



The DTS Messenger

"A Quarterly Newsletter for Parents"

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"Home of the Wildcats"

Meet The New Faculty

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Upcoming Events

- Oct 6 Bully Prevention Wk.
- Oct 9 Elem Conferences, MS In-service
- Oct 20 PTA Dinner
- Oct 15 "Super Hero Day"
- Oct 16 Trivanovich Assembly
- Oct 20 Violence Awareness Wk
- Oct 24 MS Dance 7pm
- Oct 27 Red Ribbon Week
- Oct 31 Gr PreK—3 Halloween Parade at 2pm

This year we have several new faculty members at DTS. Here's a little something about them and their backgrounds.

Ms. Lynne Alleger—Ms. Alleger was hired as part of our middle school language arts department. She teaches grades 6, 7, and 8. Ms. Alleger previously worked at Immaculate Conception High School in Somerville where she taught Honors Language Arts courses to seniors.

Ms. Maggie Butler—Ms. Butler teaches middle school and K-2 Spanish at DTS. Previously she taught Spanish through Atkins International where multi-aged classes were the norm. She is from Ecuador and was raised speaking both Spanish and English in her South American school.

Ms. Amanda Garrett—Ms. Garrett is a licensed School Psychologist and part of our Child Study Team. Ms. Garrett case manages the students in grades 4, 5 and 6 who require special education services. Previously she worked in Pennsylvania as a School Psychologist.

Ms. Victoria Hardy—Ms. Hardy is a lifelong resident of East Amwell Township and holds certification for special education and Social Studies. Ms. Hardy teaches as part of our middle school special education department.

Ms. Jennifer Smith—Ms. Smith is teaching in the middle school math program at DTS. She has seven years prior teaching experience as a middle school math teacher.

Ms. Kathleen Racile—Ms. Racile is a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC). She has experience as a special education teacher and previously was the head of a CST in Holland Township. Ms. Racile is the DTS Special Education Supervisor where she works closely with teachers to implement IEPs that meet the needs of our students.

Ms. Susan Warren—Ms. Warren is a resident of Delaware Township. She is a certified speech and language teacher. She has previously worked in Bethlehem Township and is now working part-time at DTS.

Though not new, the following faculty members were either hired mid-year last year, have changed positions or returned after a leave of absence.

Ms. Josette Gifford returns this year in kindergarten continuing for Mrs. Kappas who is on maternity leave.

Ms. Nicole Bivona returns after her maternity leave to the primary grades where she made her start years back. She is now part of our kindergarten team.

Ms. Kathy Ferry is teaching grade one this year after many years in grade two. She brings years of primary teaching experience with her to grade one.

Ms. Sue Whitlock returns to the Child Study Team as our School Social Worker. Ms. Whitlock case manages the special needs students in grades kindergarten through three.

DTS continues to grow as a school district committed to excellence. That commitment extends to hiring qualified professionals who are lifelong learners and who put children first.

2008 Summer Curriculum Work

DTS faculty and Mrs. Ryan, as the district curriculum coordinator, were busy this summer with curriculum committee writing. We are beginning the third year of the five year curriculum cycle and we're really starting to see the results!

First, the intervention teachers met with Mrs. Ryan to review the parameters for entrance to and exit from the elementary program. In addition, the types of service delivery options were also refined. Various program materials and approaches were outlined as well. This document was BOE approved over the summer and parents of children participating

in the program received copies. Any parent interested in it may call the main office for a copy.

Next, representatives from the special education department met to define the legal parameters associated with special education classes. The document will be an appendix in all curriculum documents in the district from this point forth. It defines the curriculum used, the modification possibilities and also the classroom settings and placement options for students receiving special education services. This document was approved by the BOE over the summer.

Perhaps the largest curriculum initiative this summer was the newly drafted math curriculum. Nine faculty members representing all grades worked from the curriculum maps to create a document that is aligned to standards. The draft curriculum will be shared with the BOE at the October meeting and teachers are piloting sections for refinement by the end of this school year.

In addition, the Health curriculum and the Preschool curriculum were also drafted and will be piloted this year for final BOE approval in May or June.

There is a great deal of work being done on district programs to insure the alignment to state standards.

What Happens in Each Year of the Curriculum Cycle?

Year 1—Curriculum maps are written by the faculty. The curriculum committee is formed and they educate themselves on current practices then draft a guiding philosophy for the new document.

Year 2—It begins with summer curriculum writing using the maps previously created. Alignment to standards is insured by a manual check. The

drafted document is used as a pilot throughout the school year. At the end of the year a text selection process is used to update any materials which are out of date and the new curriculum document is put to the BOE for approval along with those new materials.

Year 3—Full implementation of the new curriculum using the new materials occurs. Staff development to support

the implementation of best and current practices also occurs and will continue over years four and five.

Year 4—Report cards are reviewed and benchmark assessments are created to support student progress and the reporting of that progress.

Year 5—Continued implementation of the new curriculum occurs.

Curriculum Area	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11
Language Arts Literacy	1	2	3	4	5
Music	1	2	3	4	5
Intv/Spec. Ed Parameters		1	2	3	4
Mathematics		1	2	3	4
Health		1	2	3	4
Guidance		1	2	3	4
Research		1	2	3	4
PreK		1	2	3	4
PE			1	2	3
Art			1	2	3
Social Studies			1	2	3
Technology			1	2	3
Science				1	2
Spanish				1	2
French				1	2

DTS Cafeteria Committee

Student volunteers in grades 3-8 and parents meet throughout the school year with our Cafeteria Director, Mindi Martinez, School Nurse Pat Klemchalk, Assistant Principal Mike Hesington and staff from the school's food service provider, Maschio's, to make improvements to our school lunch program. Last spring the Cafeteria Committee distributed a survey to families about our lunch program. Survey results were shared with parents in June before school closed for the summer (parents who may have missed the Survey Report can request another copy from parent Committee member Marjorie Egarian at meegarian@aol.com).

The Committee convened in August to review survey results and make recommendations for improvements to our lunch program. Survey respondents would like to see less sodium and saturated fat in our children's food choices and more whole grains, fresh fruits, vegetables and vegetarian menu choices. Maschio's will work with our Committee to provide nutritious menu choices that appeal to students.

Pizza, one of the most popular menu items, was one of the issues identified by many families on the survey! Students were looking for tastier pizza and parent comments urged the school to purchase locally instead of the national chain we were purchasing our pizza from. Nicola's, a Delaware Township family business in Lambertville, was willing and able to supply our pizza and provide the nutritional data required by government regulations for all food served in public school lunch programs. Mrs. Martinez was able to make the change quickly so that students would see the change in September.

Other Cafeteria Improvements

Hormone-free milk is now provided, at no additional cost to families

Styrofoam plates, bowls and trays have been replaced with washable melamine dishes and trays

Almost all white breads and white flour pastas have been replaced with whole wheat breads and pastas

DTS will begin purchasing tomatoes and peppers from the farm stand on Rt. 523 this month!

Based on the information that parents provided in the surveys and the 20 parents that volunteered to work with the Committee, there will be three sub-committees forming to improve the lunch program: the **Food choices/menu sub-committee**; the **Recycling sub-committee** and the **Farm to School sub-committee**. Maschio's will provide staff assistance to our sub-committees through the two new Dieticians on staff and their Recycling and Farm to School Coordinator. At least a dozen school districts in Hunterdon and Warren counties work with Maschio's on bringing local produce into their schools and we hope to be one of them soon!

Parents interested in working on any of these efforts can contact Mike Hesington at (609)397-3179 X403 or mhesington@dtsk8.org.

In-House Performance Assessments

As part of the DTS school goals this year and also in response to state monitoring, our school is beginning a process to develop in-house assessments. This project will last for several years before completion. These in-house assessments compliment standardized, norm-referenced test results from the state of NJ. They have the main purpose of providing information on student knowledge to teachers to help shape instruction and strategies for instruction.

It also allows the district to assess a child's level of progress against our curriculum.

Examples of in-house assessments that drive instruction and inform teaching are student writing samples, which DTS has been doing for two years now. Also in the primary grades, running records on young readers allow us to determine flexible reading groups that focus on skills and strategies in need of development. This also allows for

instruction at a student's specific level of reading skill. In addition, the middle school is pursuing integrated units of study across curricular areas that will connect the disciplines for students based on a theme. Such units will culminate in a performance assessment that allows student exhibition of learning in an authentic manner.

Stay tuned for more information!

Delaware Township School

The Delaware Township
Board of Education

*"Committed to your Child's
Education"*

*Check out the updated
DTS Website—
www.dtsk8.org— and
learn about your
school!*



DTS

**"Home of the
Wildcats"**

DTS BOE CORNER

BOE Meeting Dates

All meetings begin at 7:30pm and are held in the Performing Arts Room.

This year's meeting dates are:

September 23—5 Year Curriculum Cycle Update

October 28—District Goals, Violence and Vandalism Report

November 25—Regular Meeting

December 16—Regular Meeting

January 27—Budget Input

February 24—Budget Input

March 24—Budget Presentation

April 28—Reorganization Meeting

Join us to learn about your school community.

Who Are Your Board Members?

There are nine BOE members. Currently the DTS Board of Education members are:

Linda Ubry, President

Joseph Pulkowski, VP

Scott Falk

James Harkness

Kenneth Novak

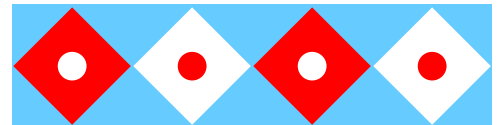
Catherine Mumford

Kathy Roethel

Lawrence Wohl

Vacant

Anyone interested in the vacant board seat may contact Mrs. Mary Robinson at the Board office for details. 609-397-3179, ext. 405.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Delaware Township School District will prepare each student to become a productive, responsible member of society, able to adapt and change, by providing an environment that:

-creates a foundation for self-motivated lifelong learning through relevant, innovative, comprehensive curricula;

-focuses on individual needs and promotes excellence by encouraging and enhancing the intellectual and social development of each student.

This will be realized through an active and responsive partnership that includes our students, parents, community, and staff.