

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

## Oakview's First Annual S.O.A.R. Academy

One of our school goals for the 2018-19 school year is to infuse our new mantra into our school culture, which will become a part of everything we represent at Oakview. This mantra, known as S.O.A.R., aligns with our new eagle mascot and will be embedded in our daily culture. Each day, the expectations of our staff, students and school community are to SOAR higher by demonstrating the following actions: **S**-trive to be your best, **O**-wn your actions, **A**-lways work together and **R**-espect yourself and others.



To help promote this mantra with our students and motivate them to be their best, we planned five mini-assemblies the first week of school. These assemblies, known as our S.O.A.R. Academy, focused on providing students with an understanding of what S.O.A.R. means and model for them how they can S.O.A.R. high as Oakview Eagles each day. Through these interactive sessions, students learned key values about how they can be kind, safe, responsible and respectful during all facets of the school day. Students listened attentively to how they can S.O.A.R. in the classroom, on the bus, on the playground, in the lunchroom, in the hallways, and in the bathroom.

Since we are challenging students to be their best each day, our wonderful staff will live this mantra to the fullest each day as well. We hope this positive energy and recognition of positive behaviors will encourage all Oakview Eagles to S.O.A.R. to the top! In addition, we have adopted an Oakview pledge we say together as a school each day during morning announcements as a daily reminder of how we achieve our goal: *"At Oakview, we will S.O.A.R.! We will strive to be*

*our best. We will own our actions. We will always work together. We will respect ourselves and others. It is our day to make great. So let's make it a GREAT day!"* Please help us reach our goal this year by inspiring our students to S.O.A.R. at home and in the community!

## New Goals for a New Year at Red Bank



After a summer of rest and relaxation, teachers and students once again filled the halls of Red Bank Elementary. The students returned as "seasoned" second graders ready to begin another successful year. Red Bank also welcomed the new kindergarteners, and guided them and encouraged them as they began their educational journey. A new year brings with it new ideas and new goals. Red Bank is focusing on two specific areas: school-wide independent literacy and social/emotional learning.

Just like playing a sport or playing an instrument, becoming a good reader takes practice, practice, practice. Building a community of independent readers is a challenge that involves teachers, staff and students. With the help and enthusiasm of our librarian, Mrs. VanDorick,



and the dedication of teachers, a love of reading is being instilled in our students. Daily independent reading of the books of their choice is becoming a habit. Not only are students reading, but the adults are sharing this experience with them. However, it doesn't stop there. Second graders are having "Book Talks" in class to share what they are reading and spark the interest of their classmates. A future goal is to create mini book commercials using green screen video. Every kindergartner is invited to join Ms. Scheetz in a "Book Bunch" read-aloud. A small group of Kindergarteners meet each week to listen to a story while they follow along in their own copy of the book. The best part is that they get to keep the book as a way to begin building their very own library.

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## Red Bank.....Continued from Page 1

Social and emotional learning is being targeted in many different ways. Teachers are embedding lessons related to the monthly character trait into their daily instruction. Our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Durham, is adding activities that broaden the scope of each trait. Red Bank and Oakview have joined together to create a common language and daily pledge to promote positive school relationships and celebrate the positive choices students make each day. Every teacher is beginning the day with Morning Meeting. There are four components of Morning Meeting: greeting, sharing, group activity and morning message. The principle of Morning Meeting is to allow every single student to start their day on a positive note and be a valuable member of the school community.

This is going to be a great year of learning, building relationships, enjoying school, and exploring their world. It is going to be a fantastic year at Red Bank!



## Green-Fields Begins New STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Program



To the casual observer, the Green-Fields media center continues to have the look and feel of a traditional library setting. There are stacks and shelves of books, a circulation desk, study tables and chairs, a separate reading area and a computer lab space for research. Students check out and return books on a weekly basis, teachers utilize the space for class projects and assessments, and it even serves as a go-to spot for indoor recess several times each year. It truly is a valuable, academic, multi-purpose space in the middle of a large elementary school.



Well, we're excited to announce that we've created another use for this prime piece of "real estate" in our building. Thanks in large part to the hard work and innovative ideas of Mrs. Bosco and several others throughout the summer, the Green-Fields library is transformed each day into a creative, collaborative, problem-solving community of learners. Through lesson activities that combine the use of science, technology, engineering, and math, students are challenged to think beyond just

the facts and tap into their creative, solution-oriented, collaborative selves. Many activities are "hands-on" and focus on working together to define, create or complete a task. Beyond this, children are encouraged to ask questions, imagine all of the possibilities without constraint, build and create, evaluate their work, share their results and reflect upon the process.

Students also have an opportunity to apply their knowledge through activities that address concepts which are a part of their daily world. Notions such as "How Am I Smart" teach children how they learn best and how they can use this knowledge in school. Computer and video game concepts are emphasized through coding activities. Structure design and construction are highlighted through bridge building, playground design and a showcase of student work. We've even planned for students to work with our WDHS Engineering Club to learn about robotics and computer programming.

Of course, what is mentioned above is just a small part of the overall curriculum. As our elementary students begin to navigate a 21st Century world, it's more important than ever to provide tools that will help them find their way in an ever-changing diverse, creative and technical environment. We're excited and proud of the opportunity we've been given to promote higher-level thinking among our students while providing an enjoyable, yet rigorous venue to watch our students grow academically and socially through this new adventure.



# WDMS Fifth Annual Eagle Launch



On Friday, September 21st, positive behavior took flight and soared at the West Deptford Middle School's Fifth Annual Eagle Launch. The school-wide event promoted the Middle School's Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS) program, which emphasizes 8 pillars: respect, gratitude, caring, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, trustworthiness and sportsmanship. To capture and reinforce these characteristics, the



students and staff at WDMS participated in an entire day's worth of exciting activities that reinforced the program's missions.

Students were engaged in a variety of events that align with the school's PBSIS mission. Such activities include three Character Education lessons facilitated by the teaching staff. Students received a presentation to reinforce the specifics of core values essential to our school mission and the ways in which staff members will reward students for putting these values into action. In addition, students worked on an activity called "Get in the Habit" to critically analyze their own habits and how those habits impact themselves and others. Students were also provided with the opportunity to participate in two interactive activities that promote interdependence, working cooperatively, positive communication and relationship building. The third lesson had students complete an activity from the book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* to promote student insight and ownership with the exercise, The Great Discovery. During this activity, the students created their



own personal mission statement.

In addition, all 900 students contributed to the creation of our new mural, "Step Into Your Dreams, They Know The Way", which is located outside our library. The flowers in this year's mural were decorated with the fingerprints of each student. Furthermore, the students built on their teamwork and leadership abilities during the various station activities led by members of The West Deptford Police Department. Such activities included the Tarp Challenge, Rock Paper Scissor Hula-Hoop Race and Bull-Ring Challenge. Each activity set the tone and laid the foundation for exemplary character attributes among our students and staff.

## A New School Year at WDHS Brings New Opportunities



Mark Wagner, author of the popular book, *MORE NOW: A Message from the Future for the Educators of Today*, writes to educators of today, "You are a pioneer, a founder, and an architect of what's possible" (17). Last spring, West Deptford High School had this very thought in mind when preparing its 2018-2019 school year schedule with new opportunities for students to help them plan their first steps towards the future.

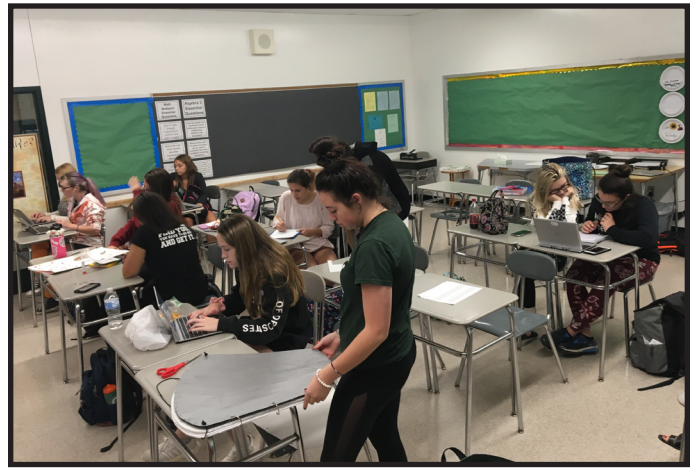
One of the first learning opportunities we researched and implemented that will prepare today's students for tomorrow's world is our full-year course titled "Tomorrow's Teachers". The course is designed to introduce the beginning student to the field of education through a compilation of vignettes in which they discover the power of knowledge. Students openly discuss education in the 21st century and beyond, and the rewards and challenges experienced in education in our society. The course is divided into three units

of study, Experiencing Learning (helps students become better acquainted with themselves as individuals, learners, and community members, appreciate the diversity of others and examine the various stages of learning), Experiencing the Classroom (helps students become acquainted with personal and professional roles of educators), and Experiencing the Teaching Profession (helps students develop a greater understanding of the history of education in our state and nation, gain insights into the structure and functions of our school and school systems, reflect on the teaching profession and recognize the significance of teacher leadership and advocacy for

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## WDHS.....Continued from Page 3

the profession). Knowing that there is a real and growing shortage of qualified educators in our schools, this course stands to inspire, recruit and prepare potential students to become teachers as they “experience education” throughout the curriculum. Students in this class have already covered major themes in education such as how to build self-worth and self-esteem in learners by completing “The Pot Not Watched” activity in which classmates filled each other’s pots with positive affirmations. Students walked away from this activity realizing the importance of building these qualities within any learner so as to help them reach their greatest potential. Abigail Hicks, a senior in the class, says, “Tomorrow’s Teachers really opened my eyes to the different levels of learning throughout the school. This class spreads so much good self-esteem and positivity towards everyone in it. I always enjoy going every day because I know I will always be uplifted in this class. We have many open discussions about big topics regarding school during class which we don’t usually talk about in other classes. I know this class will really have an effect on my future career and I suggest everyone take it even if you don’t want to be a teacher in your future.”



To help prepare our students for the ever-changing world of S.T.E.M. and Business and Marketing, West Deptford High School expanded its programs in these areas to compete with other high schools who have official academies. Now, due to our growing partnerships with local colleges such as Camden County College and Rowan College at Gloucester County, we are able to expand our offerings for students to earn college credits while still in high school. Students have the option to take dual credit courses, taught by a WDHS teacher for college credit, or to take RCGC classes on the college campus or online. Depending on the field of study each student chooses, he/she could walk out of high school with any number of college credits, ranging from 3 – 30 credits. For example, in S.T.E.M. related fields, students have the opportunity to take dual credit courses already offered at our HS (AP Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, Exploring Engineering I and II) in addition to any other RCGC courses listed under our College Now Agreement. In the fields of Business and Marketing, we are proud to announce the addition of two new courses – Business Law and Introduction to Logistics – both of which would help students who want to pursue these areas of study either under our College Now Agreement or post-high school. Currently, WDHS has 19 students participating in this College Now option, 11 of which are taking college classes on campus in the afternoon a couple of days a week and 8 who are taking courses online. Our High School juniors and seniors have mentioned that they enjoy the college atmosphere and find no trouble fitting in with the older students on campus.

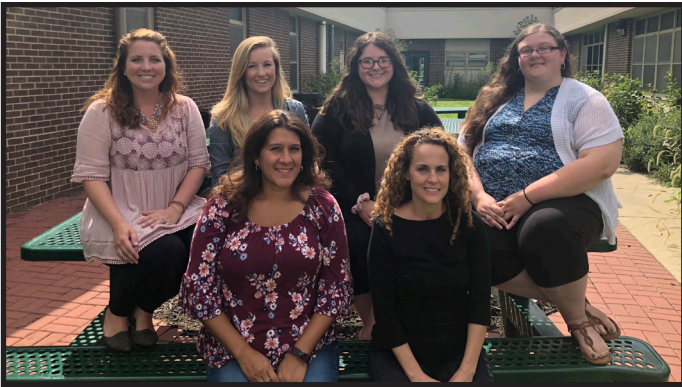
In addition to these “architectural changes” in our academic programming, West Deptford High School has also expanded its Work Release Program to include Senior Experience Placements for students in select fields of study. Out of 48 seniors enrolled in our Marketing Education and Work Release Program, 40 of those students already have been placed at jobs in the surrounding communities; job locations vary from Heritage’s, WaWa, ShopRite, Nicolosi’s Catering, Ciconte’s, Kiva Printing, and our District’s very own Young Eagles Program. Although this program is not new, we are at an all-time high for job placements this early in the year. The expansion of this program includes students who elected to take the independent study course titled Senior Experience. One senior, Christopher Cori, for example, is interested in the field of Sports Management and is currently interning with our HS Athletic Trainer in the training room to gain some “on the job” experience.

These are just a few of the upgrades West Deptford High School has made over the course of the past year, but we are not finished. Vincent Gray, a senior in “Tomorrow’s Teachers”, presented a powerful quote to his classmates about how the best educators not only demonstrate but also inspire. As a school staff and administration, this is our ultimate goal. We strive to continually improve and make these architectural changes in our programming and to remind ourselves that it is this forward-thinking work that helps to shape a better future for our students so that they, in turn, can impact others positively and powerfully.



# West Deptford Schools Welcomes New Staff!

## Elementary School New Staff



Pictured from Top Row, Left to Right: **Sara Williams-Smith** (Oakview), **Caity Kolano** (Red Bank), **Maci Pollack** (Oakview) and **Alicia Rumaker** (Red Bank)

Pictured from Bottom Row, Left to Right: **Jessica Tharp** (Oakview) and **Janna VanDorick** (Library)



## CST New Staff



Pictured from Left to Right: **Jovonna Jackson**, **Alexis Walsh** and **Susan Gonzales**



## High School New Staff



Pictured from Left to Right: **Rebekah McGovern** and **Mary Beth Lolli**



## Middle School New Staff



Pictured from Left to Right: **Natalie Drank**, **Alexandria Ivol**, **Thomas Lindsay**, **Danielle Hack** and **Courtney Munyon**

# Board of Education Candidates

## JOHN CRAIG

John Craig is a 1997 graduate of West Deptford High School. He continued his academic career at York College of Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation from college, he attended the Gloucester County Police Academy and began his career with the West Deptford Police Department. John has been assigned to numerous units within the department throughout his career, including serving as the District's School Resource Officer for eight years. During his time as the School Resource Officer, John also served as the Varsity Wrestling Coach at West Deptford High School. He still remains active within the school district and the community, serving as a LEAD instructor at the West Deptford Middle School and as an Executive Board member of the West Deptford Police Athletic League. He is currently assigned as a Detective Corporal within the Criminal Investigations Unit of the West Deptford Police Department.

John is married to his wife, Jennifer. They have three daughters: Ashley, Katelyn and Abigail who all attend West Deptford Schools. John feels very fortunate that his daughters have had many positive experiences up to this point in their academic careers, which he believes is a direct reflection of the dedication exhibited by the faculty and staff at all levels within the school district. "I believe that our schools are the centerpiece of the community, and their success or failure has a direct impact on every resident of West Deptford. I look forward to serving on the Board of Education and focusing my efforts on making a positive impact for all of our residents, while ensuring that our students are receiving a quality education and are well prepared for the future."

## BRETT FETTY

Brett Fetty has been a proud member of West Deptford for the better part of his life. He is a 1994 graduate of West Deptford High School, a 1999 graduate of West Virginia University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management and a 2007 graduate of Wilmington University, earning a Master of Education degree in School Leadership. He holds a Teacher of the Handicapped certificate, a Supervisor's certificate, a Principal's certificate and has recently passed the School Superintendent Assessment required for the position of Superintendent. Mr. Fetty is currently in his third year as Principal at the Pennsauken Campus of Camden County Technical Schools. Prior to this, he was an Assistant Principal at the Gloucester Township Campus of Camden County Technical Schools for three years, Vice Principal at the Hainesport School for two years and Special Education Teacher for Gloucester County Special Services School District, Bankbridge Regional School located in Sewell for twelve years. Mr. Fetty also coached high school wrestling for sixteen years, most notably at West Deptford High School. He was an assistant coach of the 1999-2000 Group III State Championship team. That team won the first and only wrestling State Championship in school history and was inducted into the West Deptford Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

Mr. Fetty is a proud parent of twelve-year-old twins, Alycia and Brett, who are in the sixth grade. Mr. Fetty views a collaborative school environment as the key to creating successful teachers and students. He believes partnerships with parents and community partners are essential to enriching the educational experience.

"As educators, we have the opportunity to provide the gift that cannot be repaid. This gift forms bonds and makes connections with students. We focus on the skills and interactions that allow students to become indispensable driving forces for whatever tomorrow's economy and society may become."

## PETE GUZZETTI

Peter M. Guzzetti is a 1991 graduate of West Deptford High School. He moved back to West Deptford in 2003 with his wife, Kate, also a West Deptford alumni, to raise their children Madelyn, Joshua and Emma in their hometown.

Peter graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in 1996 with a B.S. and M.S. in Physical Therapy. After several years of PT practice, Peter used the clinical IT and business experience he had gained to move into the field of healthcare information technology. Peter currently works for Cerner Corporation, the world's largest publicly-traded health information technology company. In his role at Cerner, Peter performs strategic planning and fiscal management for a large multi-million dollar IT budget. In addition to his full-time career, Peter also worked as a per-diem physical therapist at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury for 17 years and has been active in the community as a coach for travel soccer and little league.

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## Board of Education Candidates *(Continued)*

“As a parent of 3 children, I have a vested interest in ensuring that West Deptford Schools provide the same opportunities for my children as it provided for me. As a taxpayer, I have a vested interest in ensuring this is done in a cost-effective manner, especially given our state and township’s significant fiscal challenges. In my role at Cerner, my primary responsibility is to assess the true value of proposed projects and investments, and act as a decision-maker for these proposals within the confines of a limited budget. I believe this real-world experience translates well to the role of a school board member, and it would be my honor to serve you in that fashion.”

### **MATTHEW HUESSER**

Matthew Huesser is a product of the West Deptford School system. He began his journey at Oakview Elementary School, where fate struck early: it was there he met his wife Lindsey when they were just kindergarteners. He has been a resident of West Deptford for more than 25 years, where he and his wife are raising their two sons, Connor (4) and Cody (1).

Mr. Huesser graduated from West Deptford High School in 2000. He is a graduate of Rowan University, where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. He later earned his Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Wilmington University. Currently, Mr. Huesser is continuing his education and pursuing his doctorate.

Mr. Huesser has been employed by Thomas Jefferson University and the NCI-designated Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center for the last 9 years and currently serves as the Enterprise Associate Director for Cancer Research Administration and Operations. In his role at the Cancer Center, Mr. Huesser facilitates the strategic planning process, he oversees a 16 million dollar cancer center core grant, which allows the center to be recognized as one of the 70 NCI-designated cancer centers in the nation; and prioritizes needs of the enterprise pertaining to programmatic development, communication, and community outreach. This experience allows Mr. Huesser to continue to bring strong financial and business expertise to the West Deptford Board of Education, which he looks to translate into successful outcomes within the district.

“Serving on the West Deptford Board of Education for the past year and a half has been a tremendous learning experience. I have had the pleasure to work with a group of individuals who bring a multitude of expertise and experience to the position and are united to have a common goal of making sure we put the students first. I look to continue to grow with this team and continue to help move the school district in the right direction.”

### **ZACHARY KAMINSKI**

Zachary Kaminski is a graduate from the West Deptford School system, as part of the class of 2017. He currently attends Rowan College at Gloucester County for a degree in elementary education. Zachary has volunteered throughout the township as a baseball coach for t-ball and he is in his fourth year as a football coach.

Zachary’s passion for education has made him see our school district with utmost importance. “Education begins with communication to ensure a well-functioning learning environment. I have always found it exciting how much our classroom lessons have met each student’s individual learning style. Technology is the most important tool in growing our minds in and outside the classroom, as it has enabled us to become 21st century learners. As a recent graduate, I have seen and used the diverse websites and tools that it has to offer. I will work in a team capacity in providing my views on the progress with our schools. It is crucial that we have all the information possible to ensure the best decisions are made not only for learners and educators, but for the next generation. It would be my honor to serve our students, staff and community on the West Deptford Board of Education.”



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## FOCUS ON WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

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## Message from the Superintendent



We are pleased to present you with our annual Fall Newsletter highlighting many of the exciting events happening in the West Deptford School District. This includes introductions of our new teaching staff members, information from each of our schools and an update on a number of new initiatives being implemented during the 2018-19 school year. There are great things happening in our schools, and this is just a small sampling of the continued efforts of our staff to provide the best learning experiences possible for all our students.

As I enter my second year as superintendent for the West Deptford School District, I continue to be impressed with the passion and dedication of the West Deptford support, teaching and administrative staff. Everyone is committed to excellence and works hard to ensure that each student reaches his/her maximum potential. The Board of Education (BOE) has supported these efforts with the purchase of enVisions for our High School, which allows us to have a unified Math program K-12. They have also supported the purchases of a new Biology textbook series at the High School, a new writing program for all elementary schools, DRA kits for K-2,

and have continued their support of LINKIT as our diagnostic and data management tool. Additionally, the Board has added three Class III officers to increase school security at each of the district's five schools. The Board is excited about the benefits that these new resources will provide as they continue to look for ways in which the instructional program can be enhanced.

Included in this newsletter are also profiles for each of the individuals running for the Board of Education. The School Board election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2018, and there are four candidates running for three full-year terms. Additionally, there is one candidate running for a two-year unexpired term.

On behalf of our entire staff, we wish you the best for a great school year. We look forward to working with all members of the West Deptford community to ensure that our students receive an excellent education in a safe, orderly, technology-rich environment.

Steven Crispin, Superintendent

**Please Remember to Vote!**