



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Back-to-School Newsletter

WELCOME BACK-TO-SCHOOL!

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! Please review this newsletter, as it contains a wealth of information for both new and returning parents and families including Back-to-School Night, contact information, volunteer update and much more!

DISTRICT FORMS - FIRST DAY PACKET

The forms listed below are required forms for **ALL** students. Building specific First Day Packet forms can be found on the left navigation menu of each school's webpage.

The following "Required Forms" must be completed, signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Thursday, September 3, 2015. These four forms will be printed and sent home with your student on the first day of school.

Whenever possible, please use the original forms that were sent home with your child.

- Student Information Form- All Grades
- Publicity Refusal Form - All Grades
- Limerick Evacuation Form - Grades K-8 or 9-12
- Health Information Form – Grades K-6 or 7-12

Additional information, such as the Spring-Ford Booster Club Membership, Free and Reduced Lunch forms, Snack Limitation guidelines and more may be found online under the First Day Packet page.

FIRST DAY CHECKLIST

Before you send your student back to school, did you...

- Fill your students lunch account or pack a healthy lunch
- Complete the required forms
- Pack necessary school supplies
- Double check bus number/location
- Know classroom/teacher assignments
- Complete sports physicals and paperwork, if appropriate

START/DISMISSAL TIMES

In order for a child to receive the maximum benefit from school, timely attendance is imperative. School times are as follows:

Elementary (K-4)

Doors open at 8:45 a.m.

School from 9 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Kindergarten Schedule

Morning Kindergarten – 9 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

Afternoon Kindergarten – 1 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Intermediate (5 and 6)

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

School from 9 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Middle School (7 and 8)

Doors open at 7:45 a.m.

School from 8:05 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

High School (9-12)

Doors open at 7 a.m.

School from 7:40 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

School	Date
Limerick Elementary	September, 1 2015
Upper Providence Elementary	September, 1 2015
Evans Elementary	September, 1 2015
8 th Grade Center	September, 2 2015
7 th Grade Center	September, 8 2015
Spring City Elementary	September, 9 2015
Brooke Elementary	September, 10 2015
Oaks Elementary	September, 10 2015
Royersford Elementary	September, 10 2015
5 th Grade	September, 15 2015
6 th Grade	September, 16 2015
9 th Grade	September, 17 2015
High School (10-12)	September, 24 2015

Visit your school's webpage for additional information.

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT/FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

Numerous studies have suggested a strong link between child nutrition and learning in school. This supports the importance of the availability of school meal programs in improving the educational performance of our children. Spring-Ford offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch prices for our schools are:

- Elementary (grades 1-4): \$2.95
- Intermediate and Secondary (grades 5-12): \$3.15

Children from families with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level, children from families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and children in families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are eligible for free lunches. Children in families whose income is between 130% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced price lunches. To learn more about free and reduced lunch visit www.spring-ford.net, click on "For Parents," then "Food Service."

SFASD COMMUNICATIONS

Spring-Ford is committed to its communication efforts with students, staff, families and community members by using a variety of communication tools including:

Website – www.spring-ford.net

Email – Updates from Skylert and Skyward

RCTV – www.vimeo.com/RamCountryTV, Comcast 969,

Verizon FIOS 44

Facebook – www.facebook.com/SpringFordASD

Twitter – www.twitter.com/SpringFordASD

Spring-Ford Phone App for iPhone or Android

We encourage you to use one or all communication tools to learn more about Spring-Ford news, updates, events, stories, videos, pictures, highlights and more.

RAM COUNTRY TELEVISION (RCTV)

RCTV is a channel for the residents of the Spring-Ford Area School District. Comcast customers can tune into Channel 969 and Verizon customers can tune into Channel 44. Check RCTV for important information, sports broadcasts and unique RCTV programs including:

- Student Centered: a student panel discussion centered around student issues affecting students.
- Supe's On: Tune in as Dr. Goodin sits down and discusses recent events and news from around the district.
- The Gridiron: Host John Brennan is joined by Coach Chad Brubaker for a weekly discussion with video highlights about the previous Football game and upcoming football game.
- Ram Country: Host of Ram Country, Dave Willauer travels around Spring-Ford and highlights the positive stories happening around the school district.
- Ram Kitchen: Join host Susan Miscavage as she shows you how to make delicious, quick, easy recipes.
- Ramble On: Learn about alumni! Spring-Ford alumni sit down with Barry Shafer to talk about where they are now.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Many Spring-Ford elementary schools, secondary schools and sports clubs/music groups are supported by a parent organization which sponsors various social and fundraising activities throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming involved in a parent organization, contact your school office for more details. Additional information can be found online at spring-ford.net, click on "For Parents" then "Parent Organizations."

EVENTS AND FLYERS

The Spring-Ford School Board feels it imperative that communication be maintained between the district and local organizations such as the districts school support groups, non-profit groups which serve youth and the local governmental units within the school district boundaries. It is the district's goal to share such information about SFASD area non-profit community events and their sponsoring organizations with the community.

Community organizations that desire to share flyers for their non-profit community events should review Policy 910 Dissemination of Printed Materials. If requirements are met, please e-mail a PDF version of the flyer at least two weeks before the event to Erin Crew, Manager of Communications and Marketing, at ecrew@spring-ford.net. Only electronic PDF versions of flyers will be accepted for posting. After review for approval, your flyer will be posted. Visit spring-ford.net, click on "Community" then "Events and Flyers" to learn more.

SCHOOL BOARD

The Spring-Ford Board of School Directors volunteer their time and talents toward the advancement of public education from kindergarten through grade 12 for the Spring-Ford Area School District. As elected officials, school board members answer to the electorate and to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, establish policies that provide the framework for our public schools and represent their local communities, attend monthly board and committee meetings and workshops for public education.

Spring-Ford's nine school directors assess the district's needs to develop an educational program that is consistent with the districts mission and vision. These members are:

Region I:	Willard Cromley	610-489-7476
	Bernard Pettit	610-831-1516
	Kelly Spletzer	610-505-5466
Region II:	Dawn Heine	610-287-2820
	Clinton Jackson	973-445-9521
	Todd Wolf	610-322-9329
Region III:	Joseph Ciresi	610-792-5086
	Mark Dehnert	610-948-4289
	Thomas DiBello	610-608-5761

SKYLERT

Skylert is an automated phone and email program used to notify parents with messages related to emergencies, attendance, cafeteria balances and other general messages from the district. In the event of a school closing, in addition to Skylert notifications, information may be posted on the school website and provided to local broadcast media.

Skyward Family Access allows you to select how to be contacted in an emergency. Parents can update preferences and contact information anytime and as often as they like.

SKYWARD

The Skyward system allows parents and students to access attendance, assignments, grades and food service information. User names and passwords may be obtained by contacting your child's school office.

Online grading provides parent and student access to attendance, assignments and grades as soon as they are entered. Teachers assess students based on curricular objectives that are aligned to Pennsylvania State Standards. Assignments and assessments will vary from teacher to teacher and course to course. It is not expected that all teachers will post their assignments and grades with the same speed and frequency. [Click here](#) to learn more about Skyward.

- Teachers will keep an up-to-date electronic grade book.
- All assignments will use adequate descriptors and dates specially designed to impart that knowledge to student and parent readers.
- Assessments will be entered in a timely manner.
- When questions arise with respect to assignments and assessments, parents are encouraged to communicate with the teacher.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Spring-Ford Area School District offers many special education programs. Spring-Ford has access to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Approved Private Schools, and other local school districts for additional programs, if needed. SFASD's programs include:

Autistic Support: This program supports students who have been identified on the Autistic Spectrum, (Autistic, PDD or Asperger's Syndrome). Programs are designed to provide instruction in the areas of academics and/or functional skills, communication and social skills. Individualized instructional activities are based on student need and may include a structured environment that supports transitions and routine, a prompt hierarchy for models and support for academics

and behavior and a social skills curriculum. The AS social skills curriculum includes the areas of self-regulation, social information, communication, perspective taking, knowledge of conventions, and social motivation. Based on individual needs, students may also receive related services.

Emotional Support: Students are referred to the emotional support setting when the severity of their educational and emotional needs cannot be addressed within a less restrictive setting. The emotional support classroom provides a supportive, structured and predictable environment that focuses on both the educational and psychosocial needs of each student.

The learning environment includes integrated behavior support systems that teach specific classroom and social behaviors which are critical to success in a learning environment. The program strives to maintain a positive learning environment for all students and to keep students in the classroom and actively engaged in learning activities. School-based group counseling is provided to students. The goal of the group counseling is for students to gain greater insight and control over their choices.

Hearing Support: Hearing support students are seen according to their IEP or 504 plan and a range of hearing support therapy services are provided. The Hearing Support Program teaches skills in the areas of auditory discrimination, speech reading, listening, phonemic awareness. These teachers work collaboratively with the classroom teachers in supporting the students in academic areas such as math and reading. Hearing support teachers provide in-service to classroom teachers and other school personnel to maximize their understanding of how to communicate with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Learning Support: Learning support services are designed for students whose primary need is for help in academic areas. Students receive support in areas appropriate to their individual needs according to their IEP. Typically, students requiring learning support are those experiencing a specific learning disability. However, it is provided to all students with a disability as per a decision by the IEP team. Students may also receive related services including speech/language, vision, and hearing services, physical and/or occupational therapy.

Life Skills: The Life Skills program provides a comprehensive range of services for students identified with mental retardation and needing instruction in functional life skills. The program is designed to provide an intensive level of instruction in functional academics, communication and self-help skills. Individual instructional strategies are based on models of social interaction, community based instruction, functional activities/academics and training in the natural settings. At the secondary level, the goal is the development of skills necessary to maximize independence at home, on the job and in the community.

Multiple Disabilities: The MDS classroom provides a supportive, structured, predictable environment that focuses on student's individual needs. The goal of the classroom is to create an environment that supports and enhances the lives of each individual student. Students participate in inclusive activities with the general school population. They attend band and chorus classes, attend assemblies, join clubs and enjoy student volunteers coming into their classroom.

Speech and Language Support: With the new special education laws, a Speech and Language disorder is only recognized in the school if it impacts the child's ability to access their education. If a child has a mild articulation delay but it does not impact their ability to read, spell or interact with peers socially, then they will not be eligible for services.

Transition Services: Services are provided for all students beyond age 14 which include assessment, evaluation of interests and preferences of the students. Experiences are provided for students within and outside of the school building to explore career opportunities.

Vision Support: This program is designed for students who demonstrate a significant visual impairment, as documented by an eye specialist, that necessitates specially designed instruction to access the educational program. The vision support teacher instructs in any/all of the following areas: self-advocacy skills, sensory/motor skills, daily living skills, communication skills which may include Braille reading/writing/math, career and vocational skills, use of technology devices, and visual efficiency.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Student handbooks serve as a valuable resource for students and parents alike. Students and parents are encouraged to become familiar with the policies, procedures, rules, and regulations. If you have a specific concern that is not adequately or clearly addressed within these documents, you are encouraged to contact your child's principal, counselor or teacher.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board values the unique contributions made by parents, guardians and community volunteers to the educational and extracurricular programs of the school district. Accordingly, the board encourages the use of parent/guardian and community volunteers, subject to certain requirements and procedures as set forth below.

Definition of a Volunteer

A volunteer is defined as any individual who performs a service for the school district without compensation, remuneration or other consideration and who otherwise meets the requirements of this policy. A volunteer must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. A volunteer need not be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in the school district. A volunteer, for purposes of this policy, shall include but is not limited to the following opportunities:

- Serving as a daily classroom, library or office assistant
- Assisting with classroom or building events/celebrations
- Chaperoning a field trip and/or overnight trip/competition
- Volunteering with any of the district interscholastic athletic teams and musical performance groups
- Advising or assisting an extracurricular activity
- Providing supplemental assistance to a student

Holding the position of a volunteer is not a right, but a privilege conferred upon the volunteer by the board, acting through the building principal of each school within the school district. All volunteers have specific requirements that need to be completed PRIOR to participating in any volunteer experience. [Click here](#) to learn more about these requirements.

WESTERN MONTGOMERY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The mission of the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center (WMCTC) is to prepare quality citizens for lifelong productivity in a challenging world by forming innovative partnerships among family, school and community.

In addition to preparation for entry into the workforce, WMCTC students are prepared to enroll in college studies. Many two- and four-year institutions offer programs of study which complement the occupational and technical areas offered at WMCTC. The WMCTC offers courses to students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 and is located at. Call 610-489-7272 for more information.

Y CARE FROM SPRING VALLEY Y

The Spring Valley Y is committed to providing a quality school age program that is both fun and safe for children. The school age programs are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Each day, Y Care's qualified staff provides creative learning experiences and supervised activities for a child's development and enjoyment. Contact Cathleen Bach at 484-984-0561 or Logan Finerfrock at 484-984-0560 for more information and fees.

- **Before Care (7-9 a.m.):** Before Care is a program designed to promote child development by providing activities in the form of arts and crafts, games, fitness, etc.
- **After Care (After school to 6 p.m.):** After Care program offers an opportunity for children to engage in a variety of activities expanding learning beyond what they experience during school hours, including homework assistance.

Before and After Care is located at:

- Brooke Elementary
- Evans Elementary
- Flex 5-6 Grade Center School
- Limerick Elementary
- Royersford Elementary
- Spring City Elementary
- Upper Providence Elementary
- Oaks Elementary (provided by Audubon Y Care)

Check additional Childcare Providers for grades at www.spring-ford.net under "For Parents," "Day Care Programs."

PSSA AND KEYSTONE INFORMATION

All Spring-Ford students in grades 3 through 8 will participate in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment's (PSSA's). The 2015-2016 testing calendar will be:

- English/Language Arts Test Window - April 11 to 15, 2016
- Mathematics Test Window - April 18 to 22, 2016
- Science Test Window - April 25 to 29, 2016

Keystone exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficient in Algebra I, Literature and Biology. The 2015-2016 testing window will be:

- Winter - December 2 to 16, 2015
- Spring - May 16 to 27, 2016

Specific testing dates and times will be provided closer to the test window from your child's school and/or teacher.

Learn more at www.spring-ford.net under "Departments" and "Curriculum and Instruction."

DIRECTORY OF SCHOOLS

Brooke Elementary School, Mary Pat Long
339 North Lewis Rd., Royersford, PA 19468; 610-705-6006

Evans Elementary School, Jacqueline Clarke Havrilla
125 Sunset Rd., Limerick, PA 19468; 610-705-6012

Limerick Elementary School, Mitchel Edmunds
81 Limerick Center Rd., Royersford, PA 19468; 610-705-6007

Oaks Elementary School, Mark Moyer
P.O. Box 396, Oaks School Dr., Oaks, PA 19456; 610-705-6008

Royersford Elementary School, Teresa Carboy
450 Spring St., Royersford, Pennsylvania 19468; 610-705-6005

Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School,
Mitchel Edmunds
190 South Wall St., Spring City, PA 19475; 610-705-6004

Upper Providence Elementary School, Melissa Patschke, Ed.D.
833 South Lewis Rd., Royersford, PA 19468; 610-705-6009

5/6/7 Center, Heather Nunerviller
833 South Lewis Rd. Building 2, Royersford, PA 19468
610-705-6003

8th Grade Center, Michael Siggins
700 Washington St., Royersford, PA 19468; 610-705-6002

9th Grade Center, Theresa Weidenbaugh Ed. D.
400 S. Lewis Rd., Royersford, PA 19468; 610-705-6011

10-12 Grade Center, Patrick Nugent, Ed.D.
350 S. Lewis Rd., Royersford, PA 19468; 610-705-6001

IMPORTANT DATES: 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

August 31, 2015	First Day of School for Students
September 4, 2015	No School for Students
September 7, 2015	Labor Day, Schools/Offices Closed
September 14, 2015	No School for Students
September 23, 2015	In-Service Day, No School for Students
October 12, 2015	In-Service Day, No School for Students
November 3, 2015	In-Service Day, No School for Students
November 23-24, 2015	Parent Conferences, No School for Students
November 25, 2015	Thanksgiving Break, No School for Students
November 26-27, 2015	Thanksgiving Break, Schools/Offices Closed
December 24-31, 2015	Winter Break, Schools/Offices Closed
January 1, 2016	Winter Break, Schools/Offices Closed
January 18, 2016	MLK Jr. Day, Schools/Offices Closed
February 12, 2016	Parent Conferences/In-Service, No School for Students
February 15, 2016	President's Day, Schools/Offices Closed
March 23-28, 2016	Spring Break, No School for Students
April 26, 2016	In-Services, No School for Students
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day, Schools/Offices Closed
June 17, 2016	Tentative Last Day for Students