

# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



## 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT AND FALL/WINTER RAM REVIEW

Where we have been, what we are accomplishing and  
what we can do to make every day count.

## DEAR SPRING-FORD COMMUNITY,



This past year has provided our school district much to be proud of. From individual student achievement, to our high school receiving national recognition, our students, staff and families have shown tremendous pride in Spring-Ford.

As you read on, you'll find that this annual report is more than just a review of the 2013-2014 school year. It also includes highlights from the first half of the 2014-2015 school year and outlines goals that I have set to guide the school district through the year. We are proud to show you where we've been, what we're accomplishing and what we can do to make every day count.

Thank you,

Dr. David Goodin  
Superintendent

### ABOUT SPRING-FORD

**Spring-Ford Area School District** (SFASD) is located in the western central portion of Montgomery County and in the eastern central section of Chester County. The district is comprised of the Townships of Limerick and Upper Providence, and the Boroughs of Royersford and Spring City.

The growing community of approximately 47,370 straddles the route 422 bypass and offers the best of both a small-town atmosphere and proximity to metropolitan attractions. The district is characterized by small towns, suburban neighborhoods and open areas. The location offers easy access to the cultural appeal of Philadelphia, as well as the warmth and nurturing feel of suburban America.

The district is approximately twenty miles northwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, twenty-five miles south of Reading, Pennsylvania, and five miles north of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The district has a combined land area of 44.4 square miles, and the 2010 U.S. Census population of the district is 47,368, compared to the 2000 U.S. Census population of 36,483; this represents an increase of 10,885 or 30%.

### MISSION STATEMENT

**Spring-Ford Area School District** strives to be educationally relevant, focused on achievement and growth, and have a priority on people so that students are fully prepared to positively contribute to their society.

### VISION STATEMENT

**Spring-Ford Area School District** will be the district that every parent would choose as their child's educational provider.

### SHARED VALUES

Educating with dedication and passion;  
Challenging each student to their fullest potential;  
Educational opportunities beyond academics;  
Respect and integrity;  
Value diversity;  
Health, wellness and safety;  
Global citizenship;  
Collaboration and teamwork;  
Personal and social responsibility;  
Hiring and retaining the highest quality staff; and  
Fostering critical thinking and real world application.



## SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM

### SPRING-CITY ELEMENTARY HYBRID LEARNING SCHOOL SUCCESS: WHERE WE'VE BEEN - 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Preliminary data for **Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School** showed student learning growth at all levels. Through the hybrid learning model, teachers have been able to provide enrichment instruction as well as intense reinforcement for students exactly when they need the help. The model appears to be a successful blend of technology resources and small group teacher-to-student interaction.

Last school year, 80 percent of students were achieving advanced or proficient levels on curriculum content in Language Arts, while 77 percent were achieving the same levels in mathematics. Additionally, 69 percent of students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades were approaching, had met or were exceeding projected student readiness for college and careers for the PSSAs, meaning they were writing essays and other material at their grade level or better.



### PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING - FALL/WINTER 2014 REVIEW

Students at **Spring-Ford Area High School** will have the opportunity to study more in-demand fields thanks to the school's new Project Lead the Way, Pathway to Engineering (PTE) program. Project Lead the Way began in the 2014-2015 school year and will add one of four engineering classes each year for the next four years.

PTE is a program in which students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, and build strong teamwork, communication, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills. Throughout the PTE courses, students use the same industry-leading technology and software as the world's top companies.

The PTE program was approved in 2013 as part of the district's goal to implement a strong STEM program. The program will receive funding assistance through a \$35,000 grant award from the Bemis Company, which will be distributed over a three year period. The district received the first payment of the \$35,000 grant in June 2014, which helped with implementation of the program. The payments will come in three installments of \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000 over three years.

### DR. GOODIN'S GOAL: WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

In the coming year, I will be working with administration to identify ways to improve curriculum at all levels.

New technology will also be incorporated through the use of SmartBoards and other tools throughout our buildings that will enhance student learning with more interactive lessons.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE (SPP)

The Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) was introduced in 2013 as an accountability system, which replaced No Child Left Behind and AYP testing in Pennsylvania. SPP is the first state system to consider student growth in its scoring.

## GOVERNOR'S AWARD: WHERE WE'VE BEEN - 2013-2014 ANNUAL REVIEW

In 2013-2014 seven of the **SFASD's** schools received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Academics for achieving 90 points or higher on the 2012-2013 SPP. This impressive accomplishment places Spring-Ford in the top 2.5 percent in the state based on SPP data.

The schools that received the award were **Brooke Elementary**, for a score of 92.4; **Limerick Elementary**, for a score of 93.3; **Royersford Elementary**, for a score of 90.4; **5/6 Center**, for a score of 93.3; **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**, for a score of 98; **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**, for a score of 96.4; and **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**, for a score of 91.9. Additionally, the **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center** received the highest score in Montgomery County.



## SFASD HIGHLIGHTS: WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING - FALL/WINTER 2014 REVIEW

- All 12 **SFASD** schools exceeded a score of 80, which is above the state average.
- Six **SFASD** schools scored above a 90.
- **Spring-Ford Area High School** continues to excel, as their overall score increased to 91.3.
- Both the **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center** and **5/6 Center** received 10 out of 10 points for the Indicator of Academic Growth/PVAAS: Writing (note, these were the only two centers applicable)
- Four out of 12 schools received 10 out of 10 points for the Indicator of Academic Growth/PVAAS: Math; two out of 11 schools received 10 out of 10 points for the Indicator of Academic Growth/PVAAS: Reading; three out of 10 schools received 10 out of 10 points for the PVAAS Indicator of Academic Growth: Science
- 10 out of 12 met or exceeded 95% attendance rate

Results received in November 2014:

Brooke Elementary School	90.6	5/6 Center	93
Evans Elementary School	85.3	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center	97.9
Limerick Elementary School	87.2	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center	88.3
Oaks Elementary School	82.9	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center	92
Royersford Elementary School	80.6	Spring-Ford Area High School	91.3
Spring City Elementary School	89.6		
Upper Providence Elementary School	91.6		

## DR. GOODIN'S GOAL: WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

Establish a baseline for each building using first year School Performance Profile (SPP) ratings in order to ensure annual increases in scores to meet the six year achievement goal established by the state.

In order to meet SPP achievement goals, each school and the district as a whole must improve their rating within six years. The plan to use scores for the 2012-2013 school year as a baseline establishes a goal to work towards to increase student academic achievement and growth in all reporting categories.

# TECHNOLOGY IN SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT): WHERE WE'VE BEEN - 2013-2014 REVIEW

SFASD was pleased to announce the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) program during the 2013-2014 school year for students in grades 9 through 12. The BYOT program allowed students to bring their own electronic devices to school and connect them to the district's wireless network. Students used their devices to facilitate their ability to communicate, collaborate, research, create and problem-solve in new and exciting ways. The program allowed for higher levels of student engagement and achievement.

SFASD students are digital natives and live in a world where information creation and consumption is constantly occurring. By granting access to the tools and resources of a world-wide network students gain an understanding of when and how these tools are appropriately and effectively used.



## BUILDING SMART CLASSROOMS: WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING - FALL/WINTER 2014 REVIEW

This year, students and teachers will benefit from the addition of "SMART Classrooms" in every school. "SMART Classroom" technologies include digital projectors, sound systems, interactive white boards, document cameras and student response systems. Staff members participate SMARTBoard orientation, and are offered SMART training throughout the year during staff inservice days to best utilize SMART technology in their individual learning plans.

Below is a summary of the technologies that will be delivered in the coming months.

Digital Projection System with sound	110
SMART Interactive White Board	78
Document Camera	31
Student Response System	6

Installation in all classrooms is projected to be completed by the end of January 2015.

## DR. GOODIN'S GOAL: WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

As the high school increases its student-available technology, I will be working with the Technology and Curriculum departments on building the One-to-One program. The goal is to encourage students to learn through self-guided research on classroom topics; to build computer and program skills for today's global career environment; and to support independent studies.



## SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF AND OPERATIONS

### SECURITY ADVANCEMENTS: WHERE WE'VE BEEN - 2013-2014 REVIEW

The Spring-Ford Board of School Directors approved the first phase in surveillance upgrades in the fall of 2013. The upgrades replace the existing analog surveillance with a digital system throughout **Spring-Ford Area High School**.

The upgrades throughout the district will begin at the high school, and continue to the **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**, the **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**, the **5-7 Grade Center** and all elementary schools. The switch from analog to digital will enhance both image quality and storage of the video.



### BUDGET: WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING - FALL/WINTER 2014 REVIEW

The Spring-Ford Area Board of School Directors approved the final budget for the 2014-2015 school year in the total amount of \$136,988,745. The board was able to bring down an initial 4 percent increase substantially. The budget calls instead for a 1.95 percent increase, well below the Act 1 index, which would have allowed up to a 4.159 percent increase due to exceptions for Special Education and Retirement Contributions of 2.059 percent and the state index of 2.1 percent.

### INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES: WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING - FALL/WINTER 2014 REVIEW

With the adoption of PA Core standards, **SFASD** students will be facing increased expectations in content and skills across all grade levels. The role of the instructional coach is uniquely designed to provide professional development, coaching and support for classroom teachers on a regular basis. Focusing the coaches in the areas of literacy and math at both the elementary and secondary level has allowed the school district to transition well to PA Core. Coaches work with teachers to more effectively implement PA Core expectations by modeling best instructional practice.

Given the increased expectations with the SPP, **SFASD** needs to focus on providing access to resources for our staff so they are able to meet the needs of every student. Since the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, coaches have been providing professional development during faculty and team meetings, and have helped to integrate new technology into the classroom.

### DR. GOODIN'S GOAL: WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

Phase in the new Pennsylvania Department of Education Educator Effectiveness employee evaluation system so that it replaces the previously existing measurement tools. I will oversee the implementation of both these evaluation models in the 2014-2015 school year, as well as modify all new systems to make sure they remain as objective as possible.

## SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

### SPRING-FORD LAUNCHES THE PHONE APP: WHERE WE'VE BEEN - 2013-2014 REVIEW

**SFASD** improved communication in 2013-2014 with the launch of its newest tool, and the first of its kind for Montgomery County school districts: the Spring-Ford Phone App. The app, which is available for both iPhones and Androids, is available as a free download, and offers convenient access to all district information, links to calendars, single-click calling and email, automatic updates, push notifications for the district and more.

The initiative to create the app evolved from the School Board's Community Relations Committee, as a modern-day method to be more proactive with communication, develop better ways to support schools and strengthen connectivity with families and the community.

### SPRING-FORD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS FIRST ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK: WHERE WE'VE BEEN - 2013-2014 REVIEW

The **Spring-Ford Educational Foundation** held its first annual 5K Run/Walk and Kid Fun Run April 11, 2014. The run benefits the Senior Impact Awards, a program which honors individuals nominated by graduating seniors who have made an impact on their educational experience. These individuals are part of our district and make life-changing impacts on our students by inspiring, teaching and understanding them.

The Educational Foundation's main goal is to secure resources from individuals, corporations, community organizations and foundations to be distributed in support of programs for the benefit of the students and residents in the **Spring-Ford Area School District**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 5K Run/Walk and Kid Fun Run will be April 24, 2015.



### SFASD MEMORIAL ARBORETUM: WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING - FALL/WINTER 2014 REVIEW

The Spring-Ford community was invited to the re-dedication of the Spring-Ford Memorial Arboretum, located behind the **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**. The Arboretum was constructed in the 1970's to honor the memory of district alumni and community residents. The Spring-Ford Board of School Directors, **Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center** students and community volunteers saw this space as an area in need of development and worked together to restore the garden.

The project was designed and built by Western Center students, with guidance from industry experts including Ms. Gail Wellington. The plans for the project modernized the arboretum to make it more visually appealing and useful. Additionally, the revised plans allow for **SFASD** teachers to hold outdoor classes. The design features benches, additional trees and plantings, patio, deck, stream and motion activated lighting.

