



*September 11, 2009*

---

### *Word from the Superintendent*



We're two weeks into the new school year, and several factors made this year's opening a little rockier than others: most notably new start and end times for the school day, major changes to our transportation system, and construction challenges at CASHS, Faust, CAMS, and Grandview.

The reasons for the new times and new transportation schedules are to increase the elementary instructional day, decrease the number of busing transfers—particularly for our special-needs children—and increase opportunities for professional development.

I appreciate the patience students, parents, and staff have shown as we implement and fine-tune these changes. The CASHS staff has set the standard for teaching students how to focus on learning in the middle of a construction zone, and we've seen it as students entered the school largely unphased by the changes around them. The same is true for our youngest students, who are adjusting to the new times and new busing.

Most importantly, we need to honor and celebrate with our students the achievements they've made and continue to build that pride in their hard work. Our PSSA results are a positive indication that the efforts of our students and staff are paying off, and we're on the right track, primed for a successful year.

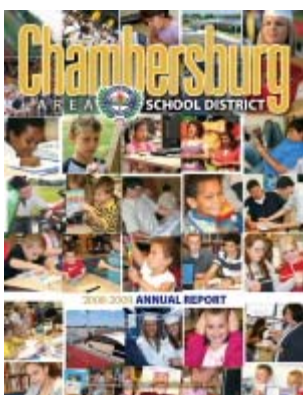
- Joe Padasak

---

### *CASD 2008-2009 Annual Report*

The Chambersburg Area School District 2008-2009 Annual Report hit mailboxes in late August. This publication was sent to all district residents and includes major successes and initiatives of the past school year, PSSA results, budget data, a district profile, student awards, teachers of the year, the top 10 seniors of the Class of 2009, and much more.

Visit [www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/communications](http://www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/communications) for a PDF



copy of the report.

### *New Medication Policy in Place*



Beginning this year, school nurses will no longer be able to distribute basic over-the-counter medication to students without a signed order from parents/guardians and the student's physician. Any student who needs Tylenol, ibuprofen, antacids, cough drops, etc. must have proper documentation on file in the nurse's office.

In the past, our district physician signed one order covering all students, but this is no longer the case. The district is working with large family and pediatric practices in the area to get standing orders that will cover multiple patients from each practice, but we know some doctors won't sign these orders.

Emergency cards will be sent home with every student along with a notice to all parents explaining this change. The standing order form that must be signed by every doctor and parent will be sent home with the emergency card and notice as well. If you have any questions about the new policy, please e-mail Head Nurse Donna Rock at [rockdon@chambersburg.k12.pa.us](mailto:rockdon@chambersburg.k12.pa.us).

### *School Safety Initiatives for 2009-2010*



Our director of security, Brett Hill, recently met with administrators in charge of local enforcement and other emergency management agencies to ensure new policies and procedures are in place for the start of the school year. These meetings were productive, and Brett has provided an [update of school safety programs](#) for 2009-2010.

### *Redistricting, Transportation Plans Discussed*

At Wednesday's school board meeting, Dr. Padasak presented a [progress report](#) on the first week of our new transportation system. He also presented an [overview of current redistricting considerations and administrative recommendations](#).

Parents, students, and community members spoke after the redistricting presentation for more than an hour. The majority



voiced strong opposition to the closing of Coldbrook and Marion and urged the board to consider all options carefully.

The board also approved the administrative recommendation to shift the elementary teacher day by 10 minutes. This will change the elementary teacher day from 8:20-3:50 to 8:30-4:00.

## High School Construction Update



"Punch list" items will continue to be addressed in the new gym throughout September. The new hallway and area outside the old gym will receive underground electric and plumbing work; painting, ceiling grid, and sprinkler work is also taking place throughout that area and the locker room.

The walk-in freezer and cooler will be installed in the kitchen later this month, and the curtain wall/storefront glass should be completed on the Tolbert Avenue side of the cafeteria and science wing by October. Fencing work will continue through the next two weeks on McKinley and Stanley Court.

Tile is being installed in the science wing, kitchen, and cafeteria areas; the classroom wing continues to have brick and window work. The greenhouse has been started, and work on the music wing continues. The new library, student services, and administration wing is seeing footer excavation and concrete piers and will be ready for steel work shortly.

## Curriculum Connections



Students will be receiving a consistent curriculum this year regardless of what school they attend. With that in mind, it will take a couple months for all the teachers to work through the kinks in the new curriculums. Some key changes that impact parents and students are as follows:

- A shift away from textbooks to a variety of resources beyond Google.
- Higher level questioning where students will be asked to compare and contrast, analyze, and evaluate—not just memorize.
- Extensive reading and writing practice with word work and vocabulary development to take the place of spelling memorization and Friday spelling lists.

What you can do to assist your child is to become familiar with the curricula at [www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/academics](http://www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/academics) and ask your child about the essential questions. Instead of asking your child, "What did you do in school today?" ask them to try and answer the essential question in math, library, and science. The essential questions will be posted in classrooms and referenced on a regular basis.

## Follow CASDNews on Twitter



CASDNews is now available on Twitter! This microblog is a great way for the district to highlight news as it's happening. If you're already a Twitter member, follow CASDNews. To become a Twitter member, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and join today.

CASDNews: [www.twitter.com/CASDNews](http://www.twitter.com/CASDNews)

To learn more about Twitter, watch these entertaining and informative videos:

[www.commoncraft.com/twitter](http://www.commoncraft.com/twitter)

[www.commoncraft.com/twitter-search](http://www.commoncraft.com/twitter-search)

## Watt's Up by Connie Kelley, CASD Energy Manager



With all the electric bills in for August, here are the [top performing buildings](#) for electric use by percentage of savings for the month. Districtwide, our August electric savings was 42.54% or \$46,954—a 5% increase over last August.

Our electric savings to date equates to removing 759 vehicles from the road for one year or planting and growing 108,181 tree seedlings for 10 years. Our conservation has the cumulative greenhouse gas reduction of 20,456 MMBTUs and 4,229 equivalent metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

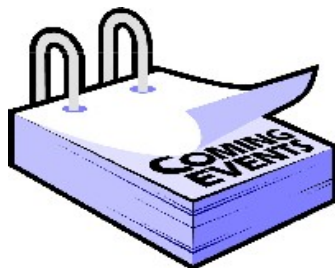
## Web Wisdom



Our comprehensive district energy web page is complete with tips on conserving energy, statistics on our energy program, and the financial and environmental savings we've accumulated so far. The site can be found at [www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/energy](http://www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/energy).

Don't miss the new interactive tool called [My GreenQuest](#), which will help you track your own personal energy costs. Learn how to save money on your heating/cooling and electrical expenses.

## District Calendar Review



CAMS 6th grade parents' night: 9/15  
College information night for seniors: 9/16  
CAMS 7th grade parents' night: 9/17  
School board meeting: 9/23  
Faust parents' night: 9/24

[Complete district calendar](#)



For information about school board business, including meeting agendas and documents, visit [BoardDocs](#) under the school board link on the district website.

[Personnel actions for September 9](#)

*Questions or comments about the CASD eNewsletter? E-mail  
[casdnews@chambersburg.k12.pa.us](mailto:casdnews@chambersburg.k12.pa.us).*

*Recent issues of eCASD News are available at [www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/communications](http://www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/communications).*

---



Chambersburg Area School District  
435 Stanley Avenue  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
[www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us](http://www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us)  
(717) 263-9281

[Click Here](#) to be removed from this list