

PM Above & Beyond

Penn Manor School District

Fall 2024



Bus driver Joan Shenk has been honored as an Outstanding Driver by the National School Transportation Association.

45-year bus driver earns national award

A Penn Manor bus driver with a long history of transporting students has been honored with a national award.

Joan Shenk, who drives Bus 132 to and from Conestoga Elementary and the high school, was named an Outstanding Driver by the National School Transportation Association for her 45 years of service behind the wheel.

She is one of only five bus drivers in the United States to receive the award this year from the association, which represents bus companies operating more than 200,000 school buses.

"She is the gold standard of what you want an employee to be," said Matt Albaugh, vice president of Shultz Transportation Company, which employs Shenk – the

More **BUS DRIVER** on Page 6

Staff take on new leadership roles

Four principals appointed to lead Manor Middle, Pequea Elementary and high school in new year

Four longtime staff members have been appointed to new principal positions for the new school year.

Dr. Shirley Murray has been named principal of Manor Middle School, replacing Dr. Dana Edwards, who retired after 22 years of exemplary service with Penn Manor School District.

Dr. Murray had been principal at Pequea Elementary since 2013. She previously was principal at LeTort Elementary from August 2009 until December 2012 and began her teaching career as an emotional support teacher with Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13.

Patty Detter was named assistant principal at Manor, replacing Jerrell Birch. Detter served as interim Dean of Students at Hambright Elementary School during the second semester of the



Dr. Shirley Murray



Patty Detter



Kim Marsh



Chris Telesco

2023-2024 school year, after working since 2006 as a first- and second-grade teacher at Eshleman Elementary.

Kim Marsh has taken over as principal at Pequea Elementary.

Kim had served as assistant

More **STAFF** on Page 7

Tech trainer Judy Keller named Google for Education Innovator

Penn Manor technology trainer Judy Keller has been named a Google for Education Certified Innovator, one of only 150 educators worldwide to receive the honor for 2024.

Judy qualified following a highly competitive process in which she submitted a portfolio of her work, recommendations from colleagues, a video about herself and a student-focused project she plans to pursue as

an Innovator.

"Being chosen for the Google Innovator Academy is a dream come true," she said. "I'm thrilled about the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of educators who share a passion for innovation. The exchange of ideas and experiences will undoubtedly spark creativity and inspire new ways of teaching and learning."

More **INNOVATOR** on Page 2



Judy Keller, Penn Manor technology trainer, poses with some of the students she has helped with laptop technology.

Joe Herman honored for 50 years of coaching

One of Penn Manor's most beloved coaches recently marked an impressive anniversary.

Joe Herman celebrated his 50th year as a Penn Manor track and field coach this past season, and was honored with more than 100 cards from former student athletes from across the country who benefitted from his mentorship.

Mr. Herman joined the Penn Manor staff as a history teacher in 1975 and was approached to be an assistant coach for Penn Manor's first varsity girls track and field team, under head coach Mary Lou Ruth.

That was the start of his long career as a coach and mentor to hundreds of Penn Manor students. He served as head track and field coach for 30 years before moving to an



Joe Herman

"His impact on the student-athletes and the athletic program is immeasurable."

— Pat Tocci, PM
Athletic Director

assistant coaching role. He now coaches the team's throwers.

In addition, Mr. Herman has volunteered for years as a scorekeeper and volunteer worker at other Penn Manor athletic events.

Pat Tocci, Penn Manor athletic director, praised Mr. Herman for his impact.

"We are very grateful for Joe's 50 years of service, not only to Penn Manor athletics but to the Penn Manor community as a whole," Tocci said. "His impact on the student-athletes and the athletic program is immeasurable, and those who have been coached by Mr. Herman are better because of it."

We can't thank Mr. Herman enough for all he's done for generations of Penn Manor students.

Innovator: Keller award

Continued from **Page 1**

"I'm particularly excited to focus on social media literacy education for students, a topic that aligns perfectly with my work at Penn Manor."

Judy will attend the Google Academy in Amsterdam in November 2024 and complete a 12-month professional development experience that will include a mentorship, learning activities, and research and development of her social media literacy project.

Judy learned she was named a Google Innovator in August, after submitting her application in June following seven months of

preparation.

The award is the latest honor for Judy, who joined the Penn Manor IT staff in 2015. In 2023, she was named a Google Champion for Education and has earned Level 1 and 2 certifications as a Google Educator. She also was named a Google Certified Trainer in 2020 and a Keystone Technology Innovator in 2022.

"We're thrilled that Google has recognized Judy's world-class energy and talents," said Charlie Reisinger, Penn Manor Chief Information Officer. "She is a tremendous advocate for students and an exceptional learning technology resource for Penn Manor teachers and staff."

Message from the superintendent

During the summer between my freshman and sophomore years of college, I worked as a counselor at a basketball camp. This job blended my love of basketball with a desire to interact with people.

Some of the people I had the chance to learn from at camp strongly influenced the direction of my life. Through many conversations with teachers, who were also coaches, I discovered my future was in education.

I often think about those teachers/coaches and how their wisdom, experiences, and encouragement unlocked many new opportunities for me. Who in your life or what experiences have unlocked a new opportunity for you?

The school district's mission is for the Penn Manor community to work collaboratively to help students define and achieve their academic and life goals. This school year, our teachers and administrators are making it a priority to unlock new opportunities for our students that will enhance their learning, in and out of the classroom. These new opportunities will enable students to fulfill their academic and life goals.

When we unlock something, we open, undo, or provide full access to it. For our students, there are many things that can and need to be unlocked in a school year – the learning of new content, getting involved in new activities, and having experiences that help them learn new skills and develop new relationships with peers and teachers.

"New" is one of those love/hate concepts. We love new things – if we consider them the right things. We love new experiences – if they are the

right experiences. We love new places – if they provide the same level of comfort that old familiar places provide.

Each school year is new for our students, and this year is also new for 34 teachers and over 20 supporting staff we have welcomed to our district in recent months for the 2024-2025 school year.

These new individuals are bringing their knowledge, work habits, ideas, and life experiences to Penn Manor. We are excited to have each of them working with our students to unlock new opportunities.

As we work to identify what we can unlock for our students, our desire is that they connect with others and with the academic content, and learn skills that can be utilized outside the classroom.

That's the power of what we do. We unlock opportunities for students so they can flourish and thrive. We have all gotten better because of the opportunities that have been unlocked for us in life.

I thank all of you who provide opportunities for our students, and we welcome the chance to grow partnerships that will provide even more opportunities for our students.

I firmly believe that we have many experts in Penn Manor who can provide great learning opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your continued support of the Penn Manor School District and our students.

As we move through this school year, I can't wait to see how we Unlock New Opportunities!



Dr. Phil Gale

— Dr. Phil Gale

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

Elementary schools provide 'calming spaces'

TangerKids grant funds materials to help students reset their emotions

Students at Eshleman Elementary School who are having a rough day can head to the school office and take a dip in the pool to help them calm down.

The "calming pool" contains no water, but is filled with pillows with calming strategies printed on them, fidgets and other materials designed to help students redirect their emotions.



Martie Elementary school counselor Kim Juba teaches a kindergarten lesson on processing feelings.

And the school's therapy dog, Sawyer, might just jump in to provide the comfort of canine companionship to students in distress.

The pool and calming items all were purchased with a \$3,000 grant from the TangerKids school grant program, funded by Tanger Outlets.

The money supports "Practice the Pause: Reset Your Mind," a project to create calming spaces in each Penn Manor school where students can go to de-escalate when they are upset or frustrated.

Eshleman counselor Alisha Bawiec spent less than \$300 to purchase the pool, fidgets, popettes, textured stickers to promote breathing and attention, and pillows that encourage students to listen to music, do some stretches, count to 30 slowly and "give yourself a hug."

She and other counselors also purchased "A Little Spot of Feelings and Emotions" sets of books and plush toys that cover a variety of emotions, from anger, worry and frustration to calm, confidence and happiness.



The "calming pool" helps students relax at Eshleman Elementary School

Pequea Elementary purchased stuffed animals and fidget/calming items that are placed in a backpack for students to carry throughout the building to assist with sensory needs, said counselor Michele Semple.

"We also purchased 'sit discs' and 'kick bands' for chairs to help students who benefit from frequent movement breaks. The calming items help students who are experiencing anxious or

More CALMING on Page 7



New members of the Penn Manor Chapter of the National Honor Society pose following an induction ceremony in the high school auditorium.

Honor Society adds 46 members

The Penn Manor Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 46 new members during an induction ceremony September 25 at the high school.

The juniors and seniors qualified for induction by maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of at least 4.0 and demonstrating the four pillars of the organization – scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The new members for 2024-2025 are:

Alanna Addy, Maryam Alfayyadh, Rayn Andreychek, Samaya Avila, Seth Barrett, Caroline Binkley, Alexis Blechschmidt, Grant Bradburn,

Kennedy Byrd, Alena Carrodo, Laura Castillo, Luke DeVinney, Kennedy Dings, Janelle Evans, Caiden Gegg, Reagan Gerlach, Genevieve Huber, Diana Idrees, David Kirkley.

Jett Kroesen, Joelle Kroesen, Benjamin Leed, Ethan Markulik, Gianna Menaquale, Claire Mincemoyer, Gillian Moss, Cait Mummert, Gage Myers, Samuel Newton, Lydiah Nichols, Matthew Palmeri, Emily Railing, Madeleine Rohrer, IzEldeen Salem, Kiley Scholl, Samantha Smith, Sarah Souhrada, Aubrey Squires, Madison Stringer,

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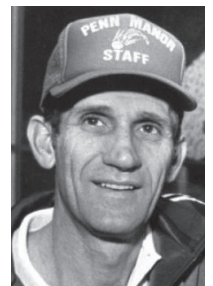
HS gym to be named in honor of Harry Frey

Penn Manor's high school gymnasium will soon be renamed in honor of Harry Frey, a longtime Penn Manor teacher and distinguished coach.

Harry taught physical education for 41 years for Penn Manor and spent 30 years coaching the Comets' mens' and womens' basketball, mens' soccer and baseball teams.

A native of Washington Boro, Harry attended Penn Manor, where he played soccer, basketball, and baseball and was named First Team All-County in basketball and soccer.

After graduating in 1958, Harry was hired as a gym teacher in 1962,



Harry Frey

More FREY on Page 6

Five spring sports, three individuals qualify for playoffs

Spring 2024 teams had great success

Penn Manor's spring 2024 athletic teams had an outstanding season, with five sports qualifying for PIAA District III Team Championships. In addition, three athletes qualified for the PIAA State Track and Field Championship.

Track and Field had both strong team and individual performances. The boys team finished 3rd in the Section I race.



Kate Harnish

Championships.

With her victory in the pole vault, Kate Harnish became the first Penn Manor track athlete since 2014

to win a PIAA District III championship. She would go on to finish ninth at the state championships. She also finished in the top 12 in the long jump at States.

Brianna Lee qualified for the PIAA State meet in the high jump, where she finished in the top 15. Lee had set a new school record in the high jump of 5 feet, 4.25 inches.

In addition, Kaleb Kabakjian qualified for States in the 800 and 3200 meters. He just missed a medal by fractions of seconds in the 800 to take ninth. In the process, he also set a new school record.

Girls' lacrosse finished the season with a 14-5-1 record and qualified for the PIAA District III quarterfinals. The team finished 3rd in the Section I LL League Standings.

Jarlieah Ferko, Joelle Kroesen and Ciana Suydam



Brianna Lee qualified for states in the high jump.



Nick Hollinger

all were named to the LL League First Team, and Grace Gerner earned a spot on the LL League All-Academic Team.

Boys' lacrosse had a solid season, going 12-7 and advancing to the quarterfinals of the District III Championships. The team also finished third in the Section I LL League Standings.

Grant Bradburn, Kyle Schmidtke and Nick Hollinger all were named first team league All-Stars.

Baseball was inches away from having an amazing season before losing two heartbreaking games to Hempfield, which kept them from winning the Section I title or qualifying for the PIAA State baseball tournament.

Despite this, the team had a strong season, going 14-8 to qualify for the District Championships and finishing third in the Section I race. The team was led by seniors Bradyn Eckert and Bryce Avery.

Softball qualified for another District III championship but lost in the

More **ATHLETICS** on Page 6

PM's DeBerdines play in Olympics

When the U.S. women's field hockey team took on the rest of the world in the summer Olympics in Paris, two Penn Manor alumna were on the pitch.

Sisters Brooke and Emma DeBerdine played on Team USA, which finished ninth out of 12 teams in the Olympics, with a 1-3-1 record.

The DeBerdines have played field hockey together since they were little girls. While on the Comets team, they were instrumental in helping Penn Manor earn state titles in 2014 and 2017. They later

played together for three seasons at the University of Maryland.

Brooke graduated from Penn Manor in 2017, and Emma in 2019.

"The journey they both have been on, playing together at Penn Manor, then again at Maryland and now in Paris, was very surreal," said Mike DeBerdine, their father. "My wife, Deb, and I were over the moon with excitement to see Brooke and Emma becoming Olympians and taking the field for their first game."

Brooke and Emma received lots of local support

for their Olympic journey, and Brooke recently returned to her grade school, Pequea Elementary, to talk about her experience.

"Many thanks to the Penn Manor community for its support," Mike DeBerdine said. "Brooke and Emma knew their hometown family was cheering them on."

The DeBerdines are not the first former Penn Manor field hockey players to appear in the Olympics.

Former Comet Jill Witmer represented the U.S. in 2016 at the Rio De Janeiro Games.



Photo courtesy USA Field Hockey

Brooke, left, and Emma DeBerdine

FFA teams place in top 3 in state, region

Agronomy, poultry, horse evaluation, and livestock teams earn honors

Five teams of Manor FFA members placed among the top three in Pennsylvania during the FFA State Convention and Activities Week, held June 11 through 13 at Penn State University.

During the competition, the Penn Manor High School ag students had to complete general knowledge tests, oral presentations, problem-solving team exercises, and

practicums related to each career area.

Manor FFA's **Horse Evaluation Team** of Cassandra Welch, Sarah Souhrada, Lorelei Smith and Emily Burkhart placed second in the state, earning them a spot in the Big E regional competition in Massachusetts in September, where they placed first overall.

The **Agronomy Team** of Ryan Brenneman, Weston Shertzer, Chase Vinson and Nate Frey placed first in the state. Weston earned a first place individual award, and Ryan earned a third.

Also placing first was the **Poultry Evaluation Team** of Lillian Walborn,



The award-winning Manor FFA Horse Evaluation Team, above, and the Agronomy Team, below.

Grace Garrett, Grace Keller, Cheyenne Williams and Maybelle Rineer. Cheyenne was the top individual poultry judge in the state, followed by Grace Garrett as second individual and Lillian Walborn as third.

Both teams earned the honor of representing Pennsylvania at the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis in October.

Two other teams placed third in the state – the **Floriculture Team** of Lathan Axe, Emily Railing, Rachel



Sensenich and Sara Gehr; and the **Veterinary Science Team** of Derek Thomas, Lydia Nichols, Abby Harnish and Ava Crill.

Congratulations to these students and their agricultural education teachers on these awards!



Manor FFA Poultry Team

Aevidum program wins national prize

A program to help Penn Manor High School students bond with their peers and open up about their mental health struggles has won a national award.

"Friday Fun: Flexin' To De-Stress and Check In on Our Mental Health" won the top prize and a \$5,000 award in a nationwide competition sponsored by Invent2Prevent, Edventure Partners, and the Department of Homeland Security's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3).

High schools and colleges were challenged to implement programs with the ultimate goal of preventing violence or eradicating hate.

"We are beyond thrilled to have been chosen for first prize," said Maria Vita, a high school psychology teacher and advisor for the high school's Aevidum Club, which organized and implemented the "Friday Fun" campaign. Aevidum's mission is to erase the stigma of depression and other mental health issues facing teens.

All grades at the high school participated in "Friday Fun" activities in April, including



From left, current and former Penn Manor students Fatuma Mussa, Paige Hoyt, Kaylee Brackbill and Kayla Shertzer pose with their first-place award in Washington, D.C.

team-building exercises, door decorating, board games and hallway handball, creating friendship bracelets, and other activities.

At the start of these activities, students watched a video explaining 988, a number they can text for help if they are experiencing mental health difficulties. At the close of Flex period, students completed surveys on their experience.

According to survey results, 92 percent of students reported a pleasant experience during Friday Fun, and 35 percent of students said they felt more comfortable about seeking help from an adult at Penn Manor for their personal struggles after "Friday Fun" activities.

Student takes U.S. TSA title

One of Penn Manor's recent graduates earned a first-place finish at the Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference, held over the summer in Orlando, Fla.

Suren Clark (Class of 2024) placed first and was named national champion in the Future Technology and Engineering Teacher event at the conference, held June 26-30 in Orlando, Fla. He also placed fifth in the Extemporaneous Presentation event.

For his first-place award, Suren created a video presentation on Genially, a software that gives teachers tools to conduct interactive lessons within the classroom.

Suren, who was the salutatorian for the Class of 2024, is pursuing a double major in economics/mathematics and physics at Yale University.

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 services and programs available is accessible at: www.pennmanor.net/special-education/ or by contacting Dee Galen, director of student support services, (717) 872-9500, extension 2221.

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/.

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.

Bus driver: Earns national award

Continued from Page 1

longest-tenured employee in the entire company.

"I was kind of surprised, and I wasn't expecting it," Joan said of the award. "I kidded Mike Kramer (Shultz president) and said, was there only one person nominated?"

The award honors a school bus driver who has consistently demonstrated excellence in safety, performance, commitment to pupil transportation, and special contributions to the community.

Shenk began driving a school bus just a few years after graduating from Penn Manor.

"I previously worked evenings and weekends, and I liked the idea of not working evenings and weekends, plus you get the whole summer off," she said. "I also like handling a large vehicle."

Joan was assigned to Conestoga and the high school and has been serving those two schools ever since.

"The kids, for the most part, are good,"

she said. "The high school kids are great. A lot of times they'll say goodbye and wish me a nice evening. It takes a little more reminding of the elementary students to behave."

She recalled a very reserved student from Conestoga who rode up front throughout elementary school. On the last day of sixth grade – his last day at Conestoga – he stopped next to her before getting off the bus and gave her a big hug.

"That really meant a lot to me," she said.

"Joan is a tremendous bus driver," said Conestoga principal Dr. Scott Keddie. "She genuinely cares about all the students and works to make each day an enjoyable ride for them."

Despite her long years of service, Joan isn't ready to hand in her keys just yet.

"I hope to drive for another five years – that'll make it an even 50 years," she said. "That's a good time to retire."

Congratulations to Joan on this award, and we thank you for your service.

Frey: Gym to be named in his honor

Continued from Page 3

beginning a 41-year teaching career, 40 of them as a high school PE teacher.

Harry coached the JV boys basketball team from 1963 to 1966 and the boys' varsity basketball team from 1966 to 1978. He also coached the girls' varsity basketball team from 1980 to 1985. In addition, Harry coached soccer and baseball.

His boys' basketball teams were County Champions in 1971 and '72, and he was named Coach of the Year in 1972. His 1984 girls' team won the LL League Championship.

In 2004, Harry was inducted into the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Far beyond the impact he made as a coach, Coach Frey influenced the lives of thousands of students during his 41 years of teaching.

A group of Penn Manor residents requested that the high school gym be named in his honor, and a committee of Penn Manor staff members and school directors recommended the move.

A ceremony will be held in December to formally rename the gym, a fitting honor for Coach Frey.

Athletics: Spring '24 athletes shine

Continued from Page 4

first round to Central York. The team finished the year 12-9. Jordan Bailey, Kira Green and Juleigh Bowmaster all earned first team section All-Stars.

Boys' volleyball also made a run into the District III championship before losing to Carlisle in the first round to finish the year 11-7. The team had a solid season, finishing fourth in a highly competitive section I team race. Harry Whitted was named to the section first team.

Boys' tennis made the entire athletic department proud as team members Cole Troop and Suren Clark were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Class of 2024.

In addition, another 2024 graduate, Ethan Benne, became just the third Penn Manor basketball player ever to be named to the All-State Team.

And two Penn Manor bowlers, Corrine Smith and Eva Brubaker, competed in the national bowling championships over the summer, finishing 12th and 32nd in the nation.

Staff

Continued from **Page 1**

principal at Penn Manor High School since 2015. She joined the high school staff in 2003 as a learning support English teacher before moving to the role of school counselor in 2009.

Chris Telesco has replaced Marsh as assistant principal at Penn Manor High School.

Chris previously was an English teacher at Manor Middle School since 2006 and served as Penn Manor High School's boys' volleyball coach.



Bill Shelley

In another key appointment, **Bill Shelley** was named director of buildings and grounds, replacing Chip Mathias, who retired after nine years with the district.

Bill had served as assistant director of buildings and grounds since December 2022.

We congratulate these longtime Penn Manor staff members for taking on these new leadership roles in the district.

NHS

Continued from **Page 3**

Derek Thomas, Victoria Vasold, Lyla Walter, Natasha Wee, Robert White, Chloe Wolf and Soksopia Yiem.

They join the 40 returning members of the Penn Manor NHS. Chapter officers this year are Cris Arias Orozco, president; Kate Eberts, secretary; Jaden Emmert, treasurer; and Addie Ames, historian. Faculty advisors are Michelle Boland and Kathleen Struble.

Congrats, students!

Check out Penn Manor's YouTube channel

See interviews with staff and students, concerts and ceremonies

Did you know that Penn Manor has its own YouTube channel?

We are expanding our presence on YouTube to provide more useful content for our parents, staff and students.

The district site – <https://www.youtube.com/pennmanorschooldistrict> – now includes short interviews with several of the 34 new teachers who joined our staff this year, along with videos of important events.

You'll find school concerts and talent shows, commencements, employee recognition ceremonies, a video tour of the high school project, interviews with students and other content.

And you can always watch a livestream of



Penn Manor school board meetings on the site.

Check out what's happening at Penn Manor!

Employees of the Year, retirees honored

Penn Manor honored three outstanding staff members – Mark Andrew, Doug Kramer and Kelly McNeal – at its Employee Recognition Night, held May 1 at Penn Manor High School.

Mark Andrew, an applied engineering teacher at Central Manor and Hambricht Elementary Schools, was named the Outstanding Elementary Educator for 2023-2024.

"Mark's ability to build relationships is unparalleled," said Hambricht principal Eric Howe. "Applied engineering is not an easy subject, but Mark has empowered his students to not be afraid, take chances and work hard because of the relationships he has fostered with them."

Doug Kramer, student support facilitator at Penn Manor High School, was



From left, Mark Andrew, Kelly McNeal and Doug Kramer.

the Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year.

"Over the past 32 years, Doug has had a positive influence on thousands of students and has helped shape Penn Manor to be the community that we are today," said high school principal Doug Eby, who quoted a parent who said "it's very obvious that Mr. Kramer truly cares about the students he works with."

Kelly McNeal, Penn Manor's athletic trainer, was honored as the Outstanding

Employee of the Year.

"Kelly's commitment and dedication to seeing our student athletes thrive on and off the field is undeniable," said Pat Tocci, Penn Manor athletic director. "She not only helps them get back to competition in a safe manner, but helps them become better people because of the relationships she has developed."

The 45th annual event included a catered reception, followed by recognition of the 17 staff members, with more than 400 combined years of service, who retired at the end of the school year.

Also honored were 41 employees with 20 or more years of service.

You can see the ceremony, including interviews with 10 retirees, at the Penn Manor YouTube channel.

Calming: Tanger grant

Continued from **Page 3**

overwhelming feelings, especially from transitioning from one activity to another," Semple said.

The grant is designed to help students "hit the reset

button" and process their emotions in a healthy way to reduce the number of office referrals for discipline issues and nurse visits for overwhelmed students.

The overall goal is to keep

students focused on learning.

"All of these items have proven to help many of our students this school year, and we are very grateful and appreciative for the funding provided by the Tanger grant," Semple said.

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Lots of fresh faces in our classrooms this year

34 new teachers join our staff

Thirty-four professional educators have joined the Penn Manor family for the 2024-2025 school year.

We welcomed these new employees during New Teacher Orientation, held the week of August 5 at Penn Manor High School. In addition to orientation sessions, activities included a bus tour of all district schools and a luncheon with administrators and school board members.

In their own words: Hear why they came to Penn Manor on the Penn Manor YouTube Channel.

Here are the new professional employees:

Central Manor Elementary – Sarah Crissman and Jamie Kopp, Grade 4; Emma Elwell, Grade 3; Jamie Gerlach, Music.

Central Manor/Hambright Elementary – Cicily Confer, Grade 2/Tech Ed.

Eshleman Elementary – Carrie Cortez and Emma Houck, Grade 2.

Hambright Elementary – Leah Miller, Learning Support; Allison Ross, Grade 1; Maggie Deseta, Grade 3; Taylor Lux, Grade 4; Madalyn Miller, Art;



Penn Manor's new teachers pose for a photo during orientation activities.

and Samantha Baker, School Counselor.
Letort/Conestoga Elementary – Hannah Snelbaker, Kindergarten/Grade 2.

Martic Elementary – Laura Birch, Grade 3; Jenna Bleacher and Molli Baumgardner, Grade 5; Madison Stumpf, Learning Support.

Pequea Elementary – Sarah Doutrich, Grade 2; Alivia Loercher, Kindergarten Diagnostics.

Manor Middle School – Kelly Staskel, English; Lauren Hoffman, Sci-

ence; and Jennifer Heller, Reading.

Marticville Middle – Hanna Phillips, Learning Support

Penn Manor High School – Colin Anderson, Riley Good and Micah Emig, Math; Stephanie Balmer and Luke Kerstetter, Agricultural Education; Amanda Gasiorowski, Learning Support; Jason Genise-Gdula, Biology; Katrina Ne-smith and Luke Wealand, Emotional Support.

District – Tera Kohler, Special Education Coordinator/Consultant.