Southeast Delco School District
Monthly Newsletter

October 2026

Calendar and Connections

Upcoming Events

- **October 12:** In-Service Day | No School
- **October 13:** Career Day | Knight Academy
- **October 15:** Committee of the Whole | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **October 16:** Tees & Hoodies Craft Knight Academy
- **October 22:** Board Meeting | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **October 30:** 12:45 PM Early Dismissal

Community Calendar

- **October 10:** Flea Market at the Collingdale Library, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- **October 23:** Breast Cancer Awareness Event with the Delaware County Health Department
- **October 24:** Sharon Hill Neighborhood Cleanup Day at Memorial Park, 9:00 to 11:00 AM
- **October 24:** Trunk or Treat at the Ethan Joner Community Center, 6:00 to 7:00 PM
- **October 25:** Fine Arts & Crafts Market and Open House at the Community Arts Center, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cultural and Observational Calendar

- LGBTQIA+ History Month
- Bullying Prevention Month
- Islamic Heritage Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month

This Month at Southeast Delco

As we continue through the new academic year, let's move forward with enthusiasm, purpose, and a shared commitment to helping every student learn, grow, and succeed!

To Our Students

- Bring your curiosity: Every day is a chance to discover something new, ask big questions, and unlock your potential.
- Know you belong: Our classrooms missed your energy, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

To Our Families

- You are our partners: We value your voice and look forward to working hand-in-hand to ensure your child thrives.
- Stay connected: Reach out whenever you need us, and look out for regular updates on your student's amazing progress.

To Our Staff

- Thank you for your dedication: Your hard work and passion shape the heart of our entire school community.
- Let's inspire: As we begin this new chapter, let's uplift one another and make this year remarkable.

A Message From the Superintendent

Dr. Jeffrey Ryan

A Strong Start and Exciting Year Ahead

As we settle into the 2026–27 school year, I am pleased to share that our district is off to a successful start! Thanks to the dedication of our teachers, administrators, support staff, students, and families, the opening weeks have been filled with excitement, enthusiasm, and a renewed commitment to learning. Our classrooms are active and exciting, routines have been established, and students are starting to build meaningful connections with their teachers and classmates.

A successful start to the school year is a team effort, and I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has helped create a safe and positive learning environment for our students.

This year, we are especially excited about several curricular enhancements designed to strengthen instruction, increase student engagement, and provide meaningful learning opportunities for all students. Our continued focus on high-quality teaching and learning reflects our commitment to academics and meeting the diverse needs of every learner.

Equally important is our emphasis on building positive school communities through Restorative Practices and Responsive Classroom approaches. These initiatives help foster strong relationships, promote student voice, develop social-emotional skills, and create classroom environments built on respect, responsibility, and belonging. By combining academic instruction with intentional efforts to support student well-being, we are working to ensure that every child feels connected, supported, and ready to succeed.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, I am confident that great things are in store for our students and school community. We will continue to build upon our early successes, celebrate student achievements, and seek new opportunities to grow and improve.

Strong partnerships between our schools, families, and community remain essential to our success, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged by attending school events and taking pride in the wonderful accomplishments happening throughout our district. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our schools. Together, we will make the 2026-27 school year a great one!

Go Knights!

Jeffrey Ryan

Dr. Jeffrey Ryan
Superintendent

Community Partner SPOTLIGHT

Prodigy Peace Builders

Offers restorative practices, youth workshops on leadership and conflict resolution, and community cultural events, including Summerfest and Juneteenth in partnership with local groups.

Delaware County Health Department

Protects and promotes public health, health equity, and disease prevention for Delaware County, Pennsylvania, residents. The department works with local organizations, government agencies, and community members to tackle health disparities.

Teacher Teammates

Brings together resources to offer teachers in under-resourced schools in Delaware County the opportunity to receive free supplies to use in their classrooms. They allow businesses and the community to donate goods that can be repurposed by teachers and students. Through these donations, they are able to reduce waste, demonstrate good stewardship of resources, and invest in our students.

Ask For Tutoring

Specializes in a variety of subjects, standardized test or certification preparation, foreign languages, high school diploma, and special education learning support. For more information or pricing, please contact (610) 522-8000 or admin@askfortutoring.com.

Get Involved!

- DCIU Student Coalition meets monthly for APHS students who are interested
- Food distribution is on the 3rd Saturday of each month. **Volunteers needed!**

Family & Community Engagement

Parent and family involvement is essential to student success. We encourage you to remain engaged throughout the school year by attending school events, communicating regularly with teachers and staff, and ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time. By working together and maintaining open communication, we can make this a positive, productive, and memorable year for our entire school community.

What is OnFlo?

- AI-powered chat tool located on the district website
- Available 24/7 to conveniently ask questions, address concerns, and submit feedback
- Able to respond in multiple languages

Where can I find OnFlo?

Visit our website at sedelco.org and find the Contact Us button on the right side of the screen. Click the button to begin your chat with OnFlo!

Reminder for Families!

Please remind your students to turn off and put away cell phones and other personal communication devices upon entering school buildings. All electronic devices, including AirPods, should remain turned off and stored away before students enter their classrooms. Thank you for helping us maintain a focused learning environment!

Staff Shoutouts

Submit a Shoutout!

Kristin Rossiter, School Counselor
Harris

I would like to recognize Kristin for her dedication, positivity, and unwavering support of both students and staff. Kristin consistently brings kindness, humor, and encouragement to our school community. She has a unique ability to make others laugh and lift spirits, even on some of the most challenging days. While much of a school counselor's work happens behind the scenes, Kristin's impact is felt every day by students, families, and colleagues alike. We are fortunate to have her on our team.

Taylor Ayers, Supplemental
Harris

Taylor joined the Harris team seamlessly and has built meaningful relationships with staff and students alike. Her quest for knowledge and understanding across the 1-8 span shows her commitment to all students. Since joining Harris, Taylor continuously seeks out feedback and opportunities for development; especially in Middle School and Special Education. She shows up for all students and her contributions positively impact our school.

Dawn McCloud, Meghan Gordon, Brittaney Weeks
Delcroft, Harris, Sharon Hill

Thank you for serving as teacher leaders this summer. Your organization, communication, and approachability are appreciated by us staff. Seeing your rapport with students and investment in quality programming for them is commendable.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Academy Park High School

Academy Park High School hosted its Annual College Fair, welcoming students in grades 9-12 to explore their postsecondary possibilities! With **50 representatives in attendance from colleges and universities, trade and technical programs, and the militar**y, students could connect, ask questions, gather information, and begin thinking about what comes next after high school.

Representatives shared how impressed they were with our students' engagement, thoughtful questions, curiosity, and willingness to learn more about their options. Their interactions demonstrated that Academy Park students are thinking about their futures and are ready to explore the many pathways available to them. That is something we should ALL be proud of!

A huge thank you to our students, staff, administrators, and all of the representatives who helped make this year's College Fair a tremendous success. We're already looking forward to making it even bigger and better next year!

"We are very proud of the work we are doing and are proud that we are exposing children to college as a post-secondary goal." - Principal Richard Sherin

Parent Corner

Effective parenting relies on building strong self-esteem, modeling positive behavior, and setting clear, consistent boundaries. https://kidshealth.org

Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem

Kids start developing their sense of self as babies when they see themselves through their parents' eyes. Your tone of voice, your body language, and your every expression are absorbed by your kids. Your words and actions as a parent affect their developing self-esteem more than anything else.

Praising accomplishments, however small, will make them feel proud; letting kids do things independently will make them feel capable and strong. By contrast, belittling comments or comparing a child unfavorably with another will make kids feel worthless.

Avoid making loaded statements or using words as weapons. Comments like "What a stupid thing to do!" or "You act more like a baby than your little brother!" cause damage just as physical blows do. Choose your words carefully and be compassionate. Let your kids know that everyone makes mistakes and that you still love them, even when you don't love their behavior.

Show That Your Love Is Unconditional

As a parent, you're responsible for correcting and guiding your kids. But how you express your corrective guidance makes all the difference in how a child receives it.

When you have to confront your child, avoid blaming, criticizing, or fault-finding, which hurt self-esteem and can lead to resentment. Instead, try to nurture and encourage, even when disciplining your kids. Make sure they know that although you want and expect better next time, your love is there no matter what.

Know Your Own Needs and Limitations as a Parent

Face it — you are an imperfect parent. You have strengths and weaknesses as a family leader. Try to have realistic expectations for yourself, your partner, and your kids.

Focus on the areas that need the most attention rather than trying to address everything all at once. Admit it when you're burned out. Take time out from parenting to do things that will make you happy.

Focusing on your needs does not make you selfish. It simply means you care about your own well-being, which is another important value to model for your children. https://kidshealth.org

October 1-31: National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

National Bullying Prevention Month is dedicated every October to fostering safer environments for children and young adults. Join the movement to raise awareness, educate communities, and empower individuals to stand against all forms of bullying.

Fun School Trivia Questions!

- **Question 1:** What do students usually carry their books and school supplies in?
- **Question 2:** What number is known as the smallest prime number?
- **Question 3:** What is the name of the person who leads and manages a school?
- **Question 4:** What does the acronym "STEM" stand for in education?

Find the answers on the last page of this edition of the newsletter!

Reminders for Families

Attendance Matters!

Why Does Attendance Matter?

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. In this era of increased accountability for states, districts, and schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before. As a result, education agencies are asked with increasing frequency to report attendance data in a standard manner to allow comparisons across organizations and jurisdictions.

The primary rationale for high-quality attendance data is the relationship between student attendance and student achievement. Teacher effectiveness is the strongest school-related determinant of student success, but chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. **Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance.** This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career. A recent study looking at young children found that absenteeism in kindergarten was associated with negative first-grade outcomes such as greater absenteeism in subsequent years and lower achievement in reading, math, and general knowledge.

Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement.

Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes as well. High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates. These differences in absentee rates were observed as early as kindergarten, and students who eventually dropped out of high school missed significantly more days of school in first grade than their peers who graduated from high school. In eighth grade, this pattern was even more apparent and, by ninth grade, attendance was shown to be a key indicator significantly correlated with high school graduation.

The effects of lost school days build up one absence at a time on individual students. Penalties for students who miss school may unintentionally worsen the situation. The disciplinary response to absenteeism too often includes loss of course credits, detention, and suspension. Any absence, whether excused or not, denies students the opportunity to learn in accordance with the school's instructional program, but students who miss school are sometimes further excluded from learning opportunities as a consequence of chronic absenteeism.
https://nces.ed.go

Nominate an Outstanding Teacher!

Delaware Valley Excellence in Teaching Award

The Delaware Valley Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes 20 outstanding educators who innovate, lead, and transform learning in our region. Recipients are selected through a highly competitive nomination process.

Award Benefits:

- Each recipient receives $1,500 for classroom expenses and a commemorative keepsake to recognize their professional achievement
- Each recipient's school also receives $1,500
- In total, $60,000 will be awarded to educators and schools through this year's program!

DEADLINE: December 18, 2026

To nominate a Southeast Delco teacher, **scan the QR code** or visit **https://fmfcufoundation.org/excellence-in-teaching/**

Important Updates About SNAP & Medicaid Benefits

SNAP Benefits: Keep Your Information Up to Date

Changes to SNAP work reporting requirements may affect some recipients. Some people may qualify for exemptions.

- Keep your mailing address and contact information current.
- Check your benefits notices to understand any requirements that apply to you.

Learn more: dhs.pa.gov/work

Medicaid: Watch for Important Notices

Changes to Medicaid may affect your benefits. Make sure you receive and review important information about your coverage.

- Keep your address and contact information up to date.
- Read all notices and respond by any listed deadlines to avoid potential disruptions to your coverage.

Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services website for updates: dhs.pa.gov

Need Help? Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services website to learn more about your benefits, reporting requirements, and available resources.

Fun School Trivia Answers

- **Answer 1:** A backpack
- **Answer 2:** 2
- **Answer 3:** The principal
- **Answer 4:** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Thank You for Reading!