



Above & Beyond

Penn Manor School District – Spring 2017

High school to be renovated, rebuilt on site

School board votes to pursue Option 3 on current site

Planning is under way for a proposed \$87 million renovation and construction project designed to transform Penn Manor High School into a state-of-the-art education facility for generations to come.

In June, Penn Manor school board approved pursuing the project, previously known as Option 3, after more than a year of public hearings and meetings to discuss options being considered to renovate and/

or replace the school, originally built in the late 1950s.

Option 3 will retain the cafeteria, main gymnasium and other areas of the school built

in the last renovation in the 1990s, while replacing older sections. A major goal is to consolidate academic and athletic facilities and reduce the footprint of the building, which now stretches one-third of a mile from one end to the other.

The project also is designed to increase energy efficiency and safety and security, both at the school and on the campus.

District architect Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates has been conducting focus group meetings with students and staff to get feedback on the design of classrooms,



Architect Larry Levato, above, leads a focus group as students share their views on different interior concepts for the high school. At left is the footprint of the proposed project, with new construction indicated in blue.



labs and other academic areas. Meanwhile, district officials are reviewing future educational objectives to help guide the design.

In January, Penn Manor retained Warfel Construction Co. to help oversee the project, which will be completed in phases

over three years while the school remains in operation. Financing also is being lined up for the project.

Public input will remain crucial leading up to the winter of 2019, when the project is expected to go out to bid. Groundbreaking is expected that summer.

The public is invited to a presentation on preliminary design schematics at 6:30 p.m. April 25 in the high school library.

New makerspace curriculum is transforming PM libraries



Central Manor librarian Kathy Ashworth guides students researching animal habitats.

Penn Manor elementary students are building zoo displays, space stations and national parks in a new curriculum that combines research skills, creativity, teamwork and hands-on building in an unusual setting – school libraries.

The Project-Based Makerspace Curriculum challenges small groups of students in grades four through six to build the structures out of Legos, magnetic tiles, straws, pipe cleaners, cardboard, clay and other materials.



Students work in groups to build a model of a new national park after researching the physical properties and native species of the state they selected.

But before the construction begins, they must conduct research and cite the sources of information (online and in print) they will use to guide their

project designs.

For the space station, they need to select a specific planet and

More MAKERSPACE on Page 2

Conestoga renovations to be completed in summer

School to reopen for '17-18

Work is progressing on schedule on an \$11.7 million project to upgrade and expand Conestoga Elementary School.

Construction began last summer on the project, which includes a new geothermal heating system, new plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems and upgraded communications and security systems.

The school also will get a new kitchen next to the existing gymnasium, which is being converted into a multi-purpose room; a relocated and expanded library; a new academic commons area; and a revised and upgraded entrance.

In addition, classrooms will be renovated and upgraded, and playground equipment will be replaced.



The new entrance takes shape at Conestoga Elementary School.

The upgrades and additions will improve safety and security and extend the lifespan of the school by 40 years.

Conestoga has been shut down during construction while students attend

Pequea and Martic Elementary Schools and Marticville Middle School this year.

The project includes about 34,000 square feet of renovations and 16,000 square feet of new construction.



Penn Manor technology staff members and student apprentices pose with the new book, written by technology director Charlie Reisinger, center.

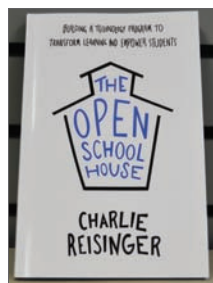
Tech director writes book on 1:1 technology

The Penn Manor technology team has been a pioneer in implementing open source software in education with the innovative 1:1 Student Laptop Program, the largest of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Now, the head of the school district's tech team, Charlie Reisinger, has written a book explaining how other schools can do it, too.

"The Open Schoolhouse: Building a Technology Program to Transform Learning and Empower Students" was recently published online and in print.

The 160-page book explains how Penn Manor was able to implement the program with 4,000 laptops that run exclusively on free, open source software.



The program has saved the school district about \$1 million on software licensing fees over the past 10 years and is believed to be one of the largest open source education programs in the United States.

Open source software is developed by a community of technology experts who make it available to anyone to use for free.

Users pay no licensing fees and are free to tweak the software to meet their unique needs.

Students at Penn Manor High School and Manor and Marticville Middle schools are using dozens of open source programs such as Blender, LibreOffice, Linux, Moodle and WordPress.

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/ or by contacting Theresa Kreider, director of student services, at 872-9500, ext. 2227.

Alumni join Wall of Honor

Four individuals and one sports team were inducted into the Penn Manor Athletic Wall of Honor during ceremonies in the high school cafeteria in January.

This year's inductees include Coach William Beck (football), Jill Witmer (field hockey), Jackie Ochs-Gregory Texter (volleyball/basketball/soccer), Jarred Texter (golf/basketball), and the 2005 Penn Manor girls' state championship soccer team.

William A. Beck

Bill was hired in 1969 to build Penn Manor's football program from scratch. He served as varsity coach from 1969 to 1979 and remained with the Comets football program in various capacities for 44 years.

His commitment to Penn Manor football continues today with the Bill Beck Scholarship Fund, which assists Penn Manor football players.

Jill Witmer

(2010 home school graduate)

Jill, a member of the United States Field Hockey Team, is the top field hockey player to come from Penn Manor's storied program.

Jill played field hockey for the University of Maryland, helping lead the Terrapins to two consecutive national championships. Jill earned a spot on the



Wall of Honor inductees and coaches at the celebration at Penn Manor High School

U.S. Olympic team and competed in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2005 Girls' Soccer Team

The Penn Manor girls' soccer team won the 2015 PIAA Class AAA State Soccer Championship, defeating previously unbeaten and No. 1 nationally ranked Emmaus, 1-0, on a Kasie Shover goal at 12:38 into the first half.

This was the first team at Penn Manor High School to win a PIAA state title without having to share it with another school.

Jackie Ochs-Gregory Texter (Class of 2005)

Jackie was a three-sport athlete who excelled at volleyball, basketball and

soccer. She earned 10 varsity letters, received the E. Jerry Brooks Award for Academic Excellence and was named Outstanding All-Around Female Athlete in her senior year.

Jarred Texter (Class of 2004)

Jarred Texter played golf and basketball at Penn Manor, earning seven varsity letters and the All-Around Male Athlete award his senior year.

He was one of the top high school golfers in Pennsylvania and qualified for three USGA Amateur Championships.

In basketball, Jarred was a three-year varsity starter and helped lead Penn Manor to its first L-L League and district playoff appearances in more than 10 years.

High school faculty receive state, national honors

Three Penn Manor High School teachers have received prestigious state and national honors for their teaching and academic accomplishments.

Meagan Slates

Agricultural education teacher Meagan



Meagan Slates

Slates was one of 36 teachers nationwide to receive the 2016 Teachers Turn the Key professional development scholarship from the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

Slates, who is in her third year at Penn Manor, was selected to represent Pennsylvania. She was nominated for the award by her peers and selected by the Pennsylvania Association of Ag Educators, based on a competitive application process.

As an award recipient, Slates attended the NAAE Annual Convention, attending workshops and learning from teachers and professors about safety in ag mechanics,

bridging the gap between growers and consumers in ag education and other topics.

Todd Mealy

Mealy, a history teacher, wrote a book that has inspired a new award in honor of a local education pioneer.



Todd Mealy

The Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation recently presented the inaugural William Howard Day Award to Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, recognizing his contributions to public education.

The award was inspired by Mealy's book about Day, "Alien American," a two-volume biography of the first African-American school board president in the United States.

An Abolitionist, Day served on the Harrisburg City School Board for six

terms, starting in 1878, after working as a newspaper editor and school superintendent.

Mealy is awaiting publication of his fourth book, "This is the Rat Speaking," about an African-American student uprising at Franklin & Marshall College.

Lindsay Feger

Feger, an English teacher, received the Pennsylvania Leadership Development



Lindsay Feger

Award from the National Council of Teachers of English.

A first-year teacher at Penn Manor, she is one of only five teachers nationwide to receive the award, which recognizes an early-career teacher who demonstrates a capacity for professional leadership.

Feger and the other award winners were honored Nov. 20 at the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention in Atlanta.

Message from the superintendent

As I write this column, our students are in the midst of producing "The Little Mermaid," this year's spring musical. This family production showcases a multitude of student talent, including acting, singing, production and set and costume design. In fact, one of our students who designed costumes was featured on WGAL-TV for his creative work.

This example illustrates the many ways that our students are engaged in activities outside of the traditional classroom that help complement their academic endeavors and add value for all members of the Penn Manor community. Some other examples are highlighted in this issue of Above & Beyond.

A topic that continues to be at the forefront of discussions is making needed physical changes to our schools. The Penn Manor Board of School Directors and administration have spent the last two years researching and discussing construction and renovation

plans for Penn Manor High School, which was originally dedicated in 1958 and partially remodeled in 1997. During the 2015-2016 school year, we conducted five general public meetings as well as seven smaller group forums to discuss four options developed by Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects.

The next public meeting on the high school design is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. April 25 in the high school library. Please attend!

After reviewing all of the input from the community, the school board on June 20, 2016, voted to pursue Option 3, which will retain the 1990s portion of the building and replace the original 1950s structure with new construction. The school board chose this option based upon a strong public sentiment that the

high school should remain in Millersville Borough, with easy access to Millersville University.

Another critical factor is that this option will enable us to consolidate programming so that classrooms and labs are not separated by a building that currently spans one-third of a mile, from end to end.

Over the past nine months, the school district has been actively working with the architect and a faculty committee to review the academic program of the high school to ensure that the design of the new building addresses the needs of our children in the coming years. In addition, the school board and administration interviewed a number of companies for construction management services and selected Warfel Construction of Lancaster to help manage the planning and construction phases of the project.

The public will have its first opportunity to review and provide comment on the schematic floor plan and 3D modeling of the school at a



Dr. Mike Lechlitter

meeting scheduled for April 25, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in McComsey Library at Penn Manor High School. The project won't go out to bid until the winter of 2019, with groundbreaking expected later that summer, but this phase marks an important milestone in an eight-year project.

We encourage you to attend and help shape the future of our high school, our school district and our students.

- Dr. Mike Lechlitter

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Frerichs receives Allwein Award for public education advocacy

Penn Manor school board member Dr. Richard Frerichs has been named recipient of the Timothy M. Allwein Advocacy Award for advancing the cause of public education in Pennsylvania.

Frerichs received the award at the School Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

"I am honored and humbled to have my efforts recognized by PSBA," said Frerichs, who is serving his 19th year on the Penn Manor school board. "It is the responsibility of every school board director to be a strong advocate for public education."

The award is presented

annually to a school board or individual school director for demonstrating outstanding leadership in legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of public education and public school students.



Rich Frerichs

leader, mentor, team builder and advocate for a just cause."

Since 2011, Rich has been active in leadership roles at PSBA and served as president of the statewide organization in 2014. He also has testified before the Pennsylvania Legislature on behalf of the association.

Makerspace: Libraries

CONTINUED from Page 1

determine how to provide food and oxygen, remove waste and resupply humans stationed in its unique environment.

For the zoo, they have to design an enclosure for a specific animal, replicating its natural habitat.

The parks must be built in a U.S. state that currently has no national park, and students have to highlight the physical features of the state in their design.

The groups can either build a small-scale model of their design or describe their project in another way — by creating a digital presentation, a board game, even a play based on the details of their projects.

Before the hands-on work begins, however, students must complete a detailed "project team worksheet" specifying who will work on each detail of

the design.

"Not only are students developing the creative skills of constructing projects with a variety of materials, they are learning the lifelong skills of research, design, collaboration, cooperation and reflection to consider re-design," said Kathy Ashworth, Central Manor librarian.

"Our blend of project-based learning and library makerspace we believe to be unique in this area," said Ashworth, who helped write the new curriculum with Penn Manor's other elementary librarians, Nancy Nadig and Lori Paules, over the summer.

"It was designed to blend traditional information literacy skills (research, citations, presentations) with the four 'C's of education — creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking."

Manor MS earns 'Distinguished School' honor

Third straight Title I award for academics

For the third straight year, Manor Middle School has been named a Title I Distinguished School, one of only 96 of Pennsylvania's more than 3,000 schools to achieve the honor.

Manor is among the top 5 percent of Title I schools in the state, based on progress made in the past year to narrow the achievement gap for all students and for students who traditionally underperform on standardized tests.

The number of Manor students scoring well on the PSSA reading and math and Keystone algebra tests improved overall from the previous year. The achievement gap also improved for "historically underperforming students" – special-education pupils, English language learners and economically disadvantaged students.

"The Manor staff connects with students and families in amazing and impressive ways to support student achievement and growth," Principal Dana Edwards said.



Title I academic support teacher Amy Niemkiewicz works with eighth-graders during a strategic reading class at Manor Middle School.

"Teachers are able to meet with students individually as needed and extend themselves beyond the school day for remediation and enrichment. They truly love kids."

Edwards also praised Amy Niemkiewicz, the school's Title I academic support teacher, for her efforts to help struggling students.

Schools are eligible for Title I status if they serve a large population of

disadvantaged students.

At Manor, about 49 percent of students qualify for free- or reduced-price lunches, based on family incomes. Title I schools receive federal funding to help raise student achievement through instructional changes, counseling programs and efforts to increase parental involvement.

Kudos, Manor Middle, on your "three-peat"!

Property tax rebate program expanded for senior citizens

Penn Manor School District recently raised the income limit for senior citizens to qualify for rebates of up to \$650 on their school property taxes. Seniors also may qualify for state rebates of up to \$975 on property taxes or rent payments from the previous year.

The program benefits residents age 65 or older, widows and widowers age 50 or older and people with disabilities who are 18 or older. Under the program, the school district has refunded more than \$200,000 to taxpayers over the past five years.

To qualify, homeowners must earn no more than \$35,000 to apply for the state rebate and \$20,000 to apply for the Penn Manor rebate. The school district's cutoff previously was \$15,000. There also is a state rebate

program for renters earning no more than \$15,000.

A printable application form is available online at www.pennmanor.net/tax/taxrebate

When calculating total income, applicants should include 50 percent of Social Security income and 100 percent of other income types. Spouses, personal representatives or estates also may file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in the previous year.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for homeowners can boost the amount of the state rebate to \$975.

Applicants must first qualify for a

state rebate before applying for a Penn Manor property tax rebate. Applications are currently being accepted for tax bills from the 2016-2017 year.

Additional information, including a printable application form, is available online at <http://www.pennmanor.net/tax/taxrebate/>.

Applicants needing assistance filling out the forms can contact the Penn Manor Business Office at (717) 872-9500, ext. 2252. State representatives' offices also are available to help with the application process.

Brett Miller – 2938 Columbia Ave., Manor West Commons, Suite 501, Lancaster 17603. Phone: (717) 295-5050.

Bryan Cutler – 33G Friendly Drive, Quarryville 17566. Phone: (717) 284-1965.

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New center has strong ties to old Hambright School

Hambright Elementary School is long gone from its former site on Temple Avenue, replaced by a new school in 2014.

But memories of the old Hambright endure at Signature Senior Living Lancaster, the personal and memory care facility built on the old school grounds.

The rustic brick Hambright School sign has been recycled for use by Signature, and the center's in-house movie theater was named Hambright Cinema in honor of the old school.



Signature Senior Living Lancaster

Signature also has a display in one of its wings featuring old photos of the exterior and interior of Hambright, along with a brick from the original 1936 structure.

"We are honored to be able to carry on the legacy



Former longtime Hambright Elementary School principal Jerry Shekart was one of the first residents of the new facility. Behind him is a display of old school pictures and a brick from Hambright.

of Hambright School within our community," said Jennifer Hoover, Signature's community sales director.

In another connection, one of the first residents of Signature was Gerald Shekart, Hambright principal from the 1960s to the '80s.

And students at the new Hambright Elementary have started an "Adopt a Grandparent" program with 10 residents

of Signature, who regularly write to the fifth-graders.

"They've shared facts about attending one-room school houses and not having running water," said Hambright teacher Melissa Borgoyne. "Their letters have opened up rich dialogue about life 70 to 100 years ago."

"My students have gained newfound respect for the things they take for granted in their everyday lives."