

Cocalico Connection

News and Information About
the Cocalico School District
Students, Staff, and Community



www.cocalico.org

Fall 2023

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Mission

We inspire and support learning for every child, every chance, every day.

Vision

All students will be empowered to achieve their fullest potential.

Every Child...
Every Chance...
Every Day...



Welcome to the Elementary Schools, Mrs. Pfautz

Cocalico School District is excited to announce that Mrs. Danielle Pfautz has taken on the role of Assistant Elementary Principal, which was vacated last spring. Mrs. Pfautz is not new to the district nor to the field of education. She is in her 15th year at Cocalico and her 30th in education, and she was most recently the district's Assistant Director of Special Services.

Mrs. Pfautz's job duties include providing extra coverage in the elementary buildings, addressing discipline, working with staff to identify student barriers to achievement, attending faculty and parent/student meetings, and working with families and staff teams to help meet the needs of all students. She will also continue to be a

resource for special education students, specifically at the elementary level.

When asked what she is most excited about in her new role, Mrs. Pfautz said, "I look forward to getting to know the staff, students, and families at the elementary level. I have spent quite a bit of time with our students at the end of their school careers, and I now look forward to being involved in the beginning of their school experiences."

Mrs. Pfautz resides in Mount Joy. She enjoys traveling and taking walks with her husband.

Best wishes in your new role!

Food Service Workers Needed – Working in a Cocalico cafeteria is the perfect job for a parent or caregiver! You work while your child is in school – no weekends, no evenings, no holidays! If becoming a Food Service Worker interests you, please contact our HR Department at (717) 336-1417. Or, visit www.cocalico.org/depts/_human_resources_employment for more information or to download an application.

STAY CONNECTED!

Cocalico School District uses social media and other electronic platforms to provide information about district programs, services, projects, events, activities, and important announcements. Check out all the ways you can follow Cocalico!



WEBSITE
www.cocalico.org



MOBILE APP
Available on the App Store and Google Play



TWITTER
[@CocalicoSD](https://twitter.com/CocalicoSD)



FACEBOOK
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INSTAGRAM
[@CocalicoSD](https://www.instagram.com/CocalicoSD)



Did You Know?

The PA Department of Education requires public school districts to implement an induction program for new faculty members. At Cocalico, all new teachers go through a year-long program starting with three days of new teacher orientation held every August, followed by frequent trainings and sessions with their principal, Assistant Superintendent, and other district leaders.

According to PA School Code, new contracted teachers and long-term substitutes, in a role for 45+ days, are required to attend induction meetings and perform specified assessments and teaching-related tasks to document their learning and growth. Inductees, teacher mentors, and building administrators meet as a group on a regular basis to review a variety of job-related topics, problem solve, and ensure all feel supported during their first year in the district. In addition, up to five days per year are granted to inductees and mentors to review curriculum, examine teaching strategies, and observe other faculty members.

Cocalico's Induction Program is truly a team effort. Thank you to the mentors, teachers, and district leaders who provide encouragement and support so that all new staff can achieve their fullest potential as educators.



Dear community,

It is with great excitement that I present to you this latest edition of our district newsletter! It features early childhood initiatives, ways in which our teachers are addressing barriers to learning, innovative grant opportunities, and much more. You will be introduced to the new teachers in our district and will learn how our teacher mentors and administrators help them to navigate through their first year at Cocalico. In addition, this publication is filled with student and staff achievements in academics, athletics, and the fine arts. We are so proud of the heights to which our Cocalico Eagles soar!

After reading our new Staff Spotlight section, we hope you may be inspired to become a Sports Worker. If you love to watch our youth compete on the field or in the gymnasium, then we have the job for you!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and the many activities and events happening all throughout the district. We encourage you to continue to be involved by volunteering, attending sporting events or musical performances, working as an employee, or following us on social media. Together, we inspire and support learning for every child, every chance, every day.

Warm regards,

Ella Musser

Ella H. Musser, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Thank You Mentors!

Mentors are an integral part of the success of Cocalico's Induction Program. These individuals share their knowledge and expertise throughout the first year of a new teacher's assignment.

Thank you to the following faculty members who began their roles as mentors at the start of the 2023-2024 school year: Elizabeth Cerullo, Tonyah Colatta-Rigney, Stacey Copenhaver, Tammy Frey, Nicole Hartman, Samantha Hatt, Nicole Horst, Adam Kennedy, Kristin Knapp, Chelsea Mann, Daria Rohrer, and Elizabeth Zimmerman.

New to the Nest

Jenine Bisaccio, Adamstown/Reamstown Certified School Nurse

Bachelor's: West Chester University

School Nurse Certification: Eastern Mennonite University

Goal: Promote health and wellness in school and encourage students to become self-advocates for their health

Hobbies: Hiking, traveling, going on adventures with family

Alice Fernald, CHS English Language Arts Teacher

Bachelor's: Clarion University

Goal: Equip and inspire students for life beyond Cocalico High School

Hobbies: Track-and-field, soccer, hiking, cooking

Emma Gochnauer, Adamstown Special Education Teacher

Bachelor's: Bloomsburg University

Goal: Make students feel safe and loved each time they walk into the classroom

Hobbies: Reading, running, playing/watching sports, spending time with family

Noor Idrees, CHS LTS – Technology Education Teacher

Bachelor's: Millersville University

Goal: Create an inclusive and student-centered learning environment that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and a love for learning

Hobbies: Traveling, painting, reading, learning new languages



Rhianna Kalescky, Reamstown Special Education Teacher

Bachelor's: Millersville University

Master's: Liberty University

Goal: Give all students a fair opportunity to a well-rounded education applicable in the least restrictive learning environment

Hobbies: Volleyball, weightlifting

Chloe Lucky, Reamstown LTS – Math & Reading Support Teacher

Bachelor's & Master's: La Salle University

Goal: Become an influential figure in children's lives by inspiring, motivating, and encouraging them to reach their full potential

Hobbies: Baking, running, coaching/playing field hockey

Sara Miller, CMS/CHS English as a Second Language Teacher

Bachelor's: Millersville University

Goal: Teach English Language Learners in a way that acknowledges their past experiences as valuable assets to the learning process while assisting them in building foundations for learning in their new language

Hobbies: Spending time with family, experiencing cultures, traveling

Elise Nelligan, Reamstown Grade 3 Teacher

Bachelor's: Pennsylvania State University

Goal: Immerse herself into all things new in hopes of learning more about her professional self

Hobbies: Spending time with family

Matthew Oberly, CHS Special Education Teacher

Bachelor's: Salisbury University

Master's: Saint Joseph's University

Goal: Develop positive relationships with students and help them grow into their best selves

Hobbies: Lacrosse, soccer, thrifting

Candace Schneider, CHS Special Education Teacher

Bachelor's: Millersville University

Master's: Pennsylvania State University

Goal: Support and serve students with compassion, patience, good humor, and grace

Hobbies: Spending time with family, being outside, listening to live music

Nicole Thomas, CHS Special Education Teacher

Bachelor's: Western Governors University

Goal: Help each student become the best version of themselves

Hobbies: Going to the bay, spending time with family

Danielle Whiteside, CHS Special Education Teacher

Bachelor's: East Stroudsburg University

Goal: To make sure students know they are safe, loved, and worthy

Hobbies: Cooking, baking, going to the beach, spending time with family, cheering on her favorite sports teams

Jennifer Zwaska, Reamstown LTS – Grade 5 Teacher

Bachelor's: Cairn University

Goal: Encourage students to stretch their knowledge and abilities and to inspire a love of learning

Hobbies: Reading, spending time with family

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Attention Business Owners! If you're looking for a way to showcase your company and support the academic and athletic programs at Cocalico, then you may want to check out the sponsorship opportunities available. For more information, please contact Mrs. Lesley Stricker at (717) 336-1413 or lstricker@cocalico.org.



Translation Services

Cocalico School District websites and documents can be translated into many languages. For more information, go to the district website, click on the "Supports" tab, and select "English as a Second Language (ESL)." If you need additional assistance, please contact Mrs. Denise Logue, Director of Academic Supports, at (717) 336-1462 or dlogue@cocalico.org.

Eagle Pride

Cocalico School District is pleased to recognize a few of the many outstanding accomplishments of CSD students and staff.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Winter 2022-2023 Team Sports Accomplishments

Boys'/Girls' Swimming – LL League Sportsmanship Award

Lancaster-Lebanon League All-Academic Honors (HS 2022-2023 Winter Sports Season)

(Photo A)

Girls' Basketball: Abigail Waas
Wrestling: Chase Barnes Timothy Porter
 Dane Bollinger Jonathan Rathman
 Kameron Carcia Nolan Steiner
 Jalen Frederick Aiden Swann

PIAA State Swimming Championships

(Photo B)

Elle Fisher Kaden Lehman Logan Sensenig
 Isabella Griest Addison Musser Andrew Seprinski
 Nic Guthridge Rylee Nedimyer Evan Zeni

PIAA State Wrestling Championships

Aiden Swann

Spring 2022 Team Sports Accomplishments

Boys' Lacrosse – Placed in the PIAA State Championships Elite Eight

Lancaster-Lebanon League All-Academic Honors (HS 2023 Spring Sports Season)

Boys' Lacrosse: Stephen O'Byrne Matthew Stevens
Girls' Lacrosse: Lia Finnegan

PIAA State Track & Field Championships

Gavin Glass | 16th Place – 110 M Hurdles

PMEA District 7 Songfest

(Photo C)

Lilianne Buckwalter Nolan Martin Ava Spisak
 Brooklyn Burchfield Peyton McCafferty Elizabeth VanderPlate
 Sadie Elmore Elijah McKairnes Trent Weaver
 Morgan Good Melanie Messner Madelyn Webster
 Kahlan Landers Lylah Moua
 Lillian Maharg Annabelle Roberts



2023 AP Scholars with Honor

Hannah Martin Lillian Pawling Teagan Sahn

2023 AP Scholars with Distinction

Alyssa Bernard Hailey Haldeman Angelia Yang
 Claire Chisholm Kiera Tran

A. Landis Brackbill Scholar-Athlete Finalists

(Photo D)

Tyler Angstadt Samantha Keck

Denver Elementary Art of Storytelling Winners

(Photo E)

Katherine Augustine Lindsey Nolt

2023 Adamstown Music Series Art Contest Winner

Danika Sensenig | 1st Place

Music in the Parks Competition

(Photo F)

7th & 8th grade band | 1st Place
 CMS band & chorus | Esprit de Corps Award for Best Behavior/Character
 Addison Hill | Outstanding Vocalist

Lancaster County Young Artists Show

Liahna Fox | Pauline Stauffer Award of Excellence



Elementary Districtwide Coding Contest
 Rowen Bortz/Robert Eyster | *Grand Prize*
 Elijah McKairnes | *Grand Prize*

PA Council on Financial Literacy Stock Market Challenge – State Competition
 (Photo G)
 Zachary Bollinger | *3rd place*
 Craig Fair | *9th place*

2023 LNP/LancasterOnline Student Journalism Contest – Ad Winners
 Jocelyn Cammauf
 Hannah Smith

National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM Participants (Summer 2023)
 (Photo H)
 Robert Eyster
 Stanley Prince



STAFF/SCHOOL RECOGNITION

LL League Section 2 Boys' Lacrosse Coach of the Year
 Mr. Matthew Oberly
 (Photo I)

2022-2023 Imagine Learning District of Distinction
 Cocalico School District | *Cocalico Connections Online Learning Program*



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Become a Cocalico Sports Worker Today

Don't take our word for it... just ask Hollie!

Ms. Hollie Kemper has been a Sports Worker for Cocalico Athletics for over 12 years! She started with taking tickets at football games because she wanted to see everyone in the community on a Friday night. After her youngest child graduated in 2013, Coach Hogan asked her to run the clock for Girls' Soccer games. Both of her children had played soccer, and after they graduated, she really missed watching the games. So, this was a way she could still stay involved in Cocalico sports! Because Hollie was also a Cocalico Middle School teacher, she enjoyed seeing her former students grow and mature as high school athletes while working the games.



Ms. Kemper is now enjoying life as a retired teacher; however, she still can be seen on the fields and in the gyms performing many Sports Worker duties. Here's why she thinks becoming a Sports Worker may be right for you!

What Does a Sports Worker Do?
 There are so many different positions available, that almost anyone can find a job they would enjoy. From selling tickets, measuring discus throws, working security, or announcing at competitions, there is something for everyone during every season. If there is a sport you enjoy watching, there is probably a Sports Worker needed for that at Cocalico.

What Do You Enjoy Most About Being a Sports Worker?
 Definitely the best thing about working sporting events is seeing the kids compete. Our students are wonderful athletes who show great sportsmanship and are genuinely nice people. It's amazing how much they grow and mature over their high school careers. I also enjoy seeing former students who are now parents, and other community members who come to see the games. I also really enjoy talking on a microphone. 😊

What Encouragement Do You Have for Someone Interested in Becoming a Sports Worker?
 Don't be afraid to apply to become a Sports Worker. The Director of Athletics is happy to explain how to do any job you elect to do, and the Athletics Department Administrative Assistant only schedules you for the events and days that you are available to work. You get to see people and be a part of the Cocalico community.

Property Tax Reminder

All 2023-2024 property taxes must be paid to the Cocalico School District by December 31, 2023, including all 3rd and final installment payments. After this date, any outstanding property taxes will be turned over to the Lancaster Tax Claim Bureau for collection. To avoid further penalties, please pay any outstanding taxes to the school district PRIOR TO December 31, 2023. Just a reminder – the district tax office will be CLOSED for winter break beginning at 3:30 pm on Friday, December 22, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024.

Apply to become a Sports Worker TODAY!
 Click on the QR code or call Mrs. Laudenslager at (717) 336-1450 for more information. Go Eagles!



Flying HIGH

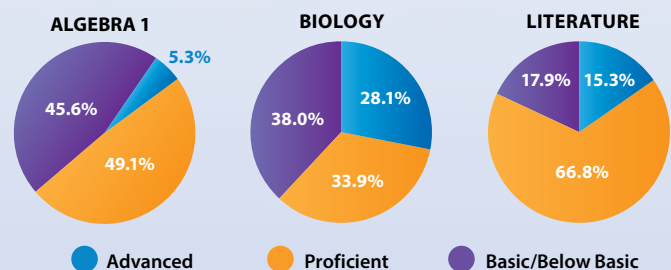
CSD ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The following charts highlight district performance in mandated state assessments and other indicators of student achievement. At the time of this newsletter's publication, Future Ready Index data had not been finalized. Thus, it will be reported in the spring newsletter.

As more information on district academic performance is made available for 2022-2023, it will be posted on the district website for your review. To access this information, please go to www.cocalico.org and click on the Academic Performance link found under the District tab.

Keystone Exams

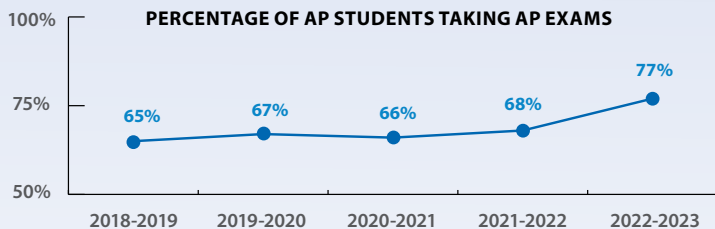
Keystone Exams are end-of-course tests designed to assess performance in the content areas of Algebra, Biology, and Literature. These exams help determine whether a student has mastered the standards associated with earning a high school diploma. The results below are based on estimates of the best scores to date generated by students who were in Grade 11 during the 2022-2023 school year.



Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

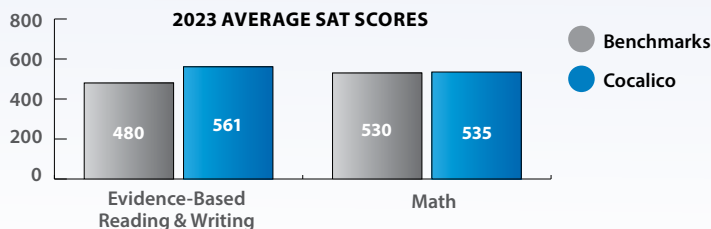
Students at Cocalico have the opportunity to demonstrate advanced achievement by taking college-level AP courses during their high school years. In the 2022-2023 school year, the percentage of students enrolled in AP courses who took an AP exam increased by 9%. Sixty percent (60%) of test takers scored a 3 or higher (on a 5-point scale) on at least one exam, thus showing proficient or advanced performance on college-level assessments.

In the 2022-2023 school year, the following AP courses were offered: Language & Composition, Literature & Composition, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Computer Science A, Biology, Physics II, U.S. Government & Politics, Spanish Language & Culture, and Microeconomics.



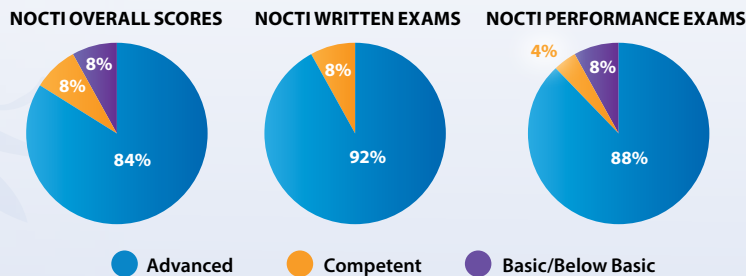
SAT Exams

Another indicator of a students' academic performance includes the scores achieved on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The most recent scores of 2023 high school graduates who took these tests while in high school are reflected in the chart below.



NOCTI Exams

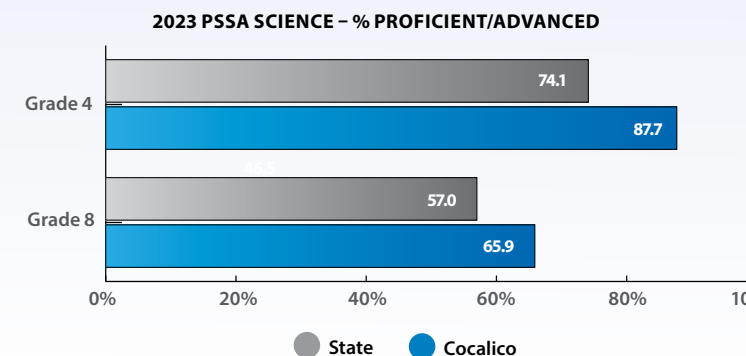
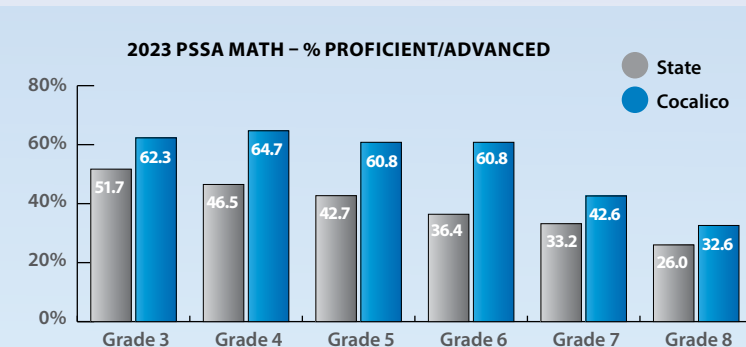
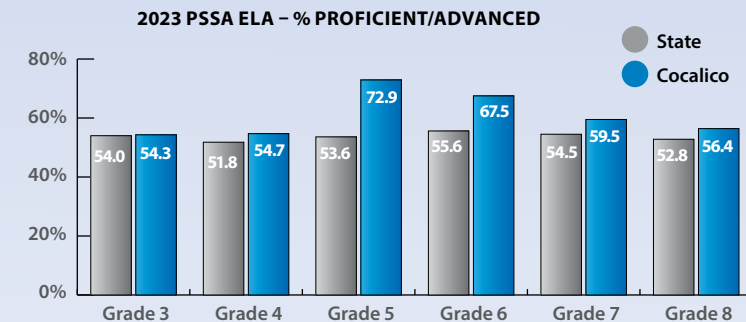
Standardized National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exams are given to students participating in courses at the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center (CTC). These tests are designed to measure job readiness skills and consist of both a written and performance component. Cocalico students performed extremely well on NOCTI exams during the 2022-2023 school year. Twenty-five (25) students participated in the testing, and 92% of those students scored competent or advanced in both the written and performance components.



PSSA Assessments

The annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment aimed at measuring a student's attainment of the academic standards while also determining the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of the standards. Every public school student in Pennsylvania in Grades 3-8 is assessed in ELA and Math. In addition, students in Grades 4 and 8 are assessed in Science.

The following charts depict the percentage of students who were advanced or proficient on the 2023 Spring PSSA Exams. In all grade levels and all subject areas, Cocalico students outperformed their peers from across the state.



*80 students took the SAT in 2022-2023 (32% of 2023 graduates). This number has decreased over the past few years, possibly due to the relaxation of SAT scores as prerequisites for college admission.



Focusing on EVERY CHILD

This year, some of the professional development opportunities for faculty will focus on building strategies to help learners in three subgroups: English Language Learners, students in Special Education, and those identified as Gifted. Some sessions will be facilitated by Cocalico staff members and leaders while others will involve outside consultants from Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PATTAN).

The workshops will provide practical information that will help to support our ever-changing population at Cocalico. During these in-services, staff members will have time to work collectively with their peers and will learn from leaders with expertise in working with the three subgroups. It's just one way Cocalico is continuing to meet the needs of every child, every chance, every day.

Preparing our Community's Youngest Learners

Brain research has shown the significant impact of a child's earliest experiences on his or her later development and success in school. Therefore, the Cocalico School District is working hard to provide opportunities for our district's youngest learners and their families even before they come to kindergarten!

For families with children ages birth-2, Cocalico has an Early Learning Mentor who helps to carry out the *Parents as Teachers* program. She works alongside parents in their homes as they learn to effectively interact with their children to prepare them for school and for life. Even expectant mothers are eligible to help prepare for the arrival of their new babies.

For families with children ages birth-5, a series of "Play and Learns" are offered in the fall and spring. These events are meant to provide opportunities for Cocalico's youngest learners and their parents to make social connections within the community while being exposed to exciting themes through read-alouds, songs, and hands-on activities. The first Play and Learn series for the 2023-2024 school year, focused on the five senses, began on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at Reamstown Elementary.

Opportunities specific to the "soon-to-be-kindergarten" students occur monthly throughout the year. Beginning every October, the district hosts a monthly interactive "Pre-K Workshop" designed for incoming kindergarten students and their parents to learn about how to start preparing for kindergarten. Monthly topics include social/emotional awareness and regulation, the impact of fine and gross motor skills on cognitive development, literacy skills, math readiness, and writing readiness. For a listing of the monthly events, please go to the district website, click on the "Supports" tab and select "Early Literacy & Pre-K Development." All students who will be attending kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year and their families are invited!

Information about registration for all of the opportunities mentioned above, as well as future events such as the Winter STEM Series and Parent Cafes, will be shared via the district website, building newsletters, and Cocalico's social media platforms. Can't wait to inspire and support our youngest Cocalico Eagles!

STEM Programs Receive Grant Funding

Cocalico School District is excited to announce that both the middle school and high school received grants to expand STEM opportunities for students. Cocalico Middle School was awarded a \$10,000 grant, sponsored by the Arconic Foundation, to implement Project Lead the Way (PLTW), an innovative project-based learning program that incorporates all four areas of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Through PLTW, students develop in-demand, transportable skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and communication that they will use both in school and on any career path they choose. In PLTW courses, they explore real-world challenges in an exciting and engaging way.

The \$10,000 grant is being used for materials, teacher training, the PLTW participation fee, and other needs required to implement the new program at the Middle School. Mrs. Lindsay Ehrat, CMS math teacher, attended the intensive trainings this summer and is teaching two PLTW courses this year – App Creator and Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. The benefits of these two courses



include growing students' technical skills to be successful in high school, increasing their knowledge of STEM, and building interest in the high school PLTW programs.

Cocalico High School was awarded a \$3,900 grant from The Steinman Foundation for a sublimation printer and supplies for the Technology Education Department. Sublimation printing is a specific process that is used in business and industry. Students gain significant and meaningful experience as they learn how items are designed and printed. The sublimation printer will enhance the high school's graphics courses. It will also be used to print spirit wear items for the high school and may eventually be used for other printing jobs in which students can use their entrepreneurial skills to create new items, advertise them, and sell them.

Thank you to both the Arconic Foundation and The Steinman Foundation for your generosity and your commitment to STEM education.

Food Allergy Management



Cocalico School District's Board Policy 209.1 outlines the steps to ensure all students are in a safe and healthy environment while at school. This is especially true for those with severe or life-threatening food allergies.

The district's approach for managing student food allergies is threefold: (1) reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions; (2) ensure a rapid and effective response in the case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction; and (3) protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities, including classroom parties and field trips. The focus of Cocalico's food allergy management is on prevention, education, awareness, communication, and emergency response.

A complete set of a student's current medical plan of care related to food allergies is maintained by the school nurse. Information on the different components of a student's medical plan of care is provided to appropriate personnel who may be involved in the implementation of the plan.

For questions regarding management of your child's food allergies, please reach out to the nurse at your child's school building.



Notice of Special Education Services

The Cocalico School District provides special education and related services to resident children with disabilities who are ages 3 through 21. The purpose of this notice is to describe (1) the types of disabilities that might qualify the child for such programs and services, (2) the special education programs and related services that are available, (3) the process by which the Cocalico School District screens and evaluates such students to determine eligibility, and (4) the special rights that pertain to such children and their parents or legal guardians.

What types of disability might qualify a child for special education and related services?

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, commonly referred to as the "IDEA," children qualify for special education and related services if they have one or more of the following disabilities and, as a result, demonstrate a need for special education and related services: (1) intellectual disability, (2) hearing impairments, including deafness, (3) speech or language impairments, (4) visual impairments, including blindness, (5) serious emotional disturbance, (6) orthopedic impairments, (7) autism, including pervasive developmental disorders; (8) traumatic brain injury, (9) other health impairment, (10) specific learning disabilities. If a child has more than one of the above-mentioned disabilities, the child could qualify for special education and related services as having multiple disabilities. Children ages 3 through 5 years old may also be eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need special education and related services.

The legal definitions of these disabilities, which the public schools are required to apply under the IDEA, may differ from those used in medical or clinical practice. Moreover, the IDEA definitions could apply to children with disabilities that have very different medical or clinical disorders. A child with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, for example, could qualify for special education and related services as a child with "other health impairments," "serious emotional disturbance," or "specific learning disabilities" if the child meets the eligibility criteria under one or more of these disability categories and if the child needs special education and related services as a result.

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, some school-age children with disabilities who do not meet the eligibility criteria under the IDEA might nevertheless be eligible for special protections and for adaptations and accommodations in instruction, facilities, and activities. Children are entitled to such protections, adaptations, and accommodations if they have a mental or physical disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

Children age 3 through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and as a result, need special education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners, and at least 3 years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas. (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on a standardized test. Developmental areas include cognitive, communication, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information, you may contact the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 at (717) 606-1600.

All information gathered about your child by the public school is subject to confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law.

What programs and services are available for children with disabilities?

The Cocalico School District must ensure that children with disabilities are educated to the maximum extent appropriate with their non-disabled peers, commonly referred to as the least restrictive environment. Programs and services available to students with disabilities, in descending order of preference, are (1) regular class placement with supplementary aides and services provided as needed in that environment, (2) regular class placement for most of the school day with itinerant service by a special education teacher either in or out of the regular classroom, (3) regular class placement for most of the school day with instruction provided by a special education teacher in a learning support classroom, (4) supplemental special education class placement in a regular public school or alternative setting, and (5) special education class placement or special education services provided outside the regular class for most of all of the school day, either in a regular public school or alternative setting.

Depending on the nature and severity of the disability, the Cocalico School District can provide special education programs and services in (1) the public school the child would attend if not disabled, (2) an alternative regular public school either in or outside the school district of residence, (3) a special education center operated by a public school entity, (4) an approved private school or other private facility licensed to serve children with disabilities, (5) a residential school, (6) approved out-of-state program, or (7) the home.

Special education services are provided according to the primary educational needs of the child, not the category of disability. The types of service available are (1) learning support, for students who primarily need assistance with the acquisition of academic skills, (2) life skills support, for students who primarily need assistance with development of skills for independent living, (3) emotional support, for students who primarily need assistance with social or emotional development, (4) deaf or hearing-impaired support, for students who primarily need assistance with deafness, (5) blind or visually impaired support, for students who primarily need assistance with blindness, (6) physical support, for students who primarily require physical assistance in the learning environment, (7) autistic support, for students who primarily need assistance in the areas affected by autism spectrum disorders, and (8) multiple disabilities support, for students who primarily need assistance in multiple areas affected by their disabilities.

Related services are designed to enable the child to participate in or access his or her program of special education. Examples of related services are speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing services, audiologist services, counseling, and family training. If you have any questions about the special education services offered by the district, please call (717) 336-1461 or visit www.cocalico.org and select "Special Services" under the Supports tab.



Cocalico School District
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Cocalico Connection
This newsletter is an official publication of the Cocalico School District. Comments or suggestions may be addressed to:

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800 South Fourth Street, P.O. Box 800
Denver, PA 17517

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

- Early Dismissal
 - Secondary – 1:00 p.m.
 - Elementary – 1:30 p.m.
 - Modified Kindergarten

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

- Half-day Dismissal – 11:30 a.m. – ELEMENTARY ONLY
- Regular PM Kindergarten

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

- No School for Students – ELEMENTARY ONLY (Act 80 Day)
- Half-day Dismissal – 11:00 a.m. – SECONDARY ONLY
- Elementary & CMS Parent/Teacher Conferences

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

- No School for Students
- Elementary & CMS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- CHS Teacher In-service

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023

- No School
- Thanksgiving Recess

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

- No School
- Thanksgiving Recess
- 1st Inclement Weather Make-up Day

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

- Early Dismissal – 1:30 p.m. – ELEMENTARY ONLY
- Modified Kindergarten

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023

- Half-day Dismissal – 11:30 a.m. – ELEMENTARY ONLY
- Regular PM Kindergarten

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023 —

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

- No School
- Winter Recess

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

- Early Dismissal – 1:30 p.m. – ELEMENTARY ONLY
- Modified Kindergarten

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

- No School
- Holiday

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

- No School for Students – HIGH SCHOOL ONLY (subject to change)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

- Early Dismissal
 - Secondary – 1:00 p.m.
 - Elementary – 1:30 p.m.
 - Modified Kindergarten

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

- No School for Students
- Faculty/Student Holiday
- 2nd Inclement Weather Make-up Day

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

- No School
- Holiday

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

- Early Dismissal – 1:30 p.m. – ELEMENTARY ONLY
- Modified Kindergarten

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

- No School for Students
- Teacher In-service

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

- No School for Students – ELEMENTARY ONLY (Act 80 Day)
- Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

- No School for Students – ELEMENTARY ONLY
- Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

- No School for Students
- Faculty/Student Holiday
- 3rd Inclement Weather Make-up Day

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

- No School
- Spring Recess

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024

- No School
- Spring Recess

Attendance Reporting

The quickest and easiest way to report your child absent from school is through our online attendance reporting system! Parents and guardians can submit student excuses by clicking on the QR code to access the system.

