



Growing Toward *Greatness*



Spring-Ford Area School District
2011-2012 Annual Report

Welcome from the Superintendent of Schools



Dear Spring-Ford Area School District Community:

Walk into any school, peek into any classroom and you will clearly see the Spring-Ford Area School District is *Growing Toward Greatness*. Never was this more evident than during the 2011-12 school year, when the diligent efforts of administrators, educators, school board members and students yielded achievements and positive recognition for Spring-Ford near and far. From classroom activities to community involvement, to global activities, Spring-Ford worked hard and flourished.

The collaborative efforts of students, parents, educators and administrators at the Spring-Ford Eighth-Grade Center resulted in the school being recognized by the [U.S. Department of Education as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools award recipient](#) for its academic accomplishments and continuous improvements during the 2011-12 school year. The department honored approximately 219 public and 50 private schools across the country with a Blue Ribbon, and I am proud to say that Spring-Ford was one of only two schools in the Philadelphia region to receive this distinguished honor. Receiving this impressive distinction took a lot of time and energy, and the handprints of everyone's perseverance can be clearly seen through this coveted recognition.

Growing the district toward greatness starts at the top with administrators who understand the classroom environment. Through the newly implemented "[Administrators with Class](#)" program, principals, district-level administrators and I substituted for absent teachers once per marking period. "Administrators with Class" was designed to close the gap that exists between theory and practice, and between those who are in the classroom regularly and those who are not. This successful program helped our administrators better understand the daily tasks of our educators.

A program that continues to provide Spring-Ford High School students with the cultural experience of a lifetime and countless opportunities is our successful [Limerick-to-Limerick Exchange Program](#). Thanks to this wonderful program, students have learned about foreign cultures, government, education and customs during a two-week excursion in Ireland. In Limerick-to-Limerick's five years, students have brought home lasting memories and lessons that will greatly benefit them for the rest of their lives. This program's future is strong and will incorporate partners that have children and education as their focus.

Spring-Ford students are reaching for their dreams and aiming for success with the help of their teachers, mentors, parents and peers. These accomplishments would not be possible without the firm support they receive from parents and the Spring-Ford community. The role you play in continued student success is crucial because you are cultivating and guiding tomorrow's leaders.

We celebrate our growth toward greatness and the efforts all have made in making these achievements possible. I invite you to take a closer look at our annual report, which features many of Spring-Ford's accomplishments from the 2011-12 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Goodin
Superintendent of Schools



District Profile

The Spring-Ford Area School District — located 30 miles northwest of Philadelphia — straddles the border between scenic northern Chester County and western Montgomery County. It serves about 7,851 students from a population of approximately 36,000 in Royersford and Spring City boroughs, and Limerick and Upper Providence townships.

The district is comprised of small towns, suburban neighborhoods and rural areas. With its proximity to Philadelphia, Spring-Ford offers easy access to the cultural appeal of the big city, as well as the warmth of rural America.

Faculty Profile

The Spring-Ford Area School District is comprised of 594 certified teachers:

Number of teachers who have:

15 years of experience or less — 481
More than 15 years of experience — 113

Educators' Education and Certifications:

Bachelor's Degree — 74
Master's Degree — 512
Doctorate Degree — 4
National Board Certification — 4



Strategic Plan Goals 2008-2014

- Goal 1:** To prepare Spring-Ford Area Senior High School students for career and college success.
- Goal 2:** To have at least 78% of all students be proficient in mathematics on the annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams.
- Goal 3:** To have at least 81% of all students be proficient in reading on the PSSA exams.
- Goal 4:** To have all Spring-Ford students meet or exceed proficiency standards on the PSSA exams by 2014.

Points of Pride for 2011-2012

Brooke Elementary

Brooke Elementary's newly implemented Dogs Are Readers Too (DART) program helped students overcome their fears and the obstacles of reading by utilizing therapy-certified dogs in a classroom setting.

Evans Elementary

Evans R.E.A.D.S. (Reading, Exploring, and Discovering Stories) is a program developed by a committee of Evans Elementary staff members focused on promoting a culture of literacy and learning. For the third consecutive year, Evans participated in a schoolwide read aloud that included the Spring-Ford community.

Limerick Elementary

Limerick Elementary held "Mix it Up," a program developed by Teaching Tolerance — a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center — aimed at reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equitable school experiences. Students had their usual cafeteria tables mixed up, so they could sit with students from other classes.

Oaks Elementary

Technology applications were successfully integrated at all grade levels at Oaks Elementary. Several teachers piloted the program that utilized iPad technology in a classroom setting.

Royersford Elementary

Third- and fourth-grade Royersford Elementary students had the opportunity to learn about different career paths that may interest them. The school's Career Day activity had 15 presenters speak to students about their jobs.

Spring City Elementary

Spring-Ford Area Senior High School students visited Spring City Elementary to present a program on bullying to third-grade students. The high school students performed skits demonstrating examples of bullying and asked the students to identify the bully and the victim. After the skits were completed,

students were separated into smaller groups to participate in games and activities.

Upper Providence Elementary

The High School Heroes at Upper Providence Elementary consists of sophomores, juniors and seniors who are strong role models in the general community. The High School Heroes project partners with classrooms and assist with special events. This project has resulted in forged relationships between current elementary students and high school alumni willing to volunteer in the school and Spring-Ford community.

5-6 Grade Center

Spring-Ford 5-6 Grade Center fifth-grade students experienced a piece of history on their trip to the Daniel Boone Homestead, while sixth-grade students were exposed to military life at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Seventh-Grade Center

The Science in Motion program provided Seventh-Grade Center students with a lab experience like no other. Students used lab-grade equipment, laptops and microscopes to learn about DNA fingerprinting and simulate several forensic processes.

Eighth-Grade Center

The Eighth-Grade Center Reading Olympics team earned first place at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's annual competition that tests challengers' literacy skills.

High School

Spring-Ford Area Senior High School students immersed themselves in Mandarin Chinese thanks to a brand new virtual course that allowed them to take in the country's language and culture with the click of a mouse. MyChinese 360 is a newly implemented language curriculum that teaches students the most commonly spoken dialect of the language through a Skype-like application.



Community Service 2011-2012

Spring-Ford Area School District students, staff, educators and administrators held a number of philanthropic events that benefited the local community and charitable organizations. Our schools distinguished themselves through these selfless acts of volunteerism, generosity and service. This year's charitable endeavors included:

Brooke Elementary

Brooke Elementary raised \$15,124.49 for the American Heart Association through its annual Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart programs. The non-profit organization named the school a top five fundraiser in Bucks and Montgomery counties and top 25 in the entire Great Rivers Affiliate — an area that encompasses Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia — for its efforts.

Evans Elementary

Approximately 40 volunteers, including parents, students and teachers, volunteered their time to build a woodland path and access for the ongoing Evans Wetlands Project. The project teaches students about the environment.

Limerick Elementary

Limerick Elementary raised more than \$5,400 for the American Cancer Society's annual signature event, Relay for Life, by conducting different fundraising activities. School staff and families participated in the summer event, which raises money to combat the disease and for research.

Oaks Elementary

In recognition of National Youth Service Day, Oaks Elementary students and staff raised \$5,000 during its Walk-A-Thon activity. Some of the money raised was contributed toward the construction of a water well for an African community.

Royersford Elementary

Royersford Elementary students and staff helped service organizations through generous donations during its annual Make a Difference Day. The school collected books, Band-Aids, pet food, canned food and clothing that were donated to various service agencies throughout the region.

Spring City Elementary

Spring City Elementary worked in conjunction with the American Red Cross to hold its first blood drive. Spring-Ford employees and community members turned out to show their support and give the gift of life.

Upper Providence Elementary

Upper Providence Elementary partnered with the Triskeles Foundation to provide fresh food to the community through the organization's Food for All Program. Students and parents maintained and harvested the gardens, and provided more than 50 percent of the produce to Project Outreach, so individuals and families in need had fresh food.

5-6 Grade Center

5-6 Grade Center students and staff conducted multiple food drives throughout the school year to support Project Outreach, which serves area families in need.

Seventh-Grade Center

For more than a decade, the Seventh-Grade Center's Turkiest Teacher Contest has raised more than \$10,000 for Project Outreach. This year alone, the school raised \$1,065.39 to help feed local families in need during the holidays.

Eighth-Grade Center

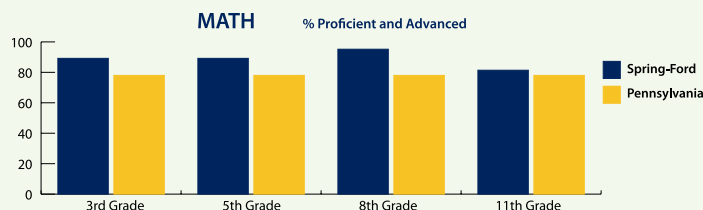
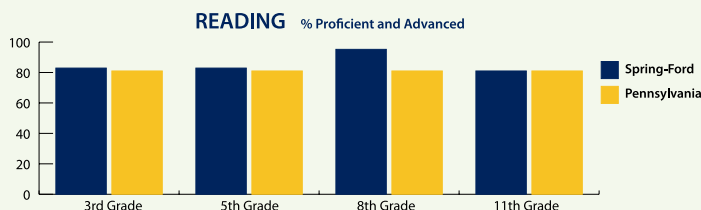
Eighth-Grade Center student groups raised more than \$13,000 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Spring-Ford Counseling Services and To Write Love on Her Arms – Ursinus College during a walking activity. The activity culminated with staff members getting hit in the face with cream pies.

High School

The Spring-Ford High School Interact Club helped make the holidays a little brighter for district families through its annual Adopt a Family Luncheon and Gift Wrapping program. The community service group, along with the Rotary Club of Spring-Ford Area, wrapped approximately 400 holiday gifts for more than 40 families — including 200 children — living in the Spring-Ford community.



PSSA Results for 2011-2012



Points of Pride

- The Spring-Ford Area Senior High School had the highest reading and math scores in the history of the district.
- 69.6% of all Spring-Ford students scored Advanced on the math section of the PSSAs, which places the district 18th out of 499 Pennsylvania school districts.

- 90.2% of Seventh-Grade Center students scored Advanced on the math section of the PSSAs, which places the district 1st out of 499 Pennsylvania school districts.

Athletic Accomplishments

Approximately 45 to 50% of the Spring-Ford student body participates in interscholastic athletics, some of which are multi-sport athletes. School letters were awarded to 291 participants. Notable accomplishments from the 2011-12 season include:

- 12 Spring-Ford student athletes won individual PAC-10 championships in golf, and track and field.
- 4 teams — football, girls basketball, boys lacrosse and boys track — won PAC-10 championships.
- 1 Spring-Ford student athlete won an individual District One Championship in track and field.
- The Lady Rams Basketball Team won its first District One Championship. It is also the first District One Championship win for the district.
- The Lady Rams Basketball Team competed in the PIAA state tournament.
- Spring-Ford Area Senior High School's athletic program received the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Sportsmanship Award — its 12th in a row and 13th overall.
- Spring-Ford Area Senior High School's athletic program received the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Sportsmanship Award — its 12th in a row and 13th overall.

2012 Graduating Class Profile

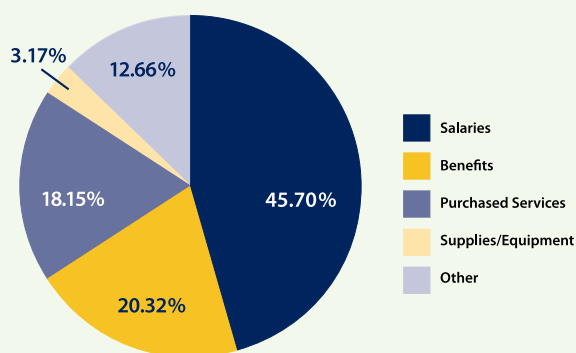
Outcome	Percentage of Students
Four-Year College/ Two-Year College or Trade School	88%
Military	3%
Employed	9%
Total	100%

The Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) is a collection of 10 high schools in southeastern Pennsylvania that participate in a number of athletic events. The high schools in the conference include: Spring-Ford, Boyertown, Methacton, Owen J. Roberts, Perkiomen Valley, Phoenixville, Pope John Paul II, Pottsgrove, Pottstown and Upper Perkiomen.

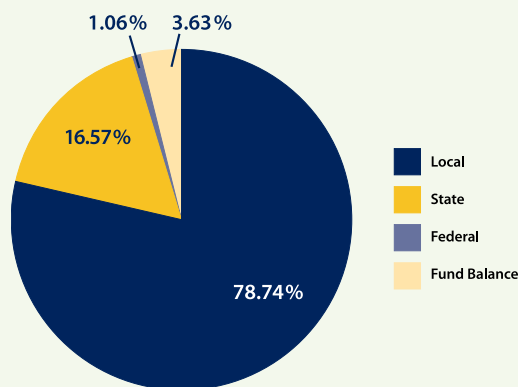
Budget

In the difficult economic climate for school districts across Pennsylvania, Spring-Ford made cost-cutting and efficiency top priorities in the development of its 2011-12 budget. The district initially faced an \$11.8 million deficit due to a perfect storm of financial factors. Spring-Ford saw its benefits, utilities and transportation costs rise substantially and commercial real estate revenues decrease. Balancing Act 1 — a mandate that prohibits school districts from increasing taxes above a certain amount — and Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) contributions into the unsettled budget equation was an added challenge for administrators and board members. Using several careful cost reducing measures, ideas from the community and input from key stakeholders, the Spring-Ford Area School Board adopted a \$123,111,623 budget that had limited impact on the district's academic programs.

2011-12 EXPENDITURES (In Percentages)



2011-12 REVENUES (In Percentages)





Spring-Ford Area School District

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Spring-Ford Area School District

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Mission Statement

The Spring-Ford Area School District, in cooperation with home and community, is committed to promoting academic excellence in a safe learning environment, recognizing the diverse needs of all students and empowering them to become lifelong learners and contributing citizens.



The Spring-Ford Area School Board and District Administration

Top Row From Left: Board members Mark P. Dehnert, Edward T. Dressler, Board President Thomas J. DiBello, Board Vice President Joseph P. Ciresi and Board Member David R. Shafer. *Bottom Row From Left:* Superintendent Dr. David R. Goodin, Student Representative Elizabeth Brady, Board members Dawn R. Heine, Julie A. Mullin and Bernard F. Pettit, and Assistant Superintendent Allyn J. Roche. Absent from photo is Board Member Clara M. Gudolonis.