



*September 4, 2009*

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### *Word from the Superintendent*



*"When you're finished  
changing, you're finished."  
- Benjamin Franklin*

There were many factors that made this year's opening a little rockier than other years, most notably the new start and end times, major changes to our transportation system, and construction challenges not only at CASHS but also at CAMS, Faust, and Grandview.

Our secondary schools have improved in getting students onto the buses faster, which has allowed a better turnaround time at the elementary level. There are still improvements to make, but I've been very pleased with the cooperation of the transportation department, principals, administrators, teachers, and staff members who have focused on helping our students adjust to these changes.

**The reasons for 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 teacher professional development.**

We are the role models for students as they navigate through change. The CASHS staff has set the standard for teaching students how to focus on learning in the middle of a construction zone, and we saw it again this week as students and staff entered their school largely unphased by the changes around them. The same is true for our youngest students, who will adjust to new times and new busing as they follow our example.

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 your efforts are paying off. We're on the right track; we're primed for a successful year. Thanks to those of you who are leaders through change.

- Joe

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## *Smoke Forces Students to Switch Classrooms*



Earlier today a small fire broke out in a construction zone at the high school near the new music wing. The fire was caused by welding and was immediately extinguished. Smoke entered the old auditorium (which is currently used for band, chorus, English, and driver education classrooms), and the rooms were evacuated.

The students were not in danger, there were no injuries, and the classes met in alternative areas for the rest of the school day. Chambersburg Fire Department inspected the area and verified no danger exists.

## *District's Position on Upcoming Presidential Speech*



CASD was recently informed that on Tuesday, Sept. 8, President Obama will deliver an address to the nation's students on the importance of education in the modern world and doing well in school. At the same time, every school was invited to allow its students to participate in the event by making the address available in the classroom via television or the Internet.

The district believes that the president's speech, which will be of a non-political nature, may be useful in social studies classes at the secondary level only and as part of the overall curriculum. As described in the notice to the district, the speech is designed to inform and facilitate discussion of this highly relevant topic both in school and at home.

It is worth noting that the viewing of this speech is consistent with the past practice in the district of inviting our teachers to "tune in" (whether via TV or web cast) to national or international events deemed historical in nature, such as a presidential inauguration, or widely impacting, such as the tearing down of the Berlin Wall.

The district recognizes that there may be those parents who would prefer that their children not view the speech. To this end, in the classes of those teachers who decide to view the speech, the district will permit any parent to decline to allow his or her child to view the speech simply by requesting the appropriate building principal in writing to provide alternative educational activities during the time that the speech is broadcast.

Whether a parent elects to allow his or her child to view the speech or elects not to do so, it is our hope that all parents will take an active role engaging their children in a discussion of the vital role of a good education in the modern world and the need for hard work and perseverance in the classroom every day.

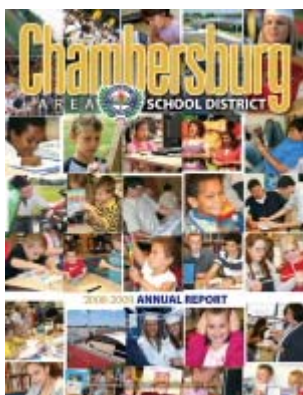
## *Redistricting to Be Topic at Board Meeting*

Next Wednesday's school board meeting will include a discussion about the transition to two middle schools for the 2011-2012 school year and administration recommendations for which elementary schools will feed into which middle schools. A



discussion on the future of Coldbrook and Marion will also be included. The board meeting has been moved to CAMS and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## *CASD 2008-2009 Annual Report*



The Chambersburg Area School District 2008-2009 Annual Report hit mailboxes last week. 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 at the beginning of the year 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.



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## *Curriculum Connections by Chris Bigger*



Summer was sizzling with activity across the district as teams of curriculum and instruction supervisors, teachers from all grades and most subjects, elementary and secondary principals, intervention coaches, librarians, and reading specialists worked to develop new curricula in literacy, science, math, social studies, ESL, unified arts, and information literacy.

These documents are available online through the district website ([www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/academics](http://www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us/academics)) in what we have fondly dubbed the "Toolbox." Visit and select the department you are interested in viewing. You will find a timeline and a list of topics; click on your topic of choice and you will find the Student Learning Map, which features the Key Learning that should occur for that topic.

A Unit Essential Question is featured with supporting concepts and Lesson Essential Questions, or LEQs. The LEQs become your teaching objectives for accomplishing the Key Learning and are supported by vocabulary. There is also a Know, Understand, and Do chart (KUD) specific for each topic area. Finally, you will find a list of resources helpful in implementing your instruction.

Please know this is a work in progress. K-12 supervisors are working diligently to ensure that everything is in order. Please be patient and let us know if you encounter a glitch or have a problem. We appreciate all of the feedback we receive, as it enables us to better serve you.

This is an exciting time for our district as we embrace curricula aligned to standards, consistent in appearance and expectations, and promoting collaboration among educators. Stay tuned to learn more through professional development opportunities offered in PLC and grade-level meetings. We hope you are excited about the curricula and realize that as we embark on a new school year and are challenged to provide the best possible instruction for our students, we have some new tools to help us do just that!

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## *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*



As we head into the three-day holiday weekend, please remember to close up your work areas by following [these suggestions](#). We had excellent summer savings and need to continue these conservation efforts. Enjoy your Labor Day and THANK YOU for helping to minimize energy consumption in your classrooms, offices, and buildings.

## *Quest Employee Assistance Program Flyer*



Many of you know how challenging it can be to meet the needs of elderly loved ones while holding down a job. The [attached resource](#) offers guidance regarding medications and avoiding potentially serious mistakes.

As part of your EAP, you are eligible for one free telephone consultation with eldercare specialist Dr. Peggy McFarland. You may access her services by calling (800) 253-9236 or (717) 840-0500. Tell her you're a Quest EAP member and that your employer is the Chambersburg Area School District.

If you prefer, you may also call Quest toll-free at (800) 364-6352 and ask for a referral to Quest's eldercare specialist. This is a free and confidential service with no obligation.

## *Web Wisdom: Energy Tools for You*



Connie Kelley has developed a comprehensive CASD energy web page 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*

Labor Day (schools closed): 9/7

School board meeting: 9/9

CAMS 6th grade parents' night: 9/15

College information night for seniors: 9/16



CAMS 7th grade parents' night: 9/17

[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 August 26](#)

*Do you have something to include in the CASD eNewsletters for employees and/or community members? If so, please e-mail your content to [Sylvia Rockwood](#). The deadlines are the same days as school board meetings: the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.*

*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).*



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