

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**WE CHAMPION
INNOVATION**

**WE CELEBRATE
COMMUNITY**

**WE DEMONSTRATE
SPORTSMANSHIP**

**WE DEFINE
SCHOOL SPIRIT**

Dear Avon Grove Community Members,

Avon Grove School District (AGSD) is pleased to share our annual report to the community. During the 2018-2019 school year, the District continued to increase educational, curricular and co-curricular opportunities for the students we serve. We are proud of our dedicated students, enthusiastic employees, and our parents and community members who partner with us on a pathway toward excellence.

Sincerely,

M. Christopher Marchese, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Tracy Lisi, President, Board of School Directors (2018-2019)
William Wood, President, Board of School Directors (2019-2020)



FACILITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

New High School Construction Project

AGSD recognizes the key role that school buildings play in the District's mission: to foster a learning environment for all students to be exceptionally well-prepared to succeed and lead full and meaningful lives. In consideration of our mission, the majority of the District's efforts this year concerning the comprehensive facilities plan pertained to the design development of the new high school.

In August 2018, the District formed an integration committee comprised of administrators, members of the Board and representatives from KCBA Architects and D'Huy Engineering to steer the project. The committee kept the project on track by meeting bi-weekly throughout the year.

The Avon Grove School Board approved the proposed project budget and the schematic design plan for the new high school in September. In November, the Board approved

a parameters resolution for the project with financing not to exceed \$127 million.

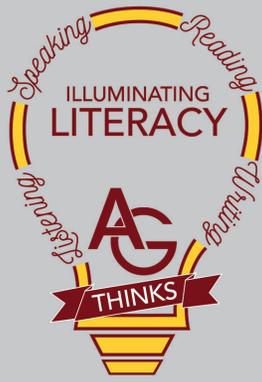
PennDOT completed traffic studies of the surrounding area and suggested modifications, including the widening of roads and installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Route 796 and Old Baltimore Pike. Additionally, geotechnical soil evaluations were conducted at the construction site for the new Avon Grove High School (AGHS), which was renamed The Jennersville Campus.

By the spring of 2019, the District completed value engineering to improve the efficiency and decrease the operating costs of the building. The design development phase was completed in early summer and plans were submitted to Penn Township for review by the Planning Commission. The final design plan estimate proposed a total project cost of \$105 million for the new AGHS.

For the most up-to-date information, visit:
www.avongrove.org/facilities-1



Conceptual design of the new Avon Grove High School, courtesy of KCBA.



designed and developed a formal curriculum for English Language Development (ELD) instruction. To support the implementation of this new curriculum, extensive research was conducted in order to identify the most appropriate curricular resources, which will be incorporated during the 2019-2020 school year.

Social-Emotional Learning

The District focused on implementing Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) on a broader level during the 2018-2019 school year. SEL efforts included the implementation of the Freshman Mentor Program at AGHS, where juniors and seniors mentor incoming freshman to support student success during the transition to AGHS.

Multiple teachers and administrators took part in an SEL consortium with Thom Stecher and Associates, a network of educators who assist districts in achieving the highest level of student potential through social and emotional well-being. The consortium involved nine, full-day sessions and focused on SEL related topics for each school.

Many of the consortium participants also contributed to the AGSD SEL Leadership Team, which met monthly to establish the District's SEL goals and develop methods to integrate SEL concepts into the curriculum. The work of the SEL Leadership Team and other SEL professional development will continue throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Illuminating Literacy

The 2018-2019 school year brought about a renewed focus on literacy as the foundation for all learning. The theme of "Illuminating Literacy" was established during the 2017-2018 school year by a Literacy Panel comprised of teachers from multiple content areas and across all District schools. Several initiatives were then created and implemented to support this theme.

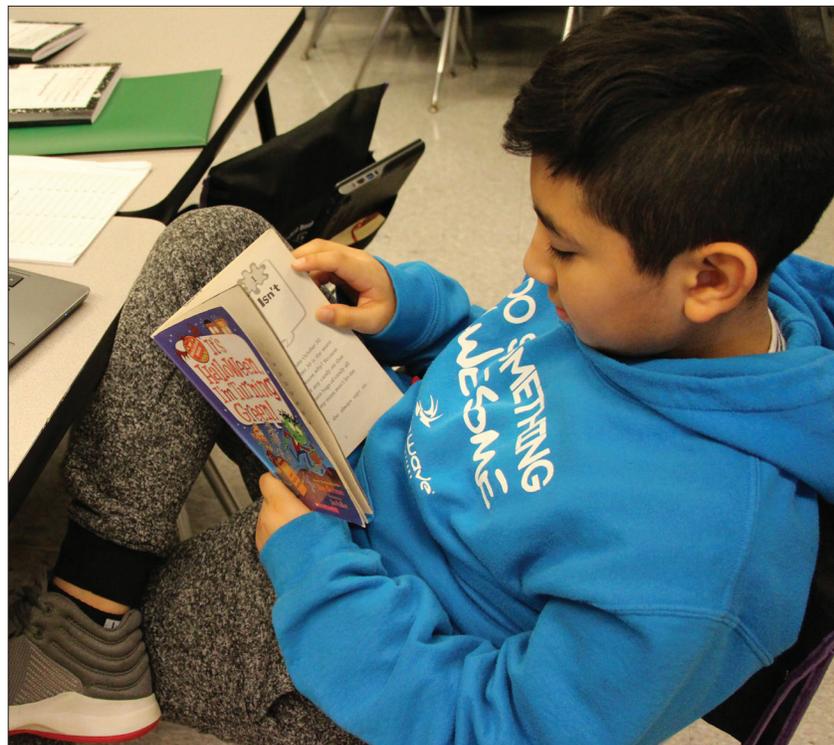
During quarterly professional learning sessions, the Literacy Panel explored relevant literacy topics such as academic vocabulary, literacy-rich classroom environments and disciplinary literacy. In addition, English Language Arts (ELA) engaged in stage one of the curriculum review cycle, which included revising the curriculum documents and implementing a new resource for ELA in grades K-8.

Through the collective efforts of many educators, a comprehensive, AGSD-specific plan for literacy now exists. Modeled after the Pennsylvania State Literacy Plan, the AGSD plan, "Illuminating Literacy," establishes the AGSD beliefs for literacy, solidifies the AGSD Literacy Framework and identifies an action plan to address areas of growth in future years.

Language Instruction Educational Program

AGSD served approximately 450 English Learners during the 2018-2019 school year. With an increasing English Learner enrollment and more stringent requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the 2018-2019 school year marked a significant time of growth and development for the District's Language Instruction Educational Program.

With the support of a PDE consultant, the District's English as a Second Language teachers





COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The support of family and community members is a key factor in achieving student success. AGSD continues to focus on multiple communication and community engagement initiatives to keep our residents informed and involved.

Padres Latinos

During the 2018-2019 school year, AGSD hosted four Padres Latinos meetings for our Latino parents. Topics included: community resources, assistance with student information systems, school safety and security, the effects of social media on students, pursuing post-secondary studies, local athletic and recreational programs, health and nutrition, and summer learning opportunities. Additionally, AGSD provided five summer drop-in sessions to assist our Latino parents with learning management systems and technology, and provide them with pertinent back-to-school information.

Parent Speaker Series

The 2018-2019 school year marked the third year of the Parent Speaker Series, a program created to engage AGSD parents and community members by providing information about health, wellness and safety issues relevant to students. This year's topics included: school safety; Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) training; preventing child sexual abuse; managing childhood stress; opioid abuse awareness; and, parenting in the age of technology. The Parent Speaker Series sessions create a positive venue for community discussions and are free to attend.

Spotlight on Education

Spotlight on Education is a student-produced video series that highlights the major initiatives and happenings in the District. This year, AGtv students produced 10 informative videos on topics such as: the Avon Grove Education Foundation, School Safety and Security, the facilities strategic initiative and the co-curricular and extracurricular strategic plan. For the spring season, students stepped out of the AGtv studio and into the classroom, creating a special edition that highlighted new approaches to teaching and learning. Episodes featured teachers' perspectives on the Professional Learning Communities at AGHS, along with student perspectives on various STEM programs including: robotics, green initiatives, esports and computer-aided drawing.

Senior Citizen Volunteer Tax Relief Program

In 2018-2019, AGSD reinstated its Senior Citizen Volunteer Tax Relief program. Throughout the year, 72 senior citizens joined the program and completed a total of 2,712 volunteer hours across all District buildings. In addition to helping in the classroom, volunteers prepared school lunches, sewed costumes for plays, managed crowds at sporting events and provided translation services. As a result, 58 participants received a financial incentive for services rendered.

Any AGSD resident who is 60 years of age or older and pays school taxes is eligible to join this rewarding program and earn up to \$500 in school tax relief. For additional information, visit: www.avongrove.org/community/seniortax.





SAFETY AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

As a part of the District's safe schools initiative, AGSD facilitated a variety of safe school trainings and programs throughout the year. The District launched Safe2SaySomething, a youth violence prevention program, and facilitated trainings for students and staff. Participants learn to recognize the warning signs of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and are taught to say something before it is too late.

The District also coordinated with local first responders to conduct training sessions to promote Stop the Bleed, a national awareness campaign that equips participants to assist in a bleeding emergency before help arrives.

To ensure emergency preparedness, AGSD facilitated intruder drill training for students and staff, where administrators reinforced the importance of following the District's plan during a crisis.

In addition, AGSD received a \$25,000 School Safety and Security (Act 44) Grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), which was used to purchase security cameras and other equipment for the District.



THE AVON GROVE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

In its inaugural year, the Avon Grove Education Foundation (AGEF) was successful in securing funding from private sources and honored multiple grant requests from teachers. Avon Grove Intermediate School (AGIS) teacher Kelly Vaughn was awarded \$1,800 to fund supplies for a STEM night of learning where the high school robotics team and AGtv students showcased their accomplishments and educated the community on some of the District's STEM offerings.



A \$572 grant was awarded to Stephanie Judge, an eighth grade ELA teacher at Fred S. Engle Middle School, for a classroom subscription to vocabulary.com, a program that supplements curriculum by reinforcing vocabulary words and through adaptive learning games.

Teachers Erik Robinson and Sean Murray were awarded a \$2,400 grant for the expansion of the LEGO Robotics club at AGIS, a free after-school program offered to all students in grades 4-6.

AGEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for AGSD students. For more information or to donate, visit: avongroveeducationfoundation.org.

ADMINISTRATION GIVES BACK

AGSD administrators took part in a day of service at The Garage Community and Youth Center in West Grove. The team rolled up their sleeves to scrub bathrooms, organize storage areas and add a fresh coat of paint to the outside of the building. Inside, team members painted a colorful wall mural displaying The Garage logo, a special request from The Garage staff. The District is grateful for its partnerships with local organizations like The Garage and is happy to support the community by giving back.

POINTS OF PRIDE

Avon Grove High School (AGHS)

- AGHS was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best high schools in the United States.
- Akhila Yalvigi was one of only 161 high school students to be named a United States Presidential Scholar.
- Three seniors were finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program and five received the distinction of Commended Students in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Athletics and Activities

- FSEMS and its Athletics Director Michael Brooks received the Ches-Mont Sportsmanship Award.
- The eighth grade girls' soccer and softball teams remained undefeated.
- The AGHS robotics team qualified for the FIRST Mid-Atlantic District Championship.
- Two athletic teams and individuals from five teams qualified for District One playoffs.
- Three athletic teams and individuals from six teams qualified for PIAA States.
- Two orchestra students qualified for District Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and one qualified for both Region PMEA and PMEA States.
- Nine choir students qualified for District PMEA, five qualified for Region PMEA and two for PMEA States.
- Six band students qualified for District PMEA, two qualified for Region PMEA and one for PMEA States.
- Esports, or competitive gaming, became an after-school club at AGHS.

Fred S. Engle Middle School (FSEMS)

- Student council cabinet members funded a "Comfort Closet" to provide necessary personal hygiene products, school supplies, clothing and snacks to students in need.
- Seventh grade student Lucas Dusseau won the Patriot's Challenge, a middle school writing contest, for his original rap titled, "Slave Spy."
- In an effort to reduce the number of animals being surrendered to shelters, seventh grade English Learners engaged in a *Paws for People* project, presenting to the community on factors to consider before adopting a pet.
- Students participated in activities to raise money and awareness for The Garage, an after-school youth development center.

Avon Grove Intermediate School (AGIS)

- AGIS became a partner garden site for the Chester County Food Bank's Raised Bed Garden Program, distributing 400 pounds of fresh produce to families in need.
- Two hundred students participated in the innovative Team STEAM after-school program, where they learned to code, created videos and experienced virtual reality programs.
- Students and staff created an AGIS Constitution, a belief system for social-emotional learning and growth at AGIS.

Penn London Elementary School (PLES)

- The Parent-Teacher Association sponsored multiple community engagement events, including: book fairs, a STREAM night and the Country Christmas craft fair.
- PLES gave back to the community through its annual Thanksgiving food drive and the Adopt-a-Family program.
- An author visit, Literacy Night and writing celebrations encouraged students to become lifelong readers.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

AGSD demonstrates efficient and effective use of school funding by attaining above average student achievement results while spending below the county average. During the 2018-2019 school year, the District experienced the following:

PSSA

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standardized test administered to public schools in the state of Pennsylvania. This year, AGSD ranked third in the state and first in the county in terms of growth for both ELA and Math PSSA scores.

2019 PSSA Scores						
	ELA		Math		Science	
	AGSD	State	AGSD	State	AGSD	State
Grade 3:	71.3	61.9	68.2	56.0	-	-
Grade 4:	76.9	63.6	62.4	46.2	82.3	77.8
Grade 5:	83.7	58.5	76.6	43.1	-	-
Grade 6:	78.9	63.0	68.6	39.0	-	-
Grade 7:	76.0	60.4	62.5	38.2	-	-
Grade 8:	67.9	57.9	55.1	32.2	71.9	58.2

Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to measure proficiency in subject areas in high school. AGHS students scored well above the state averages.

2019 Keystone Exams: Percentage of Students Scoring Advanced/Proficient		
	AGHS	State
Algebra:	80.0%	45.2%
Biology:	75.5%	66.0%
Literature:	81.9%	62.1%

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The General Fund budget supports both the educational and organizational operations of the District. The primary focus of the 2018-2019 budget was to maintain current programs and curriculum in the most fiscally efficient manner possible. In recognition of the future debt service requirements that will be incurred with the construction of a new high school facility, the management of expenditures was, and will continue to be, a key focus of the District.

AGSD's actual expenditures were 0.77% under budget and the General Fund ended the year with \$18.6 million in reserves. The results demonstrate the District's commitment to precise budgeting practices.

Advanced Placement Performance

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program created by the College Board that offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. Colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. The College Board designates a 3 to be a qualified score, which means the students understand the material well enough to pass the college class.

Advanced Placement Performance			
	2017	2018	2019
Total Number of AP Students:	372	404	434
Number of AP Exams Taken:	740	770	801
Number of Students who Scored 3+:	287	327	320
% of Students who Scored 3+:	77%	81%	74%

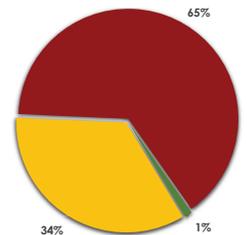
SAT

The SAT evaluates students in the areas of Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics. Students can earn a score of between 200 and 800 points in each section. AGHS student SAT scores remain above state averages.

2019 Average SAT Scores		
	AGHS	State
ERW:	564	545
Math:	563	537
Total:	1127	1082

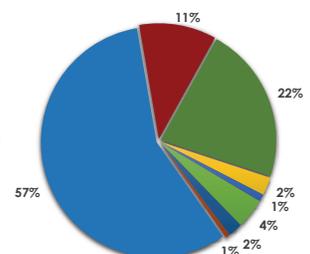
Sources of Revenue

Federal:	993,809
State:	31,041,573
Local:	58,463,976
Total:	\$90,499,358



Expenditures

Salaries/benefits:	53,390,485
Professional services:	10,066,164
Property services:	20,618,132
Supplies/materials:	2,361,634
Capital purchases:	882,200
Debt services:	3,930,309
Transfers:	1,851,175
Other:	553,033
Total Expenditures:	\$93,653,132





Avon Grove School District
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2018-2019 Annual Report
El Informe Anual de Avon Grove
 2018-2019 está disponible en
 español en el sitio web del Distrito.



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THE CLASS OF 2019

435 Graduates

Higher Education: 88%

- Within this group, 81% are attending a four-year institution and 19% are attending a two-year college or a trade school.
- 191 students reported earning scholarships totaling \$2,879,384.

Work or other options: 12%

- Within this group, 56% began working, 30% are taking a gap year and 14% joined the military.

2018-2019 BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS



Back row: Charles F. Beatty III, Richard Dumont, Jeffrey Billig, John Auerbach and Herman Engel. Front row: M. Christopher Marchese (Superintendent), William Wood (Vice President), Tracy Lisi (President), Lynn Weber and Bonnie Wolff.

FACULTY PROFILE

AVON GROVE FACULTY	Number of Staff	Employed > 15 yrs.	Employed < 15 yrs.	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Doctorate
TEACHERS	320	119	201	63	253	4
COUNSELORS, NURSES AND PSYCHOLOGISTS	33	15	18	4	28	1
TOTALS	353	134	219	67	281	5

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Avon Grove School District serves more than 5,000 students from five townships and two boroughs: New London, London Grove, London Britain, Penn and Franklin townships, and Avondale and West Grove boroughs. The following data is as of October 1, 2018.

ENROLLMENT

PLE: 923
 AGIS: 1,505
 FSEMS: 846
 AGHS: 1,788
 Total: 5,062

DEMOGRAPHICS

Am. Indian: 0.10% Hispanic: 23.73%
 Asian: 2.05% White: 69.61%
 Black: 1.35% Multi-Race: 3.14%
 Hawaiian: 0.02%