

- Our District's ranking advanced in the Pittsburgh Business Times this year;
- A successful year for our high school boys volleyball team which placed 2nd in the Pennsylvania State Finals;
- Installation of interactive projectors at the Junior High School to enhance daily instruction;
- Completed the first year of three new programs at Economy Elementary which included Spanish emphasis, Mommy & Me, and Before and After School childcare;
- Highland Elementary Students participated in STEM STARS, an after-school program funded by the Franklin Center held at the Laughlin Memorial Library;
- Started a school-wide Positive Behavior Program at State Street Elementary;
- Initiated development, training and implementation of The Bridger Walk Program to audit and improve teaching and student learning at all five schools, as well as the increase in the deployment of technology in the District; and,
- Being able to manage the District's financial resources within the budget.

I've had the privilege of working with our teachers and students on a regular basis through classroom visits, school-sponsored events, community activities and speaking engagements with parent and community groups. I would like to thank all of those who unselfishly gave their time and efforts in caring for our students and for supporting many of the changes we are making to advance our schools for the common good.

As the AASD is strategically establishing the District's priorities for next year, some of the main focuses include increasing academic success, creating community partnerships in support of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) initiatives, healthy programs for students, staff and community, and resolution on the findings of the facility study aimed at having our students in the safest learning environments possible.

Becoming a better school district is dependent on an active, engaged and cooperative community in conjunction with being more accountable for how our administrators and teachers serve the best interests of our students and community. You and your families have my on-going commitment that I and the entire AASD team is dedicated to listening to your concerns and ensuring we advocate for the needs of every student in this district. Importantly, it is vital that we continue to provide a safe and positive learning environment for our students.

One of our high school teachers recently shared with me a motivational message she shared with students at a pep assembly. If you re-scramble the letters contained in the word "AMBRIDGE," you will get two important words – "DREAM BIG." These hidden words in the name of our District are a message for all of us to be open to new opportunities for our children who are living in a more global world every day. Thanks to all of you for your support and for your willingness to "dream big" on the journey to improving the lives of our young people.

Please feel free to contact me directly at czurchin@ambridge.k12.pa.us and share your good news stories about our District, as well as any suggestions or comments.

Thank you. Enjoy the rest of the summer and remember school starts on Monday, August 25, 2014!

Warm regards,



Cynthia Zurchin, Ed.D.