completion of the course, they "recover" the credit.

Saturday School is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Saturday. Enter through the Princess Street doors. Talk to your (or your child's) guidance counselor for more information!

As of March 1, 2017, all Registrations will be accepted at the District Administration building located at 31 N. Pershing Avenue. Individual buildings will not accept new enrollment of students!



Registration:
We strongly encourage you to utilize Online Registration to Register your child for Kindergarten, for the 2019-2020 school year.
You can do so by visiting:
www.ycs.k12.pa.us/our-district/registration/
You can begin online registration February 1st, 2019.
If online registration is not feasible for you, you may visit the YCSD Administration Office at 31 N. Pershing Avenue, York on the following dates to register in person.
March 11th, 15th, 25th & 29th
April 8th and 12th
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

York City School District Kindergarten Registration



Your Child Must be 5 Years old on or before August 31, 2019

The following documents must be submitted at Registration:

- Original/Legal Certificate of Birth (Birth Certificate)
- Proof of Immunizations
- Proof of Residency in the York City SD
- Photo identification of the parent/legal guardian of the student

Please contact Central Registration if you have questions - Phone: (717) 845-3571 Ext. 4029 or 4025

Kindergarten registration open online for 2019-20

The School District of the City of York has begun accepting online registrations for 2019-20 kindergarten students.

Children must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2019 to register for kindergarten during the 2019-20 school year.

Online registration is available at:
www.ycs.k12.pa.us/our-district/registration.

Parents/guardians can also register their children for kindergarten at the District Administration building, 31 N. Pershing Ave, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates. No appointment is necessary.

Monday, March 11
Friday, March 15
Monday, March 25
Friday, March 29
Monday, April 8
Friday, April 12

The following documents must be submitted at Registration:

- Original/legal certificate of birth (child's birth certificate)
- Proof of child's immunizations
- Proof of residency in the York City School District
- Photo identification of the child's parent/legal guardian

For more information, please contact Central Registration at (717) 845-3571, extension 4029 or 4025.

IN BRIEF

Music Department fundraiser will defer student travel costs

Consider supporting the William Penn Music Department -- and showing your school spirit -- with the purchase of a Bearcat logo window cling.

The window clings can be used in your car, classroom or home. Window clings are 4 x 6 inches in size and cost \$5.

The profits will be used to defer student travel expenses.

Send cash or checks payable to the "William Penn Music Department" to Sarah Kafferlin (William Penn) via interoffice mail.



Public invited to hear York City girls tell their story Feb. 10

Two girls who live in the Salem Square neighborhood of York City have produced a film and are inviting the public to see it for free Sunday, Feb. 10.

The event begins at 3 p.m. and is being held at Lincoln Charter School, 559 W. King St.

The event, which was funded in part by the York County Community Foundation, will also include a neighborhood photo exhibit, musical entertainment and food.

Three William Penn students chosen for York County High School Honors Band Festival



Congratulations to three student musicians who were selected to represent William Penn Senior High School and the School District of the City of York in the annual York County High School Honors Band Festival.

The students are Rolando Giron (11th grade/alto sax), Gage Shackelford (11th grade/trumpet) and Jose Jaimés-Casillas (11th grade/alto sax). These students joined about 120 other high school band students representing all 16 school districts from across York County at a two-day festival on February 1 and 2.

This year's festival was hosted by Rod Meckley from West York High School, with guest conductor Dr. Matthew Inkster from York College of Pennsylvania.

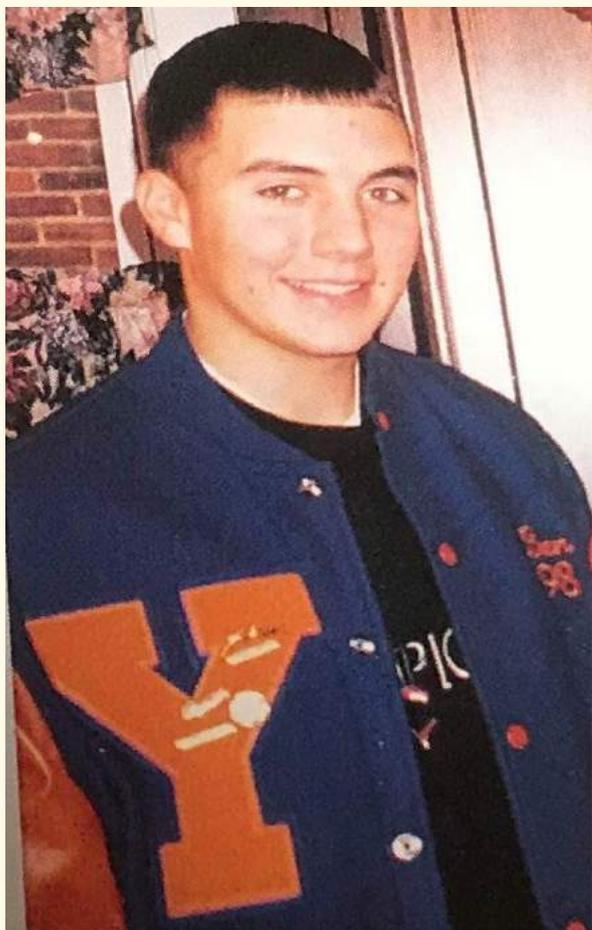


Three students at Devers K-8 were recognized recently by York City Mayor Michael Helfrich for winning the "Keep York Beautiful" poster contest.

Congratulations to RonNayzshia Carter (7th grade), Nataliya Torres (6th grade) and Salina Claudio (6th grade),

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



BEN OLEWILER

Class of 1998

After graduating from William Penn Senior High School, Mr. Olewiler attended Mount Saint Mary's College to major in Elementary Education. He taught briefly at the former Edgar Fahs Smith Middle School and in Red Lion. Then, for 15 years, he taught grades 3/4 for the South Western School District. He recently returned to York to teach at the new E. F. Smith STEAM Academy. His wife, Kara Olewiler, is also a teacher. They have two children -- Karter, 9, and Kinley, 3. The Olewiler family resides in York New Salem.

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER, AND WHY?

My favorite teacher was Mr. Thomas, who taught philosophy. Mr. Thomas had a way to engage you every day, either with a question or a problem. He was able to pull you in instantly and make the learning and objectives relevant to me personally.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?

My greatest achievement so far in life is raising balanced children. Being a parent is easy. Being a good parent and instilling balance and morals into a family is difficult. I strive to do the same in my classroom and in my home.

WHAT'S ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD SHARE WITH TODAY'S STUDENTS?

There are times you win and times you lose. Not everyone comes in first. Not everyone is the best. But that's OK. Understanding WHY is more important than the end result. I'd rather fail a million times and understand why than win once and not know how I got there.

WHY ARE YOU PROUD TO BE A BEARCAT?

Coming back to York City has rekindled a fire that I had in high school. Bearcats are a force to be reckoned with. While we all struggle in our own ways, I am proud to have graduated from York High. When I say I'm a Bearcat I get all kinds of reactions. Now that I'm teaching in York City, I get even more. The positive reactions are a reassurance that others know who we are and what we stand for. The negative reactions are just people who haven't seen what we can do.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



AARON KRAFT

Class of 2006

After graduating from William Penn Senior High School, Mr. Kraft attended Penn State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication arts and sciences. After college, he worked for the Crispus Attucks Charter School as a case manager for students. Today, Mr. Kraft is the national operations coordinator for a large company that repairs hydroelectric turbines. Now 29, Mr. Kraft lives in York.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?

I have a board up on my wall that has about 30 thank you letters from students that I helped in some capacity. Sometimes I read it and miss what I used to do. I helped students who others had given up on. I used to have a phrase to bring them back to earth when they were mad/upset/sad/scared/crazy/everything else. I would look at them in the eyes and say, "Have I let you down yet?" My greatest achievement professionally is never having to hear the word 'yes' when I asked that question.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

What a question. I guess for me it's about living a life you can be proud of and setting an example for others. If that means pursuing your dreams, then good. If that means traveling the world, then good. If that means securing a steady job so that you can escape the whirlwind that you experienced in life, then good. We're all running different races, so how can we all have the same finish line?

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU WOULD SHARE WITH TODAY'S STUDENTS?

You can't control the way people act. You can only control the way that you react to others. Don't let anyone else's actions determine how you make your choices or form your opinions.



WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?

I miss being able to spend time with all my friends every single day. As you get older you realize that those occurrences become less and less frequent. Now it takes weeks or months of planning from everyone to do what we used to do every day during "B" lunch.