

TO: Board of School Directors
FR: Bernie Kepler, Superintendent
RE: April 2021 Board Report
DT: April 22, 2021

Student Activities:

- Congratulations to Sierra McHugh for being selected as the Palmyra Area High School April Rotary Student of the Month.
- Congratulations to Katarina Bauer for being selected as a National Honor Society Scholarship national finalist. Kat Bauer has received a \$3,200 scholarship through the National Honor Society as a result. Kat currently serves as the PHS NHS President.
- Congratulations to the Palmyra Area Middle School as they now have membership as Thespian Troupe 10018 through the International Thespian Society. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our theatre students and motivating them to achieve even more in the future.
- Congratulations to the following PHS Students attending the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center as these students have been identified as being in the top 5% of the CTC graduating class and will be recognized at the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education event: Tia Eberly, Health Careers Technology and Shon Messick, Culinary Arts.
- Congratulations to both the girls and boys swim teams for being named Keystone Division Sportsmanship Award recipient for the 2020-21 winter season. Having attended the banquet for the swim teams, it is quite obvious that Coach Lyons and staff are not only preparing highly competitive swim teams, but helping develop the individual swimmers' character.
- The high school musical, Catch Me If You Can, was held this past weekend. The cast and crew were phenomenal once again. Mrs. Jasmine Bucher and her staff do a fantastic job each and every year. What is seen on stage is only half the story as behind the scenes so much is done to build a sense of "family" in the cast and crew!

Other:

- The value of effective teachers in classrooms in the Commonwealth is paramount and during a pandemic when instructional models have been altered, it has become increasingly important. One critical factor for school districts in the Commonwealth is the ability to find teachers for vacancies. The attached data details the fact that the Commonwealth certified only 6,937 new teachers in 2019 compared to 12,907 in 2013. In relation, the increase of emergency certified teachers rose from 8,812 to 18,457 during the same time period. The challenge of having effective teachers in the classrooms across our state is becoming more challenging. Additionally, on slide two, you can see the number of certified educators graduating from the ten largest education programs in the Commonwealth.
- Kudos to our high school guidance department and high school administration as on Thursday, April 15th they held a "College 101" session for families as a means of educating our students and parents about college admissions processes and admissions criteria.
- Lingle Avenue Elementary School was recently provided a U.S. flag that was flown on 04 March 2021 in a UH-60L Black Hawk. The dedicated flag was flown by Baghdad DUSTOFF, DBSC Platoon, Charlie Company, 2-104th Aviation (MEDEVAC) on COMBAT MISSION 2148 in the Baghdad region of Iraq. Lingle will display the flag proudly and thank our partners in the armed forces.
- Turf Revenue Update: The second engraved brick paver event just concluded and brought in another \$5,760 toward the cost of the project. In 2020-21 the district, along with the Cougar Foundation's support, has brought in more revenue than the debt service costs for the year.

- The 2020-21 school-year, as we all know, has been a challenge and we are not done with our hard work until June 9th. However, it is the intent of this Board and administration to begin 2021-22 with students in kindergarten through twelfth grade having in-person instruction five days per week. This intent was also shared with district staff on April 16th.
- Some months ago, PASD began work with a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, as a format for identifying areas of need, training, and education of students and staff. Most recently, this committee was formalized as an ad hoc committee at the Board of School Director level. The focus of this committee will be staff training and student growth. As an educational system, we strive to maintain an environment where all students have equitable access to all of our programs and supports, as well as serving as a model for inclusivity. As a microcosm of society, Lebanon County and the Palmyra community are changing and becoming more diverse. As a school system it is our responsibility to ensure we are having conversations as to how we can best meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. Most recently, in social media posts, there have been posts regarding our school districts intentions with this work. Please know that as a school system, our sole intent is to prepare our staff with education and knowledge necessary to meet the needs of all of our students and for helping our students understand equity and inclusivity in our society.

Upcoming Events:

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| • April 30, 2021 | Early Dismissal |
| • May 7, 2021 | Early Dismissal |
| • May 14, 2021 | Early Dismissal |
| • May 21, 2021 | Early Dismissal |
| • May 28, 2021 | Early Dismissal |
| • May 9-12 | Outdoor Education (7th grade, A-K Students) |
| • May 16-19 | Outdoor Education (7th grade, L-Z Students) |
| • May 19-22 | Outdoor Education (8th grade, A-K Students) |
| • May 23-26 | Outdoor Education (8th grade, L-Z Students) |