

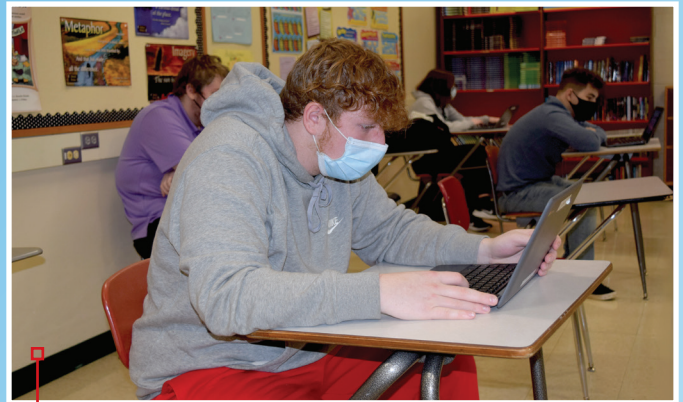
THEY'RE BAAAAACK!

Students return to school

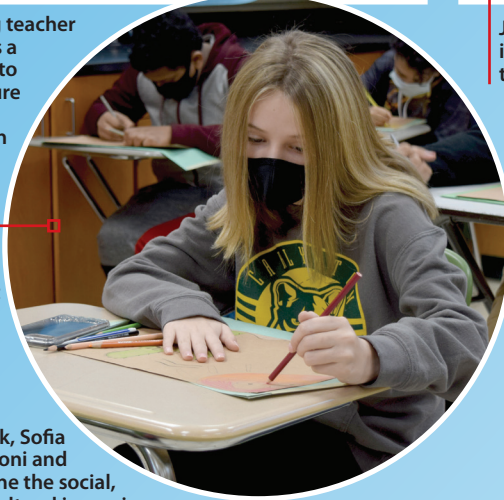
Students were warmly greeted by teachers and staff as they returned to school January 25th after a seven-week hiatus of learning remotely from home. The new year brings hope that students can remain in the classroom for a more rigorous learning environment while connecting from a safe distance with friends.



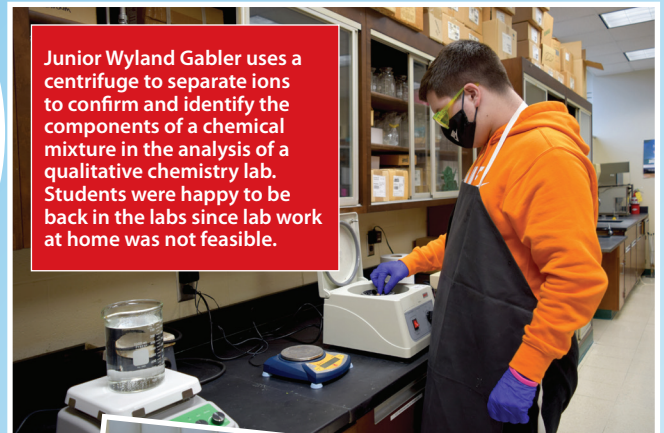
Business and marketing teacher Ryan Gevaudan teaches a digital citizenship class to seventh graders to ensure students learn proper online etiquette and can comprehend internet security.



Junior Benjamin Ray reads from a Chromebook while participating in an English Literature class. Desks in all classrooms are separated to obtain the most distance between students for personal safety.



Seventh grader Riley Sunderland worked on cave art drawings in an art class, sketching characters to represent herself in the modern day.



Junior Wyland Gabler uses a centrifuge to separate ions to confirm and identify the components of a chemical mixture in the analysis of a qualitative chemistry lab. Students were happy to be back in the labs since lab work at home was not feasible.

Seniors Brooke Martineck, Sofia Notaro, Madison Ciabattoni and Sara MacMurdo determine the social, political, historical and cultural issues in a Survey of British Literature course.



Carnegie elementary sixth grader Cyany Chihuahque-Carranza and fifth grader Hiba Firdous-Fatima participate in an English as a Second Language (ESL) classroom by honing their English-speaking skills.





Kindergartener Royce Kennedy organizes all his worksheets in a folder before leaving the classroom for recess.



First graders of Carnegie Elementary stand to follow the motions made by their music teacher, Mrs. Light, as they sing a song about the four seasons.



Fourth grader Laylah Moses learns about the continents. Students returned with a zeal to learn, thankful to be back in the classroom and to connect with teachers.



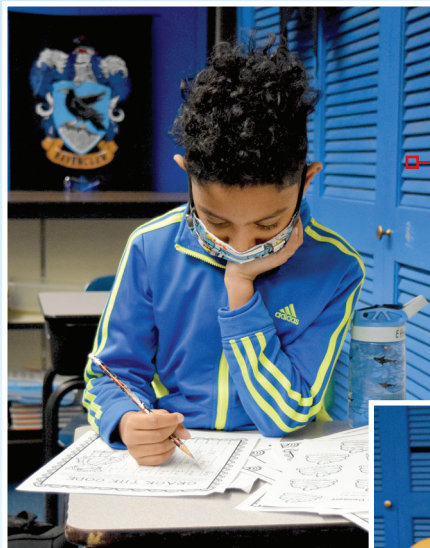
Crafton Elementary sixth grader Jayden Pletcher concentrates on an assignment in the classroom. Chromebooks have not replaced textbooks in the classroom but offer enrichment resources to enhance the written text.



Sameer Abu Aldehen, a Carnegie Elementary third grader, raises his hand to answer a question presented by the teacher.



First grader Nevaeh Wilson focuses while taking the MAP exam on her Chromebook. The results will help teachers prepare lessons for students by way of individualized and targeted learning approaches.



Following a morning of MAP testing (Measure of Academic Progress), second grader Ethan Robinson works quietly and independently on an "Crack the Code" multiplication worksheet.



Kindergarten students Weston Blue and Mia Schaffer take a short break from schoolwork by dancing along to a Go Noodle brain break exercise.



Third grader Jasmine Robinson fills a water bottle at a filling station in the hallway before heading to her next class.

POISED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF



JENNIFER LIGHT

Bringing music to the ears of Carnegie Elementary School children is Mrs. Jennifer Light, who joined the staff in January as the new music education and band teacher.

A graduate of Duquesne University, Mrs. Light is no stranger to Carlynton. She has served as the assistant band director under Todd Obidowski for the high school marching band the last seven years. In her most recent role, she taught

general and instrumental music to students at Hillcrest Christian Academy in Bethel Park.

Mrs. Light believes music education works cohesively with all areas of a child's education to help students excel at the highest level. She looks forward to working with staff and colleagues and instilling her love for music in her students.

A newlywed, Mrs. Light resides in the Castle Shannon area with husband Alex and their friendly Jack Russell-Beagle mix pup, Sparky.

Mrs. Light replaces Mr. Russ Pedersen, who retired at the end of December.



KRISTEN BUTLER

Ms. Kristen Butler joins the District in the new role of Human Resources Coordinator. In the past four years, she worked in Human Resources for The Academy Schools, a Pittsburgh-based network of residential and community-based schools for at-risk youth.

Ms. Butler brings extensive knowledge in the areas of recruiting, employee onboarding, digital marketing and other human resource responsibilities.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, she will assist district personnel and oversee a variety of tasks such as processing tuition reimbursements, documenting professional development hours, onboarding new employees, handling leaves of absence, disseminating Fair Labor Act information, carefully maintaining personnel files and serving as the District's Title IX coordinator, among other duties.

Ms. Butler grew up in Clearfield, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Green Tree with her furry companion Laika, a four-year-old Golden Retriever. In her spare time, she likes to run and enjoys boating and snowmobiling with family. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, she participated in an adult soccer league and looks forward to playing again in the summer.



EMILY SKIRTICH

Joining the District as assistant principal of Carlynton Junior-Senior High School is Miss Emily Skirtich, a former communications teacher for Freedom Area High School.

Miss Skirtich holds a Bachelors of Art in English Literature from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. She earned a certificate in Instructional Technology and a Masters in Secondary Education and English from Duquesne University prior to acquiring a

Pennsylvania Administrative Principal Certificate from the University of Pittsburgh.

Earlier in her career, she taught English and served as the Admissions Outreach Coordinator for North Catholic High School. As an educator, Miss Skirtich honed leadership skills by serving in a variety of decision-making roles and is most proud of her involvement in leading the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) initiative at Freedom High school.

MTSS is a comprehensive framework designed to provide targeted support to all learners by supporting the "whole child", whether an advanced or struggling student, through academic, behavior, social and emotional support. This program also involves communicating with parents on a regular basis to maintain student expectations through a parent-teacher-student collaborative effort. "It's important to engage parents to build a school community. With the child at the center of the conversation, I can gain a unique perspective from the parent," Miss Skirtich said.

Miss Skirtich looks forward to working collaboratively with Principal Michael Loughren and the faculty to support a healthy culture of learning in the junior-senior high school. A native of Ross Township, she is happily engaged to Matthew Dunker, and plans are set for a July 2021 wedding.

Mrs. Rachel Gattuso, former assistant principal of the junior-senior high school, resigned last summer to relocate with her husband, who took a new job in Eastern Pennsylvania.



KEITH BIELBY

Mr. Keith Bielby is the new Director of Fiscal Affairs and Finance. As the manager of the District's \$31 million budget, Keith will work with administration, the school board and staff to "make sure we carefully spend our taxpayer dollars to give our students the best education while remaining a fiscally sound school district," he said. Additional responsibilities will include managing all grant funds and subsidies received by

the District, directing the investments of the District and overseeing the monthly reconciliation of all accounts.

Prior to Carlynton, Mr. Bielby served in similar finance management positions for the Ambridge Area, Moon Area and Center School Districts. Earlier in his career, he spent 15 years in the airline business, holding customer service and management positions. He also dedicated eight years in the United States Air Force.

As president of the West Central Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials chapter, Mr. Bielby is devoted to exploring and providing training, professional development and timely access to legislative and policy news to chapter members. He also remains an active member and mentor for the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials and has served on numerous committees and charitable organizations.

Mr. Bielby holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Robert Morris University and a Master of Business Administration from Point Park University. He and his wife Denise reside in Monaca with three daughters, ages 23, 21 and eight.

Mr. Bielby replaces Mr. Chris Juzwick, who left in January for a position in the South Fayette School District.

A SALUTE TO RETIREES



MR. RUSS PEDERSEN

With over 33 years in education and 24 years in the District, music educator Russ Pedersen retired in December 2020. Mr. Pedersen was originally hired as the high school band director where he dedicated eight years to growing the instrumental

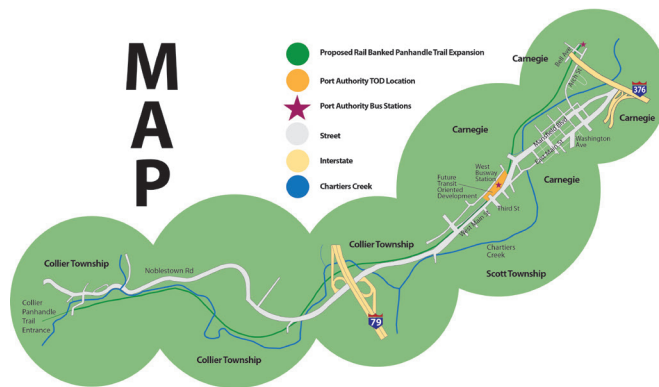
and band programs. As an elementary band teacher, he shared his passion for music with younger students, following their growth as a musician into high school, college and beyond. "Some of my former students are now professional musicians, performing in orchestras or teaching in area schools," he said proudly. As a music educator, Mr. Pedersen hosted numerous band festivals and was instrumental in launching the "Tied to the Arts" program to showcase student talent. In the days ahead, Mr. Pedersen said he looks forward to spending time with his wife and two sons. He still practices the tuba for three to four hours a day and hopes to again volunteer with the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, where he has served as the prelude band conductor.



MS. JAMIE SONNIE

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." High school Language Arts teacher Jamie Sonnie admits that catchphrase gave her the motivation to become a teacher. "It has been a privilege to be an influence in the lives of so many students, and a privilege to be a teacher at Carlynton," she said. After a 25-year career in education, Ms. Sonnie made the difficult decision to retire in January.

The decision was bittersweet, she confessed, but the opportunity to move to Austin, Texas to be near family was too good to pass up. "My time at Carlynton will always be remembered with joy," Sonnie stated. In her next chapter in the Lone Star State, Ms. Sonnie plans to learn the area by hiking, biking and kayaking, as well as making time to volunteer to special causes. "More importantly, I will be spending time with my family," she added.



Growing the Panhandle Trail

Community support is needed to extend trail into the Borough of Carnegie

Carlynton High School 2020 graduate **Samuel Bigham** is working with Carnegie Borough to advocate for an extension of the Panhandle Trail through the borough. His efforts are coinciding with plans to redevelop the Port Authority West Busway Station by adding a parking garage with additional business and retail space.

Sam, a resident of Carnegie, is attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania and majoring in history and political science. Though his involvement with the borough is independent of his studies, he still manages to maintain a 4.0 GPA while building support for the trail and serving as a junior council member of the Carnegie Borough council.

The extension to the Panhandle Trail would follow a Genesee & Wyoming Railroad right of way, adding an additional 2.743 miles to the already 29.2-mile path that currently runs from Walker's Mill in Collier Township to Weirton, W. Va. The proposed extension weaves its way through a wooded countryside, running along the Robinson Run stream, a tributary that flows into Chartiers Creek.

The study to explore plans for the Panhandle extension is being funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Active Allegheny Grant Program. The grant program was established by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County. The lengthening of the trail into Carnegie would start at Walker's Mill and extend to the Port Authority West Busway, Carnegie Station, and end at the Port Authority Bell Avenue Station.

Sam and Carnegie Borough officials are seeking public support for the proposed project to persuade the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad to railbank the track, a method to preserve abandoned rail as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service.

Members of the Carlynton community can greatly benefit from the extension of the Panhandle Trail. The public pathway will offer bicycle and pedestrian connections for physical activity, promoting health and wellness. The trail will also create a greenspace to preserve the Lower Chartiers watershed, wildlife and foliage.

Those interested in submitting a letter of support for the Panhandle extension can visit the Borough of Carnegie website at <http://carnegieborough.com/trail/support>. The deadline to offer support is April 15, 2021. Letters of support can also be mailed to the Borough of Carnegie, 1 Veteran's Way, Carnegie, PA 15106.

Cougar Connection

PROMOTING COMMUNITY, EXCELLENCE AND CHARACTER

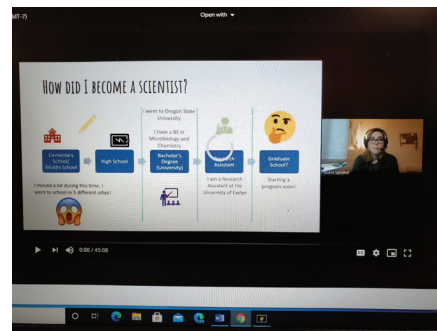
▲ A not-so-typical homecoming celebration was held at Honus Wagner Stadium on October 23. The warm evening was highlighted by performances of the Cougar marching band and a formal introduction of the court, followed by the announcement of the king and queen, **Robby Good** and **Rose Talmonti**. The 10-member court, regarded among the finest in the class, were nominated by peers through an online voting process. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance was limited to family members of the band and court, and plans for a formal dinner and dance were relinquished for the safety of students.



To ensure safety, Evan Walker and his fellow court members sported custom-printed face masks.



▲ Senior **Maggie Morvay** won a \$500 college scholarship as a winner in the third annual West View Water Authority high school challenge. The contest, open to all high school students within West View service area, asked applicants to produce a short educational or informational video or photography to discuss one of three topics: water, the environment, or school spirit, such as a unique activity or school club. Maggie submitted a photo taken when kayaking on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park and highlighted that simple plastic items, such as the plastic bag shown in the photo, can end up in our waterways. Over time, the litter breaks down and pollutes the water with microplastics, or very small pieces of plastic that are dangerous to humans, fish, birds and other wildlife.



As part of a Women in Science speaker series, Michelle Michelsen met with fifth grade students virtually to explain the path she took to becoming a Marine Biologist.

▲ Carnegie Elementary fifth graders are discovering more about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) thanks to a Women In Science speaker series arranged by teacher **Scott Donnelly**. In October, marine microbiologist Michelle Michelsen visited the classroom virtually and explained her career to the class followed by a question and answer session. Prior to the class meeting via Google Meet, Mr. Donnelly asked students to briefly study the field of the speaker so they could better understand the career and what it entails. In November, students met with Mimi Alkattan, a Ph.D. candidate in the Environmental and Water Resource Engineering program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Ms. Alkattan shared that access to drinking water and sanitation should not be a barrier to the well-being of communities. Prior to graduate school, Mimi was a project manager for Engineers Without Borders and served in the Peach Corps in Guinea and Mali, West Africa.



Congratulations to the 2020 homecoming court (L-R) Reece Smith, Madison Ciabattini, Evan Walker, Natali Lutsiv, King Robert Good and Queen Rose Talmonti, Brooke Maxwell, Oleg Melnyk, Sara MacMurdo and Ryon Fagon.



Eighth graders Eva Milliner, Jordynn Carter, Mateo Carrasco and Sarah Duffy participate in a regional Calcsolve competition.

▲ Two Carlynton middle school teams competed in a virtual Calcsolve competition in January. Working individually and in teams to solve accelerated mathematic problems within a given time limit, seventh and eighth graders **Matteo Carrasco, Jordynn Carter, Caroline Choate, Sarah Duffy, Graydon Harvey, Eva Milliner, Kellyn Palmer and Lucy Vetter** spent the morning online to problem solve. The competition included two team problems and seven individual challenges. The students were among 33 other teams from 18 middle schools in Allegheny and Washington counties to participate in the competition.

In November, the team of **Eric Burcham, Alyse Crown, Sean Hart and Elena Johnson** took part in a Calcsolve tournament at the high school level. And fifth and sixth graders **John Bookwood, Gigi Choate, Emery Delrosario and Aaron Heffner** competed at the end of January in an elementary Calcsolve competition. Aaron, a fifth grader at Crafton Elementary, placed third in the individual category among 223 other students from 56 teams. Gifted education teacher **Cynthia Eddy** said the competitions promote problem solving at a higher level, encouraging students to find solution to difficult or complex questions.



Carnegie Elementary third grader Bastian Lenk was honored by Johnson Controls for his design of a new type of fire extinguisher. The company surprised the student with an honorary patent award, a trophy in the shape of a chrome-plated fire extinguisher, and a working fire extinguisher for his home.

▲ Students in Mrs. Lysie Merglowski's third grade class received tips about fire safety from a former fire fighter and chief, Gary Guenette, of Johnson Controls. The virtual event took place in the classroom and helped students understand the difference between good and bad fires and the importance of preparing a plan to escape from a home in the event of a house fire.

The experience was made available to students thanks to classmate **Bastian Lenk**. Bastian, who has a keen interest in fire extinguishers and how they work, wrote to Johnson Controls to share his idea and design for a new type of fire extinguisher. Bastian received a response from the company, along with an honorary patent for his design, several hats and an actual working fire extinguisher to keep in his home. The company also provided the fire safety presentation to the classes.



Alyse Crown and Audrey Robb took part in a virtual Student Forum with Senator Wayne Fontana.

▲ Sophomore **Alyse Crown** and junior **Audrey Robb** participated in a virtual Student Forum with Senator Wayne Fontana to gain an understanding of the senatorial role and responsibilities. Hosted by Lena Hannah, an advocacy ambassador for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), the pair joined students from the Avonworth, Cornell, Montour, Shaler and Sto-Rox school districts. Participants also had the chance to ask the Senator questions, and listened attentively as he addressed issues at the local and national level.

Senator Fontana discussed the need for training to meet the demands of new and growing industries in the state, equitable funding for public schools regardless of demographics, and plans to speed up the COVID-19 vaccination process. He also touched on a resolution to strengthen hybrid learning for all students with a broadband initiative and the need to develop a fair funding formula for cyber charter schools.

Alyse and Audrey said the session provided some insight into the challenges of lobbying support to pass legislation. Both girls are involved in leadership positions in the school's student government association and admitted the forum opened their eyes to similar issues they face when representing and advocating on behalf of their peers.



An enthusiastic representative from Amazon shared several coding exercises with Crafton elementary first grade students.

▲ Crafton Elementary students took part in a virtual Hour of Code event with employees of Amazon followed by a weeklong coding activities. The representatives used coding exercises to help students understand the coding vocabulary.

Coding, or to write code, is a term used for writing instructions for a computer. A coding event is an action that causes an outcome. Students learned that a program is an algorithm that has been coded into a list of steps to finish a task that can run on a

machine or computer. And debugging is a term to find and fix any errors that may occur in an algorithm or program.

Coding exercises encourages students to learn and use computer science terms, enabling them to grasp an understanding of technology and the skills necessary to become a software engineer. Principal **Marsha Burleson** sees the Hour of Code as a way to inspire logical thinking, creativity and communication among students in all grades.

NEW & IMPROVED

Capital projects recently completed and on the docket

The coronavirus raged across the country this past year, causing schools to close and stand nearly empty.

Vacant classrooms provided the opportunity for custodians and maintenance personnel to ensure the rooms were deep cleaned and sanitized. The uninhabited spaces also provided the chance to brighten walls with a fresh coat of paint, repair and replace ceiling tiles or fix burned out light fixtures.

From a bigger picture, Director of Maintenance and Facilities **Dennis McDade** took the opportunity to take on some capital projects. One of the most noticeable improvements was the resurfacing of the gym floor at the junior senior high school. Work began in December and was finished just in time for the basketball and wrestling teams to use the facility when return-to-play was announced. The refinished floor, along with new scoreboards, has revived the look of the gym and has earned high praise from students and visiting athletes.

The cost of the new scoreboards was covered through the generosity of The Wilson Group, a local print, digital and record management solution company. The refinishing of the gym floor was partially funded by an altruistic local donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

In the summer of 2019, the District hired Trane to upgrade the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the junior senior high school. The \$4.5 million energy savings project was funded through a low-interest 20-year bond.* As an enhancement to the overhaul, two new 180-ton chillers and 11 Unit Ventilators, or univents, are currently being installed at the school.

Chillers, with an average life of 20 years, provide the building with air conditioning. The new chillers will replace two faulty 25-year-old machines. Univents are designed to draw air from the outdoors through a fresh air intake located on an exterior wall of the building. The project is expected to be completed by April and will greatly improve air circulation and provide more consistent heating and cooling throughout the building.

By carefully managing monies from the capital projects fund, Mr. McDade will work with **Keith Bielby**, Director of Fiscal Affairs and Finance, to plan for building improvements in the upcoming summer months.

Mr. McDade is currently receiving bids for the replacement or restoration of the roof at the junior-senior high school and window replacements at the elementary schools. Also on the docket for summer projects is carpet upgrades in elementary classrooms, new fire doors at Carnegie Elementary, a new gym divider at the junior-senior high school and additional sidewalk/concrete repairs and replacement at Carnegie Elementary and the junior senior high school. Mr. McDade is also looking into repairing the masonry at Crafton Elementary along the roof line.

Through a venture with the Borough of Crafton, ALCOSAN, Gateway Engineers and the District, the former Glaser property, purchased by the District in 2017, will be converted into a parking lot for the school with an expanded green space. The project will also provide a sewer separation system to protect the region by removing 7.7 million gallons of excess storm and ground water each year.

ALCOSAN, an acronym for the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, and its Board of Directors, created the GROW program, or the Green

Revitalization of Our Waterways. The initiative is a collaborative effort to reduce excess water from entering already overloaded sewer collection systems. The combined parking lot and sewer separation system will be fully funded by GROW. Since 2016, the program has provided over \$30 million in grants to reduce sewer overflow.



The old versus the new – the gymnasium floor of Carlynton Junior-Senior High School was last refinished in the early 2000's but the work did not resurface or repair the dead spots on the floor. Recent resurfacing and refinishing has made a noticeable difference to the playing surface while brightening the overall room. Two new scoreboards provide an extra bonus to the well-used space.



CRAFTON BOULEVARD SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT

PROTECTS OUR REGION'S WATERWAYS

- Separates stormwater runoff from 25 acres of our combined sewer system
- Removes 7.7 million gallons of excess stormwater and groundwater a year
- Supports ALCOSAN's efforts to reduce overflows into our waterways

IMPROVES OUR COMMUNITY

- Let's us construct a new parking lot for Crafton Elementary School
- Replaces old sidewalks
- Enhances our neighborhood
- Cleaner streams for generations to come!



This project is partially funded through ALCOSAN's Sewer Revitalization of Our Waterways (SROW) program, a system-wide effort to reduce water overflows through water reclamation.



The GROW program, a division of ALCOSAN, is funding a project to provide an underground storm water detention area for a sewer separation system on Crafton Boulevard, across the street from Crafton Elementary. Above the ground, a parking lot and expanded green space will enhance the neighborhood and provide additional parking for the elementary school.

* The contract with Trane provides a clause that stipulates the company will compensate the District if the projected value of energy savings is not met. Carlynton School District has used monies in its fund balance to sustain capital projects throughout the District, including the renovations and updates that occurred to the elementary schools in 2013 and 2014. The last time the District obtained a bond was in 1996 for major building renovations to the junior-senior high school. It is not uncommon for school districts to obtain bonds to finance capital projects, with a debt service of eight to 12 percent of their expenditures. Carlynton School District is among a very small fraction of districts in Pennsylvania who have little to no debt (1.2 percent), thanks to the shrewd fiscal management of the school board, superintendent and business manager.

CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFER A CHOICE

Tuition is free to the student, but taxpayers are footing the bill

Since the inception of cyber and charter schools in Pennsylvania more than 23 years ago, cyber charter schools have experienced great support as well as resistance.

Pennsylvania's cyber charter school law gives parents the choice to enroll a child in a cyber or charter school rather than the local public school or home district. For a variety of reasons, parents or students may find that cyber charter schools are the best option for them. A few motives may include:

- Wanting more customization so the education experience meets the academic needs and learning style of the student;
- Seeking an environment in which the student feels more comfortable, whether at home in a cyber-program or in an onsite center;
- Pursuing a career in the arts, sports, science or any other interest that requires flexibility;
- Coping with life situations, such as parenting, custody issues, illness or bullying;
- Or struggling with the concerns of a serious medical condition

Students who attend cyber charter schools have the right to utilize activities in their home district, allowing them to partake in clubs, athletics and theater arts. This opportunity gives youngsters and teens a chance to interact with peers in a public school setting.

When a parent or child chooses a cyber charter over the local public school, school choice allows public education funds to follow students to the schools or services they decide to attend.

In 1997, Pennsylvania established a statewide funding formula and applied it to all cyber charter schools and school districts. The formula is based on a district's cost-per-student. Since every school district spends a different amount, per-student payments to cyber charter schools also vary by district.

Cyber charter schools receive payments from the home school district of each student. The payment, calculated using the state formula, is usually 75 to 80 percent of the district's per-student cost. If a district spends \$12,000 per student, cyber charter schools receive about \$9,000 to educate the student. If the student requires special education, that number often doubles or triples.

Though discounted, the tuition is costly when multiplied by the number of students who attend a cyber charter school. Last year, the Carlynton School District sent \$1.2 million to cyber charter schools for the tuition of students who live within the boundaries of the district. This year, the number is expected to climb to \$1.6 million, or five percent of the District's annual budget.

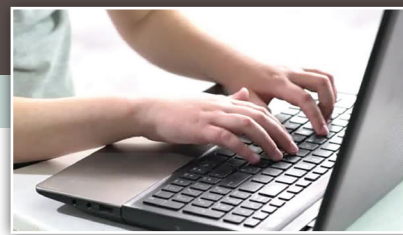
The growing trend in cyber charter school enrollment has wrought financial concern for school districts across the Commonwealth. In 2017-2018, payments to state-wide cyber charters grew to \$517 million. As a result of the pandemic, that rate is expected to jump by 30 percent or greater this year.

At the April 7, 2020 school board meeting, school directors adopted a resolution for reform of the cyber charter school funding formula. The resolution exposes the fact that mandatory payments to cyber charter schools is placing a significant financial burden on district resources and its taxpayers.

The sentiments for cyber charter schools are varied. Many argue that the mission of cyber charter schools has strayed from its roots. Charter cyber schools require only 75 percent of its educators to be certified, and not all are certified at the appropriate level. The schools, on average, provide only 36 minutes of live instruction from a teacher. And cyber charters consistently rank among the lowest performing schools in the state, with only 35-70 percent of its students earning a diploma.

On the other hand, not all cyber charters are alike and many students have had great success in a cyber charter school program. Some value the opportunity to learn at home without distraction. Others, whose son or daughter is gifted, have found specialized programming in a cyber charter school. For a selective group, a cyber charter is the only option when a child travels extensively for competition in a particular sport.

Whatever the reason, a parent must make the choice that is best for the education of a son or daughter. Nonetheless, it might be time for state legislators to examine the funding formula for cyber charter schools and find a solution to alleviate the burden to school districts and taxpayers.



CARLYNTON OFFERS A CHOICE: THE CARLYNTON CYBER ACADEMY

The Carlynton Cyber Academy is offered to students in grades one to 12 who are looking for an alternative to the traditional classroom environment. The district is proud to offer this option to students with high quality academic programs at a fraction of the cost of the tuition claimed by statewide cyber charter schools.

In its second year of programming, the Carlynton Cyber Academy offers valuable online learning supported by experienced and certified, highly qualified teachers. For students in grades 7-12, the online curriculum options include all courses

offered in the Carlynton course selection/program of studies books. Cyber students in grades 1-6 use the same curriculum as students who attend our elementary schools.

Students who attend the Carlynton Cyber Academy can participate in all Carlynton School District-sponsored events including athletics, clubs, homecoming, prom and other social activities. Cyber academy students can also engage in the PSSA and/or Keystone Exams when offered by the district. Upon completion of all graduation requirements of the academy,



students will graduate with a Carlynton High School diploma.

For more information about the Carlynton Cyber Academy, contact Dr. Edward Mantich, Coordinator of Curriculum and Data, at 412-429-2500, ext. 1130 or email edward.mantich@carlynton.k12.pa.us.