



## High school design work nears completion

*Bids to be awarded in January; work to begin in June 2019*

Design work is being finalized for the proposed \$87 million renovation and construction project at Penn Manor High School.

Bids are scheduled to be awarded in January 2019, and construction could commence in June. The project is expected to take at least three years to complete.

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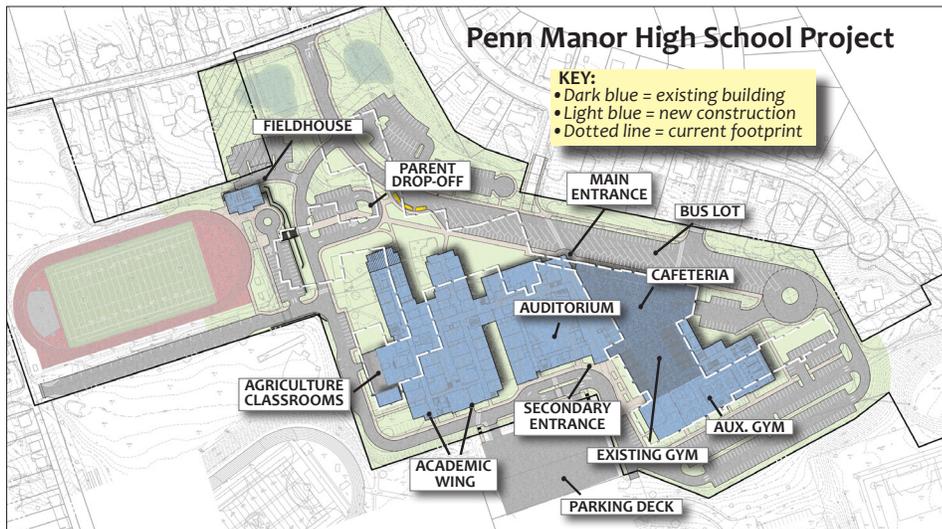
Conestoga ES reopens  
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Designs have been continuously updated, based on input from focus group meetings with academic and athletic department heads, students,

booster groups and district administrators held over several months.

The design calls for all athletic facilities to be located on one end of the site, with most academic areas clustered in three-story wings to greatly reduce travel times between classes.

Also planned are improved vehicle travel patterns and parking areas for buses and cars, major security enhancements and the



Above is a working site plan for the high school project. At right is a rendering of how the school might look.

option of including district offices as part of the project. That would free up space at Manor Middle School for classroom use.

An Act 34 hearing will be held before the board of school directors agrees to a final design and approves construction contracts.



You can follow updates on the project at the Penn Manor district website ([www.pennmanor.net](http://www.pennmanor.net)), on Twitter (@[@pennmanor](https://twitter.com/pennmanor)) and on Facebook ([Penn Manor HS Project](https://www.facebook.com/PennManorHSProject)).

## ‘Attollo’ spells success for Penn Manor students

Penn Manor is in its third year of a partnership with Children Deserve a Chance that is giving high school students enhanced opportunities to succeed beyond high school.

Called Attollo (“rise up” in Latin), it’s an intensive, two-year college prep/leadership program based on six “core pillars” – a strong mind, competition,

resiliency, accountability, sacrifice and finishing strong.

Offered to high school juniors and seniors, Attollo includes a vigorous Recruit Program that requires students to meet at 5:30 a.m. for leadership and problem-solving activities before their school day begins.

Students then progress to the Scholar program, attending evening sessions three nights a week for academic tutoring, SAT/ACT preparation and college admissions essay and financial aid assistance. Scholars visit nine college campuses.

Attollo also offers a startup experience for students, who are challenged to develop, create and market a product;



The Attollo program includes 23 seniors who will graduate this year.

and Attollo Code, a class that introduces them to coding.

Penn Manor was the first school district in Lancaster County to establish an Attollo program at its high school. Previously, students had to leave school to participate.

To date, nearly 100 Penn Manor students have benefitted from Attollo, which is geared

toward the school’s growing minority population.

“We are providing minority students with an experience that we could not provide on our own,” said Penn Manor High School principal Dr. Phil Gale. “Many are first-time college students, and for some of them, college isn’t part of the

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This edition of Above & Beyond highlights several of the valuable partnerships with community organizations that enable us to serve our students more effectively and efficiently.

# Conestoga reopens with upgrades, enhanced security

*\$11.7 million project completed for 2017-18*

After a year of construction and renovations, Conestoga Elementary School welcomed students and staff back for the 2017-2018 school year.

The school underwent a \$11.7 million project that was completed in the summer. It included a new kitchen and multi-purpose room, a relocated and expanded library, a new academic commons area, and renovated and upgraded classrooms and playground equipment.

An efficient geothermal heating system was installed, along with new plumbing, heating and air conditioning

systems and upgraded communications systems.

Increased security was a major goal of the project, and a new camera system enables staff to monitor entrances and exits during the school day and after hours.

Classrooms include escape windows that allow students to evacuate if necessary, and the playground has a safer rubberized surface and better sight lines during recess.

Visitors enter the school through a secure vestibule that controls public access. They must turn in their keys to receive a visitor badge.



Natural light abounds in this airy art classroom at Conestoga Elementary.

Traffic flow around the school site also was improved by separating bus traffic from other vehicles.

The project is expected to extend the lifespan of Conestoga Elementary by 40 years.

## Penn Manor welcomes new school directors

Two new members — both alumni of Penn Manor High School — have recently joined the Penn Manor board of school directors.

Mitchell Sweigart, a 2014 graduate, was sworn in February 5 to fill the unexpired term of former member Jeff Lyon. Sweigart will serve until December 2019.

In December 2017, Nickole Nafziger, a 2000 graduate, was sworn in to a four-year term, following her election to the seat formerly held by Johnna Friedman. Nicki will serve until December 2021.

Nafziger is president of Agape Care Inc., which provides in-home care services for senior citizens,



Nickole Nafziger and Mitchell Sweigart, both Penn Manor alumni, have joined the board of school directors.

people with disabilities, and those recovering from injury or illness. She is active in several community organizations. Nicki and her husband, Jeremy, have two children attending Penn Manor schools.

Sweigart, who played football at Penn Manor and at Princeton University, will graduate from Princeton

in May with an economics degree. He plans to work for BeneFix, a software company in Lancaster, after graduation. He also has interned with the PMF Group financial advisors in Harrisburg.

Welcome, Nicki and Mitchell, and thank you for dedicating your time to the all-volunteer board.

## District filling key leadership roles at Career & Tech Center

Superintendent Dr. Mike Leichliter and school board director Chris Straub have been appointed to leadership positions at the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center.

Straub was named chairman of the CTC's Joint Operating Committee, and Leichliter

was named Superintendent of Record.

The JOC includes school directors from the 16 Lancaster County districts whose students attend CTC programs.

This is the first time in recent history that Penn Manor has held the chairman and



Mike Leichliter

Chris Straub

superintendent positions at the CTC, which enrolls more students from Penn Manor than from any other district in the county.

## Special education services provided

Penn Manor School District is required to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who are determined, through the evaluation process, to need special education and related services under IDEA and 22 Pa. School Code §14.

A school-age child with a disability who is determined to be in need of special education and related services is identified as a child with a disability eligible for special education in need of specially designed instruction.

The following are disability categories under IDEA:

- Autism
- Deafness
- Deaf / blindness
- Emotional disturbance
- Traumatic brain injury
- Hearing impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Speech and language impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Visual impairment, including blindness

A full description of the services and programs available is accessible at: [www.pennmanor.net/special-education/](http://www.pennmanor.net/special-education/) or by contacting Theresa Kreider, director of student services, at 872-9500, ext. 2227.

## Field hockey team earns PA, national honors

*Coach, player named tops in U.S.*

What an incredible year for the Penn Manor field hockey team!

The Comets compiled a perfect 28-0 season, outscoring opponents by 148-5 and posting 23 shutouts.

The team won the Lancaster-Lebanon League and District Three titles before defeating Downingtown in yet another shutout, 2-0, to clinch the state championship.



Head Coach  
Matt Soto

That historic win was followed by even more honors as MaxFieldHockey.com ranked the Comets the No. 1 high school team in the United States.

MaxFieldHockey.com also named Penn Manor junior Emma DeBerdine the National Player of the Year and the Pennsylvania/New Jersey Region



Penn Manor field hockey players and coaches celebrate their state title.



Emma DeBerdine

Player of the Year.

Penn Manor coach Matt Soto was named the National Coach of the Year and the PA/NJ Region and Pennsylvania State Coach of the Year.

He was cited for leading the team to an undefeated record in the toughest high school field hockey

conference in the country.

The team was the first in Penn Manor history to earn Lancaster-Lebanon League, District Three and state titles in a single season.

Field hockey players excelled academically as well, with members posting an average GPA of 3.629.

In addition, nine players were named to the High School National Academic Squad – Gabby Bitts, Hannah Brown, Emma DeBerdine, Haley Garber, Briana Harsh, Anna Katherine Kirk, Lisa Schaefer, Alyssa Schriver and Brooke Spezialetti.

Four seniors signed letters of intent to play field hockey at Division I, II or III colleges.

## Bowlers win third straight state title

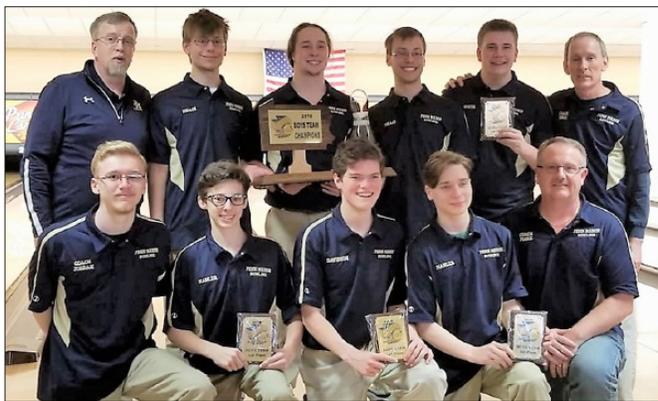
For the first time in history, a Penn Manor athletic team has won three straight state titles.

The boys' bowling team accomplished that feat by beating Wilson March 17 in the PIAA Bowling Championship in Pittsburgh.

Last year, the Penn Manor boys beat Ephrata, 2-0, to earn the PIAA Bowling Championship title. In 2016, the team topped Conrad Weiser, 2-0, for the state crown.

During the qualifying round this year, the Comets — Dan Mease, Michael Morris, Gavin Davidson, Nick Mease, Jordan Kahler, Jimmy Mahler and Mark Smith — finished second to Wilson.

In the semifinals, Penn Manor lost its first game to Franklin Regional but won the next two to set up a rematch with Wilson for the



Boys' bowling team members and coaches with their 2018 state championship plaques.

title.

The Comets won the first game, 209-173, but Wilson edged Penn Manor, 206-196, in the second. Penn Manor came roaring back, however, winning the decisive third game, 234-174.

"This team has a lot of heart," said Coach Chris Vital. "They were not going

to lose this. I've never seen that kind of drive before."

Vital said this year's title win was probably the most gratifying of the three because of how the team fought back.

Congratulations to team members and coaches for establishing a bowling dynasty at Penn Manor!

## PM contact procedures

Penn Manor strives to keep parents, students and staff as well-informed as possible about school closings, schedule changes and other issues affecting our schools.

Information is shared via Twitter (@pennmanor.net), the district website (www.pennmanor.net), your child's school website and the Penn Manor cellphone app (available through iTunes or Google Play).

If the schedule changes before the start of school, that information will be shared via the above methods and through local media outlets. In the event of an unanticipated closing, dismissal or other emergency after the school day has begun, parents also will receive an automated phone call.

Updates also are available via our hotline at (717) 872-9500 ext. 2333.

# Message from the superintendent

I recently had the honor of attending the 58th annual FFA Banquet, held at Penn Manor High School. As I sat among the 300 students, parents and community members in the cafeteria that evening, I was reminded of several important aspects of the long and rich history that agricultural education has in Penn Manor.

First and foremost, I was struck by the remarkable achievements of the students in this program. As superintendent, it was my privilege to recognize the 10 Manor FFA members who achieved the state's "Keystone Degree" status, which requires the personal investment of \$1,000 in a supervised agricultural experience or dedicating more than 600 hours outside of the school day in three years of FFA membership.

As I highlighted the accomplishments of each student, I was struck by the assistance they received from individuals and businesses in our county. While there are

many aspects to the success of Manor FFA, those of us in the school district realize that the enthusiastic and overwhelming assistance that generous people outside our schools so freely provide greatly enhances our educational program.

The recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida, reminds us of the vital role that our community partnerships play.

This issue of Above & Beyond highlights several partnerships that strengthen the educational opportunities of our children. These partnerships cross a spectrum, from generous individuals and nonprofit organizations willing to share their time and talents, to relationships between the school district and other government entities and businesses.

As we started to consider

the various partners for this issue, we were quickly struck by the long list of individuals and organizations that help make our schools so strong.

Among this list, I would be remiss if I did not mention the collaborative relationship between Penn Manor School District and the Borough of Millersville and Millersville Police Department. While we value our relationships with all five municipalities in Penn Manor, the partnership with Millersville is especially noteworthy. In the spring of 2000, it resulted in the first placement of a municipal police officer in a Lancaster County school district through the national School Resource Officer program.

That officer, Jason Hottenstein, continues to serve both the school district and the borough.

The recent tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, reminds us that partnerships like this one play a vital role in the health



**Dr. Mike Lechlitter**

and safety of a successful school district.

We hope you enjoy reading about these various partnerships, and as you read these articles and perhaps meet some of the individuals and organizations in your travels, please join all of us at Penn Manor as we show our appreciation for all they do.

– Dr. Mike Lechlitter

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## Agricultural education program benefits from industry expertise

*Advisory committee helps shape curriculum, facilities*

Penn Manor's agricultural education program isn't just guided by teachers and administrators – it's influenced by the people who know what skills students will need when they enter the work force.

A community-based agricultural advisory committee meets several times a year to review Penn Manor's curriculum, facilities and teaching materials.

The group is comprised of eight members who work in the fields of agricultural mechanics, general and production agriculture and animal sciences.

"The whole goal is to make our program relevant to the careers we are teaching, and what better way to do that than by bringing in people working in the business community to make recommendations on what's being taught and how we're teaching it?" said Neil Fellenbaum, who heads the agricultural education department. Advisory members have made

recommendations on everything from ag mechanics shop lighting and greenhouse design to the certifications students need to earn to be successful in agricultural, plant and animal industries.

The committee was instrumental in Penn Manor transitioning a few years ago to the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), an inquiry-based, student-

directed approach to teaching that integrates technology into classroom activities.

Committee members also have provided invaluable input into the design of agricultural education shops and classrooms as part of the high school renovation project.

"The biggest value is that students who come into our program can know that they are learning skills that have been approved by people in the industry," Fellenbaum said.

"And that's the way education should be."



## Attollo: College prep

CONTINUED from Page 1

conversation."

Attollo changes that by giving students stronger connections – to academics, Penn Manor and the possibilities beyond high school, Gale said.

"Students are stretched to really consider what all the possibilities are," he said. "Attollo opens their eyes and helps them see what their potential is."

That's what happened for Jasmine Lee, a Penn Manor senior enrolled in the program.

"I feel that Attollo really pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me a confident person," said Jasmine, who will attend Temple University in the fall. "I accomplished things in Attollo that I would have never even tried on my own."

Another senior, Aniah Washington, said the program has helped her fit in at Penn Manor.

"Attollo has given me a place to call home, providing me with friends and mentors that have helped me grow as a young woman," said Aniah, who has yet to decide what college she will attend.

Penn Manor Attollo participants have earned scholarships to many colleges and universities, including the University of Southern California, Drexel, Miami University and Princeton.

Seniors have received scholarship offers totaling nearly half a million dollars, a testament to the value of the program, which costs \$310 per student per year. Much of the funding comes from donations and grants.

# Five years of providing hope for the struggling

*Samaritan Counseling's screening program has changed the mental health culture at PMHS*

Penn Manor is beginning its fifth year of a partnership with Samaritan Counseling Center to provide emotional wellness screenings to all ninth-graders at Penn Manor High School.

Called TeenHope, the voluntary program screens students for depression, anxiety and other emotional concerns to identify teens who could benefit from further evaluation and treatment.

If the screening indicates concerns, parents are contacted and provided with resources and a referral to a mental health professional for counseling. If parents allow it, high school counselors also begin to work with the student.

Counseling can be provided by Samaritan or other providers.

Another major component of TeenHope is educating students about nurturing their own



mental health and educating teachers so they can respond when a student comes to them for help.

The program is integrated into the health classes that all ninth-graders take.

"The physical education and health teachers are key to this because they teach a mental health unit, they talk to the students about the stressors in their lives and the screening, so it's a natural part of the curriculum," said Melissa Ostrowski, Penn Manor High School counselor.

"Just like you get your height, weight and vision checked, you take care of your mental health," she said. "It's keeping mental



Samaritan Counseling staff members, who provide mental health screenings to all ninth-graders.

health as part of the everyday conversation, and hopefully it's identifying some students who we otherwise may not have realized were in need."

TeenHope has helped reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues, according to Ostrowski. "To students, this is just another way that we take care of ourselves," she said.

The program was designed to

build a school culture where mental health issues are openly discussed in a supportive environment, said Gerald Ressler, executive director of Samaritan Counseling Center.

Samaritan administers the program and provides the team of counselors that screens hundreds of students each semester – all at no charge to Penn Manor.

## JA enriches students' experiences

Penn Manor has had a longstanding partnership with Junior Achievement of South Central PA that has recently expanded to include career-based programs for students in high school and middle school.

For the past two years, Martic and Manor middle schools have participated in the YES! program, and Penn Manor High School freshmen have attended the JA STEM Summit.

YES! (Your Economic Success!) includes activities designed to help students gain an appreciation of the role that financial and career decisions play in their lives. Topics include developing a "personal brand," career mapping, job-hunting tools, work ethics, high-growth careers and workplace prof-



Students mix chemicals to create polyurethane during the Junior Achievement STEM Summit at Penn Manor HS.

fessionalism.

Students also learn about personal finances, how to use debit and credit cards, setting goals and identifying education and career goals based on their skills, interests and values.

The STEM Summit, a daylong event for all Penn Manor ninth-graders, includes science experiments, engineering and math competitions and career panel presentations.



The goal of every activity is to give students a sense of how science, technology, engineering and math skills apply to the real world.

Both these programs, presented by volunteers from various fields, have enriched the educational opportunities of our students at no cost to Penn Manor.

## Penn Manor freshmen earn Comet Credential

Penn Manor ninth-graders have begun a new initiative designed to help them develop the "soft skills" that employers say are needed to succeed in the modern workforce.

All freshmen are completing online courses toward earning a Comet Credential, a certificate indicating they have completed training on essential interpersonal skills and practices to help them succeed.

The training won't just help students who intend to join the workforce after graduation, but will give all students the tools to more successfully navigate their four years of high school and transition to college, training or a job, said Melissa Ostrowski, a Penn Manor High School counselor.

The Comet Credential program is a partnership involving local business representatives, the Lancaster County Workforce Development Board and CareerLink of Lancaster County, a partner of the American Job Center network.

The courses Penn Manor students complete are the same ones that Lancaster County employers are offering to their workers as part of SkillUp Lancaster, an initiative designed to bolster the skills of the local workforce.

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## Education Foundation gives boost to PM students

The partnership between Penn Manor and its nonprofit education foundation has never been stronger.

Penn Manor students are building toys for a pediatric hospital, planting a vegetable garden at their school and using computer programs to help hone their violin playing skills, thanks to Venture Grants awarded this year by Penn Manor Education Foundation.

PMEF has awarded 52 grants totaling nearly \$50,000 ranging from \$38 for plant mazes for second-graders at Central Manor Elementary School to \$4,800 for toolboxes for Penn Manor High School Agricultural Mechanics students.

The Foundation also administers nearly \$50,000 worth of scholarships and awards to graduating seniors and provides Strong Grants to help students and families



experiencing economic difficulties.

These grants have helped students pay for tools, uniforms and other specialized equipment for career and technology programs and assisted families with college application and AP test fees.

Teacher Venture Grants have this year funded books, news magazines, light tables, field trips, digital photography equipment, therapeutic games and mindfulness training sessions.



Education Foundation grants helped fund tools for Penn Manor auto mechanics students, in photo at left, and training for Wrangler, a therapy dog at Manor Middle School, pictured with student Maryanne Lopez and school counselor Danielle Rogers.

Grant funds also were used to make classrooms more appealing to restless learners with new seating options – including camp chairs, yoga mats and exercise balls.

And the district's counseling department received a \$2,500 grant to implement mental health training programs.

"PMEF is one of Penn

Manor's longest-term partners and its biggest cheerleader," said district superintendent Mike Leichter.

"The foundation's successes have made it possible to provide countless grants that directly benefit our students, which would not have been possible without this support."