

# Above & Beyond



Penn Manor School District

Fall 2022

## Dr. Gale takes reins as superintendent

*Krista Cox named assistant superintendent for secondary*

For the first time in 13 years, Penn Manor has a new superintendent – Dr. Phil Gale, who took over the top job on July 1 from Mike Lechliter.

“It’s quite an honor and a privilege, and, at the same time, it’s very humbling,” Dr. Gale said of his appointment. “Penn Manor is a very special place to me. I look forward to continuing to serve this great community as I work with great teachers, administrators, support staff and school board members.”

Dr. Gale previously served as assistant superintendent for secondary education.

That position is now filled by Dr. Krista Cox, the former principal of Eshleman Elementary School.

Dr. Gale had been Penn Manor’s assistant superintendent since 2019. He previously was principal of Penn Manor High School for 10 years, after working as dean of students, assistant principal and associate principal.

Before joining the Penn Manor staff in 2000, Dr. Gale was a social studies and science teacher at schools in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

He received his doctorate in educational leadership from Immaculata University in 2012, his master’s in educational leadership from Millersville University in 2001 and his bachelor’s degree in social studies from Elizabethtown College in 1993.

Phil and his wife, Jill Montgomery, live in Millersville. They have two sons, Grant and Aaron, both Penn Manor graduates.

Dr. Cox also has strong Penn Manor roots.

Before joining the Eshleman staff in 2012, she was an assistant principal at Penn Manor High School from 2009 to 2012.

She previously worked for Ephrata Area School District as assistant principal and assistant to the principal at Ephrata



*Dr. Phil Gale, during a recent visit to Martic Elementary School, talks with students Elliana Stewart, center, and Abigail Parson.*

Middle School from 2005 to 2009.

From 1998 to 2006, Dr. Cox was Ephrata’s reading and language arts supervisor, a language arts teacher and a reading specialist.

More **SUPERINTENDENTS** on Page 6



*Eshleman Elementary School’s principal, Dr. Melissa Mealy, greets students and parents on the first day of school.*

## 2022-2023 school year off to a strong start

Nearly 5,500 students returned to the classrooms on August 29 as Penn Manor kicked off the 2022-2023 school year under bright, sunny skies.

Opening day was the first for Dr. Phil Gale in his new role as superintendent, the seventh person to hold the position in Penn Manor’s history.

Several other key administrators are new this year, and Penn Manor schools have 41 new teachers and other professional staff members.

At the high school, students

and staff are taking advantage of a renovated cafeteria, new kitchen, auxiliary gym, weight room and fitness center, all added over the summer.

In addition, high school students were issued about 1,500 new laptops in the first few days of school.

This year’s start was refreshing after two years operating under pandemic conditions.

“I look forward to seeing all the good things that will transpire throughout the school year,” said Dr. Gale.

# Penn Manor adds three principals, athletic director

Penn Manor has welcomed three new principals and a new athletic director to its staff for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Dr. Melissa Mealy** is the new principal of Eshleman Elementary School. She replaces Dr. Krista Cox, who was recently appointed Penn Manor's assistant superintendent for secondary education.

Dr. Mealy served since 2018 as assistant principal at Hambright Elementary School. She previously was the district's K-12 English Language Arts Supervisor and began her career at Penn Manor in 2006 as a high school English teacher.

She received her bachelor's degree in secondary English education and her master's in educational leadership from Millersville University. Dr. Mealy earned her doctoral degree in educational leadership from Immaculata University in 2016.



Dr. Melissa Mealy

**Kelli Eachus** is the new assistant principal at Hambright Elementary.



Kelli Eachus

Since 2012, Eachus worked as a reading specialist for Manheim Township School District. From 2010 to 2012, she was an acting assistant principal at Nitrauer and Reidenbaugh Elementary Schools.

She joined the Manheim Township teaching staff in 1997.

Eachus earned her elementary education degree from Shippensburg University in 1995, her master's degree from Millersville

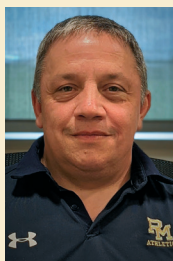
University in 2005 and her principal certification from Cabrini College in 2009.

**Jenna Fisher** is one of four assistant principals at the high school. She replaces Dorina Andes, who was named Penn Manor's supervisor of curriculum, instruction and assessment this summer.

Fisher joined the Penn Manor teaching staff in 2015 as a physical education teacher at Pequea Elementary and was named Penn Manor's Outstanding Elementary Educator for 2021-2022.

She earned her master's degree in education from West Chester University in 2009 and her educational leadership certificate and principal certification from Penn State University in 2021.

**Pat Tocci** is Penn Manor's new athletic director.



Pat Tocci

Tocci came to Penn Manor after working since 2001 as senior director and chief revenue officer at the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

He previously was assistant manager of admissions and financial aid at MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston and financial aid liaison at Kutztown University.

From 1996 until 2000, Tocci was Kutztown's head wrestling coach. He also served as assistant wrestling coach at Harvard University and coached cross-country and wrestling at Bethlehem Catholic High School.

Tocci earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Boston University, where he was a member of the wrestling team.



Jenna Fisher

# Message from the superintendent

What a tremendous privilege and honor it is to be named the seventh superintendent of Penn Manor School District. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude and excitement about the opportunity I've been given. I don't approach this as a job. Rather it is an opportunity to serve a community that I believe in, a place I have called home for 22 years and a community that has taught, coached and supported my two sons, both Penn Manor alums.

Penn Manor has and continues to afford me the privilege of serving with many great educators serving a great community, and I'm thankful for the many mentors at Penn Manor High School and the district office who helped shape me over the years. I look forward to working together to write the 7th Chapter of the Penn Manor story in the years to come.

From 1966 to 2022, there have been six superintendents who wrote their own chapters in the Penn Manor story. Each chapter has been driven by the numerous successful students, the great educators who shaped them, and the strong community that provided support along the way. The next chapter in a good book builds off of the events of the previous chapters. To keep the reader going, new events, characters, twists and turns are introduced. For many, NEW creates excitement.

We have 41 new teachers joining us this year, double or triple the number we typically have. We have several new support staff, along with new administrators or administrators in new positions. Each one of these individuals is adding their talents and abilities to the district as we all work to educate our students.

The 7th Chapter began with plenty of excitement among our students, teachers, and support staff as the 2022-2023

school year got under way on August 29. Over the summer, our teachers led summer programs that benefitted 520 students, including 320 from our elementary schools. Our teachers also have reached out to the parents and guardians of our students to introduce themselves and welcome their children to class. Students were welcomed, encouraged, and comforted to know that being present in school will provide great learning opportunities.

Also new this year is a renewed interest in school activities. At the middle and high schools, more than 100 additional students are participating in co-curricular activities, compared with last year.

Another new feature is the substantial completion of high school construction, on schedule and within budget. We greatly appreciate the sacrifices that our students, teachers, and support staff made during the past three years while teaching and learning in a construction zone. We also appreciate the sacrifice that our community made to provide the funds needed to pay for the project and the patience of our neighbors during a long period of construction activity. The high school was built to provide flexibility and reshape education, with new places to learn, new equipment to learn on, and the possibility for a new schedule and classes. It is a building that the entire Penn Manor community can be proud of.

With your support, I look forward to continuing to help write the 7th Chapter of Penn Manor's history.

- Dr. Phil Gale

(717) 872-9500, ext. 2223  
phil.gale@pennmanor.net



Dr. Phil Gale

# Gym, fitness center, revamped cafeteria in use

## Three-year high school project in final stages

After three years of construction, the Penn Manor High School project is nearing completion, with only landscaping work still under way.

The final phase of the project included construction of a new auxiliary gymnasium and major renovations to the main gym, which is now air conditioned.

As part of the athletic complex, a new fitness center with exercise and weightlifting equipment was built next to the auxiliary gym.

The old cafeteria and kitchen received extensive renovations over the summer,



Above, students in a physical education class use the new high school fitness center. Below left, students circulate throughout the revamped cafeteria.

resulting in a new layout that reduces congestion and upgraded ovens that have improved the quality of cafeteria food.

Also over the summer, additional parking lots were completed near the athletic complex and the front of the school. In all, the high school campus now has about 60 more parking spaces than it had previously.

Workers are continuing to grade and reseed areas of the site that were used for storage of construction equipment and supplies throughout the project.

Penn Manor is planning to host an open house at the high school for the community that will include several events in spring 2023.

More details will be shared when they become available.

## Schools add 41 teachers for '22-23

Penn Manor had a banner year in welcoming new professionals to its schools, with 41 teachers, nurses and psychologists added for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Two-thirds of these employees come to Penn Manor with previous teaching/school experience, and more than half have master's degrees.

The new appointments include:

**Central Manor Elementary** – Hannah Brown, grade 6; Emily Gutierrez, grade 1; Megan Trevoay, learning support.

**Conestoga Elementary** – Sean Hermanns, health and physical education; Eloy Rodriguez, grade 5.

**Hambricht Elementary** – Angelina DeLima-Diaz, learning support; Abigail Fried, emotional support; Allison Hege,



New teachers and other professional staff members pose for a photo during New Teacher Orientation.

learning support; Meghan Minich, school nurse; Lauren Myer, kindergarten.

**Hambricht/Letort Elementary** – Lisa Ammon, school psychologist; Kimberly Kuhns-Baione, grade 2.

**Letort Elementary** – Mary Harnish, grade 5.

**Manor Middle School** – Victoria Bell, math; Jennifer Charles, learning support; Matt Davis, social studies; Alyssa Hipple, English; Hannah Miller,

math; Shaniqua Troup, reading.

**Martic Elementary** – Shawna Showalter, grade 4.

**Marticville Middle** – Jenna Burger, English; Danielle Buzzelli, learning support; Alicia DeMille, English; Phoebe Tanis, English; Shaun Ulmer, computer technology.

**Penn Manor High School** – Joseph Blowers, English/social studies;

More **TEACHERS** on **Page 4**

# Penn Manor teams earn accolades

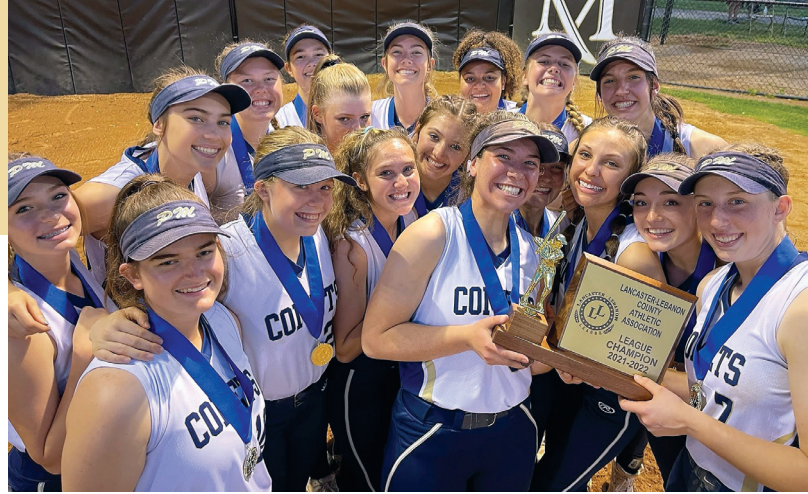


Photo by Mona Steinhauer, Advertiser sports editor

The Penn Manor softball team celebrates its league championship. The team went on to win Penn Manor's first district title and a berth in the state championship.

## Softball team takes first-ever district title

Penn Manor's spring athletic teams achieved some memorable milestones, including a first-ever district championship for the girls' softball team.

The 2022 **softball team** won the District 3 6A championship and the Section I championship, compiling a 15-1 section record. Overall, the team finished with an impressive 25-3 record.

The Comets advanced to the quarterfinal round of the PIAA State championship before losing to the eventual state champion.

Pitcher Emily Riggs was named All-State and 6A State Infield Player of the Year.

The girls' **bowling team** placed third in the state championship, earning a spot in the National Championship this summer, where they



Emily Riggs

finished in 27th place in the U.S.

In individual competition, Eva Brubaker had an outstanding performance, finishing 39th out of 257 bowlers nationwide.

This past season also marked the 18th straight year the Penn Manor bowling team made the league playoffs.

The **boys' lacrosse team** finished with a record of 13-6, placing third in Section

1. The team also qualified for the district tournament, and coach Connor Rowe was named the Section I Coach of the Year.



Connor Rowe

The girls' **lacrosse team** finished with a record of 10-7 and placed fifth out of 12 teams at leagues, ending the season ranked 13th out of 28 in the district.

In **boys' track**, shot putter

Jaryd Kleinhaus finished first in the league and second at districts, qualifying him for the PIAA state meet.

The **boys' baseball team** qualified for the district tournament, ending the season with an 11-10 record, and pitcher Hunter Sipel was named a Section 1 L-L League All-Star.

In addition, the team earned the 2022 Sportsmanship Award, as voted on by the L-L League umpires.

Congratulations to all these student athletes and coaches.

## Free breakfast available to all students in 2022-2023

### Families also urged to fill out free & reduced application forms

Effective in October, all Penn Manor students became eligible for free breakfasts under a state-funded Universal Free Breakfast initiative that will continue through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

This program does not include free lunches, and families are still encouraged to apply for free and reduced-price meal benefits to qualify for assistance through that federal program.

You can learn more about



Students eat breakfast in the Hambricht Elementary School cafeteria.

the application process here: <https://bit.ly/3qUekx6>.

By submitting an application, your child's school may receive additional funding to improve nutrition and education programs.

Applying for free and reduced-price meals also can help families with fees for SAT and PSAT tests, college

applications, advanced-placement exams and other expenses that may come up during a child's high school career.

Qualifying for free and reduced-price meals also means your family may be eligible to receive additional benefits, such as low-cost internet service from Comcast.

## Teachers

Continued from Page 3

Michelle Boland, biology; Amy Chura, special education; Christopher Davidson, social studies; Sarah Davis, English; Joshua Fisher, science; Barney Peace, physics; Jakob Perkowski, technology education; Angel Robinson, math; Laveena Shertzer, math learning support; Nicolette Smith, English; Shandra Stoner, math; Janelle Troup, learning support.

**Pequea Elementary** – Devon Orzolek, grade 4; Sonja Welsh, health and physical education.

**Pequea Elementary/PMHS** – Tyler Ziegler, technology education.

To all our new staff members, welcome to the Penn Manor family!

# Pequea bus driver featured in video series

WITF's 'Brighter Days' showcases 23-year driver Roxy Carrigan

Pequea Elementary School bus driver Roxy Carrigan is featured in a new video series produced by WITF that showcases outstanding employees at local schools.

Called "Brighter Days," the series focuses on the positive impact staff members have on students. The three- to five-minute videos highlight the programs and relationships that make students, educators, and community members feel seen, understood, and inspired.

Roxy is interviewed, along with Desiree Forbes, the mother of Gram, one of the students Roxy transports.

"She is incredible," Desiree says. "I honestly



don't think I could ask for anybody better to drive Gram to school. I know that at the end of the day, she has his best interests and safety in mind."

Roxy has been driving special needs students for Penn Manor for 23 years. Each day, she tries to make her young passengers feel confident and comfortable by treating them like her own grandchildren.

"They give me confidence, and I give them confidence," she says in the video, one of eight produced for the series



Roxy Carrigan helps Gram Forbes get off the bus at Pequea Elementary School.

by WITF in partnership with Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13. "They want to be treated like everyone else, and that's what I try to do."

You can see the "Brighter Days" videos here [https://](https://www.witf.org/programs/brighter-days/)

[www.witf.org/programs/brighter-days/](https://www.witf.org/programs/brighter-days/).

Congratulations to Roxy, and many thanks to WITF and IU 13 for shining a spotlight on these outstanding employees.



Jenna Fisher



Chip Froelich



Wendy Letavic

## Outstanding staff members for 2021-2022 honored

Penn Manor recently honored its Outstanding Educators and Employee for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Chip Froehlich**, the district's delivery truck driver, was selected the Outstanding Penn Manor Employee.

Chip Mathias, buildings and grounds coordinator, praised Froelich for "taking ownership of his role within the district."

"You can find someone

smart and talented with a strong resume, but a good attitude is gold – and that's what Chip has," Mathias said.

**Jenna Fisher** was named Outstanding Elementary Educator for her previous role as physical education and health teacher at Pequea Elementary.

"Jenna is a hardworking, dedicated educator and

More **OUTSTANDING** on Page 6

## Anthony Lombardo joins Penn Manor school board

The Penn Manor Board of School Directors has appointed Anthony Lombardo to fill a vacant seat on the board.

School board members voted September 19 to appoint Lombardo, who will serve until December 2023.

A detective with the Manheim Township Police Department since 2007, Lombardo also served as a K-9 officer and detective with the Lancaster County Drug Task Force from 2008 until 2020.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving as an infantry section leader with the 1st Battalion 7th Marines from 2004 to 2005 and as corporal of the guard for

the Marine Corps Security Force Company NSB in Bangor, Washington, from 2002 to 2004.

Lombardo earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Columbia Southern University in 2022 and completed Police Academy training in 2007 at Harrisburg Area Community College.

He and his wife, Lindsey, live in Pequea. They have two children attending Penn Manor schools, Mason, 16, and Hunter, 13, and a 3-year-old son, Sawyer.



Anthony Lombardo

# Special education services at PM schools

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 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
- Orthopedic impairment
- Visual impairment, including blindness
- Speech and language impairment

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 Peggy Anastasio, director of student services, at (717) 872-9500, extension 2244.

## Annual notices

Federal and state laws require school districts to provide students, parents and/or the public with notices on such topics as privacy, nondiscrimination, child nutrition, open records and homelessness.

Penn Manor invites parents and guardians of students to review the information on notices at [www.pennmanor.net/annual-notices/](http://www.pennmanor.net/annual-notices/).

Please contact your child's principal with any questions or concerns about the information contained in these notices. You may also contact the superintendent's office at (717) 872-9500, ext. 2223.

# Join our PM team

Penn Manor School District is hiring for a variety of positions for 2022-2023.

The district routinely has vacancies in teaching positions, as well as support staff in the following areas:

- Food service
- Coaching
- Custodial
- Maintenance
- Secretarial/clerical
- Health room nurses and substitute nurses (RN/LPN)
- Cafeteria, building and playground aides

We offer competitive wages and benefits, along with on-the-job training.

You can see our current vacancies on the district's employment website



Food service workers serve meals in the Penn Manor High School cafeteria.

here: <https://www.pennmanor.net/employment/>

You can call our Human Resources Department at 717-872-9500, ext. 2247, to arrange an interview.

For many positions, we offer on-the-spot interviews daily, from 8 to 10 a.m., in the Penn Manor School District Offices, 100 E. Cottage Ave., Millersville 17551.

Please consider joining our dynamic team of employees, who are working each day to improve our community, one student at a time!

## Superintendents: Gale and Cox

Continued from **Page 1**

She earned her doctorate in educational leadership and administration from Immaculata University in 2013, her master's degree in reading and language arts from Millersville University in 2000, and her bachelor's degree in elementary education from MU in 1993.

"It's an honor and a

privilege to continue to serve the Penn Manor community, which has given so much to my family over the years," she said.

Dr. Cox is a Penn Manor alumna whose four children attended Penn Manor schools. She and her husband, Matt, live in Conestoga with their daughter, Olivia, a senior at Penn Manor High School.



Dr. Krista Cox

## Outstanding: Employees honored

Continued from **Page 5**

teammate who genuinely cares about the people she comes in contact with on a daily basis," said Pequea principal Dr. Shirley Murray. "She has been an asset to the health and P.E. department since the day she joined us."

Fisher, who taught at Pequea since 2015, recently transitioned to a new job as assistant principal at Penn Manor High School.

The Outstanding Secondary Educator Award went to **Wendy Letavic**, Penn Manor's English Learning Development Specialist.

Letavic has been with the district for 32 years and has worked

primarily with Penn Manor students and families whose native language is not English since 2003.

"Wendy is not only an excellent educator but an advocate for her students," said Baron Jones, high school principal.

"She understands that the population of students she teaches has additional barriers to overcome other than language. Mrs. Letavic is a constant for her students and their families as they learn to navigate our systems and customs. She is always there for them."

Congratulations to these employees for helping make Penn Manor such an outstanding school district.

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# Jason Turner takes over as Penn Manor SRO

*Replaces Jason Hottenstein,  
who served for 20 years*

Officer Jason Turner has been named Penn Manor's school resource officer for 2022-2023.

He replaces Jason Hottenstein, who was appointed in 2000 as the first SRO in Lancaster County and served longer than any other school resource officer in the county.

Prior to his retirement in August, Hottenstein was named the 2022 Ambassador of School Safety by the Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers (PASRO).

He was chosen for the award "for exemplifying the highest standards of school-based law enforcement" and for his service to Penn Manor students and the school community.

Like Hottenstein, Turner comes to Penn Manor from the Millersville Borough Police Department.

Since joining the department in 2014, he has served as a bike patrol officer, a defensive tactics instructor and supervisor of DUI testing. He previously worked 15 years as a bricklayer.

Turner has coached midget football and youth wrestling for many years.

As SRO, he is responsible for helping maintain safety, order and discipline at Penn Manor High School and provides expertise to other schools, as needed.

He is a daily presence at the high school, where he helps direct traffic, patrols the halls, cafeteria and other areas of the campus and helps investigate incidents that may result in criminal charges or disciplinary action. He also can be seen at Penn Manor athletic events.

"I enjoy being around kids and trying to give them a positive role model to look up to, especially if they don't have one at home," Turner said. "I was ecstatic when I got the job."

"I have been around kids a lot between sports and life," he said. "I'm an easygoing person and will do my best to connect with the students and build strong relationships, just like Officer Hottenstein did."

Turner and his wife, Mary, live in West Lampeter Township. They have three daughters and a son.

We wish Officer Turner the best in his new role.



Officer Jason Turner